

Go Be with a Friend ~ Keep Him Company & Enjoy Him

By Father Libby

While checking in with my dissertation Director recently at his parish, I went over to his church to do my holy hour. When I got there, I realized the church was being cleaned by someone and her children. Due to the understandable noise volume involved, I decided to sit directly *behind* (as close as I could guess) the Blessed Sacrament in the sacristy on the other side of the wall. Doing so made me think of the famous story of St John Paul II touring a seminary here in America. During the tour, he went down a hallway where all the doors looked the same, but one was the entry to the chapel. His master of ceremonies made a point to make sure the chapel door was closed because, from past experience, he knew if the pope saw the chapel, he would make a visit, and two hours later would come out; the whole schedule of the day now thrown off! So, as the story goes, the pope walked down this hallway and stopped directly in front of the chapel door (even though it looked just like every other door in the hall) and turning to his master of ceremonies, he wagged his finger and smiled, opened the door, and sure enough the schedule for the day it was thrown off by a couple hours.



Photo credit: <https://jp2studies.com/>

Would that we all had such a longing to find the Blessed Sacrament and spend time with Him! Perhaps *that's* why so many modern churches are confusing as to where the Real Presence is when one enters. Jesus wants us to exert effort to find Him! Work at it! Make time for it! Put effort into it! Maybe not physically like John Paul II, but certainly in our spiritual life through hours of prayer. In twenty years, what's going to matter in your life of the things you've done? How much will you even remember? But for sure, one thing that will matter is whether we prayed, adored, did our rosary every day, went to confession. Only things we make sacrifices for and invest in mean something to us; isn't that true?

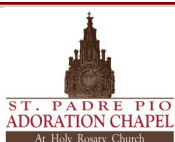
Now, in my case, there in the sacristy, directly behind where I was guessing Blessed Sacrament was on the other side of the wall, I was thinking pretty well about myself, not bothering

the cleaners, and being humble! But then things got worse. The cleaners switched to cleaning the hall directly on the left of the sacristy, the walls paper thin. And one of the children of the cleaner was bored, so started watching a video and singing along to it *directly* on the other side of the wall. Then, it got *even worse*. As I made haste to go now to the vacant church, I started to hear more or less beautiful arias being sung. Choir practice has begun! I say more or less beautiful because they still needed some work, and this was perhaps the less beautiful stage. So I made an act of proper despair and slunk back to my chair in the sacristy--some kind of children's cartoon blasting on the left hand and arias, or at least various forms of what they were supposed to be, coming from the Church through the walls, and I was sitting there thinking "poor me"!

But then it hit me. Why I was there in the first place.? Do we go to holy hours primarily for ourselves? Do we search out the Lord for ourselves? We forget our own dignity! We have something to give God, and that is the *sacrifice of our time* to be with Him, keep company with the Divine Prisoner, as so many saints have talked about throughout the ages. I was surprised to read in my spiritual reading of Teresa of the Andes when she was discussing Saint Thérèse that Saint Thérèse frowned on people, sisters, moaning and crying and sobbing in front of the Blessed Sacrament with all their problems. St Therese said, 'poor Jesus! He has to put up with all of that all day and all night out there in the world-people bugging him with their million petitions and 'poor me's'. 'At least we (in Carmel, St Therese continued) could console Him there as the divine prisoner!'

So does that mean no more sniffing and moaning and sighing in the chapel? Certainly, when in the chapel with others, it is best to keep the 'poor me' moments to oneself simply that we don't distract others. But at the same time, we're not perfect religious in a monastery! I know I am guilty of this at times, I find myself exhaling loudly even before I realize it, but as soon as I do realize, I try to be silent for others.

Anyway, back to the sacristy and my very odd holy hour. I realized at that point that the principal reason I do a holy hour should not be for myself, but rather to go be with a Friend, with the Lord, keep Him company, and enjoy Him even as I pour out my needs and problems, which He already knows. Mother Theresa used to build her chapels on purpose next to noisy streets and had the windows left open. She wanted her sisters to realize the principal purpose of time in front of the Blessed Sacrament was not all about them (though that IS important) but also a reminder that we are there for the Lord and for our neighbor, as well.



St. Padre Pio Perpetual Adoration Chapel

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HOLY ROSARY PRAYER CORNER

Prayer feeds our lives. Prayer is a gift. It is a gift because Christian Prayer is based on knowing the Lord Jesus, and having the Holy Spirit stir and move through us in prayer. Please keep these intentions in your prayers.



Pray for those that are not able to attend Mass with us



- Jill Anderson- Home
 Ted Bodus- Woodside Assisted Living
 Betty Flaska - Home * Barb Flores - Tendercare TC
 Georgetta Galla- Joy Givers
 Gerri Galla - Local Nursing Home
 Marga Galla - Culver Meadows
 Theresa Garvin- Joy Givers * John King- Home
 Loraine Kulanda - Home * Ann Mazurek- Home
 John Peplinski- Medilodge * Joanne Popa- Home
 Kelly Priest - Woodside Asst Living
 Frank Majszak - Medilodge South * Elizabeth Randall- Home
 Mike Shorter- The Villa at Traverse Point
 Thelma Weber- Woodside Assisted Living

Please call the office to correct & update this list.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Recent Prayer Intentions

- * Debbie - surgery * Casey * New Pregnancy - high risk
- * Fr. Ken * Jon Staudacher - Homebound * Fr. Pat
- * Addiea - heart pump * Jennifer - Pancreatic issues
- * Jan Novak - severe cancer * Leo - heart issues
- * Janice Barr - health issues * Ashley - accident
- * Don Pahl (cancer and recent stroke) * Kayla
- * David Mikowski - serious health issues * Danni Stocki
- * Danielle - Breast cancer * Cindy Bardenhagen - Homebound
- * Terri Weber (Buckley) * Joan Gauthier * Baby Quinn *
- * Cecily Neddo * Mary Jane Evich * Gwendlyn Rice - Homebound
- * Lucille Zenner * Mike Pierce (in dire need of lung & kidney transplant)

Prayer for The Vocations in Our Diocese

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Seminarians:</u> | <u>Candidates</u> |
| Jacob Belanger | <u>for Diaconate:</u> |
| John Mawby | Jason Maday |
| David Witkowski | Neil Witkowski |



Religious Life: Gianna Belanger

O Lord Jesus Christ, lead our Seminarians & Diaconates in Your unerring footsteps; so that they may serve as models of purity, possessors of wisdom and heroes of sacrifice. Teach them generosity and service; but above all, teach them to know You and to love You. ~ Amen



For the recently deceased & their families



- * Herry Patterson *

Cancer Patients:

- * Lory Bruckner Boone * Peter Freundl * Kelly F. *
- * Martin Gallagher * Cynthia Lieby *
- * Don Pahl * Therese Rosinski * Craig Stallman *
- * John Trotsky * Ruth Trotsky (Cancer and Parkinsons)
- * Kathleen * Lori * Marissa * Steve *

Let **US** Pray **FOR OUR MILITARY MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES**

- Ken Artz —US Air Force
- Isaiah Belanger —US Navy
- Nicholas Bryan —US Army
- John Bunek —US Navy
- Curtis Bunek —US Navy
- Keith Castle —US Marines
- Matthew Culver —US Navy
- Timothy Fisher —US Army
- Peter Freundl
—US Coast Guard
- Joshua Harris —US Coast Guard
- Avery Kohler
—MI National Guard
- Christopher Kohler
—MI National Guard
- Jacob Kunde —US Air Force
- Austin McQueer —US Marines
- Andrew Tondreau
—MI National Guard
- Ryan Tondreau —US Army
- Leif Vanderwerf —US Marines
- Dr. Daniel Weber —US Army
- Anya Woods —MI National Guard
- Tim Wigton —MI National Guard
- Andrew Zeits —US Army

Most of us will never know the sacrifices that our military servicemen and women make to serve and protect us all. But what is often overlooked is the tremendous sacrifice made by their families. Starting with the spouses, the sons & daughters - and all the way down to the parents & extended family of those that serve as well. Please keep them all in your prayers.

* Ongoing Prayer Intentions *

- * Chris Berkey - Neurological issues *
- * Delores (Ditto) Couturier - stroke recovery *
- * Baby Henry Gauthier - 13 mos - cervical neck healing *
- * Lucas P. - teen - serious food allergies and EOE *
- * Jim Plamondon - long-term rehab *
- * Conor Rigan - age 4 - Continued recovery and success of medical protocol following brain tumor surgery; also aid to parents in obtaining needed insurance coverage *
- * Ron Rushton - stroke recovery *
- * Kayla Tondreau - SJIA & many health struggles *

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Call Rita Wilson 231-228-5838 or Carole Jones 231-633-2111



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.