

# Salt and Light

Publication of the Secular Branch SS.CC., Sector Peru - ramasecularperu@yahoo.es    YEAR V – NUMBER 1    OCTOBER 2017

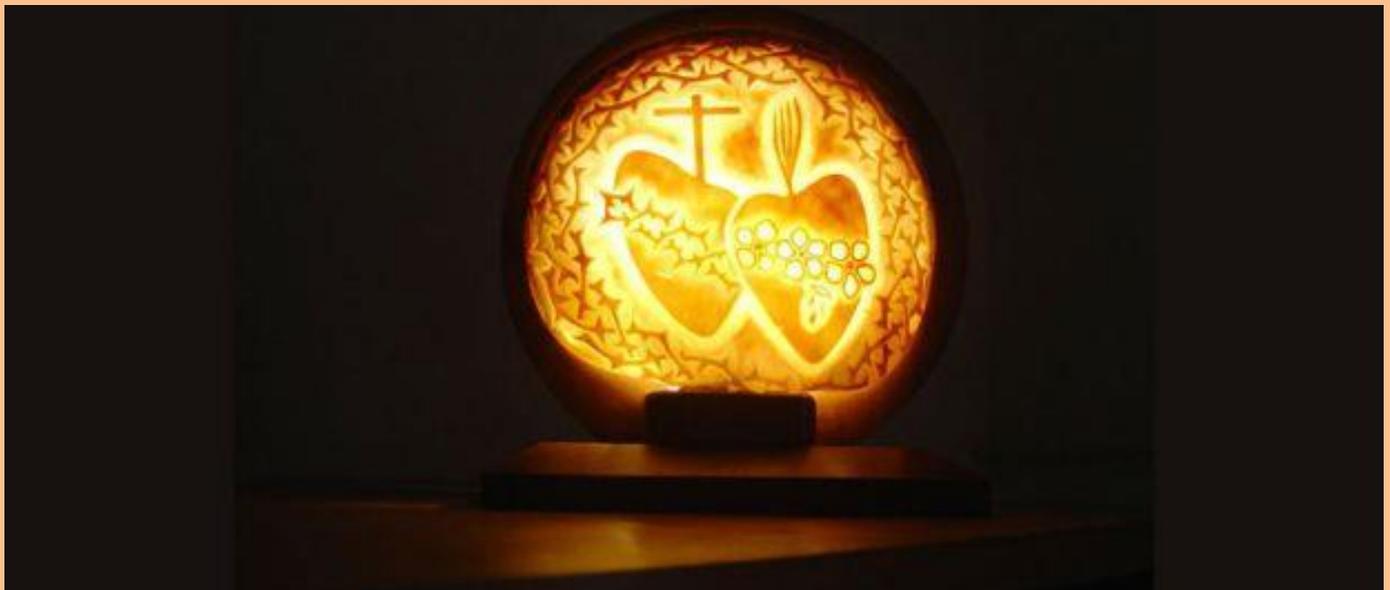
## THE PRACTICE OF ADORATION IN OUR COMMUNITIES

In the following publications, we would like to develop concretely the challenges that were established for the Secular Branch in the I International Encounter, held in Madrid on July. One of the main challenges for us was to embrace congregational practices that feed our commitment.

In this way, the experience of Eucharistic adoration is one of the practices with which we identify ourselves the most as Sacred Hearts' family, and we want to dedicate this number to it.

In Peru, the Sacred Hearts have the intention of encountering in this experience the source of their mission. However, the ways in which they live it are very varied.

Nevertheless, we believe that all of them coincide in one aspect, which is **the acknowledgment of Sacramental Jesus in the heart of the believer's life**. It's from this experience that we want to share the following lines, expression of our life lesson.



We found it relevant to share with you an extract of the book of Fr. Alberto Toutin ss.cc., counselor of the General Government, about the experience of reparative adoration among the Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation in order to, afterwards, take a look at how we, the laymen in the sector, live it.

*“In the personal path, we verify that reparative adoration often locates itself in the origin of the religious vocation, especially among the Sisters. The adoration practiced by the Sisters was the space in which religious vocation began to purify itself.*

*Also, that practice nowadays is in better health –meaning that it is more continuous– among older sisters and many older brothers than among the younger ones. In the case of the Brothers, we also see that, in general, the practice of personal daily adoration is weak. There’s always, of course, honoring and discrete exceptions. However, weekly or monthly community adoration, be it in the local community or in the pastoral communities (“holy hour” or night adoration related to congregational celebrations, etc..) is still present (...)*

*Another fact that continues to raise questions among Brothers and Sisters in their experience of adoration comes from the joy and deepness with which, many times, laymen associated to the Congregation, and especially the young ones, engage the practice of adoration. Be it as common prayer at the end of each encounter of the ss.cc. lay communities, be it even through turns of nocturnal adoration, something decisive is going on in that space of encounter with the Lord, where they return with joy and meaning...”*

**Alberto Toutin SS.HH., “The reparation. Sources and clues of renovation” (pp. 8- 9). Rome, 2016.**



# En diversidad Ss.cc.

Las comunidades del Sector Perú



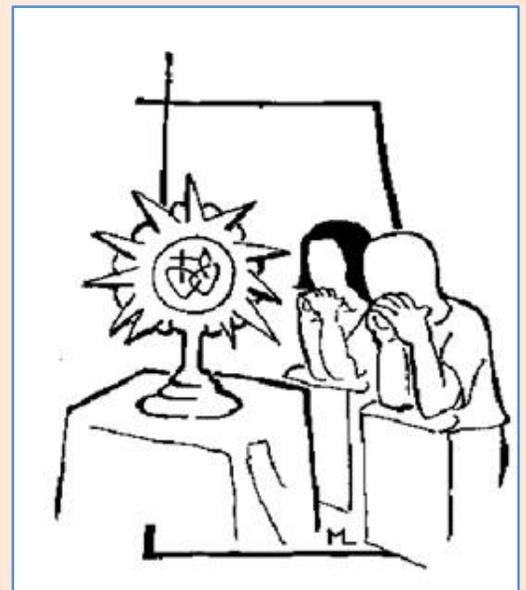
***We want to share now, briefly, the way in which the practice of adoration is present –or not– in each of our communities. There is, without a doubt, a lot to do in order to deepen in this practice that is so rooted in our ss.cc. Family and that we know is stronger in other sectors of the Secular Branch.***

**NICOLÁS CASTEL COMMUNITY.** Marked by the experience of the France Square Brothers, in the community we have been through healing adoration experiences within the dynamic of retirements and encounters, but not so much within our community reunions. Without a doubt it is also our physical location, as lay people that don't live together and that don't share a common space, which ends up by conditioning this distance with regards to the adoration practice, in spite of missing it in our lives.

Nowadays, we have begun to do simultaneous prayers on Fridays, and we use WhatsApp to remind it to each other and to share our reflections and intentions during the whole day. The general opinion of the members is that opening this weekly space has been very positive for their lives.

**BELEN'S SECULAR COMMUNITY.** The community has in its program the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament the first Monday of each month, previous to which we prepare a guide of songs and prayers. During the adoration there's a space for silence, forgiveness, petitions, communion and gratitude. We can perceive as community that the fruits of adoration are reflected in the fraternity that exists in the group, in the pursuit of God, in the deeds of good and in the service that each one accomplishes. Because adoration moves, enhances, unites, guides and renews, among so many other graces that we receive.

Here are some personal expressions of members of the community: *"I tell Him everything and I abandon myself to Him". "I have immediate answers and I become amazed". "I become renewed to face the day to day". "I disconnect from the world in His presence". "I enjoy longing for the happiness that waits for me in eternal life". "I feel immerse in the love of the Lord..."*

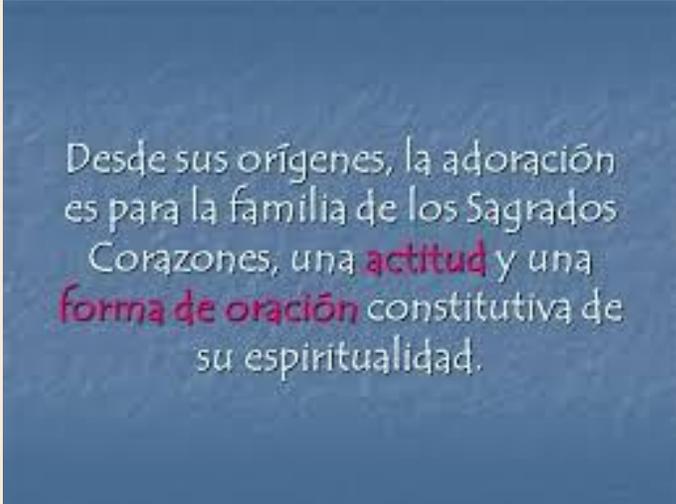


**COMMUNITIES IN RECOLETA SCHOOL.** Both communities (*Father Eustaquio* and *Mercy in action*) have their common origin in the Parents' School, which may be the reason why they haven't linked themselves yet to the reparative adoration experience. However, we're now looking for conditions to begin to introduce this experience in the yearly dynamic of both communities.

**HÉCTOR DE CÁRDENAS COMMUNITY.** As it is a "community of communities", the experience of adoration is not the same among their nine groups. Some of them, such as Lebab or Wayqi, usually reserve an important time at the end of their reunions for the silence in front of the Blessed Sacrament, after which there usually are petitions, thanksgiving and some songs of praise. Others, such as Siquem, grant a privilege to the fraternal prayer around the table, turning less to the sacramental adoration. In any case, the fact of being at the moment without a location (and, therefore, without a chapel) has left suspended for now the community adoration practice of the groups.

A member of the community shares his testimony of personal adoration: *"In the middle of the maelstrom of a class day, it's hard to find silence or to give oneself some minutes to look inside. Luckily, in the School where I work at, we have a special opportunity on Fridays to visit the Holy Sacrament, and along with Him, seize the silence to contemplate him or to respond to those questions that come from within. For me, the weekly Adoration has become those necessary minutes to resume the meaning of my educational mission and to thank Jesus for every day gifts. Our small chapel is located in the center of the premises, which symbolically reminds us that there lies the heart of our educational community and at the same time invites ourselves to reenounter Him at any minute; in a special way, Friday mornings, when it's Him who comes looking for us..."*

**LADERAS COMMUNITY.** Being this a community which is still in formation process and with just six months of existence, the adoration moments in group have not been yet established. Nevertheless, the members' good disposition towards shared praying time at the end of the reunions motivates that, from the counseling, the inclusion of adoration spaces is gradually introduced, as well as the reflection on this congregational practice.



Desde sus orígenes, la adoración es para la familia de los Sagrados Corazones, una **actitud** y una **forma de oración** constitutiva de su espiritualidad.

## ***ECHOES OF OUR COMMUNITIES***

After sharing on the subject of reparative adoration, the ***Nicolás Castel*** community decided to have a time for “prayer through distance” on Fridays; in that way, each member, no matter where he or she is, joins the others in prayer at a given hour, making the most of WhatsApp to communicate, and to entrust intentions and share reflections. For its part, the ***Father Eustaquio*** and ***Mercy in Action*** communities, accompanied by their advisor Manuel Lozano, are preparing a reflection and encounter day for family parents of the ss.cc. Recoleta School, and hence opening the possibility that some of the participants incorporate themselves to their communities. The ***Héctor de Cárdenas Community*** has been talking to the ss.cc. Sisters and everything indicates that, thanks to their generosity, they would settle themselves in the premises of the chaplaincy of Belen School’s chapel (the same location that they occupied between 1987 and 1998) at the beginning of Advent, having again a common space. The reunions of the new ***lay community in Laderas*** are held strictly once a month in Father Damian’s chapel, with the rotating company of three members of the Secular Branch; the reflection and life sharing is excellent and, for the moment, they are advocated to know more of the history and spirituality of the Sacred Hearts. The ***Belen’s Secular Community***, on the other hand, keeps their weekly reunions, always highlighting that the most important one is on the first Mondays, which is held in their Belen premises, because it’s the longest one, with the attendance of all the members and they have adoration time towards the Blessed Sacrament, which they value so much.

### **SECULAR BRANCH’S ASSEMBLY**

On the 15th October was held the Peruvian Sector Assembly in the premises of Belen’s Secular Community. After a communitary report, the experiences and conclusions of the I World Encounter of the Secular Branch were exposed, commenting vividly their reach for the Sector. We gave as well information on the conformation process of the International Communications Commission and on the first coordination for the ELARS 2018 in Paraguay. Other topics that were discussed were the date for the next promise renewal, the readjustments in charges and assignments (Gonzalo takes charge of treasury, Claudia the representation for the commission of the Christmas Encounter with Brothers and Sisters, and Bruno the commission for the reunion of the three branches in January), the next edition of Salt and Light, a possible intercommunity retirement, the presence in the Province Bulletin, the possible integration to the Table of Lay Movements, and the necessity to work more intensely on adoration in many of our communities.

*Greetings from Peru to all the sectors of the ss.cc. Secular Branch that have been resuming their community reunions these weeks, as well as to those who have had recently their National Assemblies and Encounters... in some cases, with the renewal of directive positions.*

*We'll be looking forward to hearing from you.*

