

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION TESTIMONIES

Churches in the Sutter Buttes Deanery were invited to provide testimonies about Eucharistic Adoration from their parishioners. See testimonies below:

ST. ISIDORE CHURCH, YUBA CITY

(1) When I first signed up for Adoration I was a little afraid of committing myself to a certain day and a certain time and the what ifs that might come up, like Dr. appointments and family obligations but went with it anyway...After a couple of years now, I can honestly say I look so forward to my Holy Hour and finding myself asking for appointments any day but Monday unless absolutely necessary.....That hour spent with The Lord means more than words can say....An hour without phones, and doorbells is priceless.....I use the time for meditation, Rosary, DM Chaplet and spiritual readings...It's difficult to find time and atmosphere at home for such devotions. You will soon find you depend on your Holy Hour and how fortunate we are to be able to visit so personally with Our Lord and Savior. Thank you Father Avram for allowing us the ability to visit with Jesus at any time. Joyce Young

(2) Truly having Jesus available to us 24/7 is a gift from Heaven. I was baptized and catechized through the Catholic Church when I was a child, then left the Church in my late teens and was away for many years until right before I turned 40, my health declined and I had lost so much hope. It took my illness to come home- to Jesus. I will never forget the first morning I was brought to church and Father Avram Brown was celebrating the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. I felt this mystical presence and

peace that I was seeking for a long time. All my pain and suffering was lifted. God revealed to me what Heaven was like and that all the pain and suffering that I must endure is not for eternity. When I come to adore Jesus, I can be here adoring Him all day and all night If possible. I tend to lose track of time and my husband says how can you be there for hours? My response to him is...time does not exist when you are with God. That one hour of adoration for me feels like a minute or just the beginning. Evelyn Danko

(3) Good morning. I want to tell you about my experience coming to Adoration. I want to tell you about my testimony about my son. For three years I came in to pray for my son in Adoration hours. I remember every day, every morning every time, I would come crying and asking God for help for my son. He was using drugs, heavy drugs. For me it was so sad.

It was a nightmare to see my son in that situation. The saddest part was that he was on the street. But when you pray with all your heart, and all your faith, God is there for you no matter what situation is in your life. When you pray with faith God will move mountains. I was asking God to have mercy on my son and it was a miracle because now my son has been for five years without drugs, alcohol and he's a healthy man.

I'm never going to forget this day every June 5. We remember with Joy

because that day my son asked for help and every June 5 we celebrate. God is good all the time, now it's been seven years I've been coming to Adoration to give thanks to my God.

A parishioner and continuing Adorer.
Thank you

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, CORNING

I had my encounter with God at the age of sixteen. I love the Blessed Sacrament. Thirty years ago I had the happiness of being in a prayer group where there was a great priest, I could say a holy priest. He and the coordinator gave themselves the task of making that group fall in love with the Holy Eucharist. They always wanted us to go with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we would go and spend time with Him, we entrusted everything to Him and especially all the events. God manifested Himself greatly and did great wonders to his people. The love that God has for me and I have for Him knowing that He is really alive with His body, soul and divinity in that piece of bread is what has sustained me to this day. And what I enjoy the most in this life is being in front of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. *Norma Chipres*

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, COLUSA

(1) Spending time at Adoration of the Holy Eucharist can have profound effects on us.

I spend time with our Lord sometimes in personal prayer talking to him, sometimes asking for help, and sometimes in contemplation, trying to just spiritually

connect. It's in the moments of quiet and sustained solitude that his presence is felt the most. And usually within a short period of time, sometimes minutes, complete clarity comes to me from the Holy Spirit and my prayers are answered. *Dr Chris Impinna*

(2) It is near impossible to fathom the great gift and privilege of receiving and adoring our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ fully present in the Eucharist. The mere fact that He so willingly humbled Himself to become one of His lowly creatures is astonishing to say the least. Even more astonishing is the fact that He would allow Himself, using one of His creatures, to enter into substances that they/we dine on. If someone suggested to me that I should inhabit bread and water I would take it as an insult! But not our Lord. He willingly took on the form of bread and wine, transfiguring them into life-giving, life-transforming, life-saving, etc. gifts of Himself that we are able to receive and to help strengthen us and further gain eternal life through them, Him. This is simply too amazing for human language to fully explain.

I touched on the gift of receiving, something I have been able to do since I was a child. I didn't discover until just lately however, the privilege of simply being in front of the Eucharist exposed in the monstrance and in the tabernacle. This discovery has been life altering to say the least. As you can most likely infer, I am what we call a "Cradle Catholic". I attended CCD, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School, have been an altar server for twelve years, give or take a few years, and have been Involved in the Holy Liturgy and church organizations for a great majority of my twenty seven years

of life. Never once did I attend adoration. Until just about a year ago if you asked me what Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was you would have been met with a very confused look. I won't take you through my story of falling away from and coming back to the catholic faith during college, it is probably similar to most people's I would venture to guess. For the sake of saving your eyes from becoming glossed over, as I am afraid they may have already, I will skip to just past my reversion and about one or two months into God's call for me to consider priesthood. By this time I was on the hunt for as much information I could find on the church and our faith and how it truly is a faith and church instituted by Christ. I started acquiring knowledge by attending RCIA (which I know has a new name), through Relevant Radio and other media sources, through books (which I need to take a break on buying), through Bible Study, etc. All of this research has blown me away. There was something missing though. A deep love for Jesus in the Eucharist.

As I mentioned, about two months after receiving God's call I was gaining knowledge about, but not a true love for Christ. This is when I began attending adoration at our parish (Our Lady of Lourdes). The true awe and love for Christ in the Eucharist did not come right away. I knew He was there but still had doubts. I needed to attend more, and so I did. Every time, kneeling and praying in front of Jesus, my heart was softened. I began to long to be with Him and wanted to be in His presence, whether in the monstrance or tabernacle. He hooked me and reeled me in! Ever since, I try to be with Him as much as possible, at Holy Mass and especially at adoration. When in Yuba City I love to stop

by St. Isidore's and sit with Jesus, no matter what time of day. I learned that St. John the Baptist in Chico has an adoration chapel and have stopped in to say hi to Jesus there. I am excited for this Camino that our deanery has created! I will not only get to visit churches and meet new souls in our deanery but get to visit Jesus while doing so! I look forward to many years of serving God at Mass and Adoration and if God wills and the church accepts me, would be honored to give my life as a priest for Him and His people.

My hope and prayer is that more Catholics and even non-Catholics will be moved to find Jesus in the precious gifts of bread and wine, His body and blood that He so willingly gave to us. I pray that the spirit of unbelief be cast out of our fellow brothers and sisters who claim that the Eucharist is just measly bread and/or who find it grotesque that we would eat of His body and drink of His blood, something he so clearly instructed us to do. They don't understand. I didn't understand for a time. But now I do. Thank you Holy Trinity, thank you Jesus for softening my heart and leading me back to You, back to the church and most especially back to You in the Eucharist.

Mother Mary, help me to honor and adore your Son to the fullest during Adoration and Mass and to receive Him worthily at Mass. Please pray for all those poor souls who are lost, that they may bite the hook that I did and be brought back to the church your Son instituted for our salvation. Amen, Alleluia.

Brandon Woodring

SAINT DOMINIC CHURCH, ORLAND

For me, the Eucharist is... The Eucharist is the true and real meaning of life because it is the presence of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. In Holy Communion the Lord offers us an opportunity to get closer to Him. He shares his love and gives his life to us. Therefore, it is an honor to receive the Body of Christ because it means our salvation. In communion, we are receiving the real Body of Christ who offered himself on the Cross at Calvary for our salvation. Though we cannot see him as we would like, we can have faith's certainty that He can see us and listen to us. He is always there for us!
-Mayra



Saints on the Eucharist

“If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion.”—St. Maximilian Kolbe “Let us take the time to kneel before Jesus present in the Eucharist, in order to make reparation by our faith and love for the acts of carelessness and neglect, and even the insults which our Savior must endure in many parts of the

world. Let us deepen through adoration our personal and communal contemplation, drawing upon aids to prayer inspired by the word of God and the experience of so many mystics, old and new.”—St. John Paul II

HOLY CROSS CHURCH, ARBUCKLE

My Eucharist adoration experience began just a few years ago. I don't recall how many times I had been before the Eucharist in adoration when my experience changed. I started to feel a raw and true reality that was unlike anything I have ever felt before. It's as if I discovered a new self-identity that is so authentic and transparent. With a quiet mind unable to think of anything but able to feel an overflowing abundant peace and presence of God. This emotion is so intense that tears run down my face and I am unable to think of anything only to feel His presence, His love. Tears flow with gratitude for His true and unconditional love, compassion and continued forgiveness. Reflecting on the experience as I write these floods me with the same emotions and the tears are flowing.

God has never left me alone, He lives in me, He always has. I simply don't always quiet my mind enough to hear and feel His presence. For me this happens at nearly every adoration. If this is what Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament feels like I can't even begin to imagine what heaven must be like. Adoration has changed my perspective from living life on earth to a focus of living for eternal life with God. I want to live an eternal life in adoration. (*Maria*)

When I began my service in the church, I began as a catechist teacher. I remember some words that I always said to

God, "Help me to help others". However, in the first year of service, a great fear entered me that I thought several times about leaving the service because I did not feel capable of exercising that ministry. I feared failing God by not knowing how to express all his love and his greatness. However, in his great mercy he gave me some words that I will never forget "Give me a minute of silence in your heart." At first, I did not understand those words till I began to attend the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: to be in his presence, worshipping him, glorifying him in that peace. In that silence, I understood those words because before I was not listening to him, I was not allowing him to carry my worries, I knew that God was always there but I did not listen to him.

Now, I realize that in the silence of the heart, God speaks, therefore, I leave everything in his hands. Currently, I know how to laugh more in the midst of sadness, to have hope in the face of difficulties, today I can say that the storm will pass because God is always here. For the glory of God, He has now given me other services to help in with our church. With his help, I hope to serve him the rest of my life because the best time of my life is to be in his company, loving him, adoring him with my imperfect heart always knowing that I am loved by Him. Praise God in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. (*J*)

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, PARADISE

Parishioner 1:

On the day of my distress, I cried out to you, O Lord, and you answered me. The answer was to forgive and I did. When this happened, I desired, with all of my heart, a

relationship with the Lord. Time spent in prayer became and remains most important. So important, that I cannot begin my day without it.

Our Lord Jesus, in His great love and generosity, has made a way for us to see Him and be in His presence, The Most Holy Eucharist. He has revealed Himself in this way. I know that He is there. I am grateful to the Church that this time of Adoration is afforded us. Love is received and given, and just being in the presence of Love itself is a special gift. The One who has known me since before the foundation of the world, loved me into existence, calls me by my name, redeems me and makes me whole. This is a foretaste of Heaven! United in love, you in Me and I in you, with every fiber of our being. Thus imbued, we can never be separated from this union of love.

The Lord says, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Come let us rest in the Lord's healing presence and open our hearts to His Love and His Peace, for He is the Way the Truth and the Life.

Parishioner 2:

Life has never been the same since my First Holy Communion. I felt a very special bond with Jesus that exceeded any friendship, a union of spirit. Even after many years of ups and downs, pulled away from the innocence of youth, entering a cycle of sin, repentance, reconciliation, and return to that union of spirit, Jesus has never given up on our union even when I wasn't faithful to Him and to our special bond. He has even led me in periods

of faithfulness to encounter Our Father and the Holy Spirit. He has also shared His Mother with me.

Especially after a sincere confession, Jesus and I are reconciled in the Eucharist and our union of spirit is renewed. Then there are those special moments during Eucharistic Adoration when I renew the bond of my youth. We have dialog and a quiet encounter just renewing our friendship. Someday sin and temptation will be left behind and a special purification will enable the eternal union of spirit with the Trinity, Mother Mary, and all the angels and saints. The short, imperfect, transitory unions and reunions of Earth will become perfect and eternal.