

First Adoration Chapel in Prince Edward Island

St. Theresa,
the Little Flower
parish



"A Gift Of
Divine Mercy"

April 22nd, 2001 could have been like any other Sunday in the Catholic community of **Morell, P.E.I.** But for some reason, this Sunday turned out to be more special than usual. Over 100 people from the parishes of St. Peter and St. Lawrence O'Toole were gathered at **St. Theresa, the Little Flower parish** to celebrate the opening of Prince Edwards Island's first Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapel. It was Divine Mercy Sunday and, for the faithful of this community, there could be no better proof of God's merciful love than having Jesus present in their midst and exposed in the Most Blessed Sacrament 24 hours a day, 7 days a week all year round.

The celebration began with Exposition and Adoration in the main church, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., during which several confessors were available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Benediction followed at 4 p.m. and the Blessed Sacrament was taken in procession to the basement chapel amidst the singing crowd. Pastor Jim Willick presided the ceremony and blessed the room, the crucifix and statues in the chapel where our Eucharistic Jesus would now dwell. The wooden structure on top of the altar, which we call the *triptych*, was built by Philip Pierlot who also built a cedar altar which was installed in mid-July.

It was a perfect Sunday afternoon and this event ended with a cordial social gathering. The first official hour of adoration began at 4 p.m. that day. The generosity of adorers from that day onwards has been just wonderful. Teresa Pierlot, Head Coordinator of the adoration chapel finds this very inspiring: *"Many people have taken multiple hours of adoration. Their generosity and devotion makes it possible to have the chapel open so much. We benefit from the regular influx of summer visitors, several of whom have taken hours for the time they are here. In addition, we have many potential adorers in all three parishes, as well as a seasonal workforce in the fishing and farming industries. So some people will be taking hours in the fall and winter who cannot do so now. In time, with the grace of the chapel itself and through ongoing evangelization and witness, we believe that more souls will be drawn to adoration and a lot of them will be able to take a regular hour,"* remarks Pierlot.

With the opening of this chapel in Atlantic Canada, similar initiatives potentially exist. In fact, plans to open two more chapels in the province are now well underway. Bearing this great news in mind, one cannot help but stand in awe at the thought of what prayers can really do!

Jesus, ever-present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, is always waiting and ever willing to listen. If only people would come to Him, the fount of Divine Love, He would so lovingly refresh their tired souls. All are invited! Are you ready to answer the call...?

by Sophie Reyes-Léger

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