



BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION

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For Media

New book about Eucharistic adoration available for review

“In the Presence: The Spirituality of Eucharistic Adoration” offers devotional and theological perspectives and suggestions for modern Catholics to connect with adoration in a contemporary way.

Media representatives and bloggers with interest in sharing the message of Eucharistic adoration and who would like a complimentary copy for review can contact Kelley Baldwin at (660) 562-7433 or Kelley@bspa.us.

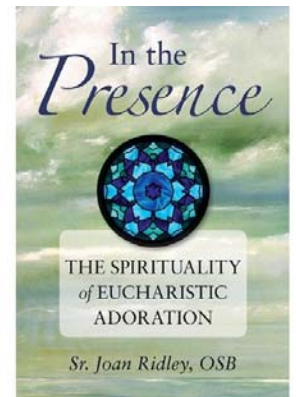
For interviews, please contact Sister Joan Ridley in Tucson at (520) 325-6401 or joan@bspa.us.

Tucson, Ariz.— Eucharistic adoration has been the lifeblood of the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration since their founding over 135 years ago.

The Benedictine Sisters’ presence in Tucson spans the past 75 years, and for all those years the sisters practiced Eucharistic adoration and encouraged lay people to do so with them. Now others can share in this much-loved spiritual opportunity through a new book by Benedictine Sister Joan Ridley, OSB.

“In the Presence: The Spirituality of Eucharistic Adoration” [Liguori Publications, 2010, \$6.99, 80 pgs.] presents material for beginners and those well experienced in Eucharistic adoration in a readable, simple style. Adoration is explained using the best of contemporary theology and points the reader to key scriptural texts.

Now, more than 40 years after the close of Vatican Council II, many people are newly attracted to adoration of Christ in the Eucharist. Sister Joan’s book explains why. The book will also help beginners in prayer and those who may wonder why anyone would engage in Eucharistic adoration.



Sister Joan Ridley (above, left) has written a new book about Eucharistic adoration that will be released Feb. 13 by Liguori Publications.

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Catechists and church professionals may find it a simple yet solid explanation of the practice. The emphasis on Scripture and the experience of ordinary people will help all see the value of adoration and how simple it is.

The sisters' monastery in Tucson is a center for prayer to which the public is invited all day, every day. The sisters pray morning and evening prayer in the chapel, singing the psalms, and the Eucharist is celebrated daily. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed beginning after morning prayer until the evening four days of the week.

"When I came to live in our Tucson monastery and learned our history here, I was so impressed that since 1936 groups of Spanish-speaking men and, since 1939, the Knights of Columbus, wanted to engage in this form of prayer. They took responsibility for night-time adoration before the Blessed Sacrament," she said.

Years went by and the church and the practice changed in a process Sister Joan describes in her book as "ebb and flow."

Biography: Sister Joan was born in Philadelphia and entered a missionary Dominican community when she was just 18 years old. She made her First Monastic Profession on Aug. 28, 1968, and her final vows on Aug. 18, 1973. She earned degrees in social work and law, using them to serve the poor in ministry.

In 1996, she embraced the call to contemplative monastic life and made a formal transfer three years later to the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. Currently, she is the subprioress of the sisters' monastery in Tucson.

Motivation behind "In the Presence": "The Eucharistic focus of our congregation is clearly adoration, and the sisters pray and speak of their love for Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. It's a wonderful gift," Sister Joan said. "So I wanted to explore the meaning of adoration and share it with others so that they too might realize the immense joy that comes from praying before the Blessed Sacrament."

She began researching contemporary expressions of prayer in the Blessed Sacrament, which then became a series of articles written from 2007 to 2008 for the Congregation's magazine, "Spirit&Life." After their publication, she spoke with a former publisher for Liguori Publications who agreed that it could easily become a book, one that was needed in the Church today.

"In the Presence" is a valuable resource for anyone who wants to learn about Eucharistic adoration and how it is a vital prayer in today's world for both lifelong Catholics and those new to faith formation.

"I feel so blessed to have completed this project," Sister Joan said. "It is also a reflection of the blessings I have received in this congregation over the years."

"In the Presence: The Spirituality of Eucharistic Adoration" is published by Liguori Publications and will be released Feb. 13, 2010.

Books will be available at <http://www.liguori.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=11614>, online retailers or for sale for \$6.50, a discount of the list price, at each of the Sisters' monastery gift shops in Tucson, Ariz., Clyde, Mo., and Dayton, Wyo. Purchase through the monastery gift shops or their online shop at www.monasterycreations.com results in a small contribution to the sisters.

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