



Pastor's Column

St. Peter Catholic Church

October 28, 2018, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 Hours With the Lord (Eucharistic Adoration)

As we know, we here at St. Peter parish enjoy what is probably the strongest parish culture of Eucharistic Adoration of any parish in the Diocese, after St. Thomas More in north Spokane. It is on account of the strength of our Eucharistic culture here that I offer this opportunity to join me in prayer before the Real Presence.

Beginning after the 7:15 AM Mass on Wednesday November 7, and concluding with Benediction at 7 AM on Thursday November 8, we will have around-the-clock Adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The reason for this is because that following weekend is when the annual meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will begin, and I myself am going to be there in the chapel for those 24 hours to pray for our bishops and also to endure that entire time of prayer (and hopefully staying awake and sufficiently hydrated!) as an act of penance for all of the horrible harms doing to innocent children, youth, and young adults at the hands of perverted priests and bishops, as well as the bishops complicit in the cover-up.

This year's USCCB meeting will be crucial for our bishops. In my own opinion, they as a collective college of bishops have lost pretty much all credibility because of how poorly everything has been handled with regard to this crisis thus far. Our own bishop, Bishop Thomas Daly, has said as much in his own recent statements. If the USCCB does not conclude these meetings with a solid plan of action and begins implementing that plan right away, then I despair their ever earning back the credibility that they have lost. They have a lot of work to take care of in this year's meetings.

To aid them in their work that must be done is why I am offering this opportunity to pray before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. I will not post sign-up sheets to ensure that every hour for this is covered; to put out sign-up sheets with the expectation that parishioners sign up would, I think, imply that I expect parishioners to join me in this gesture of prayer and penance. But in very truth, it is the clerics of the Church who need to do more for penance in making reparations to you, the lay faithful. You have done nothing wrong in any of this; therefore, you should not be expected to do penance. Whereas I, as a cleric (though I myself have done nothing, but my brother priests as well as my fellow clerics, the bishops, have) have much for which to atone.

And so, again, there will be no sign-up sheet for this event; but all the same, all are welcome to join me whenever they wish in these 24 hours with the Lord. The church door will be unlocked, the chapel will be open, and I will be there (or, if I need to get out for an anointing or something, I will find someone to cover me for that short time away), and hopefully I will be awake!

It suddenly occurs to me that I have yet to apologize on behalf of my fellow clerics for harm done. On behalf of all of our bishops, priests, and deacons in the United States, and on behalf of myself for any harm I may have done to anyone in my time here so far at St. Peter, I am truly sorry.

God help us, God be with us, and God be praised.

- Fr. Lewis