

Pastor's Column

Eucharistic Adoration and Exposition

Due to the location of our Blessed Sacrament Chapel, many people have the opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflection with Christ present in the Reserved Eucharist in the Tabernacle.

Our Blessed Sacrament Chapel is open and available almost 12 hours a day, 5 days a week. This means almost 60 hours a week of opportunity for visits with the Eucharistic Christ.

I know that many people do make visits to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, because I see them pass by my office window on their way there. There is a daily stream of people who spend time in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Also, it is heart-warming to know and to see many of our young Parishioners in our youth ministry activities who are spending time in prayer in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

As a Parish, we should be gratified to see this prayer activity taking place in our midst.

There are many Churches whose doors are locked after the morning Mass, and there is no opportunity to make visits in the presence of the Tabernacle.

At St. Thomas More, we are blessed!

We have also had the custom of Eucharistic Exposition on the First Friday of each month. Eucharistic Exposition provides the opportunity to pray in the presence of the Eucharist exposed and visible for those there to pray.

Eucharistic Exposition guidelines require that at least one person is present at all times while the Eucharist is exposed.

We have found in recent months that it has been very difficult to get people to cover the hours necessary when there is Eucharistic Exposition.

Elaine Cassidy, our one-woman committee, has been working overtime in trying to get people to commit to certain hours so that at least one person is present at all times while there is Eucharistic Adoration, and she is having less and less success.

I believe part of the reason is that we have so many hours of opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration each week, and that people find it difficult to commit to a specific hour.

The people's choice is to be able to "pop in" to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel as time permits.

With this in mind, after discussion with the Parish Liturgy Committee, I have made the decision to end the monthly Eucharistic Exposition.

The Eucharistic Exposition on the first Friday of this month will have been the last. In the future, if there is a greater interest and a greater amount of people willing to be involved, we can re-examine this prayer activity.

Please remember, though, that the Blessed Sacrament Chapel remains open about 12 hours a day for 5 days a week.

Jesus is waiting for you to pay a visit!

F. Mike