



Things to Ponder

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The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (and 50th Anniversary Mass of St. Patrick's Church)

Dear Friends and Visitors,

On this Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, we welcome to St. Patrick's His Eminence, Cardinal Wuerl, priests who have served here in the past, and all who call this parish their spiritual home. How appropriate that we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary in the context of this feast that directs our attention to that mystery which draws us here and forms us as a people - the Eucharist!

In the short time that I have served as pastor, I have been very impressed by the number of people who attend daily Mass, and by the constant flow of visitors to the quiet presence of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day and into the evening. Less than a year ago, Bishop Dorsonville blessed the Chapel of St. Therese—our adoration chapel. I am deeply grateful to Father Paris, the inspiration behind this gem, and to the many who contributed so as to bring it to completion.

In a very real sense, the tradition of adoration of the Eucharist is our way of carrying Jesus to the streets of our neighborhoods. Blessed Charles de Foucauld spent much of his life amid Muslim neighbors in the Sahara desert of Africa. A considerable amount of his day was spent alone in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. As part of a retreat in the spirit of Blessed Charles, Michael Lafon wrote:

“The adoration of the Holy Sacrament is an intimate and selfless time since it is a time of love ... with their eyes fixed on the Holy Host as if it were in the holy home of Nazareth between the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph, constantly gazing at Jesus, our older brother, and striving ... to melt ... into Him in an almost more perfect unity ...”
(Lafon, 15 Days of Prayer, pp 75-76)

What a beautiful witness to the real presence of God's love in the midst of a broken and needy world!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bill Foley

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