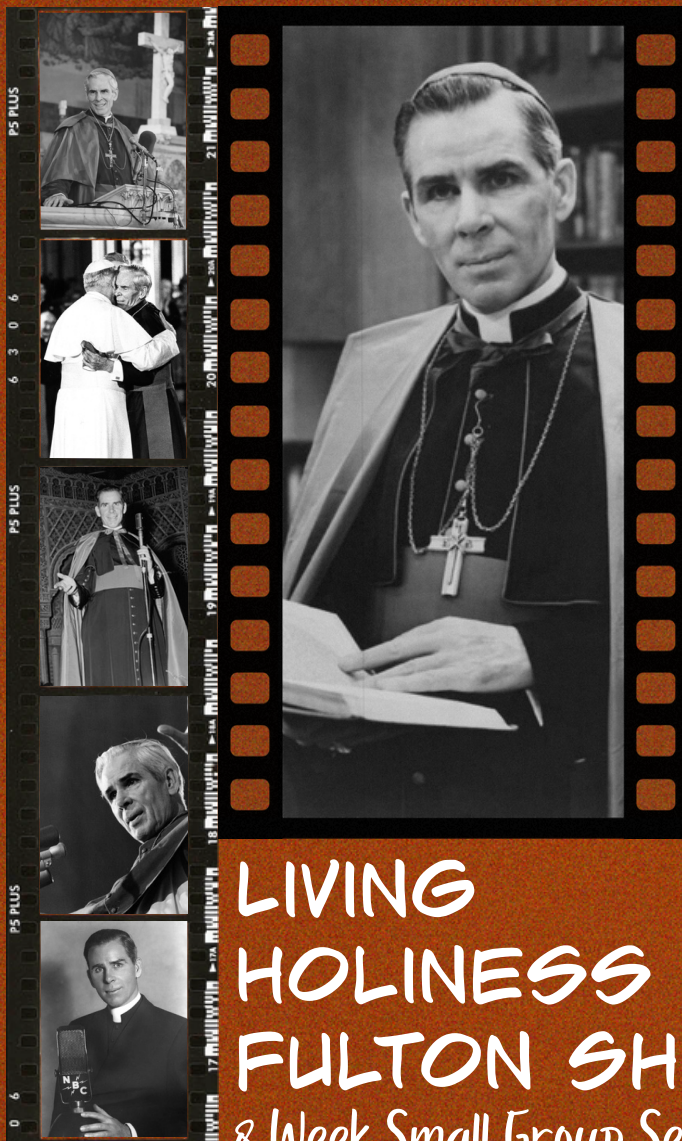




PRO SANCTITY MOVEMENT



LIVING
HOLINESS WITH
FULTON SHEEN
8 Week Small Group Series

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Introduction



Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for *Living Holiness with Fulton Sheen*. As we give thanks for the anticipated beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen on September 24, 2026, this seemed like the perfect time to receive from the wisdom of this modern saint.

Fulton Sheen's teachings complement the spirituality of the Pro Sanctity Movement as found in the writings of Servant of God Guglielmo Giaquinta. The themes of this study reflect the universal call to holiness, God's infinite love, redemptive suffering, and the mission of accompanying others on the path of holiness.

This study is simple and easy to use with small groups at parishes, at home, or with friends. Each session includes a specific spiritual theme, a reflection from Fulton Sheen, discussion questions, and a weekly challenge. Consider opening and closing your meetings with prayers for Fulton Sheen and Bishop Giaquinta from the beginning of the booklet.

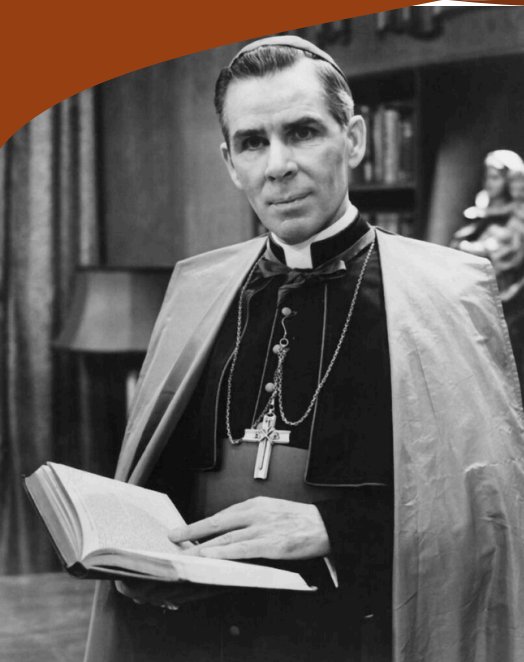
May Sheen's wisdom, humor, and love for Christ and His Church encourage you to deepen your faith and embrace your own call to holiness.

Special thanks to Thomas Fulton for his assistance in gathering content and laying out this booklet.

United in Christ,

Joan Patten
National Director Pro Sanctity Movement

Who was Fulton Sheen?



BIOGRAPHY

- Fulton Sheen was ordained a Catholic priest on September 20, 1919 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, Illinois. He went on to obtain a PhD in both Theology and Philosophy. Sheen was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York in 1951.
- As a modern-day evangelist utilizing the technology of his time, Fulton used his sharp intellect and warm humor on his 1930 radio show *The Catholic Hour*, and later his 1951 television series *Life is Worth Living*, to captivate millions with charismatic messages on faith, love, patriotism, Christian morality, and answering spiritual questions.
- Sheen authored more than 65 books to share deeper insights into the Catholic faith. He lived the Gospel by donating all his media profits to charities and those in need.
- Fulton had a deep devotion to the Our Lady and made a daily Holy Hour from the time he became a priest until his death on Dec. 9, 1979.
- Fulton Sheen will be beatified on Sept. 24, 2026 in St. Louis, MO.

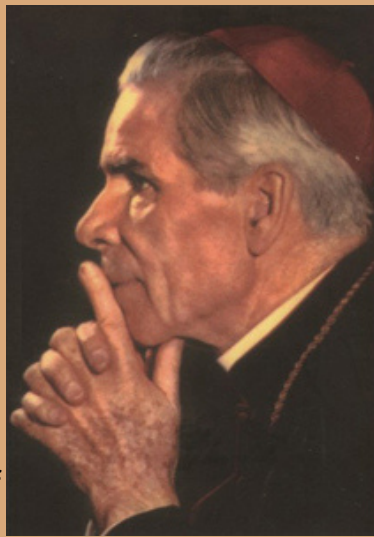
COAT OF ARMS

Shield: A white dove descending upon the world, symbolizing the Holy Spirit, bringing the peace of Christ and the Gospel to all people.
Motto: "Grant that I may come to You through Mary."

Prayer of Intercession

Heavenly Father, source of all holiness, You raise up within the Church in every age men and women who serve with heroic love and dedication. You have blessed Your Church through the life and ministry of Your faithful servant, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen. He has written and spoken well of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, and was a true instrument of the Holy Spirit in touching the hearts of countless people. If it be according to Your Will, for the honor and glory of the Most Holy Trinity and for the salvation of souls, we ask You to move the Church to proclaim him a saint. We ask this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

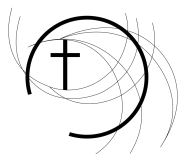
Imprimatur: +Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C., Bishop of Peoria



O Mary

By Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979)

O Mary, we have exiled your Divine Son
from our lives, our councils, our education and our families!
Come with the light of the sun as the symbol of His Power!
Heal our wars, our dark unrest,
cool the cannon's lips so hot with war!
Take our minds off the atom
and our souls out of the muck of nature!
Give us rebirth in your Divine Son,
us, the poor children of the earth, grown old with age! Amen



Pro Sanctity Prayer
By Servant of God Guglielmo Giaquinta

Jesus, Divine Master,
Who came down from heaven
to give us the abundance of grace,
increase it within us
and make it become a river that overflows into eternal life.

Of Your free will,
You chose the agony of Your passion and death,
and in the Eucharist You give Yourself as food for all
people:
help us to understand the greatness of such an example.

May the fire of Your love burn away
the impurities of our human weakness,
and give us the strength to follow Your invitation
to the infinite perfection of the Father.

Of faith, give us firmness;
of charity, zeal; of hope, firm certainty.
Give us the desire to be heroic in every virtue,
and the trust to attain holiness
with the help of Mary, Your mother and our mother. Amen.



Prayer of Intercession

O loving God, Father of all goodness
Christ our Redeemer, Spirit of Holiness,
in your infinite and untiring love for us
you never fail to invite us to holiness.
We thank you because in your servant,
Guglielmo Giaquinta,
you have made your gifts shine forth.
He contemplated the infinite love of your Son
and he was a tireless apostle
of the Universal Call to Holiness.
We pray to you, if it is your will,
to manifest in him your glory
and by his intercession
to grant us the grace that we ask of you:
(Pause for your intention) Amen.

With ecclesiastical approval Diocese of Brooklyn July 19, 2004

Session 1: Call to Holiness

Summary

- Holiness is the vocation of every baptized person.
- Holiness is the concrete response to God's infinite love.
- Holiness is God's will for us; He desires our sanctity.
- Holiness is possible at every moment of our lives and circumstances.
- Holiness has three dimensions: personal, communal, and societal.
- Holiness means to be configured to Christ, to live His life and allow Him to live His life in us.

“Sheen's Timeless Truth
*I do not want my life to be mine.
I want it to be Christ's.*”

Sheen's Jokes

“There was a 7 year old boy who had never spoken in his life. The parents did everything they could but to no avail. One morning at breakfast he said, ‘This cocoa's cold.’ They said, ‘Why didn't you talk before this?’ ‘Well,’ he said, ‘Up until now, everything was okay.’”



Sheen's Reflections

“We too often think of God as one item in the universe, as one object among other objects; of service of Him as distinct and apart from any service to humanity. Once we do this, we make religion a department, a task among other tasks. Then, those who hear that God is one object among other objects begin to choose other objects in preference to Him. St. Paul says that if one should speak with the tongues of men and angels and have prophecy and faith to remove all mountains, and give all one's good to the poor, but lack love, one would have nothing. In other words, theory without practice is vain...Our error has been to separate the sacred and the secular, the natural and the supernatural, the redeemed and the unredeemed, the church and the world. We have a tendency to divide men into good and bad, forgetful that man was made from the dust and at the same time was made an image of God.

Every man, therefore, has to discover in himself that there is something good, there is something bad. Only then does he begin to know himself—and only then does he begin to know others. One might say that only then does he begin to understand the world. It is not wholly evil. It is not wholly good. Man is a bruised, strong creature, running one moment, crawling another, leaping one moment, creeping another. The modern saint is one who lives for the world, not for the secular city; for humanity and for Christ's sake.

Sanctity never shows, but it is necessary. Sanctity has a hiddenness about it. When among human need, the hands are never folded, the voice is not cultivated, the head is not cocked to one side. It is hidden as the

Gospel said, ‘When you give alms let not your left hand know what your right hand does and when you fast anoint your head and wash your face and appear then not to fast.’ The essence of sanctity is the external love of mankind as sons of God, because of the interior love of the Father—it does not take much time to make us saints—it takes only much love.” (Sheen, Fulton, *Footprints in a Darkened Forest*)

“The world would hate His followers, not because of evil in their lives, but precisely because of the absence of evil or rather their goodness. Goodness does not cause hatred, but it gives occasion for hatred to manifest itself. The holier and purer a life, the more it would attract malignity and hate. Mediocrity alone survives.” (Sheen, Fulton, *Life of Christ*)

Discussion Questions

1. God worked through flawed people throughout salvation history. How does that shape our understanding of our own call to holiness despite our weaknesses?
2. If holiness is our response to God's infinite love, what practical changes should that inspire in the way we live and love each day?
3. How can we become instruments of God's grace and help others discover their own call to holiness?
4. What obstacles most often keep us from becoming the saints God desires us to be, and how can we move beyond them?
5. In a world that often settles for mediocrity, what does it mean to live with the courage, generosity, and love that holiness requires?



Living Holiness Challenge

Perform one hidden act of charity each day this week.

Session 2: Jesus and Eucharistic Devotion

Summary

- The Eucharist is a personal encounter with Jesus who loves and remains with us.
- Time before the Blessed Sacrament transforms us and helps us become more like Christ.
- The Eucharist is the continuation of Christ's redemptive love and His desire for souls.
- The Eucharist strengthens us to pursue holiness and bring others closer to God.



Sheen's Timeless Truth

The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host.



Sheen's Jokes

"I went to a barber shop in the afternoon before a lecture and the barber did not recognize me and asked me if I was going to the lecture tonight by Bishop Sheen. I said, 'Yes, I'm going.' He said, 'Do you have a ticket?' I told him, 'No, I do not.' 'Well,' he said, 'All the tickets have been sold out. You will probably have to stand.' I said, 'You know, it's a particular thing that every time I go hear that man talk, I always have to stand.'"



Sheen's Reflections

“The secret of my power is that I have never in fifty-five years missed spending an hour in the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. That's where the power comes from. That's where sermons are born. That's where every good thought is conceived. I don't mean to say that these hours have always been good. I've had to walk up and down the church to stay awake. I once went into St. Roch's Church in Paris to pray an hour, when I only had two hours in Paris between trains on my way to Lourdes. There were only about five days a year that I can sleep in the daytime, and this was one. I sat down at two o'clock, and I slept perfectly until three. When I awoke I said to the good Lord, ‘Did I make a holy hour?’ And my angel said, ‘Yes, that's the way the apostles prayed the first one.’”

“Neither theological knowledge nor social action alone is enough to keep us in love with Christ unless both are preceded by a personal encounter with him. When Moses saw the burning bush in the desert, it did not feed on any fuel. The flame, unfed by anything visible, continued to exist without destroying the wood. So personal dedication to Christ does not deform any of our natural gifts, disposition, or character...As the wood becomes fire and the fire endures, so we become Christ and Christ endures. 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 face-to-face 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.' The Eucharist is so essential to our oneness 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...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. (Sheen, Fulton, *A Treasure in Clay*)

Discussion Questions

1. What keeps us from spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist?
2. How does listening to Jesus in silence help us grow in holiness?
3. How can our time before the Eucharist help quench Jesus' thirst?
4. Why do you think some people walked away when Jesus taught about the Eucharist while others remained faithful?
5. If the Eucharist transforms us into Christ, what is one sign of that transformation others should see in our lives?



Living Holiness Challenge

Spend 15 additional minutes in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Session 3: Redemptive Suffering

Summary

- Suffering finds meaning when united to Christ's suffering.
- No sacrifice offered in love is ever wasted.
- Christ invites us to participate in His redemptive work.
- Every trial is an opportunity to trust God's love.
- We grow in holiness when suffering is accepted and united with Christ.
- God only wills our good, but He can make suffering fruitful when it is united to Him.

Sheen's Timeless Truth

Our Lord has gone into the forests of suffering and loneliness, but He has left His footprints there so we can find the way out.

Sheen's Jokes

"I was once giving a talk in the town hall of Philadelphia and I lost my way and I asked a boy, 'Where is the town hall?' He told me the address. He then said, 'What are you going to do there?' I said, 'I am going to give a talk on heaven and how to get there. Would you like to come and find out?' And he said, 'You don't even know where the town hall is!'"



Sheen's Reflections

Wasted Pain by Fulton J. Sheen, Servant of God

There is nothing more tragic in all the world than wasted pain. Think of how much suffering there is in hospitals, among the poor and bereaved. Think also of how much of that suffering goes to waste.

How many of these lonesome, suffering, abandoned, crucified souls are saying with our Lord at the moment of Consecration, "This is my body. Take it!"? Yet, this is what we should be saying at that second. "Here is my body, take it! Here is my soul, my will, my energy, my strength, my poverty, my wealth – ALL that I have. It is yours. Take it! Consecrate it! Offer it! Offer it to the Heavenly Father with Yourself, in order that He, looking down on this great Sacrifice, may see only You, His Beloved Son in whom He is well pleased.

Transmute the poor bread of my life into Your Life. Thrill the wine of my wasted life into Your divine Spirit. Unite my broken heart with Your Heart. Change my cross into a crucifix. Let not my abandonment and my sorrow go to waste. Gather up the fragments and, as the drop of water is absorbed by the wine at the Offertory of the Mass, let my life be absorbed in You. Let my little cross be entwined with Your great cross, so that I may purchase the joys of everlasting happiness in union with You.

Consecrate these trials of my life which would go unrewarded unless united with You. Transubstantiate me so that, like bread which is now Your Body, and wine which is now Your Blood, I, too, may be wholly Yours.

I care not if the species remain or that, like the bread and wine, I may seem to all earthly eyes the same as before. My station in life, my routine duties, my work, my family – all these are but the species of my life which may remain unchanged. But the substance of my life, my soul, my will, heart – transubstantiate them! Transform them wholly into Your service so that all may know how sweet is the love of Christ!”

Imprimatur+ Charles H. Heimsing
Bishop of Kansas City, St. Joseph
M7
January 8, 1963

Discussion Questions

1. What makes suffering fruitful rather than wasted?
2. Bishop Giaquinta teaches that suffering can help answer Jesus' "I thirst" for souls. How can our trials become an act of love for others?
3. What is the difference between simply enduring suffering and offering it with Christ for a greater purpose?
4. How have you experienced God bringing good, growth, or deeper faith out of a difficult situation?
5. Which cross in your life is Jesus inviting you to trustingly place into His hands today?



Living Holiness Challenge

Offer a sacrifice for someone who is suffering.

Summary

- Love grows our capacity for Heaven.
- God desires that all of us reach Heaven.
- Heaven fulfills our deepest longings for love and truth.
- The sacraments prepare us for eternal life.
- Living for Christ today prepares us for Heaven.
- Prayer trains our hearts for communion with God.

“Sheen’s Timeless Truth
*If you don’t behave as you believe, you will
end by believing as you behave.*”

Sheen’s Jokes

“There were three drunken men who came into the Hotel New Yorker, and they were assigned rooms on the 45th floor. They went out for the night and came back in an even worse state than before. The clerk said, ‘I’m sorry but the elevator’s broken and you will have to walk up.’ They said, ‘We don’t mind. We’ll walk up.’ The first drunk man said, ‘For the first 15 floors I will sing.’ The second man said, ‘I will tell funny stories.’ And the third one said, ‘For the last 15 stories I will tell sad stories.’ They started up for the first 15 floors with songs. The next 15 floors with funny stories. And they said to the third man, ‘All right, begin your sad story.’ He said, ‘I forgot the key.’”



Sheen's Reflections

“Heaven is a city on a hill. Hence, we cannot coast into it; we have to climb. Those who are too lazy to mount can miss its capture, as well as those who refuse to seek it. Let no one think he can be totally indifferent to God in this life and suddenly develop a capacity for Him at the moment of death.

Where will the capacity for heaven come from if we have neglected it on earth? A man cannot suddenly walk into a lecture room on higher mathematics and be thrilled by its equations if, throughout his life, he neglected to develop a taste for mathematics. A heaven of poets would be a hell to those who never learned to love poetry. And a heaven of divine truth, righteousness, and justice would be a hell to those who never studiously cultivated those virtues here below. Heaven is only for those who work for heaven.

If we crush every inspiration of the divine; if we drown every Godward inspiration of the soul; if we choke every inlet to Christ—where will be our relish for God on the last day? The very things we neglected will then be the very cause of our ruin. The very things that should have ministered to our growth will then turn against us and minister to our decay.

Heaven and hell are, in like manner, both effects of divine goodness. Their difference comes from our reaction to that goodness, and to that extent are also our creations. Both God and man are, in different senses, creators of heaven and hell.” (Sheen, *Victory Over Vice*)

“A happy death is a masterpiece...At the moment of death, nothing will be useful to us—except God. If we have Him, then we shall recover everything in Him. For that reason, a Christian is never in full possession of his life until the day of his death. That is why the Church calls it...the birthday into eternal life.

No masterpiece was ever completed in a day. It takes years for the artist to discipline his mind and hand, and then years again to chisel away the stubbornness of the marble to make the form appear. The greatest masterpiece of all—a happy death—must be prepared for by practice. We learn how to die by dying, dying to our selfishness, our pride, our envy, our sloth, a thousand times a day.

It only matters that we finish the plan Our Lord has given us to do. And may we all, as an old Irish saying has it: ‘Be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows we’re dead.’”

(Sheen, Fulton, *The Cries of Jesus from the Cross*)

Discussion Questions

1. What does Sheen mean by calling a happy death a "masterpiece"?
2. What steps can we take now to prepare for that final meeting with Christ?
3. What virtues or spiritual practices help form a "capacity for heaven" in our hearts?
4. How can we help others keep their eyes fixed on heaven?
5. If heaven is perfect union with God, how can you grow closer to Him this week?



Living Holiness Challenge

Share with someone something you love about the Catholic faith.

Session 5: Mary, Our Mother

Summary

- Mary is the new Eve, cooperating with Christ, the new Adam.
- Mary's life was a total response to God's love and will.
- Mary invites us to trust God and surrender to His plan.
- Mary shows what God's grace can accomplish in a human life.
- Mary is the perfect model of holiness and discipleship.

“**Sheen's Timeless Truth**
Every person carries within his heart a blueprint of the one he loves.”

Sheen's Jokes

“To tell a woman who is forty, ‘You look like sixteen,’ is baloney. The blarney way of saying it is ‘Tell me how old you are, I should like to know at what age women are the most beautiful.’”



Sheen's Reflections

“Every person carries within his heart a blueprint of the one he loves... every human love is an initiation into the Eternal... the absolute ideal of every heart does exist, and it is God. The deepest longings of the human heart are ultimately fulfilled in Him. All earthly loves are meant to lead us toward this perfect Love.

God, too, has within Himself blueprints of everything in the universe... He has two pictures of us: one is what we are, and the other is what we ought to be... our sins diminish our personality... we fall short of all God wants us to be. We do not always resemble the beautiful design God intended for us. His grace continually seeks to restore that likeness.

There is only one person in all humanity of whom God has one picture... and that is His Own Mother. Mary is the ‘equal sign’... the Ideal that God had of her, that she is, and in the flesh... the model and the copy are perfect... she is all that was foreseen, planned, and dreamed. In her there is no gap between God's plan and her response. She perfectly reflects what humanity was meant to become through God's grace.

God not only thought of her in eternity... He had her in mind at the beginning of time... Mary is the woman foretold in Genesis... blessed among women... the new Eve... the Paradise of the Incarnation... preserved from original sin through the merits of her Son... the first effect of redemption... unique because she is the Mother of God.

Her privileges were given not for her own glory, but because of her mission in God's plan of salvation. Through her "yes," the Redeemer entered the world. Mary stands as the first and most perfect fruit of Christ's redeeming love and as the model of what God desires to accomplish in each of us.

Because she is the Mother of God, Mary occupies a unique place in salvation history... closer to God than any other human person... chosen, prepared, and filled with grace for her singular vocation. She remained fully human and in need of redemption, yet she received its fruits in advance through the merits of Christ. As the new Eve beside the new Adam, she cooperates in God's plan to restore what was lost through sin. Her life reveals both who Christ is and what His grace can accomplish in a soul completely open to God's will." (Sheen, Fulton, *The World's First Love*)

Discussion Questions

1. How does Mary show us what holiness can become when a person is fully open to grace?
2. How did Mary live a "maximum" response of love her whole life?
3. What role has Mary played in your spiritual life?
4. How can Mary help you grow closer to Jesus?
5. How can Mary's example help you live your vocation?



Living Holiness Challenge

Pray the rosary this week.

Session 6: Conversion and Mercy

Summary

- Sin wounds our relationship with God.
- God's mercy is always greater than our sin.
- Conversion is a daily choice.
- Every experience of mercy is a deeper call to holiness.
- Forgiveness leads to freedom.

“Sheen’s Timeless Truth
*To doubt forgiveness
is the beginning of hell.*”

Sheen’s Jokes

Archbishop Fulton Sheen sat down to hear the confessions of the schoolboys, and the first boy came in and confessed his sins, the first one being, “I threw peanuts in the lake.” Bishop Sheen was confused, but after he heard the rest of the boy's confession, he gave him his penance, and the next boy came in. “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned; I pushed peanuts in the lake,” the second boy confessed. An increasingly perplexed Bishop Sheen simply heard the rest of the confession and gave the boy his penance. Then the next boy came in and confessed a similar sin, “I shoved peanuts in the lake,” and Bishop Sheen heard the rest of his confession and gave the third boy his penance. And the last boy entered the confessional. The bishop now just sighed and said to the last boy, “Let me guess, you too shoved peanuts in the lake.” “No, Father,” the boy replied, “I'm Peanut.”



Sheen's Reflections

“He looked up to the woman, who was standing alone, and asked her: ‘Where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ (Jn. 8:11)

The Mosaic Law required two witnesses to a crime before the sentence could be carried out; they were even to assist in executing the sentence. But their so-called defenders of the Mosaic Law were no longer present to bear witness. Notice, Our Blessed Lord called her ‘woman.’ There were so many other names that He might have given her; but He made her stand for all the women of the world who had aspirations for cleanliness and holiness in union with Him. There was a touch of playful irony in His first question. ‘Woman, where are they?’ He was drawing attention to the fact that she was alone! He had excluded her accusers. In that solitariness He asked: ‘Has no one condemned you?’ She answered: ‘No one, sir.’

If there was no one to cast the stone, neither would He. She who came to Him as a Judge, found Him a Savior. The accusers called Him ‘Master’; she called Him, not ‘Sir,’ but ‘Lord,’ as if to recognize that she was standing here in the presence of Someone Who was infinitely superior to herself. And her faith in Him was justified, for He turned to her and said: ‘Nor do I condemn you. You may go, do not sin again.’ (Jn. 8:11)

But why would He not condemn her? Because He would be condemned for her. Innocence would not condemn, because innocence would suffer for the guilt. Justice would be saved, for He would pay the debt of her sins; mercy would be saved, for the merits of His death would apply to her soul. Justice is first, then mercy, first the

satisfaction, then the pardon. Our Lord really was the only One in that crowd who had the right to take up the stone to execute judgment against her, because He was without sin. On the other hand, He did not make light of sin, for He assumed its burden. Forgiveness cost something, and the full price would be paid on the hill of the three Crosses where justice would be satisfied, and mercy extended. It was this release from the slavery of sin that He called the beautiful name of freedom. ‘If then the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free.’ (Jn. 8:36) (Sheen, *Life of Christ*)

Discussion Questions

1. How has God's mercy changed my life?
2. How have I grown with the invitation to “start over again”?
3. How does forgiveness lead to freedom?
4. How is confession an encounter with both justice and mercy?
5. How can I become more merciful toward others?



Living Holiness Challenge

Make a thorough examination of conscience and plan to go to confession in the next few weeks.

Session 7: Evangelization

Summary

- Jesus promised to remain with His Church until the end of time.
- Love for Christ leads us to share Him with others.
- Every baptized disciple is called to proclaim the Gospel.
- Evangelization happens in daily life.
- The Church is missionary by her very nature.
- Christian joy is one of the strongest forms of witness.

“Sheen’s Timeless Truth
You must remember to love people and use things, rather than to love things and use people.”

Sheen’s Jokes

“I was once visiting a very rich man. He had three swimming pools. One for those who knew how to swim. The second for those who knew how to swim but did not like to swim. And the third was empty. It was for those who could not swim.”



Sheen's Reflections

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit... and behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Mt. 28:19-20).

“The dynamism or current that was passed into the Apostles under the headship of Peter was to continue until Christ's Second Coming... No longer were the Apostles and their successors to consider themselves solely as masters in Israel; from now on the whole world was theirs. Nor were they merely to teach... They were to make disciples in every nation; and discipleship implied surrender of heart and will to the Divine Master... The power of His redemptive Cross would be in vain unless His servants used it to incorporate other human natures unto Himself. As Mary gave Him the human nature which was now glorified in His Person, so men were to give their human natures to Him, dying as He died, in order that they might enter into glory.

This incorporation to Himself was to be initiated by baptism...The baptism was to be administered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, because the Three Persons are one, having the nature of God.

This authority which He gave them and which was to be extended throughout the entire earth might still have left in the minds of the Apostles a doubt concerning His Presence with them... This doubt was straightway cleared

up when He assured His Church: ‘Be assured, I am with you always, to the end of time.’ (Mt. 28:20)

The promise was without limit; it would endure until the end of the world... God told Abraham that He would be with him; Moses and Aaron were told that He would be in their mouths... But in these cases, the Divine Presence lasted only during the lifetime of the persons to whom it was given. No such limitation of Divine Protection and Presence was mentioned in the case of the Apostles. The Church would never be left alone, for the Lord promised His abiding presence until the consummation of the world. ‘The Gates of Hell will not prevail against My Church’... Confirmation of that promise was given again in the words: ‘I am with you through the days that are coming, until the consummation of the world.’” (Sheen, Fulton, *Life of Christ*)

Discussion Questions

1. How does personal holiness make evangelization more effective?
2. Who helped bring you closer to Christ?
3. How is God calling you to be His witness in the present circumstances in your life?
4. Bishop Giaquinta teaches that our mission is to help others become saints. How can we do this in ordinary relationships?
5. How does knowing Christ remains with His Church change the way you view evangelization?



Living Holiness Challenge

Invite someone to attend Mass with you next Sunday.

Session 8: The Battle of Good and Evil

Summary

- The Christian life is a spiritual battle.
- Christ has conquered sin, evil, and death.
- The Cross is the greatest battle between good and evil.
- God's grace strengthens us in every struggle.
- We are called to choose Christ daily.

“Sheen’s Timeless Truth

Our hearts will be where our joys are.”

Sheen’s Jokes

“Everybody takes Jonah very seriously... I might tell you that one day I was talking on this subject and somebody interrupted me and said, ‘Tell me. How could Jonah be in the belly of the whale for three days?’ I said, ‘I don’t know. When I go to heaven, I’ll ask Jonah.’ He said, ‘Suppose Jonah isn’t there?’ ‘Then I said, ‘You ask him.’”



Sheen's Reflections

“It is not His Sermon on the Mount that He would have remembered, but His Cross. There would have been no Gospel had there been no Cross; and the death on the Cross would have been useless for the removal of human guilt, if He had not risen from the dead. He said it behooved Him to suffer because He had to show the evil of sin, and evil is most manifest in the Crucifixion of Goodness. No greater darkness would ever descend upon the earth than that which fell upon Him on Calvary. In all other wars, there is generally a gray, or a mixture of good and evil, on both sides; but in the Crucifixion, there was black on one side and white on the other. Evil would never be stronger than it was on that particular day. For the worst thing that evil can do is not to bomb cities and to kill children and to wage wars; the worst thing that evil can do is to kill Goodness. Having been defeated in that, it could never be victorious again.

Goodness in the face of evil must suffer, for when love meets sin, it will be crucified. A God Who wears His Sacred Heart upon His sleeve, as Our Lord did when He became man, must be prepared to have human claws peck at it. But at the same time, Goodness used that very suffering as a condition of overcoming evil. Goodness took all the anger, wrath, and hate, and pleaded: ‘Forgive’ it took life and offered it for another. Hence to Him it was expedient that He suffer in order to enter glory. Evil, conquered in its full armor and in the moment of its monumental momentum, might in the future win some battles, but it would never win the war.

But if Our Lord took the worst the world had to offer, and then by the power of God rose above it; if He, the unarmed, could make war with no other weapon than goodness and pardon, so that the slain had the gain, and

they who killed Him lost the day, then who should ever be without hope? Who shall ever despair in any momentary defeat by evil? Who shall fail to trust when he sees walking in the darkness the Risen One with glorious scars on hands and feet and side? The law He gave was clear: life is a struggle; unless there is a Cross in our lives, there will never be an empty tomb; unless there is the crown of thorns, there will never be a halo of light; unless there is a Good Friday in our lives, there will never be an Easter Sunday. When He said, 'I have conquered the world,' He did not mean His followers would be immune from woes, pain, sorrow, and crucifixion...If the Heavenly Father did not spare His Son, He the Heavenly Son, would not spare His disciples. What the Resurrection offered was not immunity from evil in the physical world, but immunity from sin in the soul." (Sheen, Fulton, *Life of Christ*)

Discussion Questions

1. Why can evil win battles but never the final victory?
2. What does it mean to fight evil with goodness and love?
3. How does holiness help us overcome evil?
4. What virtues are most needed in the battle against evil?
5. What helps you remain faithful during difficult times?

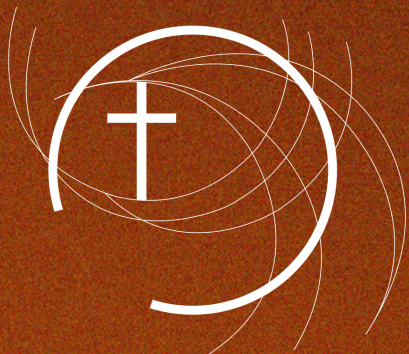


Living Holiness Challenge

Pray daily for the grace of final perseverance and a holy death.



O Immaculate Heart of Mary,
true model of every holiness,
give us trust to become saints!



Please contact one of our centers for more information on the Pro Sanctity Movement.

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