

GALLERY OF ADORATION CHAPELS IN CANADA

St. Patrick of the Island Chapel - Pincourt, Qc

October 1, 2002 marked the 7th anniversary of the inauguration of the St. Patrick of the Island parish's PEA chapel, and a special Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop Luc Cyr of the Valleyfield diocese.

This very day, 7 years ago, was selected for the opening of the chapel to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in the month of the Rosary. The 168 hours/week are covered by parishioners of St. Patrick's and faithful from about 10 area parishes (English and French). Some adorers even travel 50 km every week from downtown Montreal to spend a holy hour with the Lord. Our youngest adorer started at the age of 10 and our oldest in his eighties.

In 1995, the initiative to institute an adoration chapel was welcomed with great openness by our pastor, Fr. Francis Kocik, who continues to be one of its most ardent and committed supporters. Msgr Robert Lebel, bishop of Valleyfield at the time, received the request for the chapel as good news. It met one of his most profound desires, namely, that contemplative prayer be fostered in his diocese and that places of prayer might remain open and accessible to the people for this purpose, in an era when most



churches are kept locked, for fear of theft and vandalism.

O blessing of blessing! In the Jubilee year, our chapel was designated as a place of pilgrimage by Bishop Lebel who included "a visit to this chapel in the Jubilee indulgence process, with the ordinary conditions of Confession, Communion and prayer for the Holy Father." He referred to the chapel as a gift of God to our diocese and a stirring example for other parishes.

To commemorate the 5th anniversary of the chapel in October 2000, the question was put to the adorers: *How has perpetual eucharistic adoration affected your life?* Some of their testimonies can be found on the next page. Also, since the inception of the chapel, several of our Protestant

brothers and sisters have become devoted adorers of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Some adorers have been instrumental in helping to set up and coordinate other adoration chapels in their own parishes and dioceses.

Many donations have supported the chapel since its opening. A new monstrance was paid for by an anonymous donor. One adorer takes responsibility for the candles, making sure they never go out. Another dusts and vacuums the chapel every week. Others provide note paper for prayer intentions. The flowers and candles are funded by donations.

St. Patrick of the Island Parish community sees itself as the host parish not only for its own members, but for those of surrounding parishes of the regions, offering the exposed Real Presence of our Lord at all times.

As long as we are faithful, He is always there for us!

by Joanna Gacek,
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