

June 4, 2017

ADORATION 101 \* Making a True Sacrifice of Love

My desire for this week is to set aside our study on Pope Benedict XVI's Exhortation on the Sacrament of Charity in order to address the very heart of why I write these articles. You see, we happen to be part of a parish family which has been given the unique privilege of having our Lord and Savior with us, almost 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, in Eucharistic Adoration. Very few parishes have this honor. Yet, our Lord has been crying out to us as He did to Peter, James and John in the Garden of Gethsemane, and asking us, "Could you not watch with Me one hour (Mt. 26:40)?"

Our Lord understands that all of us are busy taking care of our responsibilities each day; after all, we live in a very demanding culture. But I have to ask, what is our ultimate goal in all of this? Why are we even here to begin with, working so hard the way we do? Is it not ultimately to know, love and serve God? I'm reminded of an incident which took place two years ago. I had to attend three funerals all within one week. During the second funeral, as I was paying my respects before the deceased, I was struck with the realization that eventually one day that would be me in that casket. It hit me right then and there, like a lightning bolt, that at that point only one single thing will matter and nothing else: How did I respond in my life to God's love. At my own judgment, I asked myself, could I honestly stand before the face of my God and feel comfortable telling Him I had little to no time for Him because I was constantly on-the-go or dealing with other things, even as important as they were? Was I like a Martha, always serving, being anxious and troubled about many things (Luke 10:41), or like Mary, sitting at the feet of the Lord and choosing the good portion (Luke 10:42)?

The spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak. We need committed adorers, especially men, who will make a sacrifice for our Lord and be there with Him. God Himself handed to us, after years of waiting, the highest privilege outside the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and He may have to take it away from us because His people are not responding any longer. How else can we cultivate love for the very One who is supposed to be the center, the very heartbeat, of our lives if we don't take the time to come to Him, especially because we may be weary from our labors, and heavy laden? Did He not promise us that His yoke is easy and His burden light (Mt. 11:28-30)? Would not His grace take care of any concerns we may have by taking this commitment on?

I write these articles for the sole purpose that they may help the adorer draw closer to our Eucharistic Lord. My prayer is, and always has been, that the reader may take this knowledge with them and use it to increase their Adoration experience. Jesus is there in the Eucharist. He gave His life so that you and I may have ours, and have it more abundantly. Make sure now that when you see Him face-to-face, you will not have to hear those dreaded words, "... for I never knew you (Mt. 7:23)" – Paul A. Ray