

Insights in Liturgy

Eucharistic Adoration

BY FATHER WILLIAM TROTT

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Last summer as our country celebrated its 200th birthday, Pope Paul spoke via a satellite to the thousands of people gathered in JFK Stadium in Philadelphia. Speaking about the sacrament and mystery of the Eucharist, he said, "Jesus, the teacher of humanity is here. He is calling you by name! The mystery of the Eucharist is, above all, a personal mystery: personal because of his divine presence — the presence of Christ, the Word of God made man; personal because the Eucharist is meant for each of us."

When we receive Holy Communion, we are literally in touch with the Body and Blood of Jesus. We participate momentarily in the richest meal ever shared by human persons. But our joy is not limited to the actual eating and drinking of this eternal food; it is extended for the moment we spend in contemplation — listening and speaking — to the risen Lord united with us in this unique way.

Our sharing in this sacrament, however, is limited to some extent by the time we spend in celebrating and receiving the Eucharist. And yet, it is extended through the presence of this sacrament reserved in our churches. Originally, extra hosts were retained in a private place in church so that the dying might be able to receive the Eucharistic bread for their journey homeward. Over the years this practice developed so that the sacrament was more publicly reserved, enabling the faithful to extend that special intimacy with the reason of Christ.

Tradition has come to call this practice spiritual communion or Eucharistic adoration. It is a desire to be as intensely present to Christ as we are at the moment of reception when he becomes most accessible to every human being who received him worthily (Pope Paul VI).

"The presence of Christ in the tabernacle aims at prolonging indefinitely the effect of Communion, since it completes the meal as well as the sacrifice. In fact, the Eucharistic presence seeks to preserve and develop quietly throughout the day what the Eucharistic meal sought to realize in our

moment of intense spiritual effectiveness. Continuing to offer his presence in the tabernacle, the Saviour invites the faithful to come to him in order to recapture the intimacy enjoyed in Communion and drink from the living fountain of charity." (Tartre, The Eucharist Today).

Far from being personalistic, this personal presence of Christ assures us of his desire to bring about his presence in the community of his worshippers. Through time spent with Christ in this mysterious presence, the faithful are able to draw strength to continue their work in his kingdom.

In 1959, Pope John XXIII lamented the fact that many "are neglecting this touching practice of Christian life, so dear to devout souls, which consists in recollecting oneself before the tabernacle to fill one's soul with the gifts of God." Personal presence before the Eucharist can easily become Word made flesh for each of us.

Since we are talking about the presence of a real person, whenever we are in contact with the Eucharist, we are in the presence of the person of Jesus Christ. Each time we visit him present in this sacramental food, we are subjectively prolonging the celebration in which we last participated and are anticipating our next reception of Holy Communion. When a community

unites itself with the essence of Christ, preservation and growth of the communal life and love for one another is guaranteed for the Church, the Body of Christ!

We recently celebrated the Eucharistic presence of Christ through the Feast of Corpus Christi. Each year at this time we are clearly reminded that such worship of his presence completes the celebration of the sacrifice and prolongs the enrichment of the Eucharistic meal.

Creative Endeavors

Barbara Krenzer from St. Agnes was the first place prose winner in the contest held by the Friends of the Brighton Memorial Library's annual literary contest. Barbara's winning entry was a story entitled "The Letter." Contest winners were announced at a tea for the writers and teachers.

The school's drama students took part in the Western New York High School Theater Competition at Geneseo. Jean Szembrot and Coleen McBride did a scene from "The Glass Menagerie"; Amy Flowerday and Kathy Bowen enacted a scene from "Antigone".

Oral interpretation was done by Katie Krenzer and Jane Sullivan. Katie Krenzer won an honorable mention.



Priests' Retreat

Taking part in the closing mass at the annual priests' retreat held at Becket Hall are, from left to right, Father Albert Shamon, Father Thomas McVeigh, Father John Murphy, Father Robert Miller and Father Donald McCarthy, CSB. The Mass took place Thursday, June 9.

Dr. Seuss Presented

St. Mary's School in Canandaigua presented a kindergarten to eighth grade Spring show based on four of the famous Dr. Seuss stories. The musical production had a cast of 300 children ranging from

kindergarten to eighth grade for the June 9 performance. The singers, actors and dancers dramatized Green Eggs and Ham, King Looie Katz and the Sneetches.

FESTIVAL

The annual festival and chicken barbecue at St. Rose Church in Lima begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, June 18.

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