



WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA
DETROIT ARCHDIOCESAN DIVISION



January, February March 2019

Marian Messenger

News from The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima



Fr. John's Journal

Fr. John Hedges,
Spiritual Director
Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima

2019 ~ Happy New Year!

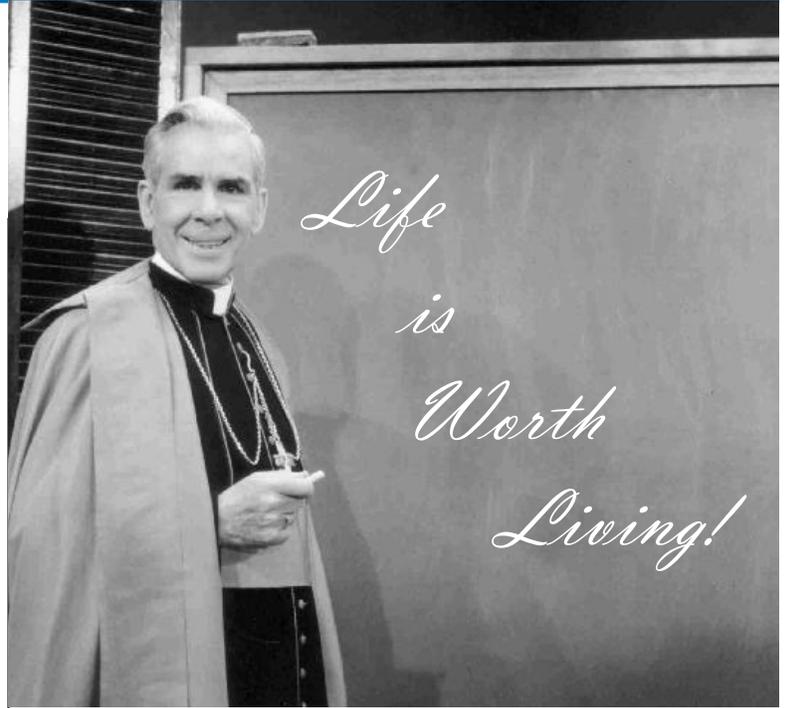
At my age I never make “New Year’s resolutions” to take on new tasks, or to add new devotions to my spiritual life. For the last several years on New Year’s Day, I have abandoned myself to the merciful love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, begging for deeper conversion and holiness, by becoming more attentive to what is essential to the Sacred Priesthood to which I have been called:

The offering of my daily Mass; the devout recitation of the Divine Office and the Holy Rosary; and the faithful ministrations of the Holy Sacraments.

This is God’s Will for me: The faithful observance of my priestly duties. Here-in lies the road to heaven! Your “road to heaven” is one and the same: the faithful offering of your daily duty to God as a pleasing sacrifice for the conversion of sinners.

This is the “New Year’s resolution” our Lady asks of all of us at Fatima! There is nothing more than this!

How do we keep this resolution to grow in holiness and fidelity on any given day? By remaining attached to the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus in the Mass and in the tabernacle! This begins each morning as soon as we rise from bed. The “Morning Offering” and the veneration of the Scapular



of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel are the external signs of offering ourselves and our day to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph. All day long as we carry out our duties, we return, in spirit, to this “Morning offering” and we unite ourselves to all the Masses being offered throughout the world that day.

Morning Offering

O my God, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus from all the altars throughout the world, joining with it the offering of my every thought, word, and action of this day. O my Jesus, I desire today to gain every indulgence and merit I can, and I offer them together with myself, to Mary Immaculate, that She may best apply them to the interests of Thy Most Sacred Heart. Precious Blood of Jesus, save us! Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us! Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

How beautiful and simple is this practice! It takes but a few moments, and helps us to stay focused all day long.

Forty years ago this year on February 8, 1979, I received a letter in the mail from the

Servant of God, Venerable Fulton J. Sheen. He wrote advising me how to pursue my vocation to the Sacred Priesthood. He closed the letter with these beautiful words:

“The priest of the Future must be closely identified with Christ and must reflect a deep inner spirituality. That is why I heartily recommend the daily Holy Hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

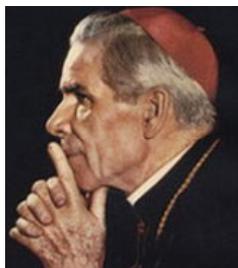
*God love you!
†Fulton Sheen”*

I have always tried to follow Archbishop Sheen’s advice. I resolve in 2019 to be more attentive as a priest to the Eucharistic Holy Hour; and I “heartily recommend” this practice to You.

In this New Year, 2019, we mark the centenary of the Sacerdotal ordination of Venerable Fulton John Sheen. In his autobiography, Treasure in Clay, he writes;



“On Saturday, September 20, 1919, I was ordained a priest, by the grace of God, in the cathedral at Peoria. The stirrings which the Holy Spirit put in my soul in the early days were now fulfilled—or were they? I was now a priest. Yes. But is not that just half the story? I never asked myself that question the day I was ordained. In due time, and not in an easy way, I was to learn that a priest is also a victim.”



Archbishop Sheen learned this lesson, and all his lessons, in the daily holy hour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He was faithful to this resolution for more than 60 years as a priest. Ten months to the day after mailing his letter to me, †Fulton Sheen died in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and on the feast of the



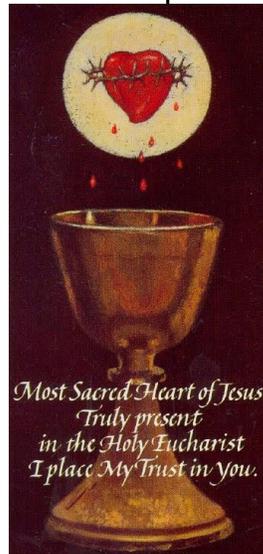
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—December 9, 1979. He had always prayed that he would die this way, and his prayer was answered!

As we mark the centenary of †Fulton Sheen’s sacerdotal ordination, and the fortieth anniversary of his death in 2019, the Sacred Heart of Jesus draws us more and more to the Holy Hour, and the writings of the saintly Archbishop.

I pray that he will be raised to the altars of the Church quickly because we desperately need his intercession in these dark times, and his priestly example.

Archbishop Sheen said that we need to cultivate in our spiritual lives a greater devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus. This can be expressed most beautifully in the Holy Mass and in Eucharistic Adoration in the Holy Hour.

†Fulton Sheen’s message is timeless. What he wrote fifty, sixty and seventy years ago is still relevant today because he wrote the Truth, and the Truth is the same yesterday, today and forever.





Over 700 Catholic faithful took part on both sides of the border in Windsor and Detroit in the Rosary Coast to Coast on Sunday Oct 7, the feast of the Holy Rosary. Our local World Apostolate Of Fatima coordinated the event with the Archdiocese of Detroit. We joined prayer warriors from over 55 countries around the world and countless people across America in praying the rosary at the exact same time. Thank you to all Blue Army members who helped in making this such an awesome event as we prayed to Our Lady to return our world to the Sovereignty of her son Jesus Christ.



The World Apostolate of Our Lady of Fatima of Michigan, Inc.

Detroit Archdiocesan Division

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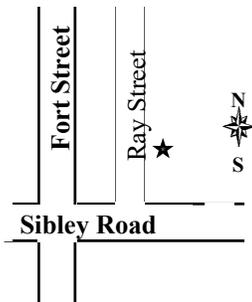
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Pray the Rosary · Wear the Scapular



The Holy Mass Schedule

January

January 4h, First Friday, 7:00 P.M.

January 5th, First Saturday Mass 8:00 A.M.

February

February 1st, First Friday, - Mass 7:00 P.M.

February 2nd, First Saturday Mass 8:00 A.M.

March

March 1st, First Friday, - Mass 7:00 P.M.

March 2nd, First Saturday Mass 8:00 A.M.

Confessions are heard 1/2 hour before First Friday and
First Saturday Masses

Virtus Men's Prayer Group

Virtus Men's Prayer Group has regular meetings:
9:00 AM-10:30 in the Chapel on
2nd and 4th Saturdays.

St. Joseph Bookstore hours

Before and after all Masses

Wednesdays 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Saturdays 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

All work at The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima is
done by volunteers. We have no paid staff. Please
feel free to call us at: 734-281-1445

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