

Jesus Appears to Children of Jackson, Michigan

By Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP

The children of St. John the Evangelist Elementary School in Jackson, Michigan participate in Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of every month. As they enter the chapel of the Middle School they genuflect or bow as a sign of reverence to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

As the children from Pre-K through Grade 6 say their prayers and sing their songs they believe that Jesus is happy with their visit.



On Friday, February 4, 2011 the children felt “assured” that their visit to Jesus was welcomed. The first class to enter Adoration that day expressed to the staff that they “saw Jesus.” This was relayed to the principal, Mrs. Kathy Tarnacki, and her response was “Oh, that’s nice.” She thought they were having an extra special time in prayer and went on with her day’s duties.

When it came time for the principal to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament she entered the chapel, gave Jesus her reverence and as she looked up at the Monstrance her breath was taken away; SHE WAS SHOCKED! The Principal actually saw what her children were referring to when they said, “I saw Jesus.” Mrs. Tarnacki saw an image on the Eucharistic Host in the Monstrance that resembled a pencil sketch of the

face and hair of Jesus. Not knowing exactly what to do, she phoned their pastor, Fr. James Shaver, and because he was not available she left a message on his cell phone. Because of the occurrence of this mystery she decided to remain with the Blessed Sacrament until all the classes made their visit that day.

When the second to the last class of the day made their visit to the chapel, the children saw color beginning to appear on the image, as if a "hue" of pink, to some, and orange, to others, was observed around the shoulders of Jesus' image. Some even say that they recognized the Sacred



Heart of Jesus on the Host. Dominic, an eighth grader at Jackson Catholic Middle School, called me and said, "Sister, you have to come down here and see the miracle in our chapel." Needless to say I immediately responded to his urging and felt privileged to be his contact. Jesus most definitely speaks to the children many times to reach us and to help us to deepen our Faith. Each of our children at St. John's saw with the eyes of Faith and passed on their belief to the adults around them. We DID see an image of Jesus and the picture in this magazine is a photo taken by one of the parents.

As Fr. Bob Pienta, the Associate Pastor, came to pick up the Monstrance, as he usually does at the end of the school day on First Fridays, he himself saw the image. He called Fr. Shaver and, connecting with him, he asked him to come to the Chapel immediately. Fr. Shaver observed an image on the Host in the Monstrance and called the Diocese of Lansing to relay the occurrence. He was directed to continue Adoration

until 8:00 p.m. that evening, ending with Benediction and the repose of the Blessed Sacrament back to the church tabernacle.

When the school day was over and parents were picking up their children, the students told their parents about their experience. Many then went over to the chapel to make a visit and to experience the mystery. They shared with us that they could not believe their eyes and were astonished at the sight. One parent said to me, "Jesus is truly present here and has blessed us and our children." A truer statement had never been spoken. We were blessed with a "gift" from Jesus Himself.

For the remaining four hours, several hundred people from throughout the community arrived to pray and see this gift. At times, the line stretched from the altar of the chapel, out the door, and into the Jackson Catholic Middle School gym.

After Benediction at 8:00 p.m. the Blessed Sacrament was reposed in the St. John the Evangelist Church and examined by the Priests of St. John's, as well as the pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Fr. Cecilio Reyna. The following is a quote from Fr. Cecilio's blog:

"After benediction in the chapel around 8:20 p.m., the Blessed Sacrament was taken to St. John Church where it was reposed to the tabernacle. Before this was done, we placed the monstrance on the altar at St. John and turned some lights on. The image the students





saw and the less visible image I saw in the evening, which was the same image, was gone. It was no longer visible. Not seeing anything, I nevertheless decided to take a picture. When I uploaded the picture to my computer, I noticed an image that was entirely different than the one I saw in the school chapel. It reminded me of an image of Jesus taken from the Shroud of Turin. What is also interesting is that the subtle rose colored tint in the area of the face is not visible anywhere else."

Fr. Shaver shared this with his parishioners. "Two inspiring results that I can see, both deal with our core belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. In the first place, I cannot imagine many of the school kids from pre-school to the 6th grade struggling as they get older with the profound truth of the Real Presence. Secondly, I can see the high likelihood that Eucharistic Adoration will increase for adult parishioners, perhaps even to the point that our north-side adoration at St. Joseph Parish may become 24-7 perpetual adoration."

As St. Bernard tells us, "These revelations are not the work of man; and no mortal will understand them unless love has renewed in his soul the image and likeness of God."