

ISSUE 21

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PERPETUAL
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



CONTENTS

Editorial

Adoration, Reparation and Spiritual Motherhood for Priests - the testimony of Berthe Petit

Litany of Healing and Repentance

Trusting in God

Pope Benedict—Thoughts on Prayer

Eucharistic Procession on Corpus Christi

Dear Adorers, welcome to 2026 and the Lent edition of our Perpetual Adoration Newsletter. I am sorry it has been nearly a year since the last newsletter. A big welcome to all the new adorers receiving this newsletter for the first time! We had a good number of new adorers sign up to help out over the Christmas and New Year period.

Last week I participated in a zoom for all parishes leaders in Australia about the 54th International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) to be held in the 2nd half of 2028 in Sydney. Pope Leo XVI has confirmed he will come, and early plans look very exciting. There is more information in this newsletter, and I hope that many will travel to Sydney for the Congress in 2028.

The IEC office has announced three themes for the next 3 years in preparing for the Congress. The theme for 2026 is “A Call to Prayer – a mystery to be encountered”. This will be the theme of the next Diocesan Prayer Conference which I hope to hold in Timaru in September. More details to follow.

After the success of the Diocesan Eucharistic Holy Hour and Procession held on the feast of Corpus Christi last year, we will be holding it again this year on Sunday June 7th. Unfortunately, the Pro-Cathedral is unavailable in 2026 so this year’s procession will be hosted by Holy Family Parish at Our Lady of Victories Church.

We had a dinner for adorers last year which was a great occasion and gave people a chance to meet and get to know each other. If you would be interested in attending dinner this year, please send me an email.

Finally, the relics of St Carlo Acutis are touring the country in June this year. St Carlo had a deep love of the Eucharist and developed the exhibition on church approved Eucharistic Miracles. More information will be coming soon but it is hoped that perhaps the relics might be overnight in the Adoration chapel for veneration.

A continued thanks for your support and generosity. Please continue to keep your day leaders in your prayers.

Matt O’Connell

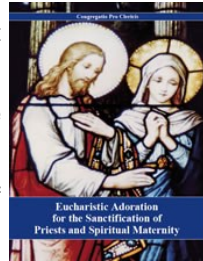
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ADORATION, REPARATION, SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD FOR PRIESTS

Story

A few years ago the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy, concerned about the worldwide shortage of priestly vocations, released a booklet about the need for “the people of God” to pray. They wanted everybody to 1) dedicate themselves to prayer, 2) to adoration of Christ in the Eucharist, 3) to consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and 4) to the spiritual adoption of priests and future priests.



It is a deeply moving booklet called "Adoration, Reparation and Spiritual Motherhood for Priests," with amazing, miraculous, stories of the power of prayer for vocations. I have another story in this issue. If you want a copy, please contact me.

THE STORY OF BERTHE PETIT (1870-1943)

As a 15-year-old girl, Berthe started praying at every Holy Mass for the celebrant, “My Jesus, do not allow your priests to displease you!” When she was 17 years old, her parents lost everything they had in a failed business deal. Berthe’s confessor explained to her on 8 December 1888 that her vocation was not to enter a convent but to stay at home and care for her parents. Although, she accepted this sacrifice with a heavy heart, in the church Berthe still asked Our Lady to intercede that Jesus would at least call a zealous and holy priest in the place of her religious vocation. “You will certainly be heard!” assured her confessor.

She could not have known what would take place just 16 days later: A 22-year-old lawyer, Dr. Louis Decorsant, was praying before a statue of the Sorrowful Mother. Unexpectedly, he had an inner certainty that it was not his vocation to take the girl he loved to be his wife and to establish himself as a notary. He understood very clearly rather, that God was calling him to be a priest. The call was so clear and urgent, that he did not hesitate for a moment to give up everything. Upon finishing his studies and his doctorate in Rome, he was ordained to the priesthood in Paris in 1893. Berthe, at the time, was 22 years old.

That same year, the newly ordained, 27- year-old priest concelebrated at the Christmas Midnight Mass in a church outside Paris. This fact is so significant because at the same time Berthe, participating at Midnight Mass in another church, solemnly promised the Lord, “Jesus, I will be a sacrifice for the priests, for all priests, but especially for the priest of my life.”

THE STORY OF BERTHE PETIT

During exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the young woman suddenly saw Jesus hanging on a large cross and Mary and John standing beneath it. Then she heard the words, “Your offer has been accepted, your prayer heard. Behold your priest... you will be able to meet him one day.” And Berthe saw that John had the traits of a priest whom she did not know. This priest was none other than Fr. Decorsant whom she recognized at their first encounter some 15 years later in 1908.

An encounter led by God

Berthe made a pilgrimage to Lourdes where the Blessed Virgin confirmed, “Now you will see the priest whom you asked God for 20 years ago; you will meet him soon.”

That same year, she made another trip by train to Lourdes, this time with a friend of hers. A priest got on at the station in Paris trying to find a place for a sick woman. It was Fr. Decorsant. His features were those which Berthe had seen on St. John’s face 15 years earlier. She had prayed so much and offered up all of her physical suffering for him. After a couple of friendly words though, he left the compartment.

Exactly one month later, Fr. Decorsant also made a pilgrimage to Lourdes because he wanted to entrust the future of his priesthood to Our Lady. With suitcases in hand, he ran into Berthe and her friend who were still there. Recognizing the two women, he invited them to Holy Mass. When Fr. Decorsant elevated the Host, Jesus interiorly said to Berthe, “This is the priest for whom I accepted your sacrifice.” After the Holy Mass, Berthe was surprised to see that the “priest of her life”, as she called him from then on, was staying in the same hotel as they were.

A shared task

Shortly thereafter, Berthe was able to speak to him about her interior life and another mission that was entrusted to her—the promulgation of the consecration to the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary. Fr. Decorsant felt that this precious soul had been entrusted to him by God.

He accepted a position in Belgium and became a holy spiritual director for Berthe Petit as well as an untiring support for the realization of her mission. Theologically sound, he was the ideal person to keep a correspondence between Berthe and the hierarchy of the Church in Rome. For the 24 years until his death, he accompanied Berthe Petit in her expiatory vocation; she was often very sick and suffered especially for priests who had left the priesthood.

EUCHARIST28

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you
for the gift of your real presence
in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace
to receive you reverently, worship you truly
and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us,
so that as you gave yourself to the Father
and to us, we too may offer our lives to God
and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those
who are in need, especially
the defenceless and homeless,
the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass,
so that we may truly become
what we have received, the Body of Christ.

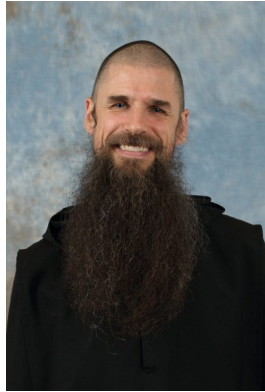
Amen.



LITANY OF HEALING AND REPENTENCE

Fr Boniface Hicks

“This litany was composed and led by Father Boniface Hicks, O.S.B. for Friday night’s Revival Session at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis in 2024. This is intended to be prayed as a group before the Blessed Sacrament with a leader and responses. It can also be prayed personally and devotionally anywhere, especially by placing ourselves in our imagination before the Eucharist in our favorite Church or even by looking at the Blessed Sacrament in an adoration chapel that is broadcast online.



As you pray through this, take your time, and let the words sink into your heart. Try to notice movements in your heart and any particular lines that might stand out. This is an opportunity to expose places that need healing, especially places in our hearts that are ready for healing. It might also help to remember the 50,000 participants who prayed this together at the National Eucharistic Congress in Lucas Oil Stadium.

“Jesus, we all have places in our hearts and in our histories that have been hurting for a long time. Some wounds might be self-inflicted, but the wounds caused by others tend to cut most deeply. At the same time, there is also a sacred place in each of us where we can be alone with You and the Father and the Holy Spirit. The most powerful healing can begin by bringing those painful places into relationship with You, Who love us infinitely. And right now, You are here with us in all Your power and glory in the Eucharist. Nothing is lacking in Your Presence with us. It can be hard to open tender places in our hearts. You respect us and You honor our experience through Your offer of healing.

We are here together and here with the communion of Saints, and we lean on each other for support as we seek to open our hearts to you. We want to be gentle with ourselves and allow the Holy Spirit to descend with all the gentleness of the dewfall onto our thirsty hearts. We pray for courage now as we hold all the hurting places in our hearts before Your loving gaze.

The Litany can be downloaded at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S1eoNXzeSsVgAMUVIZv-HVnW52sqwLGM/view> and there will also be a copy available in the red folder in the chapel.

TRUSTING IN GOD

Reflection

A reflection from renewal ministries by Chris Baker

“There’s a story in the Old Testament about the prophet Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. A Gentile widow lives in a land undergoing a drought. She and her only son have just enough flour and oil left for one last meal before facing starvation. At the town gate, she encounters Elijah, who asks her for water and a loaf of bread—everything she has left—in exchange for a promise: “...the jar of flour will not be emptied, and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.”

She obeys the command of the Lord and receives the fulfillment of the promise. Her flour and oil never run out. It is her obedience to the word of the Lord, despite a thousand reasons to be fearful, that makes this a beautiful story of God’s promise and provision when preceded by obedience.

But there is a second half to her story. Later in the same chapter, her son falls ill and dies. The jar of flour and jug of oil are still full, but now her heart is empty. Her grief erupts in anger and accusation, yet when Elijah says, “Give me your son,” she obeys again and entrusts her dead son to him. Elijah cries out to the Lord, and the Lord restores the boy’s life. Elijah returns him saying, “See, your son is alive.” The widow declares, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth” (1 Kings 17:24).

Like most of us, even after a profound encounter with the Lord’s mercy, healing, or even a miracle, we still find it hard to trust Him when faced with suffering that surpasses our past experiences. This is the rhythm of the spiritual life. God often asks for our “last loaf” or our “greatest treasure”—not to impoverish us, but to reveal Himself as faithful. Obedience to God’s Word does not remove hardship. It reveals who God truly is within it. When we surrender our pain in obedience rather than resist it in fear, our pain becomes a place of encounter. The Word of the Lord is truth. And when we obey that Word — even when it costs us everything — we discover that obedience is not loss, but the doorway to life”.

Downloaded from <https://www.renewalministries.net/weekly-inspiration-trusting-god-in-the-darkness/>

Chris Baker is the Director of Operations for Renewal Ministries. He has an Executive

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Prayer

An unpublished letter by Pope Benedict XVI, written little more than a year before his death, has been released in a new Italian book, offering an insight into the late pontiff's theology and view of the future of the Faith at the end of his life.



In general terms, prayer is the fundamental religious act: it is, in some way, the attempt to enter concretely into contact with God. The peculiarity of Christian prayer lies in the fact that one prays together with Jesus Christ and, at the same time, prays to Him. Jesus is at once man and God and can thus be the bridge, the pontifex, who makes it possible to overcome the infinite abyss between God and man. In this sense, Christ is also, generally speaking, the ontological possibility of prayer. For this reason, He is also the practical guide to prayer. That is why His disciples, who had seen Him pray, addressed this request to Him: “Lord, teach us to pray” (Lk 11:1). They recalled that John the Baptist had taught his disciples to pray, knowing well that He is infinitely closer to God than even the greatest religious figure: John the Baptist. Thus emerge the two fundamental characteristics of prayer: that relative to being and that relative to awareness. They are intertwined with one another. The profound bond with God, in general terms, consists in abiding with Him. In Jesus’ school of prayer, our knowledge of Him grows, as does our closeness to Him. In this regard, we must also keep in mind Jesus’ criticism of mistaken or insufficient ways of praying. The juxtaposition with the Cross, evident throughout His proclamation and even in the prophetic words that had marked the tenor of prophecy up to Jesus—“To obey is better than sacrifice, to heed is better than the fat of rams” (1 Sam 15:22)—is already clear.

Moreover, Christian prayer, insofar as it is prayer together with Jesus Christ, is always anchored in the Eucharist, leads to it, and takes place within it. The Eucharist is prayer fulfilled with one’s whole being. It is the critical synthesis of cult and true worship. In it, Jesus has said His definitive “no” to mere words and His “no” to animal sacrifices, and He has placed in their stead the great “yes” of His life and death. Thus the Eucharist represents the definitive critique of cult and, at the same time, the cult in the broadest sense of the term. The Fathers of the Church rightly characterized it on the one hand as the end of paganism, as *consuetudo* [custom], and on the other as characterizing Christianity itself as prayer. I believe we ought to reflect much more deeply on this fundamental opposition.

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER CONT

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Prayer

This fundamental orientation of Jesus' dramatic history of prayer enables us to understand the whole realism with which He went about His proclamation. The parable of the man who did not want to get up to give bread to his friend clearly says that prayer is always also an overcoming of our inertia, which inspires so many excuses for not rising. To pray means to push against this inertia of the heart and therefore also means the humility of bringing before God even the small things of our daily life, asking for His help.



One final point. Often, the realistic and humble way of praying is presented as an objection to petitionary prayer as such: that adequate prayer should always and only be praise of God, not continual begging. This would already be foolish, since God could not and should not be bothered with our small things. In our daily life, however, we must think of ourselves. Yet in reality we need God precisely in order to be able to live our everyday life starting from Him and oriented toward Him. Precisely in not forgetting that our Father is the one in whom we trust, the Lord's Prayer consists of seven petitions. Asking God also and above all means purifying our desires so that we can place them before God and so that they may be inserted into the "we" of the family of Christ.

Prayer for more adorers for Perpetual Adoration

Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins. We need your peace in our hearts and among nations. We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness.

May we obtain this through prayer and our union with the Eucharistic Lord. Please send down the Holy Spirit upon all peoples to give them the love, courage, strength and willingness to respond to the invitation to become a rostered adorer at the Diocesan Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. We beseech You, particularly, to call forth people to adore overnight. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

EUCCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR & PROCESSION

SUNDAY JUNE 7 AT 2.30PM

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CHURCH

Confessions

Procession around local streets

Homily from Bishop Michael

Prayers of Intercession

Rosary

Benediction and Divine Praises

Finish by 4pm

Please contact Matt O'Connell on chchadoration@gmail.com

or

0275369407

for more details

CAN YOU HELP?

Currently we have over 200 adorers signed up to Adore Jesus every week at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. However we still have many hours during the week where there is only one adorer rostered on, especially overnight. We always try to ensure that we have a minimum of two per hour so if something happens there is at least one person in the chapel. Although we have lots of visitors, we don't know how long they stay and how regular they are. On occasions people have forgotten, had a flat tyre or been sick and people have had to stay for an extra hour.

If you feel that you could sign up to adore once a week it would be greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form below and send/email it to the address provided.

The hours that require adorers include:

Sundays (12am-5am, 7am-9am, 10am-4pm, 6pm, 8pm, 10pm, 11pm), Mondays (12am-5am, 7am, 1pm-4pm, 9pm-12am), Tuesdays (1am-6am, 9am-4pm, 6pm, 9pm, 11pm), Wednesdays (12am-5am, 8am, 10am, 11am, 2pm, 4pm, 5pm, 9pm-11pm), Thursdays (12am-3am, 5am, 11am-5pm), Fridays (12am-5am, 7am-10am, 12pm-8pm, 10pm, 11pm) and Saturdays (12-5am, 7am-2pm), 6pm-7pm)



ADORER SIGN UP FORM

NAME: PHONE:

E-MAIL: MOBILE:

ADDRESS:

What day would you like to adore?

What time would you like to adore?

Are you also available to be a substitute?

Please return the completed form to:

Perpetual Adoration, PO Box 4544, Christchurch 8140 or e-mail to chchadoration@gmail.com