



## 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION "EVERYBODY MATTERS!!!"

*Testimony given at the 5:00pm. Mass on Saturday, September 17, 2011 by Gabriella Jaeger*

Good evening. My name is Gabriella Jaeger. Some of you know me by face from daily Mass & from seeing me at Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration. I am a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a sister, and a daughter. Most importantly, I am a practicing Catholic. I LOVE my faith. As Matthew Kelly says, "the Catholic Church is genius, it's a treasure and it will see us through everything." I believe that my faith would see me through anything.

Ever wonder, as you walk by those double glass doors on the side of the church, what that room is for? That is the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Jesus is present in there in a very special way, 24/7. How many of you love to visit...be it family, friends, special places? Your hands say most of you do. Jesus does too... with us. He is just waiting for us to visit.

Jesus is so good. I found Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration when I was at a very low point in my life. My husband and I had been living in CT. He had been commuting back & forth between CT & MA for 2 years when he was transferred to MA. I resigned my position as Operations Director of a large medical organization, a position of 16 yrs. that had provided me with prestige, authority, and a very good salary. I was "someone". We belonged to a very active and warm parish. I knew everyone there. I had friends. I was "somebody". I was not aware that this transfer would be a life passage for me.

In MA, we were living temporarily on Cape Cod, a dream oasis, while building a home. Winter on the Cape is not postcard perfect. It was gray as slate every single day. Very few people were around. My husband went off to work each day but I was alone. It was isolating and lonely.

Being without my anchor, my job, I was lost. The gray days mirrored how I was feeling. I went from a "somebody" to a "nobody". I never even realized that I had gone into a deep funk, a depression so enveloping that I thought of it as a wet gray blanket that clung to me, suffocating me. I couldn't share this agony with anyone because I didn't really know what was happening to me.

Thank God, there was a Catholic Church just up the road, so close I walked there. Not working, I was able to attend daily Mass, something I now had time to do and still do. One day after Mass I noticed that people were going into this room off the church. I got curious. I walked into a chapel where I felt a reverent serenity envelope me. I had walked into a Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Reverent serenity... For no reason I could discern, tears came to my eyes. I knelt there before Jesus visible in the gold monstrance, holding back the sobs that were building up inside me. How had I not ventured in here sooner? A voice inside of me said, "You are here. Now we will share the yoke you have been under." Words just cannot express what I felt... I felt this warm cocoon of love and acceptance unlike anything we can offer. I found hope, I found the One who understood & cared, the One who could help me. And He had been waiting for me. I found myself walking to the Chapel at least once a day, many times two or three times, as often as that gray blanket of panic & despair wrapped itself around me. I would walk in, fall to my knees and just moan, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus help me. Save me, please." Over and over and over. So many days, they were the only words I could even say. Slowly, I began to heal. As I did, I was able to feel joy & color again... the ocean, sound of the waves, the rocky shore. Jesus had become my lifeline, One I hoped never to forget or abandon. To Him, I could reveal my deepest despair, my fear, my terrors. I knew He would enfold Me in His mercy and love. Leaving Him, I always felt lighter and more hopeful. Jesus saw me through my nightmare and everyday since. He helped me seethe person I was, the value I had, job or no job, that I was cherished and special, with so much to contribute to others.

So when I came to St. Bernadette's a few years ago, I was curious about those doors. Going through them, I found the One Who Always Awaits Us with Love. Jesus invites us to visit Him. I do just about everyday, either before or after Mass, anytime. I run in to tell Him some news, or share with Him a special moment with my grandsons, or thank Him for a gorgeous day. Sometimes it's just for a quick visit to say Thank You. Jesus has all the time in the world for us, never rushing us, never judging, never condemning, but always ready to listen. Is there anything you want to share with Him? Could you use Someone to share your yoke and make your life easier? Start with 15 minutes. Walk through those doors and say Hello. I've never been sorry I did.

*Please Prayerfully Consider An Holy Hour of Adoration. The Blessings and Graces are Abundant. For more information on this Devotion, please contact Margaret at 649-1745 or Mike at 648-1679. God Bless Everybody!!!*