

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament continues 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in our Chapel downstairs beneath the Church, except when daily Mass occurs, usually at 7 a.m. and noon. Jesus is present in the Consecrated Host in a beautiful gold Monstrance on the altar.

SIGN UP

Anyone can sign up for any hour, or just drop in for a visit anytime between 6 a.m. and 6 pm. After that there is a code needed to enter. Signups can be contacted by calling the office or one of the names in the bulletin in the section *Adoration Vacancies*. A person may choose any hour they wish.

HISTORY

Adoration began on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception December 8, 1996, a Sunday, at 6 p.m. It was a special gift from God, mediated through His loving Mother Mary. This was 2 and 1/2 months after Tom Whalen was ordained a deacon

The story began when Tom made a personal commitment to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament following a Cursillo weekend experience in 1975. When the Cathedral parish began Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in 1986, he signed up for one then two hours late Saturday nights. Shortly after that he sought to begin perpetual adoration at St. Peters, but a suitable spot could not be found.

Then in July of 1994 he read a book called, *The Remnant Church*, written by Msgr. Richard Carroll, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Slidell, Louisiana. The book is about the spiritual journey of that parish. It seemed to stress Cursillo and Adoration as the source of Grace that fed the parishes' spiritual growth. Tom felt a strong inspiration to visit the parish, so he convinced his wife Ceil to take a detour to Slidell on their way to Florida to share Thanksgiving dinner with their son.

As they entered the parking lot of the Church in Slidell in mid-afternoon on a weekday, they encountered the pastor slowly walking toward the church, and the pastor escorted Tom and Ceil into their beautiful adoration chapel, where Jesus was on the altar being adored by several people. Told there would be morning Mass in the chapel, suddenly a light bulb came on for Tom as he realized God had directed him to Slidell to discover that St. Peter's Chapel could be the spot for Perpetual Eucharistic Action! This was confirmed the next morning as he watched the Eucharist removed for Mass and then replaced on the altar after Mass.

Back in Jefferson City, Tom shared his experience at Marge Schneider's' weekly Rosary group He and Ceil attended and St. Peters new pastor, Fr. Don Lammers, happened to be in attendance. Fr. Don Endorsed the idea but said it would have to wait a couple of years as he would be preparing for St. Peters' Sesquicentennial celebration in the summer of 1996. So, two years later, on the weekend of the feasts of All Souls and All Saints a priest, Fr. Victor Warkulwitz of

the Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament came and preached at all the Masses encouraging parishioners to sign up for adoration. Over 500 people signed up. That Sunday evening Fr. Victor met with about a dozen Adoration leaders. Father suggested we begin in 6 weeks to give plenty of time to organize and to be sure each hour is covered. The starting date turned out to be December 8, Marys' Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Another sign for Tom and Ceil of Mary's intercession was the presence of a Bas Relief of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the wall behind the altar in the chapel in Slidell. This correlated to the old canvas painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Peter Chapel as well as the imbedded colored engraved image of OLG in the wall of the Parish Life Center near the Chapel door. So, for Christmas that year their Gift to each other was a canvas painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe that hangs on the wall by their front door.

INVITATION

Jesus' message to His Apostles in the Garden was, "could you not watch one hour with me?" This is His invitation to each one of us also. He gives us a very special Grace when we spend time with Him.