

Sunday August 26, 2018

PASTOR'S COLUMN

(Fr. Joe shared this story with a little less detail in a recent homily.)

Jesus Waits in the Eucharist

One night I agreed to cover an hour of adoration for a parishioner from 11-12 PM on Saturday night at a local Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. I was alone in the Chapel praying that night when, at about 11:30 P.M., a man and woman entered the Chapel. They were well-dressed, she in a fancy beaded dress and he in a tuxedo. They obviously had been fighting. I could feel the tension. She sat all the way to the left side of the Chapel and he sat to the far right. I said to myself, "Jesus, I've never seen a fight in an Adoration Chapel before. Could this be the night?"

The man and woman both knelt in prayer before the Eucharistic Monstrance. After about 10 minutes, he looked over at her and she looked back at him. They moved to the center, side by side, knelt again and spoke softly. I couldn't hear what they said (rats!) but presumed they were speaking words of forgiveness or praying, or both. After another five minutes, they got up, kissed and began to walk out, holding hands. As they were leaving the Chapel, the man said to me, "Sorry about the interruption, Father." I replied, "Oh, don't mind me. It's great to see Jesus doing His thing again." Fifteen minutes with Jesus and the couple was reconciled.

Praying to Jesus in the Eucharist is powerful, whether it be after receiving Him in Holy Communion at Mass, being in front of Him in a Tabernacle or adoring Him in a Monstrance. The Eucharist provides a wonderful opportunity for a personal encounter with the Lord. He lovingly envelops us in the silence.

Many people have shared with me how they resolved anger or hurts, received trust or other spiritual graces, or got answers to all sorts of thorny problems by spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist. That certainly has been my experience. That's not to say that I regularly "feel" the presence of the Lord during adoration, but I certainly see the fruitfulness of time spent with Jesus in my life.

We have a beautiful Church and a beautiful Adoration Chapel here at St. Francis—special places to adore Jesus, talk to Him, and bring our problems to Him in the peace and quiet that we just can't seem to find in our homes or world. Thanks to all the donors who helped make St. Francis Church and Adoration Chapel beautiful places to encounter Jesus. Thanks to Dottie Watson, Coordinator of the Adoration Chapel, and to all other 'Friends of the Chapel' who commit to regular hours of worship to help keep the Chapel going, including those who come out to pray in the middle of the night. Our Church is open on weekdays from early in the morning till late in the afternoon. If you haven't stopped by to pray in Church outside of Mass time, treat yourself to the experience.

Our Adoration Chapel is open 24/7 except during holiday times. If you haven't spent time praying in the Chapel, you are in for a singular grace. Of course, with 168 hours in a week, there are always open slots for new adorers. You can commit to a regular hour or team up with friends so each of you cover one hour per month in a particular time slot (Dottie will text you to remind you of your commitment). At this writing, hours are available at Midnight on Sunday and 2:00 A.M. on Tuesday. The Contact Info for Dottie Watson and the available Adoration Hours are regularly posted in the bulletin.

Jesus in the Eucharist: What a great way to have an intimate personal experience with Our Risen Lord and Savior!

God bless you,

Fr. Joe