

Please consider offering Jesus one hour a week...sign up to become an adorer in the rectory office

Testimony of a favor granted from Perpetual Adoration from July 24, 2009:

What has been my Eucharistic adorer experience? When I signed up to undertake the challenge of this weekly commitment, my primary worry was the pressures and stresses of my daily life at home and in the workplace invading my thoughts and distracting my prayers and meditations. I worried about missing my hour because, as William Wadsworth reminds and warns, "The world is too much with us". I was concerned when I knelt in the chapel that I would run out of prayers in ten minutes, perhaps fall asleep, as worst of all, succumb to the easy contamination of thinking about the burden of the daily grind of kids, husband, errands, deadlines and the eternal question 'Is there enough in the frig to make dinner?'

I struggled with this worldly interference of my dozen adorer hours. It was like an exhausting and painful mental wrestling match – my secular clutter versus Christ's invitation to be still and reflect in His Holy presence. It was and is a tremendous test of one's self control and focus.

When I kneel before the Monstrance and remind myself with wonder that I am, in fact, in adoration before Christ's authentic presence, not an artificial symbol of Jesus' body and blood, I am overwhelmed with a sense of quiet, peace and also the most real sense of gentleness I have ever known. The chapel is small and there are others adoring with me, but somehow the company and close quarters vanish in that all encompassing power of Christ's true presence.

I have come to understand over these many months of regular adoration that this commitment supersedes every other activity of my week. I look forward to its sweetness as a mother desires to be reunited with an absent child. It anchors my work week and offers a refuge while so many tempests of anger, disappointment, envy and fear whirl about me. How many of us feel that with one more broken promise and I'll give up entirely? Only Christ's grace and healing power can calm the storms of daily life.

When I gaze upon the Holy vessel which contains our Savior's living presence, I absorb the artistic imagery which amplifies my adoration. At the top of the vessel, the Holy paraclete powerfully descends into the heart-shaped Eucharistic chamber decorated with an engraving of Christ's crown of thorns. Four drops of blood, fashioned as golden tears, slide from the thorns. In the center of the heart is the glass covered compartment housing the Host. Thrusting from the chamber, creating a dramatic border, are dozens of golden rays emphasizing the Almighty Eternity of Christ's presence. For all its beauty, its simplicity is equally awesome. Christ is there, in front of me!

Becoming an adorer makes me long to be more deeply connected with our loving Savior. I have returned to my childhood habits of evening prayers, rosary and grace before meals. On my days off, I now frequently attend weekday mass. The books in the Adoration Chapel have lead me to read other titles and investigate websites I otherwise ignored. I discovered EWTN, (my favorite program is "The Journey Home). And I now actually read the Catholic Sun newspaper that I often just tossed out.

I am a cradle Roman Catholic who stepped outside the just going to church on Sunday habit. The growing wickedness of the world frightened me, and in my fears, I needed to be reminded of whose child I really am. God's path is hard to tread, but with Eucharistic Adoration, I see God's signposts with every step. I pray I will be true and courageous in my journey.

Sincerely, An ordinary adorer