



**BUSY MOMS' RETREAT**  
for Catholic Homeschooling Mothers

# Love Never Fails

1 Corinthians 13:8

*by Jenny Bales, Heart of a Mother*  
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## My Inspiration: Grace Days™ Events



My inspiration for this Busy Moms' Retreat is the experience I gained leading numerous local Days of Grace retreats over the years, which were modeled after the philosophy of Grace Days™. For these in-person retreats, Catholic homeschooling mothers are invited for a refreshing day of spiritual nourishment and cultivated conversations at a local church, home, or retreat center. It is our hope to help Catholic women find God's grace in their vocations and in their everyday lives through community, prayer, and reflection. Our aim is to facilitate local, face to face, fellowship and spiritual nourishment for Catholic homeschooling mothers.

Grace Days™ often include: Mass, 2-3 speakers, silent prayer, group prayer, Confessions, small group discussions, social time, large group discussions, Eucharistic Adoration, and fellowship. Special touches, such as chocolate, coffee, tea, flowers, candles, tablecloths, gardens, good food, etc., are important ways we speak to our femininity at these events.

We have placed this initiative under the patronage of Mary, the Mother of God, and submit it to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church in union with the Holy Father, the Pope, and the bishops in communion with him.

As you enjoy this Busy Moms' retreat, please pray for Grace Days™ founders, Michele and Maureen, who conceived and initiated the concept for these events in 2015. I am forever grateful for their foresight for this necessary time of prayer and recollection on our homeschooling journeys.

If you live in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area, you can [look into upcoming local Days of Grace here](#). If you would like Jenny to guide you through hosting an in-person Day of Grace in your area, contact Jenny at [jenny@heartofamother.net](mailto:jenny@heartofamother.net) for a free planning guide and planning call!

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# How to Enjoy a Busy Moms' Retreat



1. Watch an introductory video about the Busy Moms' Retreats [here](#).

2. Choose your retreat format and schedule time for your retreat:

## **Hermitage Retreat**

Find a way to get away by yourself for one day or half a day to work through the retreat portions. Maybe your church is open for private prayer, or you can isolate yourself in your guest room or office or that of a friend/relative!

## **Cloistered Retreat**

Find a group of friends to gather together for one day or half a day to work through the retreat portions together. Ideally, these are friends local to you, but you can even do this remotely and schedule phone calls to check in throughout the day!

## **Active Retreat**

Work through one portion of the retreat per day amidst the duties of your vocation; it's even fine to skip days, as needed. You can choose to review the material in the morning, during naptime, after your littles go to bed, or any time that works for you!

3. Work through the 6 retreat portions on the following pages. Ideally, they should be done in order, but feel free to skip around to make the retreat work for you!

Each retreat portion is named for one "hour" of the Liturgy of the Hours: Morning Prayer (Lauds) · Mid-Morning Prayer (Terce) · Midday Prayer (Sext) · Afternoon Prayer (None) · Evening Prayer (Vespers) · Night Prayer (Compline). You do not need to do each one at any set time of day unless you choose to do so.

The Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office or the Work of God (Opus Dei), is the daily prayer of the Church, marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer. Thus, each "hour" of this retreat is meant to be a prayer. If you would like to also add the Liturgy of the Hour prayers to each "hour" of your retreat, here is where to find those online each day: <https://universalis.com/>

When you begin the retreat (and re-start each "hour"), consider surrounding yourself with comfort and beauty. Light a candle; pour yourself a cup of coffee or tea; find some flowers; bring some chocolate; sit with a crucifix or cards/statues of your favorite saints; wear something lovely; etc...

4. Ready to begin? Dive right in and enjoy your retreat! I'll be praying for you!

# Love Never Fails

## *Lauds*



**Spend 30-60 minutes in Mass and/or Adoration.**

If you can go to a church to do this, please do. The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our Catholic Faith. Another option is to pray in the church parking lot or outside. If none of these are possible for you for whatever reason, find an online option.

Here are some online options for daily Masses: <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>

Here are some online options for Perpetual Adoration: <https://virtualadoration.home.blog/>

While in prayer, reflect on 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8:

1 If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

2 And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated,

5 it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

6 it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 **Love never fails.** If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.

# Love Never Fails

## *Terce*



**Spend 30-60 minutes chatting with another Catholic homeschooling mom.**

This homeschooling thing is hard work, mamas, and only someone walking the same journey can truly understand our joys and struggles. Call or get together with a friend and consider discussing the following:

- What has motherhood taught you about love?
- What has marriage taught you about love?
- What has homeschooling taught you about love?
- When do you most feel God's love?
- Who has loved you well in your life?
- How did your parents show their love for you?
- In what ways do you love others well?
- In what ways do you wish you could love others better?
- In what ways do others love you well?
- In what ways do you wish others would love you better?

# Love Never Fails

## Sext



**Spend 30-60 minutes listening to or reading one or more of the options below and reflecting on the questions that follow.**

### **Song**

“The Way You Love Me” by Matt Maher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5fnW7-UNTQ>

### **Videos**

“The Way of Love” by Dr. Brant Pitre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4je5UPqnl&t=59s>

“Why God Loves You” by Fr. Mike Schmitz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52Vm3YTDQ0s>

### **Articles**

“Love Never Fails” by Jennifer Wilson

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/spirituality/my-ring-told-me-love-never-fails>

“The Paradise of God is the Heart of Man” by St. Alphonsus Liguori

[https://www.vatican.va/spirit/documents/spirit\\_20010717\\_alfonso-liguori\\_en.html](https://www.vatican.va/spirit/documents/spirit_20010717_alfonso-liguori_en.html)

“God’s Love Is Effective!” by Douglas Bushman

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/gods-love-is-effective>

- What is love? Come up with an answer for this question you could give each of your children at their current ages and an answer for yourself.
- How strong are you in these virtues: hope, trust, and perseverance?
- What can you do to talk to God more often, whether alone or with others?
- Reflect on how you have been changed by divine love and identify proof that His love has changed you.
- What does it mean to you to say Love Never Fails?

# Love Never Fails

## *None*



**Spend 30-60 minutes doing something to spoil yourself (just a little).**

You get to choose! The possibilities are endless! You have my permission and my insistence that you do some self-care. Here are a few suggestions:

- Eat a nice meal alone.
- Paint your nails.
- Read a book.
- Go for a walk.
- Pray a Rosary.
- Enjoy a hot bath.
- Take a nap.
- Write a letter.
- Do some sewing or knitting.
- Something else you love!

# Love Never Fails

## *Vespers*



**Spend 30-60 minutes listening to or reading one or more of the options below and reflecting on the questions that follow.**

### **Song**

“Mother of Fair Love” by Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cy1c4RtkMS8>

### **Video/Audio**

“How to Love Others As Christ Loves Us” by Fr. Tim Graff

<https://relevantradio.com/2019/05/how-to-love-others-as-christ-loves-us/>

“How Do You Love” by Mother Angelica

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMl7FllfrK4>

### **Articles**

“Loving Our Children with the Heart of God” by Barbara Padolina

<https://catholicstand.com/loving-our-children-with-the-heart-of-god/>

“15 Simple Ways to Express Love for Others” by Catholic.net Staff

<https://catholic.net/op/articles/5427/cat/1278/15-simple-ways-to-express-love-for-others.html>

“Three Ways to Love Our Friends as Jesus Loves Us” by Fr. Hugh Barbour, O. Praem.

<https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/three-ways-to-love-as-jesus-did>

- In what ways is Mary a perfect example of love?
- Reflect on your personal strengths and struggles when it comes to loving others.
- What have you learned from failing at loving God and loving others?
- When do you need to most remember that Love Never Fails?
- Imagine several scenarios when choosing love is the best option and think of how you will rely on God’s love to love the people around you in those moments.



# Love Never Fails

## *Compline*



**Spend 30-60 minutes prayerfully reflecting on the following.**

### *The Living Flame of Love*

by St John of the Cross

1. O living flame of love  
that tenderly wounds my soul  
in its deepest center! Since  
now you are not oppressive,  
now consummate! if it be your will:  
tear through the veil of this sweet encounter!

2. O sweet cautery,  
O delightful wound!  
O gentle hand! O delicate touch  
that tastes of eternal life  
and pays every debt!  
In killing you changed death to life.

3. O lamps of fire!  
in whose splendors  
the deep caverns of feeling,  
once obscure and blind,  
now give forth, so rarely, so exquisitely,  
both warmth and light to their Beloved.

4. How gently and lovingly  
you wake in my heart,  
where in secret you dwell alone;  
and in your sweet breathing,  
filled with good and glory,  
how tenderly you swell my heart with love.

## Suggested Next Steps



1. [Send an email to Jenny](#) and share what inspired you from this retreat!
2. Share this retreat guide with a friend by sending her to <https://www.heartofamother.net/shop/>
3. Put another **Busy Moms' Retreat** on your calendar for whenever you choose and designate a place in your planner to list resources you could use to help you in prayer and reflection that day!
4. Sign up for Jenny's email newsletter to find out when the next **Busy Moms' Retreat** comes out!  
<https://www.heartofamother.net/be-encouraged/>
5. Consider turning this, or another **Busy Moms' Retreat**, into an in-person Day of Grace retreat for moms by grabbing Jenny's guide!  
<https://www.heartofamother.net/shop/how-to-turn-a-busy-moms-retreat-guide-into-a-day-retreat-for-moms/>
6. Pick up one of these books to continue the theme of this retreat beyond these pages:
  - *Mother Love: A Manual for Christian Mothers* by Fr. Pius Franciscus
  - *Love Unveiled: The Catholic Faith Explained* by Edward Sri
  - *Love Never Fails: Living the Catholic Faith in Our Daily Lives* by Bishop Donald Hying
  - *The Living Flame of Love* by St. John of the Cross
  - *Treatise on the Love of God* by St. Francis de Sales  
free: <https://www.catholicspiritualdirection.org/treatiseloveofgod.pdf>