

ADORATION : RADICAL LIFE TRANSFORMATION

by Fr. Jim Whalen



Devotion to the Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament, is a universal devotion - the central devotion of the Church. To be effective pro-life missionaries, to build a "Eucharistic Culture of Life", we must return to our source of strength, building a powerhouse of

prayer, around the Real Presence of our leader, Jesus Christ. Other devotions celebrate the mysteries of the Church. In Eucharistic Adoration we celebrate Jesus Christ, Himself, the Author of Life, who can bring about a radical transformation of our lives and our world. He radiates and empowers us to share in His mission. Pope John Paul II has explained the power and the promise of Eucharistic Devotion: "Closeness to Christ in silence and contemplation...makes us attentive and open to human joy and distress and broadens our heart on a global scale. It unites us with our brothers and sisters in humanity....Through adoration the Christian mysteriously contributes to the radical transformation of the world and to the sowing of the Gospel". It is Christ alone living in our midst as a perpetual sacrifice, sacrificed by us, for us, and with us, who holds our world together. There is an infinite dynamism, a power of light and truth that streams forth from the Blessed

Sacrament that can change our lives and can heal our Church, our nations, and the world. The Blessed Sacrament can overcome any limit that man can imagine.

Eucharistic Adoration constitutes the soul of Christian life. Our Christian life is expressed in fulfilling the greatest commandment: Love of God and Love of neighbour, and this love finds its source in the Blessed Sacrament as the Sacrament of Love. This love includes love of the enemies of life, those who foster a Culture of Death, an anti-life civilization, supporting and promoting contraception, abortion, euthanasia, pornography; those who have succumbed to relativism, materialism and hedonism; those who have abandoned the Scriptures and have grown indifferent to truth, justice, and peace. The Eucharist can create in pro-lifers such a desire, such a fire within us, that we are compelled by our very lives, our actions, and our presence to influence the people we live among, so as to change the hardness of heart, so as to melt the ice of hate, indifference, and injustice.

Many are convinced the solution to the present world situation is building a Eucharistic Culture. History teaches us that saints and popes have turned to this remedy with great success. "Our own belief is that the renovation of the world will be brought about only by the Holy Eucharist" (Pope Leo XIII); "Tirelessly promote the cult of the Eucharist" (Pope Paul VI); "Our communal

worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration in order that our love may be complete"(Pope John Paul II).

On December 8th, 2007, the Congregation for the Clergy, in order to support Pope Benedict XVI's appeal for the practice of Eucharistic adoration, and for the promotion of perpetual adoration in his Apostolic Exhortation, **Sacramentum Caritatis**, issued specific proposals. They include: a full-time priest be appointed in each diocese to promote Eucharistic adoration; specific places be reserved for continuous Eucharistic adoration; establishing Eucharistic oratories and shrines; continuing formation of priests should be permeated by a Eucharistic spirit, devoting specific time to Eucharistic adoration.

Have you considered attending the Eucharistic Congress in Quebec, June 15-22? Pray about it.



Prayer to the Author of Life

Father of us all, Author of all life, I thank you for my life and the appreciation of it. Please help me to always respect the lives of all your