

I'm up here to advertise our Eucharistic Adoration chapel and witness to the treasure that awaits you there.

My experience in Eucharistic Adoration started with the opening of our chapel in November 2016. I had never been to Adoration before and at the time really didn't know what it was and had no idea how to do it.

So as I prepared this talk, I really wanted those of you who aren't familiar with Eucharistic Adoration to know where I was when I started going.

I thought it was important for you to know how despite being a cradle Catholic with a strong Catholic identity in my youth, I had never really met Jesus. Had never developed a friendship with Him. And so as I grew into adulthood and my Catholic bubble dissipated into the large noisy world around me, without the person of Jesus at the center of it, my faith had dwindled and I was stolen by the world. And how later in life, despite having been blessed with everything the world could offer, I felt empty, unsatisfied, and often depressed.

And how by uneasily stumbling into our chapel 2 years ago, everything changed. How sitting in that room, wasting time with Jesus, my hardened heart had been softened. How He had shown me how to surrender my life which has in doing so filled me with enduring unbreakable joy that has transforms me daily.

I prayed about how to say all this and quickly filled a notebook of details from my conversion story and the ways the Spirit had moved me along the way. Then I got to the business of pulling it all together. Draft after draft, rewrite after rewrite, it just didn't seem right. The more I worked, the less it seemed to come together. This was going to be a disaster.

So this past Tuesday in near panic mode, I again took it to prayer and asked Jesus what he want me to say and a conversation broke out.

"Greg, the story of my work in your life is good, but I seek anyone and everyone and my love story is better. I think we should start over."

Hmm. That wasn't the answer I expected.

So I politely and impatiently questioned God. Something I generally wouldn't recommend doing.

"You want me to start over?! I've been working on this for weeks! I'm not a theologian. I'm not an evangelist! I don't have the time or the energy to do that by this weekend!"

Patently, Jesus calmly put a hand up. STOP

"Do you remember how you have been asking for my help? How you have been asking others to pray for you for what to say"

Me: "yeah"

"Well while you have been spinning your wheels and stressing over all this, I wrote the talk.

"What?"

"Yeah, I wrote the talk. Do you remember 2 weeks ago when your wife put that box in the Adoration Chapel asking for people to reflect on their Adoration experience. You should read what people wrote while I sat with them in the chapel"

To my shame and to show how sinful I can be, I started to say "I don't have time to read those. I have to finish this talk." But instead, by the grace of God, I said OK and I pulled them out to read.

You can probably guess where this is going. On those nearly 2 dozen handwritten notes, everyone of the themes and sentiments that I couldn't put to words was verbalized in a harmony of different voices and experiences. The description of the concrete, organic, intimate experience; the Love story that is our Faith; the joy of surrender; the call to Evangelization. All of it was in there.

He spoke again

"You may have been working hard on this the last few weeks, but I've been writing it into their hearts for the past 2 years."

So here is a selection of just some of the voices oof the people sitting around you who shared their encounter with the love story of the living Christ.

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1. The Adoration Chapel has meant so much to me. It is a place I can go and feel an overwhelming sense of calm, a retreat from all the craziness of daily life...I find it easier to pray when I'm in the adoration chapel. We are so blessed to have this 'retreat' at our parish. I look forward to my holy hour all week!
2. The profound sense of peace I find at Eucharistic Adoration has changed my life. I find myself longing to come and sit in His presence because all cares and worries fall away when I am here with Him and He restores my faith telling me that all will be well if I just keep coming to Him!
3. When I began spending an hour at Adoration, it was 2 years ago when the chapel first opened. I know we are all busy, but I knew I could find an hour to spend in prayer...I've always considered prayer as talking to God, but Adoration is really where I just sit and have a chat with Him...I've talked to people about Adoration before. Some ask why I sign up for an hour when I can go whenever. I signed up because I would rather work my schedule around Adoration than work Adoration into my schedule. It's something I look forward to. I also think that sometimes people don't understand what Adoration entails. 'Are you praying the whole time?!' Sometimes. But sometimes I'm praying the rosary, or reading a book. I like to journal during Adoration as I never

take time for is at home. The whole essence of Adoration is simply to be in God's presence. I don't know that I can adequately put it into words, but it is different than going to Mass or praying at home. It is an intimate moment with God.

4. Adoration will sustain you in unexpected ways. I often take *work* materials or even my grocery and meal planning tasks with me and offer up the task to the guidance and direction at the feet of Jesus...Adoration works grace into the little things...but Adoration sustains us for the big things when we are in the habit of bringing the ins and outs of our daily details at the feet of Jesus in the Eucharist.
5. One grace I have received is to accept whatever Our Lord desires to give me, be it good or ill. If illness or trial, then I offer it joyfully as a sacrifice for those who might need it such as the souls in purgatory. If it be blessings than to share it to the best of my ability with those around me.
6. You, in fact deserve an hour to sit, reflect, listen, and speak with your friend, God. A spouse can put the kids to bed and you can dart out to the chapel to be with your friend who loves you...He's waiting...he wants to hear from you, He wants to talk to you too! You won't believe the love you'll experience.
7. It has helped me on the path toward holiness and on that path I've discover the peace of Christ...It has also helped me to understand the radical forgiveness and mercy of Jesus Christ. This hour is the fuel of my week.
8. My 1 hour per week at Adoration has done more than I'm sure I can recall but *one is* (some things I can think to list are: Peace.) An opportunity to share with my coworkers and family/friends what I do at Adoration, why I go, talk about my faith.
9. I enter into the presence of love when I come through the door of the Adoration Chapel. I am immersed in Love, surrounded by Love, enveloped by Love. I come broken, hurting, and burdened. Love welcomes me, embraces me, loves me. I am tired, overwhelmed, and anxious about many things, yet in the Presence of Love all those concerns have so very little importance. Love knows me. He calls me by my name to come to Him. He waits for me to love Him in return and for me to gaze at Him as He gazes at me. Here in Adoration I am loved in a way that I am loved no other place that I may go.
10. I've been coming weekly now since September, and I feel so close to Jesus. Like I know he is real and have a relationship with Him.

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Isn't this what our hearts seek: peace, direction, joy, love

He is constantly trying to break into our lives, seeking us, knocking on our door. And in the venue of Eucharistic Exposition, before his body, in silence, is without question the most efficient way to let Him in.

So I encourage you brothers and sisters:

If you have never gone to Adoration. Try it. Make a bold commitment. Go an hour each week. Do it for 6 months. See what happens.

At the exits of the Church you will find two sets of cards

The first is an information card about the chapel and the logistics. It goes over how to register on our Adoration Chapel website. This is an administrative tool for communicating practical info such as weather closings and changes in schedule over Holidays, but also allows for self service scheduling and volunteering to be in the substitute pool.

Maybe your schedule varies week to week and you can't commit to an specific hour, still get on the website and sign up as a sub.

The larger the pool, the better. Current adorers if you haven't signed up as a sub, I also encourage you to do so.

My contact info is on the cards for anyone who needs help with the website or has any questions.

The other card is an opportunity for anyone to offer an hour of prayer in the chapel as a gift. We are all entering into the season of Advent and gifting an hour is a beautiful way to keep Jesus at the forefront of the Christmas holiday.

In conclusion, Jesus says in Matthew's Gospel.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

O Come Let Us Adore Him - Thank you for your attention.