

A day in Life of a Traditional Catholic Priest

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Parishioners regularly see Father at Mass, However, the question may arise: How does a Catholic priest spend the remainder of his day? Let me tell you.

In the early hours of the morning, his day begins with prayer: for the Church, the world, parishioners, fellow priests, and for himself, that he may be faithful to the many duties that God presents today. On the advice of St. Alphonsus, the priest will be in the chapel early to make a full hour of meditation.

Following the meditation, he prays Matins and Lauds. The prayers of the Divine Office breathe the life of grace into the priest and his flock at appointed hours of the day. Three times a day, the priests gather to pray in community. The Rosary is also prayed every day.

The priest then offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - the spiritual apex of the whole day. Before Mass he waits in the confessional to extend God's mercy to sinners.

The personal care of souls fills much of the day and evening with meetings and phone calls. Souls seek direction for spiritual growth, in discerning a vocation, and for spiritual and practical advice in times of difficulties or confusion. The priest fulfills his weekly visits to the sick, homebound, and elderly, bringing them the consolation and support of the Sacraments, especially Holy Communion. When emergency calls come, the priest rushes out to assist a soul in danger of death.

A priest must teach the faith and instruct his parishioners. In order to be effective, he must prepare his classes. He gives religious education to both youths and adults, and converts receive

detailed, individual instruction. The responsibility of beginning a family being so serious, the priest personally instructs engaged couples as to their obligations as husband and wife, father and mother.

Correspondence, such as written advice and thank you notes, requires much time of a priest. He also prepares the weekly bulletin and arranges retreats, days of recollection, and conferences or youth camps for his parish. Reading and theological study of at least one half-hour a day strengthen his spirituality and knowledge. A good sermon requires time and resources over several days to prepare.



The Church edifice needs work planned to beautify and maintain it, as do the other parish buildings. Sacred linens used at Holy Mass must be rinsed by one in Holy Orders before they can be washed and ironed. Vestments and linens are repaired and at times replaced.

Unexpected trials and crosses arrive each day. The priest anticipates such situations, knowing that if he is faithful to his prayer and his duties, God will supply peace and patience.

The day ends as it began - with prayer. The priest reconsecrates himself and his parish to Our Lady, St. Joseph, and the church's patron. He examines his conscience about how he has passed the day and prays for the graces necessary for the next day. Finally, the priest imparts a blessing to all his parishioners.
