

We will observe this at St. Ignace

Hour of Grace ~ December 8th

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During the period of November 24, 1946 to December 8, 1947, the Blessed Mother appeared to Sister Pierina in a little church in Montichiari, Italy, eleven times.

On the first appearance the Blessed Mother told Sister Pierina she wanted to be known as the "Mystical Rose" and that an hour of grace should be kept at noon December 8th, in all the Catholic Churches of the world. The Blessed Mother wanted this to be known through all of Italy and the entire world.

It was November 16th, 1947 when Sister Pierina was finishing her Thanksgiving after Holy Communion when she saw a great light. She then saw a vision of the Blessed Mother as the "Mystical Rose."

Sister was so deeply moved by the stunning beauty of Our Lady that she began talking to her. All of a sudden a gently force made her knell down in front of Our Lady. The blessed Mother spoke these words. *"My Son is so greatly offended by the sins of the people, especially by the sins of impurity. He is already planning to send the deluge upon the people for their destruction, but I have asked Him to show mercy and not send the destruction. So that is why I have appeared to ask for penance and atonement for the sins of impurity."* Then the Blessed Mother asked for an act of humility by Sister Pierina. She asked her to make the sign of the cross with her tongue on each of the four stones in the sanctuary. "This shall be a reminder to the people that I have appeared here, and do not have the people step on these stones."

The Blessed Mother then stepped on each of the stones so that her gown touched all four stones.

On the 22nd of November, Sister Pierina felt the overwhelming urge to go to church at 4:00. The Mother Superior, four sisters and a group of friends accompanied her. They were all saying the rosary when the Blessed Mother appeared as before. She instructed Sister Pierina to make the sign of the cross on the stones and fence them off so that no one would step on them.

Again, Our Lady asked for penance. She said, *"Penance is nothing more than accepting all our crosses daily willingly. No matter how small, accept them with love."* At this time, she told Sister Pierina to come again December 8th at noon, *"This will be my Hour of Grace."* The Sister asked how she was to prepare for this Hour of Grace. To which the Blessed Mother said, *"With prayers and penance. Pray the 51st psalm with our stretched arms three times. During the Hour of Grace, many spiritual graces would be granted. The most hard-hearted sinner will be touched by the grace of God."* **The Blessed Virgin promised that whatever a person asked her for during this Hour of Grace, (even in impossible cases) would be granted to them, if it was in accordance with the will of the Eternal Father.**

It was December 7th when Sister Pierina felt the urge to go to church. This time when was accompanied by the priest and the Mother Superior. The Blessed Mother appeared with a young boy and girl dressed in beautiful white clothing. Sister Pierina was sure these little ones were angels because they were so beautiful. The Blessed Mother said, *"Tomorrow I will show you My Immaculate Heart, which is so little known among the people."* She asked people to pray for Russia. *"There are so many people being held prisoners which their families know nothing of because they have been gone for so many years. Pray for the conversion of Russia, the suffering of the soldiers and their sacrifices and martyrdom will bring peace to Italy."*

"The little children are Francisco and Jacinta. I am giving them to you as your companions. You will have much to suffer for my sake. I want simplicity and goodness from you, as of these little children." The Blessed Mother then blessed Sister Pierina, the priest and all those who were gathered there. On the morning of December 8th, people began arriving at the little church at 8:00a.m. from neighboring towns. By noon, some 10,000 people had gathered to see the Blessed Mother, many of whom had to stand outside because the church did not have enough room for the large crowd.

Sister Pierina was accompanied to church by her mother and brothers, the Mother Superior and the Chief of Police from Montichiari. Sister was reciting the Rosary with the crowd in the middle of church. Suddenly, a brilliant white light appeared from the ceiling. Stairs were coming from the light down to the floor of the church, about 15 feet in length. The staircase was beautifully decorated with red, white and yellow roses. The Blessed Virgin appeared so radiant, dressed in white, with her hands folded. She was standing on a splendid carpet at the top of the stairs, made of the red, white and yellow roses.

In the most gentle and loving voice, Our Lady smiled and began to speak, *"I am the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of all graces and the Mother of my Beloved Son, Jesus. I want to be known as the Mystical Rose. My wish is that every year on the 8th of December at noon, an "Hour of Grace" will be installed. Many spiritual graces and physical blessings will be received by those who pray, undisturbed during this hour."*