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Keeping Watch In the Little Hours

by Elizabeth Kelly

When the good folks who organize perpetual adoration are trying to recruit adorers – a formidable and honorable task to be sure, one I certainly couldn't do – this is the verse they often use on the flyer: "Can you not stay awake with me one hour?" And this, of course, recalls the Lord's words to his sleepy disciples who kept nodding off while he was in prayerful agony anticipating his passion.

An extraordinary moment is captured in that verse, and I understand why they choose it. It is a remarkable accounting of the Lord's deep desire for our friendship, our company. It also recalls the natural entreaty of a man in need of support and the failure of human weakness. What it does not immediately recall is joy.

In recent years, in addition to my usual holy hour commitments, I've started serving as a substitute adorer. Once every few months I am asked to take one of the "ironman hours" – those brutal hours between 2 am and 5 am, in many ways the hidden life blood of perpetual adoration.

When I was young and healthier, keeping a holy hour in the middle of the night was a common habit, and frankly, fairly easy for me. With more than half my life behind me and a slightly less healthy body, a holy hour in the middle of the night, though I cherish this intimate time with Jesus, has taken on a new timbre of sacrifice, but far more importantly, joy.

It is unfailingly moving to enter the chapel at 2 or 3 or 4 in the morning and find there an adorer, often on their knees, deep in prayer, keeping close company with the King of Kings. This being their regular habit, not something out of their ordinary routine. I marvel at their faithfulness with deep gratitude. We make our quiet exchange as I take the watch, and after a moment, their footsteps disappear into the darkness and I am left alone

Mantenerse Vigilante en las Pequeñas Horas

por Elizabeth Kelly

Cuando la buena gente que organiza la adoración perpetua está tratando de reclutar adoradores, en verdad una tarea formidable y honorable, una que ciertamente yo no podría hacer, este es el versículo que usan a menudo en el folleto: "¿No puedes quedarte despierto conmigo una hora?". Y esto, por supuesto, recuerda las palabras del Señor a sus discípulos adormecidos que se quedaron dormidos mientras se encontraba en agonía orante anticipando su pasión.

Un momento extraordinario es capturado en ese versículo, Y entiendo por qué lo eligen. Es una cuenta notable del profundo deseo del Señor por nuestra amistad, nuestra compañía. También recuerda la súplica natural de un hombre que necesita apoyo y el fracaso de la debilidad humana. Lo que no recuerda de inmediato es la alegría.

En años recientes, además de mis compromisos habituales en la hora santa, he comenzado a servir como un adorador sustituto. Una vez en algunos meses me piden que tome una de las "horas de hombre de hierro", esas horas brutales entre las 2am y las 5am, en muchos aspectos la sangre vital oculta de la adoración perpetua.

Cuando estaba más joven y más saludable, mantener una hora santa en medio de la noche era un hábito común, y francamente, bastante fácil para mí. Con más de la mitad de mi vida detrás de mí y un cuerpo un poco menos sano, una hora santa en medio de la noche, aunque aprecio este tiempo íntimo con Jesús, ha adquirido un nuevo timbre de sacrificio, pero mucho más importante, la alegría.

Es infaliblemente conmovedor entrar a la capilla a las 2 o 3 o 4 de la mañana y encontrar allí un adorador, a menudo de rodillas, en una oración profunda, en estrecha relación con el Rey de Reyes. Este es su hábito regular, no simplemente fuera de su rutina común. Me

In the Little Hours, continued

with Jesus where the sweetest silence descends and envelopes me like a warm blanket. This is the Jesus who knows my name and is so delighted that I have come.

There is a unique quiet that visits the adoration chapel in the middle of the night, a stillness that cannot be recaptured easily in the daytime. In these, the little hours of the morning, I am more and more convinced that it is not only the hour of agony that the Lord wishes to share with us in this devotion – though sometimes it is that hour, too - but perhaps even more so, Jesus invites us to know him in those early hours of perfect joy, those shepherd hours, when those simple and faithful men of good will kept watch; those who, while quietly and humbly fulfilling their normal duty, also lived in anticipation of Emmanuel. It was in their normal routine that the sky erupted in music and glory and a mystery they could barely comprehend.

These nameless few would race to that hidden cave and find the word made flesh in the unspoiled innocence of a holy infant – a Messiah who knew them by name and was so happy they had come.

This hidden Jesus, this innocent child-Savior, this font of all joy, this answer to all anxiety, this conqueror of every fear and tribulation, this Prince of Peace, Holy One, Comforter: he is there too desiring your friendship.

Elizabeth Kelly is an awardwinning speaker and the author of twelve books, including Jesus Approaches: What Contemporary Women Can Learn about Healing, Freedom and Joy from the Women of the New Testament. She is trained as a spiritual director in the Ignatian exercises, travels to speak, and leads retreats with a particular focus on helping women to flourish in their faith. *Her website is:* www.LizK.org.

En las Pequeñas Horas, continúa

maravillo de su fidelidad con profunda gratitud. Hacemos nuestro intercambio silencioso mientras tomo el reloj, y después de un momento, sus pasos desaparecen en la oscuridad y me quedo solo con Jesús, donde el silencio más dulce desciende y me envuelve como una cálida manta. Este es el Jesús que sabe mi nombre y está tan encantado de que haya venido.

Hay un silencio único que visita la capilla de adoración en medio de la noche, una quietud que no puede capturarse fácilmente durante el día. En estas, las pequeñas horas de la mañana, estoy más y más convencida que no solo es la hora de agonía en la que el Señor desea compartir con nosotros en esta devoción – aunque a veces es esa hora, pero quizás aún más, Jesús nos invita a conocerlo en esas tempranas horas de perfecta alegría, esas horas de los pastores, cuando aquellos hombres sencillos y fieles de buena voluntad vigilaban; aquellos que, aunque callados y humildes cumplían con su deber normal, también vivían en anticipación del Emanuel. Fue en su rutina normal que el cielo estalló en música, gloria y un misterio que apenas podían comprender.

Estos pocos sin nombre correrían hacia esa cueva oculta y encontrarían la palabra hecha carne en la inocencia de un niño santo: un Mesías que los conocía por su nombre y estaba tan feliz de haber venido.

El Jesús escondido, ese inocente niño Salvador, esa fuente de toda alegría, esa respuesta a toda ansiedad, este conquistador de todo miedo y tribulación, ese Príncipe de Paz, el Santo, Consolador: él está allí también deseando su amistad.

Elizabeth Kelly es una oradora galardonada y autora de doce libros, incluidos los Enfoques de Jesús: Lo que las Mujeres Contemporáneas Pueden Aprender Sobre la Curación, la :ibertad y la Alegría de las Mujeres del Nuevo Testamento. Está entrenada como directora espiritual de los ejercicios espirituales ignacianos, viaja para dar conferencias y dirige retiros con un enfoque particular en ayudar a las mujeres a florecer en su fe. Su sitio web es: www.LizK.org.



Meet Carolyn Rieger, a Laborer in the Vineyard



Carolyn Rieger joined the Chancery in March of 2020, coming from St. Thomas parish in Redmond. She had learned about the job opening through the parish bulletin and decided to pursue the opportunity. Little did she know that shortly after her arrival, the Chancery would be closed due to the COVID quarantine.

Despite the unexpected circumstances, Carolyn

quickly adapted and rose to the occasion. With just a one-week training period, she took the initiative to bring the diocesan switchboard home. This allowed Bishop Cary and the rest of the staff to continue receiving important phone calls during the following 12 months, ensuring uninterrupted communication with the outside world.

Carolyn's dedication and resourcefulness were invaluable during this challenging time. Many individuals within the diocese had the opportunity to interact with Carolyn during this period, further cementing her reputation as a reliable and efficient member of the team.

Now, with over three years of experience at the Chancery, Carolyn has undoubtedly become a familiar face to many. However, this introduction serves as a formal acknowledgment of her contributions and a testament to her resilience in the face of adversity.

Carolyn is a multitasking powerhouse at the office. As receptionist, she plays a crucial role in welcoming visitors, answering phone calls, ordering supplies, and dealing with vendors. In addition, she offers assistance to every other member of the office when extra hands are needed, no matter the task. Carolyn's ability to juggle multiple responsibilities is invaluable to the smooth functioning of the office. Her efforts create a productive and well-maintained work environment for the entire staff, allowing them to focus on their core responsibilities. What more can we say? God bless you, Carolyn. You make our days better.

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New Project Creates Affordable Senior Housing in Madras

Submitted by **Tom Manning**, St. Patrick Church parishioner Photos taken by **Bob Guerassio**, St. Patrick Church parishioner on behalf of Saint Patrick Senior Housing Project

In August 2020, St. Patrick parish in Madras was approached by AgePlus with a proposal to partner in Senior Affordable Housing on church property near the Madras Community/Senior Center. The proposal benefited everyone: senior housing with proximity to services through the Center, and opportunity for St. Patrick's to fulfill its role of Catholic social teaching in support of an at-risk population.

Our pastor, Father Victor Mena saw this as an opportunity to utilize a parish resource that had been idle for 50 years. A survey sent to all parishioners in English and Spanish asked not only "yes" or "no", but why we should or should not proceed. Knowing he would not always be pastor here, Father Victor did not want problems left for future pastors.

With positive survey results in hand, we began moving forward. AgePlus and Community Housing Solutions worked on city and county planning and zoning. St. Patrick's willingness to partner in the project was beneficial in pursuing grants. The Diocese assisted with liability and lease agreements. St. Patrick would receive





\$20,000 once construction started plus 12.5% of gross monthly rents. Grants from Meyer Trust and Bean Foundation funded initial planning and development. A LIFT grant through Oregon Housing and Community Services for \$3.5 million funded the rest.

An official groundbreaking was held on May 8, 2023, with Bishop Cary and representatives from the state, county, city, AgePlus, Bean Foundation, St. Patrick Parish and Madras Community Center. The project is targeted for completion by late summer 2023.

Carolyn Rieger, continued

"What a blessing it is to serve as receptionist at the Chancery Office for the Diocese of Baker! In carrying out my everyday tasks and making myself available to my fellow staff members in their service of the Lord, I talk to Him throughout the day, sharing my thoughts, hopes, and fears.

As Sister Lucia wrote to her nephew, Father Jose dos Santos Valinhor, a Salesian superior in Portugal: 'In carrying out our everyday tasks, we must endeavor to be aware of God's presence: call to mind that God and our Guardian Angel are close to us, see what we are doing, and in what frame of mind we are doing it. Hence, we must sanctify our work, our rest, our meals, our wholesome entertainments, as they are an ongoing prayer.'

No matter what the task at hand, be it pleasant or challenging, do it in a spirit of giving and thankfulness to The Lord."

