

Column060423

Companions on the Journey

June 4, 2023

One of the most significant experiences of my life was when I was in the Seminary and Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was our Retreat Master. One of the things he cited was the words of Our Lord to Peter, James and John in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before he died. They had been asked by Him to watch and pray with Him. Instead, they fell asleep. He came back to them and awakened them to ask: “Could you not watch one hour with me?” Archbishop Sheen asked us as seminarians whether we would have a different answer to that question than the first apostles had. He wanted to know if we would be willing to spend one hour each day in prayer with Our Lord, with Our Lord present in the Blessed Sacrament. That talk made such an impression on me that I began a daily holy hour from then until now. Each day. For most of the years in between, the holy hour has been prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. It had made such a great difference in my life.

I believe that is why the Lord prompted me to create a Chapel for Perpetual Adoration before I left Saint Anthony’s. This I have done. Next Friday and Saturday there will be opportunities for any and all parishioners to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in our new Chapel. It is called the Most Precious Blood Chapel of Perpetual Adoration. I am asking you to sign up to spend a half hour or an hour in adoration in the new chapel from 8AM on Friday the 9th throughout the night into Saturday the tenth until midnight. That is forty hours of prayer—sixteen hours on Friday and 24 hours on Saturday. This is how the new Chapel will actually be opened. It will be formally blessed the next week.

My prayer for you is that many of you will choose to pray in this new Chapel. The original revelation from Our Lord was that the Chapel be a place for prayer for the return of our children to the practice of the faith. The place for prayer has been provided. The time is up to each of you. You will be able to pray at any time those two days. Afterwards you will be able to apply for and receive a digital number for you to use on the digi-pads at the entrance to the Pastoral Center and to the Chapel. More information is to come about applying for and receiving this digital number.

The goal is to have as many people as possible come here to pray specifically for our children’s return to the practice of the faith. The power of Eucharistic prayer cannot be overestimated. So, until then please do some thinking and discussing with those who you can speak with about spiritual matters. Seek their counsel and share with them your hearts. Decide when you would like to go—on a regular basis. Talk to Our Lord and ask him for the help you need to decide and then to follow through. You will never regret making this decision. And you will be blessed in ways unimaginable. And your children shall be benefitted—and return.

Peace,
Msgr. McHenry