

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church

Father Herbert T. Burke, Pastor

Reverend Mr. Andy Cilone, Permanent Deacon
Reverend Mr. Dave Faunce, Permanent Deacon,

Sharon Date, Parish Secretary
Parish Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri
9:00am-4:00pm; (828) 245-4017
Office/Rector: (828) 245-4017

Weekend Masses

Saturday, 5:00pm
Sunday, 9:00am, 11:30am, and 3:00pm(Español)

Weekday Masses

Monday, 9:00am (Chapel)
Wednesday, 7:00pm (Church)
Thursday, 12:10pm (Chapel)
Friday, 12:10pm (Chapel)

Rosary and Benediction

Thursday, 7:00pm (Chapel)

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, 12:30pm-8:00pm (Chapel)
Friday, 12:30pm-1:30pm (Chapel)
Saturday, 4:00pm-5:00pm (Church)
Sunday, 8:00am-9:00am (Church)
Sunday, 10:30am-11:30am (Church)
Sunday, 2:30pm-3:00pm (Church)

Nocturnal Adoration

Second Saturday of the Month,
10:00pm—6:00am (Chapel)

Confession

Saturday, 4:15-4:45pm
Wednesday, 6:30pm-7:00pm

Welcome to our Parish!

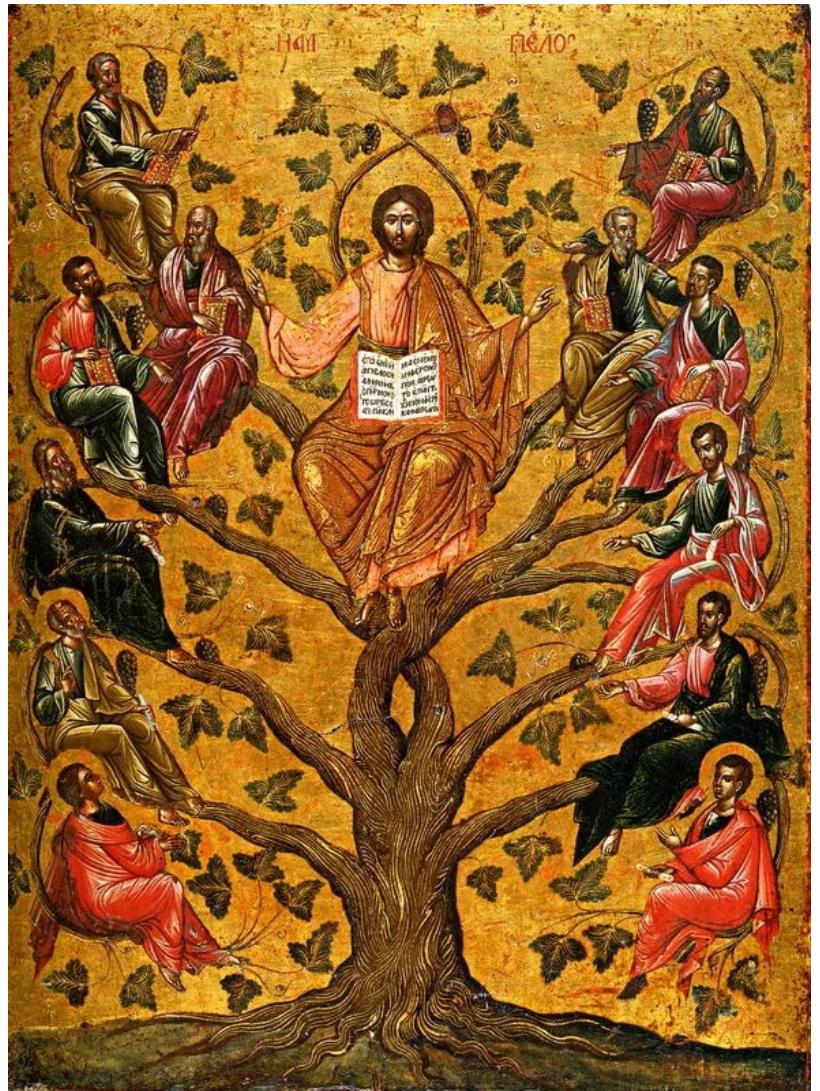
We welcome all visitors and newcomers to our parish family. If you need any Information regarding Baptism, First Communion or Matrimony, please contact Deacon Andy Cilone at 828-245-6219.

For information regarding instructions in the catholic faith through the RCIA program, please contact Deacon David Faunce at:

dmafaunce@rcdoc.org

Parish email: sgdate@charlottediocese.org

Website: www.immaculateconceptionforestcity.org



April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church ~ 1024 West Main Street ~ Forest City, NC ~ 28043

Bulletin Editor: pjwlmg@gmail.com

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April 28, 2024 ~ Bulletin No.18 XXXX

WEEKLY CALENDAR for April 27-May 5, 2024

Sat 27	Saint Zita of Lucca	5:00pm	Mass for the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy by Jamie Thelen
Sun 28	Fifth Sunday of Easter	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for John & Rosanne Staab, Happy Anniversary Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 29	Saints Catherine of Siena	9:00am	Mass for Brian Hill, Happy Birthday by Chuck & Janet Hill
Wed 5/1	Saint Joseph the Workman	7:00pm	Mass for ROS Diane McEnerney by the Third Order Carmelites
Thurs 2	Saint Athanasius	12:10pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Dr. Robin Pendleton by Dianna Pendleton AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Fri 3	Saints Philip & James the Less	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS of the Deceased Members of the Paluszak Family by Valerie Giggie Men's Prayer Group
Sat 4	Feast of the Holy Shroud	5:00pm	Mass for the Parish
Sun 5	Sixth Sunday of Easter	9:00am 11:30am 7:30pm	Mass for Maxie & Joannie Jolley, Happy 60th Anniversary Mass for ROS Al Urban by Barbara Urban AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

May 2: Daughters of the Visitation; 4:30-6:30pm in the Parish Hall

April 28: FIRST CONFESSION for First Communion Class, after the 9⁰⁰am Mass.

May 11: Practice for First Communion Class (English), 10:00am in the Main Church

May 13: Ladies Guild Meeting, 10:00am in the Parish Hall; all women of the Parish are invited.

May 18: 26th Annual Rally & March for Life, Raleigh, NC (See info on next page)

May 19: First Communion (English Class) , the 9am Mass. Students should meet outside the church at 8:45am. Reception in the Parish Hall after Mass.

May 19: SECOND COLLECTION, International/National Combined Collection

May 22: Sacrament of Confirmation, 6:00pm. There will be a practice for all students and their sponsors in the parish hall at 5pm.

June 9-14: Totus Tuus Summer Education Program; More details to come; registration starts today!

June 10-14: Quo Vadis Days

June 24: Talitha Koum

June 24 - June 28: Duc in Altum



"These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him."

"In difficult moments I will fix my gaze upon the silent heart of Jesus, stretched upon the cross, and from the exploding flames of His merciful heart, will flow down upon me power and strength to keep fighting."



COLLECTION INFORMATION

Week of April 21, 2024

Regular Offering: \$6,188.40

You can make online donations through the following link:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

DSA UPDATE

Our parish has contributed \$38,055.00 in cash contributions and pledges. That is 81% of our total amount due to the Diocese.

This means that our current shortfall is \$ 9,132.00

~ Pick-a-Prayer ~

The Pick-a-Prayer basket for May, a month dedicated to the Blessed Mother, includes prayers from: Litany of Loreto, Litany of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and Litany of Our Lady of Fatima

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

1st Sunday (May 5)	Yokefellow Sunday	Maple Syrup (NEW)
2nd Sunday (May 12)	Hospice Sunday	Ensure, any flavor
3rd Sunday (May 19)	Hands of Hope Sunday	Children's diapers, SIZE LARGE

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a **Pork Butt Sale** for the Memorial Day Holiday. Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex beginning the weekend of May 5. Cost is \$40. They average about 8-10 lbs. each. They will be available for pickup on Friday May 24, from 2 – 5pm in the parish hall. Please pay when ordering. Proceeds will go to the Knights of Columbus Charities. Thank you for your support.

Prayers for the Sick

Mary Absher, Cynthia Beam, Emily Bailey, Wade Boswell, Father Burke, Frances Burke-Urr, Renee Bursley, Melissa Chandler, Gary Colhouer, Frank Colini, Joanne Colini, Sabrina & Kevin Collier, Julie Collins, Michelle Contreras, Claire Daigle, Michelle Daigle, Danya Davis, Claudia Dodrill, Priscilla & Larry Dorr, Robert DuCharme, Danya Evans, Carol Faunce, Emanuel Garcia, Gloria Gimpaya, Silvestre Gonzalez, Nancy Goulet, Ellie Graves, Thomas Hammond, John Helenius, David Hernandez, Julian Hernandez, Sherlin Hernandez, Janet Hill, Clare Jablonski, Betsy Jackson, Father Jenkins, Kate Johnson, Erlinda Judson, Bishop Jugis, Kevin Kallay, Peggy Keyes, Jim & Joan King, Jared Krantz, Charlie Kutilek, Ed Long, Stephannie Longo, Patricia Lucas, Jeff Lugo, Wilson Mancipe, Monica Martin, Nathan I. McCain, Jennifer McDonald, Joan Meade, Geri Melton, Esther Mendoza, Teresa Mendoza, Gloria Millette, Kevin Millette, Nancy Mooney, Shawn Mooney, Alan Murfitt, Keith Oliver, Luis Parra, Maria Parra, David Picquet, Ken Pierson, Richard Ranc, Bonnie Rackley, Ann Marie Rodriguez, Rick Rorey, Camille Russo, Nathan Ryback, Linda Samarotto, Cassie Schmanski, Gloria Sears, Linda & Keith See, Sister Mary Olivia, Larry St. Clair, Nancy St. Clair, Beth Ann Stamper, Cole Suhy, Doug Suhy, Gladys Talley, Chris & Mark Tavernia, Richard Thelen, Valerie Thelen, Federico Trejo, Patty Wansor, Arwin Watts, Fred White, Patricia White, Sammy White, Bernice Williams

And When You Get Better... Please let us know when you are ready to be taken off our "Prayers for the Sick" list; email pjwlmg@gmail.com



ESPECIALLY...

E2 Private First Class Jayden Mills, USMC, Stationed at Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan; Peter F Siviglia III, Air Force Senior Airman, Load Master, flying on C17 cargo planes, sta-

tioned in NJ. ; CDR Stuart Whitaker; John Escalera, also in the Navy; CDR Jeffrey Gerring of the US Navy. Please consider adding the name of someone you love to our prayer list for our Troops. Email to pjwlmg@gmail.com



We would like to offer our parishioners the opportunity to identify family members who are first responders. We owe them a lot, so let's keep them in our prayers. Send their name, branch of service, and rank to: pjwlmg@gmail.com



Our Lady of Good Counsel



We encourage you to organize groups to attend and march under an identifying banner to represent your church, school, or community.

May 18, 2024

Location: Halifax Mall, the grassy area behind the NC General Assembly Building
Start Time: 12:45pm, Youth Rally

Free Parking Addresses:

Green Square Parking Deck
120 W Edenton St.
Raleigh, NC 27603

NC Museum/Government Center Parking Lot
101 N Wilmington St
Raleigh, NC 27601

On the Feast of St. Mark, April 25, 1467, at the close of a festival in Genazzano, Italy, a cloud descended upon an ancient 5th-century deteriorated church, dedicated to Our Lady of Good Counsel. When the cloud disappeared, the festive crowd found a small, fragile image of the Blessed Virgin and Child on a thin sheet of plaster. The painting is said to have hung in mid-air, suspended without support, floating, on a small ledge. This particular fresco is said to date to the time of the Apostles. It had long been venerated in Albania's capital city, Scutari.

Much of the church of Our Lady of Good Counsel was destroyed in World War II, but the image remained intact and in place. The miraculous image is still there today after more than 500 years. Countless miracles have been attributed to the prayerful intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Many pilgrims visit the church in Genazzano, and take part in the annual spring celebration, observed on April 25. Elsewhere in the world, the feast is celebrated April 26.

Servant of the Queen of All Hearts Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort



Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort was a French priest from the early 18th century.

As a youngster, his devotion to Mary grew; so much so that he added the name 'Marie' to his own at his Confirmation. Ordained a priest in 1700, his desire was to be sent as a missionary to Canada. That was not to be, and this greatly frustrated him.

During his studies, his devotion to the Blessed Mother grew, and within this devotion to Our Lady, he had a particular devotion to the Rosary. His desire was to preach missions and retreats under the guidance and protection of the Blessed Virgin about the Rosary, so much so that ten years after his ordination he would join the Third Order Dominicans. However, his superiors would not grant permission for him to preach. In time, he formed a group of priests who also had a desire for this Marian ministry. This group would eventually become the Company of Mary.

The desire to be a missionary never ceased. He decided to go to Rome and speak to the Holy Father. He walked from Paris to Rome (880 miles driving today) and presented his cause to Pope Clement XI. As a result, he was appointed Apostolic Missionary, and under the commission of the Pope, he was sent back to France, and was permitted to give missions and retreats.

In addition to the confraternity of priests, the Company of Mary, de Montfort also founded an Institute of Apostolic Life, the Daughters of Wisdom; and the Brothers of Saint Gabriel. All of these communities follow the spirituality as lived by Saint Louis de Montfort.

De Montfort's priestly life was fairly short. He dies in 1716 at only 43 years of age, and after only sixteen years as a priest.

De Montfort's Marian Legacy

Some say that De Montfort's greatest legacy, like many saints, is the example of his life, and how he lived it. While in the seminary, Louis-Marie worked in the library. He was already a distinguished student, but as a librarian he became familiar with the works of Saint Thomas Aquinas. He also studied the historical records regarding Marian consecrations. His efforts guided him to form a society with devotion to Our Lady. In addition to that, he also shared the Dominican spirit of poverty. Like Saint Dominic, de Montfort wore hand-me-down clothing.

It was his motto "God alone!" that gives us a clue to his spirituality.

God alone...

Jesus is the Son of God...

Mary is the Mother of Jesus...

Mary is the Mother of God...

And the surest way to Jesus, is through Mary!

God alone...These words kept him going when his bishop and fellow priests severely criticized his connection to the poor, and his spreading devotion to Mary and the Rosary.

Today we might ask why priests would be so critical of de Montfort's devotion. The answer, while sad, is quite simple. 18th century France was steeped in Jansenism, a theological movement that believed that only part of humanity would be saved, and only perfect contrition could save you. If only a 'select' group could be saved, de Montfort's efforts would have little value. They thought he was wasting his time. None the less, de Montfort continued with his preaching and retreat work.

He also wrote extensively, and his works are considered gems of Marian spirituality. Among these are: *Secret of the Rosary*, *The Secret of Mary*, *True Devotion to Mary*, and *Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary According to Saint Louis de Montfort*. Ironically, his books remained hidden for more than a hundred years after his death. It was on April 22, 1842, when one of the priests in his community found the manuscripts in an old trunk in the attic.

The greatest of these is *True Devotion to Mary*. (The feast of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort is April 28.)

What is... True Devotion to Mary?

"The more the Holy Ghost finds Mary, His dear and inseparable spouse, in any soul, the more active and mighty He becomes in producing Jesus Christ in that soul, and that soul in Jesus Christ." ~ L de M

On true devotion to Mary, Louis de Montfort wrote *"I clearly foresee that raging beasts shall come in fury to tear with their diabolical teeth this little writing, in him whom the Holy Ghost has made use of to write it—or at least to smother it in the darkness and silence of a coffin, that it may not appear. They shall even attack and persecute those who shall read it and carry it out in practice."* What he wrote certainly came true. His writings remained undiscovered, in an attic, for over a hundred years. Attacks still happen in fact just last week on the television news, Catholics who prayed the Rosary were identified as being among the radical extremists.

Back to the question...What is True Devotion to Mary?

Many Catholics pray the Rosary, or have a strong devotion to the Scapular, or to the Miraculous Medal. The inspiration for these devotions spring from various aspects of Our Lady, Mary, Mother of God. Saint Louis de Montfort wrote *"God the Father made an assemblage of all the waters and He named it the sea (mare). He made an assemblage of all His graces and he called it Mary (Maria). God the Son has communicated to His Mother all He acquired by His life and death. It is by her that He applies His merits to His members, and that He communicates His virtues, and distributes His graces. To Mary, His faithful spouse, God the Holy Ghost has communicated His unspeakable gifts; and possesses in such wise that she distributes to whom she wills, as much as she wills, and when she wills, all His gifts and graces."* Saint John Damascene writes *"She is an arm of salvation which God gives to those He wishes to save."*

We know that Mary is "God's Masterpiece", and again, as de Montfort writes, she is *"the way by which Jesus came to us the first time, she will be the way by which He will come the second time, though not in the same manner."* She is also the surest and straightest way to go to Jesus Christ...To Jesus through Mary!

But in what does this True Devotion consist? For one thing, this solid devotion makes it easier to follow Jesus Christ more perfectly, love Him more tenderly, and serve Him more faithfully. The more we love her, the more we love Him. It also means that we give ourselves totally to Jesus through Mary, not as a servant (who can quit when they want), but as a slave who gives all that s/he has or ever will have, without exception.

Why does Jesus go through Mary? De Montfort writes: *"The Church, with the Holy Ghost, blesses Our Lady first and Our Lord second; 'Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus'."* Of course this does not mean that Mary is more than Jesus, not even equal to Jesus. It simply means that we must begin by blessing Mary.

True Devotion to Mary, first of all, is INTERIOR. It comes from the mind and from the heart. It is TENDER, that is full of confidence in her, like a child's confidence in his loving mother. It is HOLY, that is it leads the soul to avoid sin and imitate the virtues of the Blessed Virgin. It is CONSTANT. It's not that a person doesn't fall. The person rises again by stretching out his hand to his Good Mother. Lastly, True Devotion is what de Montfort calls DISINTERESTED. That is, to be devoted to Mary, not because of any favors she might give, but simply because she is worthy of love.



The common practices of a person who has made an Act of Consecration to Jesus Through Mary will include first and foremost, honoring her as the worthy Mother of God, and all that entails. The person might be enrolled in Marian confraternities. They may join religious orders instituted in her honor; give alms and fasting; wear her liveries such as her Scapulars, the Rosary, or the Miraculous Medal. (This medal came about 100 years after de Montfort died, but he certainly would have included it.) True Devotion includes reciting certain prayers such as the Rosary, Marian Chaplets and other prayers.

De Montfort wrote: *"This devotion consists in giving ourselves entirely to Our Lady in order to belong entirely to Jesus through her."* Through this Consecration we give to her all our actions, satisfactions, and merits of all our good works. She dispenses them where and to whom she wants. We place ourself totally in her hands.

This Devotion may not be for everyone, but you won't know if it's for you without a little reading and a lot of praying about it. The 33-day preparation is fully described in de Montfort's book *True Devotion to Mary*. The book was written in the very early 1700s, so many people find the writing style a bit stuffy. Those of us with a few years behind us might be more comfortable with this version. More recently, in 2011, Father Michael Gaitley of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception wrote a contemporary 33-day program, *33 Days to Morning Glory*. Father Gaitley writes: *"The act of consecrating oneself to Jesus through Mary marks the beginning of a gloriously new day, a new dawn, a brand new morning in one's spiritual journey. It's a fresh start, and it changes everything."*

It certainly does!

The Hour That Makes My Day

By Venerable Fulton J. Sheen



On the day of my Ordination, I made two resolutions: 1. I would offer the Holy Eucharist every Saturday in honor of the Blessed Mother to solicit her protection on my priesthood. 2. I resolved also to spend a continuous Holy Hour every day in the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. In the course of my priesthood I have kept both of these resolutions.

The Holy Hour had its origin in a practice I developed a year before I was ordained. This particular evening during recreation, I walked up and down outside the closed major chapel for almost an hour. The thought struck me - why not make a Holy Hour of adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament? The next day I began, and the practice is now well over sixty years old.

Briefly, here are some reasons why I have kept up this practice, and why I have encouraged it in others: First, the Holy Hour is not a devotion; it is a sharing in the work of redemption. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Our Lord asked: "Could you not watch one hour with Me?". In other words, he asked for an hour of reparation to combat the hour of evil; an hour of victimal union with the Cross to overcome the anti-love of sin.

Secondly, the only time Our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night he went into his agony. Then he did not ask all of them ... perhaps because he knew he could not count on their fidelity. But at least he expected three to be faithful to him: Peter, James and John. As often in the history of the

Church since that time, evil was awake, but the disciples were asleep. That is why there came out of His anguished and lonely Heart the sigh: "Could you not watch one hour with me?" Not for an hour of activity did He plead, but for an hour of companionship.

The third reason I keep up the Holy Hour is to grow more and more into his likeness. As Paul puts it: "We are transfigured into his likeness, from splendor to splendor." We become like that which we gaze upon. Looking into a sunset, the face takes on a golden glow. Looking at the Eucharistic Lord for an hour transforms the heart in a mysterious way as the face of Moses was transformed after his companionship with God on the mountain. Something happens to us similar to that which happened to the disciples at Emmaus. On Easter Sunday afternoon when the Lord met them, he asked why they were so gloomy. After spending some time in his presence, and hearing again the secret of spirituality - "The Son of Man must suffer to enter into his Glory" - their time with him ended and their "hearts were on fire."

At the beginning of my priesthood I would make the Holy Hour during the day or the evening. As the years mounted and I became busier, I made the Hour early in the morning, generally before Holy Mass. Priests, like everybody else, are divided into two classes: roosters and owls. Some work better in the morning, others at night. An Anglican bishop who was chided by a companion for his short night prayers explained: "I keep prayed up." The purpose of the Holy Hour is to encourage deep personal encounter with Christ. The holy and glorious God is constantly inviting us to come to Him, to hold converse with Him, to ask for such things as we need and to experience what a blessing there is in fellowship with Him.

I have found that it takes some time to catch fire in prayer. This has been one of the advantages of the daily Hour. It is not so brief as to prevent the soul from collecting itself and shaking off the multitudinous distractions of the world. Sitting before the Presence is like a body exposing itself before the sun to absorb its rays. Silence in the Hour is a tête-à-tête with the Lord. In those moments, one does not so much pour out written prayers, but listening takes its place. We do not say: "Listen, Lord, for Thy servant speaks," but "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth."

Scripture gives considerable evidence to prove that a priest begins to fail his priesthood when he fails in his love of the Eucharist. Too often it is assumed that Judas fell because he loved money. Avarice is very rarely the beginning of the lapse and the fall of the ambassador. The history of the Church proves there are many with money who stayed in it. The beginning of the fall of Judas and the end of Judas both revolved around the Eucharist. The first mention that Our Lord knew who it was who would betray him is at the end of the sixth chapter of John, which is the announcement of the Eucharist. The fall of Judas came the night Our Lord gave the Eucharist, the night of the Last Supper. The Eucharist is so essential to our one-ness with Christ that as soon as Our Lord announced It in the Gospel, It began to be the test of the fidelity of His followers. First, He lost the masses, for it was too hard a saying and they no longer followed Him. Secondly, He lost some of His disciples: "They walked with Him no more." Third, it split His apostolic band, for Judas is here announced as the betrayer.

So the Holy Hour, quite apart from all its positive spiritual benefits, kept my feet from wandering too far. Being tethered to a tabernacle, one's rope for finding other pastures is not so long. That dim tabernacle lamp, however pale and faint, had some mysterious luminosity to darken the brightness of "bright lights." The Holy Hour became like an oxygen tank to revive the breath of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the foul and fetid atmosphere of the world. Even when it seemed so unprofitable and lacking in spiritual intimacy, I still had the sensation of being at least like a dog at the master's door, ready in case he called me. The Hour, too, became a magister and teacher, for although before we love anyone we must have a knowledge of that person, nevertheless, after we know, it is love that increases knowledge. Theological insights are gained not only from the two covers of a treatise, but from two knees on a prie-dieu before a tabernacle.

Finally, making a Holy Hour every day constituted for me one area of life in which I could preach what I practiced. I very seldom in my life preached fasting in a rigorous kind of way, for I always found fasting extremely difficult; but I could ask others to make the Hour, because I had made it."

(Sheen writes of those who are unable to make a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament every day. To those he suggests spending an hour each day with the Holy Scriptures. Give it a try.)