



Fr John – Reflection and information regarding Adoration and our Chapel.

I think many people view me as an alien because the priesthood can seem so radically different from the way most people on earth live and almost not human. So, when people who've never really talked to priest ask me what I like to do I think they are sometimes surprised when I say that one of the things I enjoy the most is sharing a meal with friends.

About a month ago I gave a homily at our Lady of Peace Academy with about 800+ gathered. I told them that I would love to sit down with each and everyone of them and we would bless whatever is blessed in their lives and we would kick to the curb whatever is not of God. We are created to live in the goodness and beauty and truth of God and that is the purpose of our friendships. And friendship is the heart of all that we want to do here at Saint Charles.

Developing a friendship with Christ and then sharing that friendship with each other. Ultimately, there is no other beauty in life and no other point to life than friendship.

So, how are your friendships? Are they real, meaningful, purposeful, joyful, merciful, sacrificial, everlasting? Do you have friends that you know that no matter how well you succeed or how terribly you fail they will be at your side no matter what? **"A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he who finds one finds a treasure. A faithful friend is beyond price, and no sum can balance his worth. A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy."** *Sirach 6:14-16*. But as we know human friendships are not enough. They are not powerful enough. We must ask ourselves the question, "100 years from today I will be in a different place and how am I going to get there?" In our faith it is very clear that we have a loving and forgiving and saving friend in Jesus and he is the one who will get us there. And we know and believe and profess that no one else can! If we know and follow him, we will have peace in our life that someday we will be with him in heaven. So, it seems to me that the most important thing we need to know in life is Jesus.

That brings us now to adoration. In John chapter 6 at the Last Supper, Jesus said that he would give us his body and blood so that we could go to heaven. This is called the Eucharist and as Catholics we believe that the consecrated host, also called the blessed sacrament, is really the body of Jesus Christ given up for us so that we can be forgiven and go to heaven. A very special and profound way to grow in our relationship with Jesus is to spend quiet time in front of the blessed sacrament in adoration. The consecrated round host which we believe is really Jesus is placed in something called a monstrance. The monstrance is an ornate, sacred vessel that shows forth the consecrated host/blessed sacrament. Monstrance actually means "to show forth" and what is being shown forth in adoration is the creator and savior of the universe! Yes, we believe it is the same Jesus who lived 2000 years ago and healed, taught, forgave and raised people from the dead! And we are all trying to come believe in this greatest miracle and so we pray, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief."

I cannot tell you how excited I am for adoration to happen at St Charles. The goal is to throw away for a little while all the noise, cell phones, running, busyness, stress, overwhelming schedules, and just be able to sit with Jesus and let him love us! All that he wants to do is show us the path of forgiveness, meaning and peace in our lives and he will do so in adoration. Doesn't that sound good as we think about our stressful days packed to the gill with all that we have to do? I cannot wait to teach the value of adoration to everyone who is called to Saint Charles. I am so excited about teaching all of our children to be quiet and listen to Jesus who will give us the path of peace on earth all the way to heaven if only we will listen in silent adoration. Saint Catherine of Siena said, "Heaven is with us, all the way to heaven." This truth is exactly what adoration will open our eyes to.

Our adoration chapel will be next to pre-school where the sisters had their original chapel. We hope to get it going within the month. Mrs. Snedden has graciously worked with us to make this possible. Her office will now be in the middle of the preschool. Know that we are taking all measures to keep St Charles as a safe environment. Adorers can only go to the chapel if they are registered through the parish office and they can only enter and exit for the opposite side of the preschool. *

*Please see the other side of this flyer for the safety procedures we are putting in place to make both the school children and our adorers as safe as possible.

God bless us all as we pray for a spirit of adoration at St. Charles,
+Fr John Amsberry

** I recommend my podcast homily on Friendship as well as all my homilies found on iTunes. Search: Fr John Amsberry on iTunes.