

# The Nocturnal Adoration Society

## Founding - Purpose - Growth

### Director



Rev. Mons. CHARLES F. BRAY, Director of St. Patrick's Cathedral, is National Director of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, and in that capacity has played an important part in stimulating the growth of this vital spiritual body. The flourishing membership meets on Saturday night once each month in Lady Chapel of the Cathedral to keep on all night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament. Mons. Bray is also moderator of the Laymen's Retreat League.

From France the Society spread to Spain. In 1877 a member of the Supreme Council of the Paris Nocturnal Adoration Society journeyed to Madrid, Spain, to establish the Society there. With only six other members he held the first night of Adoration November 3-4 in the Church of St. Anthony on the Prado. Fifty years later (1927) a report read at the Eucharistic Congress of Madrid, stated there were more than 100,000 members and 653 branches of the Society in Spain.

It was not long before the Society, so prosperous in Spain, found its way to the Spanish-speaking countries of Mexico and South America. In Mexico particularly, its progress was very rapid. This country has to-day over 300 branches and more than 75,000 active members. Despite the scarcity of priests and the extreme oppression of a long and cruel persecution, almost all of these centres hold their monthly Adoration regularly. There are numerous instances of members being obliged to walk for two or three days, over rough and dangerous mountain paths to meet at the secret place of Adoration.

The Society first came to the United States in 1882. Dr. Thomas Dwight became acquainted with Nocturnal Adoration in Paris and on his return to Boston obtained from Archbishop Williams permission to form a branch of the Society at Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston. The opening night of Adoration was held on December 7-8, 1882. A year later another centre was organized at St. Ann's Church, Baltimore. The Society there is a parochial one and has been functioning regularly for the past fifty-three years. The New York branch was inaugurated at St. Jean Baptiste Church, December 31st, 1903. Another branch was founded at the Church of Notre-Dame de Lourdes, Fall River, Mass. in 1923.

On November 4th, 1929, the Roman Archconfraternity for Nocturnal Adoration raised the New York branch to a National Centre, empowering it to affiliate similar societies in the United States to the parent Society in Rome. Immediately a new impetus was given to the work of Nocturnal Adoration in this country and the following branches were founded: (1) St. Patrick's, Rochester, N. Y. (1929); Church of La Soledad, Los Angeles, Cal. (1929); Our Lady of Angels, Los Angeles, Cal. (1930); St. Teresita, Ontario, Cal. (1930); Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston, Tex. (1930); Holy Name, Brooklyn, N. Y. (1930); Blessed Sacrament, Omaha, Neb. (1931); Epiphany Cathedral, Sioux City, Iowa, (1931); St. Paul's, Cleveland, Ohio (1932); St. Peter and Paul, (2) Elmira, N. Y. (1933); (3) St. Francis de Sales, Geneva, N. Y. (1933); St. Ann's, (4) Hornell, N. Y. (1933); (5) Holy Family, Auburn, N. Y. (1933); (6) St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, N. Y. (1933); Chapel, 1819 Arch St., Philadelphia, Penn. (1933); Our Lady of Mercy's, Bronx, N. Y. (1933); St. Monica's, Jamaica, N. Y. (1933); St. Mary's, Batavia, N. Y. (1934); Sacred Heart, Mt. Vernon, N. Y. (1935); St. Matthew's, Washington, D. C. (1935); Sacred Heart Cathedral, Richmond, Va. (1936); Sacred Heart, Pomona, Cal. (1936); Our Lady of Victory, Floral Park, N. Y. (1936).

The Nocturnal Adoration Society owes its origin to a pious priest of Rome, the Reverend Giacomo Sinibaldi, Canon of the Church of Santa Maria in Via Lata. He conceived the idea of having men spend the night in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed for the Forty Hours devotion. He gathered about him several laymen, drafted a Constitution and formed the Society, November 21, 1810. To this day the Society provides men for the night hours in the various churches of Rome whenever the Forty Hours devotion is held.

The Society was brought to France by Mr. Herman Cohen, a Jewish convert who later became a Carmelite Father. With eleven other laymen he inaugurated a branch in Paris. The first night of Adoration was held December 29, 1840 in the Church of Notre-Dame-de-Victoria. From there the Society spread throughout France. The most prominent centres being the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Montmartre.

Later, in 1863, Father Augustin Mare (Herman Cohen) went to London and on August 26th formed an English branch of the Nocturnal Adoration Society in the Kennington Oval of the Carmelite Monastery. In 1878, His Eminence Cardinal Wiseman set aside a Chapel in Horse Guards Road, Westminster, as the central London centre for Nocturnal Adoration.

The Nocturnal Adoration Society has little business in the world. There is no profit to be made from it. It is a society of devotion, of prayer, of love. It is a society of men who are united by a common purpose, a common goal, a common hope. It is a society of men who are united by a common love, a common faith, a common hope. It is a society of men who are united by a common love, a common faith, a common hope.

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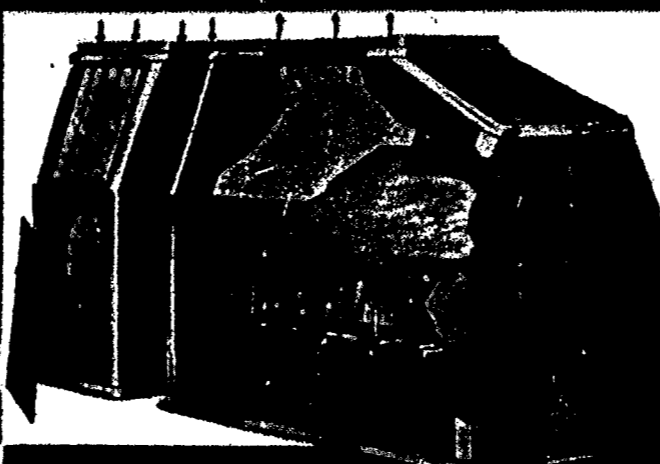
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# AHEAD

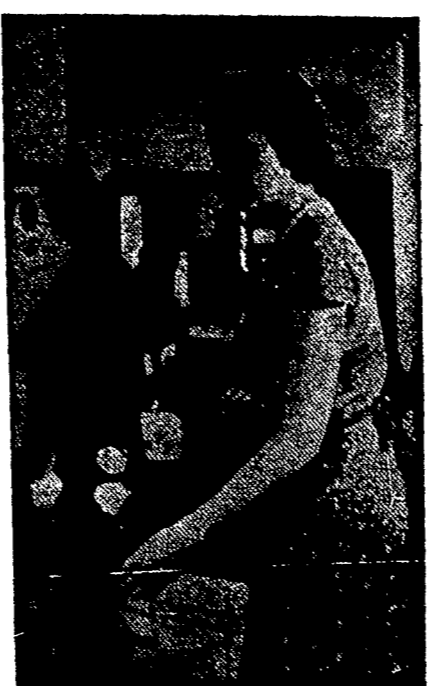
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