

© The Catholic News & Herald, June 19, 2009

Celebrating the real presence of Christ

15th anniversary of perpetual adoration commemorated

by KEVIN E. MURRAY

editor

HIGH POINT — In 1994, the bishop of Charlotte inaugurated perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at a chapel in High Point.

To commemorate the 15th anniversary, Bishop Emeritus William G. Curlin returned to celebrate Mass and lead an outdoor eucharistic procession at Pennybyrn at Maryfield on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ June 14.

Pennybyrn at Maryfield is a retirement living community founded by the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God.

“We are celebrating the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist,” Bishop Curlin said during his homily.

Perpetual adoration is the practice of exposing the Eucharist 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Volunteers are recruited from within the community and beyond to be present in the chapel at all hours of the day.

“A lot of our residents participate, but it also brings in a lot of people from off campus,” said Edward Cordick, Pennybyrn public relations director. “It makes this a very special place.”

“We feel Christ’s living presence through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,” said Sister Philo, a Sister of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in High Point.

“It is a constant reminder of Christ, and a place where one comes to receive healing,” said Tom Burke, a parishioner of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, who has been volunteering at the chapel for 15 years.

“Contrary to public opinion, there are a lot of religious people willing to keep the chapel manned 24/7,” he said.

Bishop Peter J. Jugis celebrated Mass and led a eucharistic procession there to celebrate the 10th anniversary in 2004. Bishop Curlin said he was happy to return for the 15th anniversary.

“I believe the perpetual adoration chapel has enriched our diocese with immeasurable blessings,” said Bishop Curlin in an interview. “It was an honor to officiate at its beginning, and an honor to see its continued growth.”

“The challenge for us today,” he said during his homily, “is not just to see Jesus in the tabernacle, but to bring him out with us to all the suffering people of the world.”

*Contact Editor Kevin E. Murray by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail
kemurray@charlottediocese.org.*