

## **Mrs Edith Grimaud**

France

My name is Edith Grimaud. I was born in Grenoble, France, on 30 March 1946. This year, I am celebrating my 80th birthday and 60 years of marriage to my husband Jean Claude. I am a happy mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.



I joined the Congregation of the Religious of the Blessed Sacrament as a lay associate on 9 June 2009. I discovered Father Eymard and his spirituality thanks to four Religious of the Blessed Sacrament who were in charge of St Louis Parish in downtown Grenoble. To get to know them better, they invited us to read their rule of life.

I discovered what I had been searching for a long time. I thought that this rule of life could be adapted to lay people (the life project did not yet exist) and that it corresponded to what I wanted to live. What struck me was responding to the needs of the people of our time by nourishing ourselves with the Eucharist and Adoration.

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## **Adoration**

*original in French*

**F**or me, adoration is a visitation to the Lord. At this time, I can never stand or kneel; hence, I just sit down as if visiting a friend. It is Jesus who invites me and I respond to his invitation. In our parish, adoration is an extension of the Eucharist. Every morning before going to work, and after having participated in the celebration of the Eucharist, I stay and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. I find myself in silence before the Lord amid dimness and calmness. This church is in the city centre. I like the atmosphere of calmness inside

the church contrasted by the noise of the tram, as well as the people passing and walking outside the church of the city. I appreciate the contrast of this experience while I am praying heart-to-heart with Jesus.

The monstrance is placed on the altar where the big host is displayed for adoration. However, I prefer when the big host is just placed on the ciborium rather than displayed in the gleaming piece of a goldsmith monstrance where the host seems to be hidden. This great host without gilding and decoration, is for me more alive. I see this Jesus who gives himself completely by offering his infinite love to me and to each one of us, whoever we are. My question is always “Lord, how can I respond to your tenderness, to this love and cate you have given me?”

Twice I have experienced what I call “God's serendipity”. Several years ago, for many months, I lived and experienced a period of great spiritual desert; I couldn't pray anymore. Out of my fidelity, I went to attend Masses every day before going to work without active participation. It was a long and painful period. One afternoon I went back into the church, it was dark, there was only the little red light next to the tabernacle. I set down and looked at the tabernacle. After a while, I felt a warmth that enveloped me and I understood that it was God's tenderness that was invading me. I felt at peace and I rediscovered the joy of the encounter with the Lord.

Again, I experienced “God's serendipity”. On one occasion of a formation organized by the religious of the Blessed Sacrament, there was a time of adoration planned throughout the night. My husband and I had no desire to go, but out of loyalty to those who had proposed it, we decided to participate. To register, we waited until everyone had registered and we chose the time not provided for worshippers, i.e. from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. We set our alarm clock and got up not feeling motivated. Then present and seated before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, I tried to pray. I understood that the Lord was waiting for me and He called me to commit myself as a layperson in the Eymardian family. For me it was a relief because I had been looking for a spiritual

family for a long time. In fact, several families had been proposed to me to get involved with like the Dominican and the Benedictine family. However, it did not correspond to what I was looking for. In the Eymardian family, I was able to answer yes to this invitation of the Lord. I felt great joy and peace.

Times of adoration are not always so strong and intense, but they are always moments of rest, peace, questioning, and dialogue with the Lord.

