



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival



Interview with Josie Benzor

I consider myself a Johnstown native having come here when I was 1 year old; I was raised here. I am a mother of 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. I have been a parishioner of SJB since I was a child and have seen the SJB community outgrow 2 buildings prior to moving to our current location.

What has your experience been with the Eucharist?

As a child, when I was around 6 years old, one Sunday I realized that during Mass, people went up to the railing around the altar and knelt with hands folded, waiting for the priest to give them something to eat and drink. From then on, I watched intently. The Mass was celebrated in Latin so I did not fully understand what was happening, yet in my heart I felt that it was something wonderful that I wanted to partake of and receive. The following year, I received my first Communion. I was filled with such joy that I would be receiving the Body and Blood of Christ! By this time, I had learned that I needed to be free of sin to be able to receive. I am mindful to not do something that offends Him. It is so significant that God is with me. I work hard and try not to commit sins, and I am blessed that I have the means (Confession) to be forgiven for my sins so that I can continue to receive. When I have not been able to receive Communion, it has hurt me- I suffered tremendously. After receiving Communion, I feel such joy and peace. I am a firm believer that when you receive Communion, the Lord accompanies you day and night.

In the last 5 years, I have made time to spend with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. Spending personal time with Him is helping me to give my problems and worries to God and to accept His will. I am better able to quit worrying and stop agonizing over issues because the Lord is in charge. I can be carefree. I am always on the go and I still take reading materials to Adoration, but now I can also just be there without doing a task. I pray there and enjoy the peace and quiet.

Do you have a favorite Eucharistic miracle?

I don't know that I have a favorite Eucharistic miracle. I know about the ones where the consecrated Host physically becomes the Body and Blood of Christ, and then there are scientific tests done. But I don't know why these tests have to be done because we know that the consecrated Host is truly the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Eucharistic miracle that really touches me is the one that occurred in Santarém, Portugal in the 13th century. There was a woman who consulted a sorceress because her husband had been unfaithful. As payment, the sorceress wanted a consecrated Host. After receiving Communion, the woman took the Host out of her mouth and hid it in her veil. She put the Host in a trunk at home. The whole night, there was a light emanating from the trunk. The next day she brought the Host to the church and confessed her sin; the Host remains in that church intact until this day. The name of the church was changed to the Church of the Holy Miracle.

I liked this miracle because we have free will and God respects our free will even with regards to making decisions about the sacred. Even if we make a mistake like the woman at Santarem, God still gives us the opportunity to repent. We need to think about the Lord giving us free will, even with the holy like the Eucharist.

