

NOCTURNAL ADORATION

Nocturnal Adoration is an association of Catholics – no age limit – dedicated to prayer in the name of the whole community and of the Church, before the Blessed Eucharist, for the praise of God and for the needs of the church and the world at large. The night of adoration is the last Saturday of every month.

Needs: Men and women to spend one hour, once a month, during the hours of the night, at a designated hour.

One Hour With Him

What is the Nocturnal Adoration Society?

The Nocturnal Adoration Society is an association of Catholics dedicated to prayer before the Eucharist for the praise of God and for the needs of the world.

What is the purpose of the Society?

To unite the members in prayer before the exposed Sacrament during the hours of the night.

To deepen the experience of communion with Christ Eucharistic, as he continues his self-offering and saving power, and to revitalize Christian commitment toward the "new evangelization."

To pray for the needs of the church and the world at large.

Who can be members?

Membership is open to all Catholics. There is no age limit.

What does membership entail?

Only to spend one hour once a month during the hours of the night, on a given night and at a designated hour, in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in a church where the Society, in the form of a local chapter, is established. There are no dues and no prescribed activities other than prayer.

Why do members pray before the exposed sacrament?

When praying before the Eucharist exposed, the mind and heart more easily give themselves to communion with Christ. By focusing attention on the sacramental sign of the memorial of the Lord in a spirit of adoration, thanksgiving, atonement, and petition, members seek to internalize and give witness to the significance of the Eucharist for Christian life.

Why do members pray at night?

For reasons of convenience. For many people living in a fast-paced society, a night hour is often more easily set aside for prayer than one during the day and lends itself to praying in quiet, calm, and recollection. For reasons of symbolism. Keeping vigil during the hours of the night an ancient tradition among Christians draws attention to God as the source of light and goodness amid human weakness and sin, and also stimulates a sense of spiritual preparedness and expectation.

How are members of a chapter organized for the hour of prayer?

The organization is quite flexible and depends in large measure on local conditions, such as the number of participants and the circumstances in which a particular chapter functions.

Local chapters are encouraged to organize their hours of prayer according to a rotating system, traditional in the Society, whereby the members, month by month, share equally the easier and more difficult hours. Within this system, there is provided a fixed hour for those who, for various reasons (illness, advanced age, shift work, etc.), cannot take part in the rotating system.

A chapter, for reasons of its own determining, may choose to organize its members for prayer over a two-hour or even one-hour period only. Again, local conditions will usually determine the manner in which a chapter's prayer vigil is organized.

On which night of the month is the vigil held?

The choice of the night is entirely up to the Moderator and the members. Some chapters prefer the night of the first Friday of the month into Saturday morning; others choose Saturday night. Local conditions determine the night.

What do members do during the hour?

During the hour, there are periods of common prayer and periods of silent prayer. For the common prayer, it is traditional in the Society to use the liturgical prayer taken from the Liturgy of the Hours (we publish an Office of the Blessed Sacrament) as well as other dialogue prayer texts in the Society's prayer book. However, other prayer formats may be used. The silent prayer periods are for personal meditation and contemplation.

Is the Nocturnal Adoration Society a national organization?

The Nocturnal Adoration Society has chapters throughout the world. The National Headquarters of the Nocturnal Adoration Society is at Saint Jean Baptiste Church, 184 East 76th Street, New York, NY 10021. If you would like to join the Nocturnal Adoration Society, please contact John Reynell at 266-5679.