Welcome!

This supplement to Today’s Liturgy is designed to help those who are preparing celebrations of Eucharistic Adoration. There is a lot of flexibility built into the rites, but at the same time there are rules that we need to follow. In addition, there is a need for materials that can be used in reflection and prayer. So here at OCP we hope to help with this aspect of parish life.

Saints of the Blessed Sacrament

Each issue of Adore! will have a reflection on a saint who helped to promote adoration.

In this issue, we focus on Juliana of Liege (or of Cornillon) (1193-1258)

That Belgian-born Saint Juliana had such a deep love of the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is a bit amazing. Orphaned at a young age, and apparently having her only sibling die sometime after that, being twice exiled from her own convent — none of this would lead us to think that she would have felt the love of Christ. And yet, perhaps because of the trials of her life, Saint Juliana worked tirelessly to have the Church establish a feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament.

Various sources claim her as a Religious of either the Premonstratensian or Cistercian order. The Roman Martyrology, however, lists her as an Augustinian. She became abbess of what was likely a double house, with a community of men and a separate community of women in the same complex. Long before then, she had a vision of the moon with a dark spot on it. It took some time before she was given to know the meaning of the vision, that the bright moon was the yearly cycle of feasts, and that the dark spot was a missing feast, a feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. When she finally came to understand this, her life’s work was set. Especially after she became abbess, she worked with anyone who would listen to try to establish a feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament.

Eventually Robert of Thourotte, the bishop of Liège, gave permission for the feast, and Jacques Pantaleon, the archdeacon (a powerful office at the time), remembered this when he became Pope Urban IV. It was Urban who created the feast in the last year of his life, but Saint Juliana had not lived to see it.

Here, from the beautiful 2006 study, The Feast of Corpus Christi (© 2006, Penn State University Press, edited by Barbara R. Walters, Vincent Corrigan, and Peter T. Ricketts), are three antiphons for evening prayer (vespers), part of the office for the feast that she composed with her confessor, a certain Canon John:

Food for souls the wisdom of God has offered to us for food the flesh he has assumed so that through the food for our humanity he might invite us to taste of his divinity.

Prescribing for his disciples an appropriate inheritance, he entrusted to them a memorial saying, “Do this in memory of me.”

Christ presents himself entirely to us for food, so that, just as his divinity restores us when we partake him with our hearts, so his humanity might restore us when we partake him with our mouths.

Excerpt from the book Adoration Basics (ocp.org/adoration-basics) © 2019 OCP. All rights reserved.
A Song for the Season:
“Exposition/O Saving Victim”

This contemporary anthem, with English texts based on the Latin chants “Attende, Domine” and “O Salutaris,” is ideal for Communion or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The melodic movement of the verses builds as we eagerly look toward our own salvation in heaven. The anthemic, expressive refrain is easily sung by the assembly. Layering the parts on the bridge creates a natural progression to the return to the refrain. This setting beautifully combines the ancient and the new.

Curtis Stephan and Steve Angrisano have collaborated to bring new life to these traditional texts. These two composers are friends and neighbors. The two both have a deep love of Eucharistic Exposition, and of the music tradition associated with Adoration. “I grew up with a lot of these old hymns that have such richness to them…. So taking some of the words and making them a contemporary song so that worship leaders can use them is really awesome.” Angrisano agreed: “There are a lot of ending songs for Adoration… there is a certain power, a certain gravitas to the moment. As we were writing it I thought that this would be a great way to begin Adoration.” The chorus is “O Saving Victim,” from Saint Thomas Aquinas. The verses are from “Attende Domine (Draw Near to Us O Lord),” and the idea is to exalt God, Christ our Victor. To have God be so close to us in and an intimate part of our lives is reflected in the Eucharist and in this song.

MP3: 30139132
Accompaniment Package: 30141741
Octavo: 30141003 (print) 30141004 (download)
Guitar/Vocal Lead Sheet 30139147
See Breaking Bread, Choose Christ, Music Issue

Program Booklet (Pages 3-6)
Print double-sided on the short edge, will create an 8 page program booklet when folded.
An Advent Celebration of Exposition

Mood/Environment: Advent is a time of active waiting, and keeping watch at night. As the shepherds on that first Christmas, adoration is a great way to celebrate that spirit of waiting. This night watch with the Blessed Sacrament is based on the Church’s Night Prayer (Compline) and it should be subdued and filled with silent prayer. The lighting should be kept low, and the music have only simple accompaniment.

Order of Service
As the people gather, instrumental music is interspersed with this refrain.

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**Be Still and Know**

Kneel

The appointed minister places the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance. Candles are lighted.

Silent Prayer

Prayer at Night

Opening Dialogue

Make the Sign of the Cross as the leader begins the prayer.

God, come to my assistance.

R. Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn
Examination of Conscience

A brief Examination of Conscience is encouraged. This may follow the formula for the Penitential Act of the eucharistic liturgy.

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.
Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of your suffering and death.
May our worship of this sacrament of your Body and Blood
help us to experience the salvation you won for us
and the peace of the kingdom where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

Eucharistic Blessing

*The priest or deacon blesses the people with the Blessed Sacrament in silence.*

Reposition

*After the blessing, the minister places the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.*

Reading

Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. The throne of God and of the
Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will look upon his face,
and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more, nor will they need
light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign
forever and ever. (Revelation 22:3-5)

Reflection

From Evening Prayer for Corpus Christi by Juliana of Liège:

“Food for souls the wisdom of God has offered to us for food the flesh he has as-
sumed so that through the food for our humanity he might invite us to taste of his
divinity. Prescribing for his disciples an appropriate inheritance, he entrusted to them
a memorial saying, ‘Do this in memory of me.’ Christ presents himself entirely to us
for food, so that, just as his divinity restores us when we partake him with our hearts,
so his humanity might restore us when we partake him with our mouths.”
Response

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

R. Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth.

R. I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

R. Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

Gospel Canticle

Song of Simeon

Now, O God, let your servant go. Let me go in peace according to your word. For my eyes behold your saving work:

a light for all the world. Alleluia.

Silent Prayer

An extended period of silent prayer may follow.

Eucharistic Hymn

During this hymn, a priest or a deacon may incense the Blessed Sacrament.