



40 HOURS OF DEVOTION

The 40 Hours Devotion for our parish brought an immense grace upon everyone who entered into it. Many adorers who were signed up to hold an hour found the church full of others who had come to adore Our Lord. This was an unexpected grace! So many of those who came during those days and nights, experienced the profound grace, peace and holiness that permeated the church that they could not hold it in. It spilled out from heart-felt words even from the most reserved and practical of people in conversations, emails, text messages and phone calls. These were people who wanted to make sure their feelings were known, these were souls whose lives had been touched and wanted to share ~ we wanted to share this with the Tri-Parish.

Words such as "so peaceful and holy, so beautiful". "The altar was beautiful. It created a very peaceful and prayerful setting". "I felt so at peace." ~ again and again beautiful words of awe and holiness were repeated throughout the 40 hours and beyond. People were so very appreciative! Many of these hold regular hours of adoration on a weekly basis and many have held hours of adoration for MANY years and yet there was something present here that was different! The Lord truly could not be out given even to those who held middle of the night hours night after night ~ could not be out done by Our Dear Lord! He poured profound grace, peace and love back to all of us who came to be with Him! There are two large miracles I would like to specifically share, which came immediately following the 40 Hours Devotion. Here is the first one: I had been with a group sharing how powerful the grace is surrounding an adoration chapel ~ not only for that church and church community, but also for the town it is in and for miles surrounding it. They have documented over the years that the Adoration chapels that have existed have shown a decrease in crime and violence in a several mile radius surrounding that church, also marriages have been restored, divorce is low and churches have blossomed and grown. All of a sudden from the group a very reserved woman burst into tears and heart felt sobs. I thought her emotion was just from what I had said and that was powerful enough,

but when I went to comfort her, through sobs she began to share that her son and his marriage was falling apart. That they had been praying hard for this couple, but the wife had given an ultimatum and their hearts were broken as they watched them head towards divorce with three beautiful children. This mother and father of this young couple were generous with their time for 40 Hours Devotion! They had not only taken a middle of the night hour and we're willing to take two in a row, but they took another late night hour and we're willing to be the main substitutes if anyone ended up not able to hold their hour at the last minute. Right after 40 Hours Devotion (which they were at the Mass and benediction) they found out the good news regarding their son's marriage. They have resolved their differences and they have chosen to stay together (Praise you Lord)!!! This mother said she had not put two and two together until I had shared about Adoration ~ she realized that God blessed them with a miracle!!!!

Father Amir has a beautiful holy heart and thinks of ways to bless our parishes in a very generous way! He thought of details regarding the 40 hours with a "fatherly care" and even though I have been a part of creating adoration in a handful of churches, I have never seen the priest of the parish hold an hour or come to Adoration. However, Father, called me on the way to Adoration on Monday night and in the conversation I came to realize that he was going to St. Luke's. This made me see his heart, that he supported this devotion to Our Lord with his own time and efforts even though he had been there Sunday and would be back Tuesday for Mass and benediction. He came to be with Our Dear Lord and experience for himself the 40 hours as he was hearing so many souls were coming ~ even though we had only one person signed up for each hour we were getting reports of 6, 8, 10 people on an hour. Immediately following 40 Hours Devotion, I got word that Father was able to go to India. I was so excited for him and on Thursday morning I asked him how it became possible as we had come to find out that the embassy was closed and Father had longed to go and see his family but could not. Without any hesitation, Father Amir gave full credit to the 40 Hours Devotion! Jesus had sent a tidal wave of His most precious gifts and grace to our parishes! That grace was felt in our souls in such a profound way that we are still living in the wake of it. There are probably many more miracles that I don't know about and would love to share, but I would say as the coordinator ~ I felt IMMERSED in love, thankfulness, peace and a genuine good will among all those of us who passed each other throughout the days and nights in that "heavenly" room. The generosity of souls who said they would help in any way possible next year, shows without a doubt that we all want this to continue! I have to say it felt like heaven will be, loving and honoring God ~ with all of us surrounding His throne and God's grace pouring out into our souls. Let us not be like the nine lepers that did not turn back to thank Our Dear Lord, but let us profoundly and continuously thank God for His Son pouring His grace into our hearts, minds and souls through those beautiful hours and days with our Lord and Savior Jesus on the altar in the most blessed sacrament!

God Bless you!
Rita Zimmerman