

Let's Think About It!

When we enter a perpetual Eucharistic adoration chapel and adore our Saviour, do we ever stop to realize how it came to be that Jesus, Our Lord, is truly present and is waiting for us to come to Him? A tremendous price was paid by Jesus, to be with us today in body, blood, soul and divinity and we must never forget this. The price was torture and death. He gave His life so that we might have eternal life. He gave His life so that He could be with us forever in this most Holy Eucharist, that same Eucharist we sometimes take for granted when we visit Him. Each time we come and view His Divine Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, we come into the presence of the one who was crucified for us. Mother Theresa said, "when we look upon the crucifix we see how much Jesus loved us; and then, when we look upon the Blessed Sacrament, we see how much Jesus loves us NOW, because the Eucharist flows from the passion of Christ."

Pope Paul VI said, each moment you spend with Jesus transforms your heart more into the heart of Jesus, empowering you to imitate His virtues. If we truly discover this, and begin to appreciate Christ's sacrifice, we then become like Christ Himself and changes in our lives begin to occur. We begin to alter and change our old habits. Suddenly we find ourselves praying more, we begin reading sections from that bible that's been gathering dust all these years. We start going to an occasional daily mass, something we've rarely done before. Confession is no longer an obligation but a delight in receiving Our Saviour, and His graces, through yet another of His most precious sacraments. We experience a heightened comfort, peace and consolation in receiving the Eucharist at mass. All of a sudden there seems to be a purpose to our life. Life isn't so depressing anymore. Death doesn't frighten us any longer. We find ourselves less and less concerned with our own problems, which, coincidentally, don't seem to be as large as we had previously imagined. Don't you see what's happening? Through adoration, through prayer, by attending more masses and going to confession more, by going to chapel on a regular basis and talking to Our Lord, our faith is being re-energized, our faith is being strengthened.

Is it enough that we are beginning to change? Is it enough that our own life is starting to have some purpose? Is it enough that our faith is strengthening? Is it enough that people around us are beginning to notice subtle little changes in our behaviour? Is it enough that we don't seem to be as irritable as before, that we seem to be more patient with those around us? Is it enough that we seem to be happier with our state in life? Well, not quite! In the 13th Century Our Lord appeared to Saint Juliana and showed Saint Juliana, a moon, He said was symbolic of the liturgical calendar, and in the middle of this moon there was a dark spot He said represented a feast that was missing, a feast He wanted dedicated to His Real Presence in the most Blessed Sacrament. And Saint Juliana said, "But Jesus, You already have a feast day, you have Holy Thursday!" Jesus told her Holy Thursday was a feast to commemorate the day He instituted the Eucharist, on Holy Thursday night; but, He said, He would like a special feast day that would be celebrated in the Church which would remind people of His Real Presence in the Eucharist. He said that as the Church would progress in time, its members would decline in faith and in the belief of His Real Presence in the Eucharist. Sound familiar? He asked Saint Juliana to please go tell this to the Pope, instructing her to petition the Pope for the feast of Corpus Christi. Now the question I would like for you to ask yourself is this: Why did Jesus appear to Saint Juliana? Put yourself in the Lord's place! If He wanted the Pope to do this, why didn't He appear to the Pope Himself? The answer is: He wanted Saint Juliana to be an apostle of the Eucharist. The answer is: He wanted her to be an ambassador of the Eucharist. The answer is: He wants each and every one of us to be His ambassadors of the Eucharist, to be His apostles of the Eucharist! It's obvious Jesus was speaking to us through St. Juliana.

Are we apostles of the Eucharist? Are we ambassadors of the Eucharist? How many of our friends and relatives have we approached to see if they might be interested in committing to spending one hour a week with Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament? How many have we invited to come along with us for our hour with Jesus so they might experience Him the way we do? With how many have we discussed the possibility of opening a new adoration chapel? It is not

enough that we get something out of our visits, that we strengthen our faith and grow closer to God. What is important, and what Our Lord wants even more than this, is that we share this profound love with others, so that all may bask in His love. The Blessed Sacrament is love made visible. The Blessed Sacrament is the infinite humility of God Himself made real and visible before our very eyes.

For adoration to continue forever, we need a continuing stream of new adorers and new chapels to replace those who, for whatever reasons, have quit coming and those chapels which are no longer supported by their patrons. Please, the next time someone says they have noticed a change in you for the better, or the next time someone says you seem to be happier lately, or the next time someone asks you about your adoration chapel, let them in on your little secret. Tell them what is changing you for the better, and suggest they do the same, then give them the telephone number of your chapel co-ordinator or the name, address and telephone number of this apostolate. Have a blessed holiday season, may you and your family enjoy the peace that comes with spending an hour with Our Lord in the new year!

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Eucharist

(Gr. eucharistia, thanksgiving).

The name given to the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar its twofold aspect of sacrament and Sacrifice of Mass, and in which Jesus Christ is truly present under the bread and wine. Other titles are used, such as "Lord's Supper" (Coena Domini), "Table of the Lord" (Mensa Domini), the "Lord's Body" (Corpus Domini), and the "Holy of Holies" (Sanctissimum), to which may be added the following expressions, and somewhat altered from their primitive meaning: "Agape" (Love-Feast), "Eulogia" (Blessing), "Breaking of Bread", "Synaxis" (Assembly), etc.; but the ancient title "Eucharistia" appearing in writers as early as Ignatius, Justin, and Irenæus, has taken precedence in the technical terminology of the Church and her theologians. The expression