

# St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York 14202

**TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING** by S. Casarotto 10/4/09

## THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

*“Now that most Catholics are literate and even well-educated, the Mass is in the language of the people (i.e. the vernacular), and its rituals are relatively easy to understand and follow, there is little or no need for extraneous Eucharistic devotions. The Mass itself provides all that a Catholic needs sacramentally and spiritually. Eucharistic adoration, perpetual or not, is a doctrinal, theological, and spiritual step backward, not forward.”* So pontificates Fr. Richard McBrien (*National Catholic Register*, 9/9/09) who is a professor at Notre Dame University. Let us pray for him and for his students.

In history, persecuted men and women, under the pressure of violent passions, did not surrender to evil because they were nourished by the Eucharist. Their Christian consciences, sustained by the Eucharistic Bread and by the Word of God, became a sanctuary of freedom from which flowed great energies of love. Persecution and martyrdom were connected to the Eucharist.

In the oppressive Communist Albania, a real concentration camp country for almost half a century, Bishop Coba was arrested and executed for having celebrated an underground Mass on Easter in 1979 or 1980.

Archbishop Romero of San Salvador was killed at the altar on 24 March 1980, while he was celebrating the Eucharist and at the moment of the Offertory. He had just said. *“May this body given and this Blood sacrificed for men and women also nourish us, so that we may give our bodies and our blood for suffering and for pain like Christ, not for its own sake, but to make justice and peace bear fruit for this people of ours.”*

**THE EYES OF FAITH** – One day, while in Pisa, Catherine of Siena fell sick and expressed a deep desire to receive Holy Communion. There were not many priests available, and the one at the local church did not think much of the holiness of Catherine. So, the priest decided to put the saint to the test. Instead of bringing the Blessed Sacrament, he went to her house with altar boys, candles and bells but with unconsecrated host. Catherine did not even look at the priest who scolded her for not showing respect toward the divine presence. Catherine turned to the priest and said: *“Aren't you ashamed of pretending to carry the Lord while you are bringing me a plain piece of bread and lead these people to an act of idolatry?”* The priest repented, asked the saint's forgiveness and brought her the consecrated Host. What would St. Catherine say today to Catholics who do not believe and show respect toward the Blessed Sacrament?