

The
OFFICE of the
BLESSED SACRAMENT

Official Prayer Book of the
American Society for Nocturnal Adoration

NOCTURNAL ADORATION SOCIETY



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This revised edition of the American Nocturnal Adoration Society's Prayerbook is compiled from previously approved sources. The Section "The Office of the Blessed Sacrament," conforms in most respects with the Church's official prayer, *The Liturgy of the Hours*. However, in keeping with the needs of our Society's special program and in accord with the options permitted in the *General Instruction to the Liturgy of the Hours*, Nos. 246, 248, 250, and 252, certain adaptations have been made. The general arrangement of the Hours, nevertheless, has been maintained. This section, then, is not a reproduction of the official American liturgical publication of *The Liturgy of the Hours*. Our book is not intended to be a liturgical publication for general use, but only for the Nocturnal Adoration Society.

We express our gratitude to the publishers of the Grail Edition of the Psalms, A. P. Watt and Son, of London, for the permission to use their translation of the Psalms.

Revised Edition
1992

FOREWORD

For well over a century the Office of the Blessed Sacrament has been the official prayer of the Archconfraternity of Nocturnal Adoration.

The Second Vatican Council laid down the principle that the liturgy is the norm for all prayer. "Popular devotions," it says in its Constitution on the Liturgy, "should be so drawn up that they . . . accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some fashion derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy by its very nature far surpasses them all" (*Const. 13*).

Our official prayer not only is in accord with the liturgy, not only derives from it and leads to it; the Office of the Blessed Sacrament IS liturgical prayer. The same Constitution states: "The Divine Office is the voice of the Church, that is, the whole mystical body publicly praising God." To which it adds: "The laity are encouraged to recite the Divine Office, either with the priests, or among themselves, or even individually" (*Const. 99-100*).

The Office of the Blessed Sacrament, as contained in these pages, reflects in its basic format the official prayer of the Church as found in *The Liturgy of the Hours*. However, in order to meet particular needs of our Society, we have made a number of adaptations. In doing this, we availed ourselves of the options permitted in the

“General Instruction” on The Liturgy of the Hours.

“Provided that the general arrangement of each hour is maintained and the rules observed, texts other than those found in the Office of the day (in our case, Corpus Christi) may be chosen on particular occasions” (No. 246).

“In the Office of Readings, for a good reason the readings may be selected from among those given for other days or even from other readings of the Scriptures” (No. 248).

“For a good spiritual or pastoral reason, instead of the Psalms assigned to a particular day other Psalms may be said which are found in the same Hour on a different day. Sometimes circumstances arise in which it is permissible to choose suitable Psalms and other parts as for a votive Office” (No. 252).

Part I of this prayer book contains the official directives for making exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and the ceremony for reception of new members. The ceremony of reception has been revised to achieve a desired conciseness and to reflect the Eucharistic theology that underlies our Society’s statement of purpose as found in its Statutes.

Part III, containing traditional prayers of the Society and the rite for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, has also been revised in places, taking into account a number of observations and suggestions submitted by Nocturnalists.

In conclusion, we remind the members of our Society that the Office of the Blessed Sacrament is not of obligation at every Vigil held by

a Chapter (*Statutes, No. 38*); also, that adaptations of the text of the Office may be made as particular needs may indicate. However, the Office of the Blessed Sacrament, steeped as it is in the spirit of the Church's liturgical prayer, continues to be our Society's official prayer book and to hold pride of place.

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