

The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters in St. Louis:

The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters were founded on Dec. 8, 1896 in Steyl, Holland by St. Arnold Janssen and his faithful collaborator, Mother Mary Michael. Mother Mary Michael's first foundation was in Philadelphia, PA in 1915. God blessed the new foundation abundantly, and soon American candidates were applying for admission. As the Congregation continued to grow, Mother Mary Michael founded convents in the Philippines, Germany, and the Netherlands. She was also looking to make a second foundation in the United States. At this time, the Lord also awakened in the heart of Mrs. Theresa Kulage, a wealthy St. Louis widow, the desire to establish a convent of perpetual adoration in her native city. Mrs. Kulage learned of the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters through the Society of the Divine Word and traveled to Philadelphia to meet the Sisters personally. She approached Archbishop John Glennon and offered to found an adoration convent in St. Louis. In October of 1924, Archbishop Glennon wrote to the superior in Philadelphia inviting the Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters into his diocese. Mrs. Kulage personally oversaw the construction of the chapel and the cornerstone was laid on October 30, 1927. The preacher remarked:

We have many Sisters in St. Louis, active by their prayer and work in hospitals and in educational institutions. The new Sisters, as apostles of faith and prayer, share in the whole work of salvation. It was a worthy idea, a testimony of faith, to found an institute with the noble purpose of perpetually adoring Christ the King whose feast we celebrate today and thus erect an altar and throne for the Eucharistic Savior.

According to the wishes of Mrs. Kulage, the new foundation would be called "Mount Grace Chapel of Perpetual Adoration." The Sisters thought it apt because its position on a height overlooking the Mississippi Valley. From there, the Sisters would ask the Lord to pour a constant stream of graces on the world. Twelve Sisters were appointed for the new convent, six of them coming from Steyl. Mother Mary Michael herself was present for the blessing of the chapel and convent on June 7, 1928. Perpetual adoration was begun on that day and has continued ever since. In 1958 the Legion of One Thousand Men, whose members pledge a weekly visit to the Blessed Sacrament, was organized. Later the Legion was expanded to include women and is today known as the Legion of 1000 Adorers.

We are a cloistered-contemplative missionary Congregation, living in community, whose members are entirely dedicated to the contemplative life in the service of perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Church's missionary activity and the sanctification of priests are particularly remembered in our life of prayer, which includes the singing of the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office) in choir.

We carry out our service in close union with the Lord, whom we follow in a life of poverty, chastity and obedience. The Papal enclosure that we observe is a special way of being with the Lord, its totality signaling our absolute dedication. Freed from distractions, our hearts expand to include every need and distress. Before the Eucharistic Throne, we adore God on behalf of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

The rose color of our habits, which we wear in honor of the Holy Spirit, symbolizes the joy of

our dedication to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Our way of life witnesses to the basic truth that God alone is the true center of being and the goal of history, that he alone can satisfy the longings of the human heart, and that every good thing comes from him.

*It is the humble and penetrating voice of Christ
who says today, as yesterday,
and even more than yesterday:*

"Come."

-- Saint John Paul the Great