

**ARCHBISHOP'S COMMITTEE FOR
EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Newsletter 15**



January 31, 2016

Dear Parish Coordinator of Eucharistic Adoration,
(Please forward to coordinator)

This newsletter will be archived on our webpage where you may find helpful information to assist in maintaining and promoting Adoration. www.archstl.org/adoration

PRAY, SACRIFICE, INVITE

YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has declared a Year of Mercy beginning on December 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and ending on November 20, Solemnity of Jesus Christ King of the Universe. Much has been written about the door of Mercy and there are numerous holy doors within the Archdiocese, but the door to every Adoration Chapel is really a door of mercy.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines mercy as *“The loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance shown to one who offends”* (i.e., the mercy of God to us sinners).

There are currently 69.5 Million Catholics in the United States. And perhaps more troubling for the church, for every one Catholic convert, more than six Catholics leave the church. Taken a step further, Catholicism loses more members than it gains at a higher rate than any other denomination, with nearly 20 percent of all Americans describing themselves as “former Catholics.”

During this Year of Mercy, you may want to encourage your Adorers to pray for the former Catholics in their families and among their friends. If each adorer prayed one lapsed Catholic back to the faith, the number of Catholics would increase. Many converts and reverts are on fire for their faith and are good candidates to invite to commit to an hour of adoration. With your Pastor’s permission, consider putting copies of the *Novena Prayer for the Return of Lapsed Catholics* in your Adoration Chapel. The cards are \$.35 each plus shipping, and are available at www.CatholicPrayerCards.org or by calling 1-888-244-2788. The card number is YOM-7.

In *The Prodigal You Love*, Sr. Theresa Aletheia Noble, FSP, a Daughter of St. Paul, recommends:

“Of course, if your loved one is open to it, going to Eucharistic Adoration for a short while is also an excellent activity. It is not as much of a commitment as a Mass, and it is completely silent so those we love do not have to analyze or intellectualize anything. Most importantly, they are right there in the Real Presence of Jesus. You might be surprised by how many self-proclaimed atheists or agnostics are open to this; they are curious and their hearts often long for contemplation. The Holy Spirit is powerfully active, especially if we pray or make sacrifices before inviting our loved ones to Adoration. Don't underestimate God's grace.”

Consider making available to adorers, the Encyclical, *The Mercy of God, Dives in Misericordia* http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30111980_dives-in-misericordia.html and *Divine Mercy In My Soul, the Diary of St. Faustina*.

15. May Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion be deputed to expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration?

Yes, “such ministers may open the tabernacle and also, if suitable, place the ciborium on the altar or place the host in the monstrance. At the end of the period of adoration, they replace the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. It is not lawful, however, for them to give the blessing with the sacrament.”