



TOTAL
CONSECRATION
TO JESUS THROUGH MARY

ST. LOUIS-MARIE DE MONTFORT

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Additional Excerpts from:

- *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis, translated by Rev. William Benham, Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 1995.
- *True Devotion to Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, 2016.
- *The Secret of Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, eCatholic, 2000.
- *New American Bible Revised Edition*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2011.
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Begin the 33-Day Preparation for Consecration

NOW BEGINS THE 33-DAY PERIOD OF EXERCISES. St. Louis-Marie breaks these days into sections of days, each section having its own prayers, and each particular day having its own brief readings with which to fill the mind for that day (the readings come from Sacred Scripture, "The Imitation of Christ," and "True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary"). Don't just read the readings, internalize them; don't let your lips just mouth the prayers, truly pray them.

First comes a 12-day preparation period that consists of emptying oneself of the spirit of the world in penance and mortification. For those 12 days, we pray the Veni Creator, the Ave Maris Stella, the Magnificat, and the Glory Be. Then follow 3 weeks, each week having a specific focus.

The first week focuses on offering up our prayers and devotions for the purpose of coming to understand ourselves and our sins; humility is the key, and the prayers the Litany of the Holy Ghost, the Litany of Loreto, and the Ave Maris Stella help us.

During the second week, we ask the Holy Ghost to help us better understand the Blessed Virgin; we pray the Litany of the Holy Ghost, the Litany of Loreto, the Ave Maris Stellis, the prayer to Mary by St. Louis-Marie, and 5 decades of the Holy Rosary each day for assistance.

During the third week, we seek to better understand Christ through meditation and the Litany of the Holy Ghost, the Ave Maris Stella, and the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus, Montfort's prayer to Jesus, and the prayer O Jesus Living in Mary.

PART I

TWELVE PRELIMINARY DAYS:

SPIRIT OF THE WORLD

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE 12 DAY PREPARATION is to cleanse oneself of the spirit of the world. The spirit of the world opposes that of Jesus Christ, and that of Mary. The spirit of the world is what we inherited as a result of original sin: a darkened intellect and weakened will. Thus we must practice renouncement of our own will, through mortification and supported by prayer and examination of conscience, so that we might overcome the snares of the devil who makes sin alluring.

Day 1 of 33 | Reading: Matthew 5:1-19

WHEN HE SAW THE CROWDS, Jesus went up the mountain, and after sitting down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Jesus continued, saying, "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a

lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

He then taught about the law, saying, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Reflection

Examine your conscience, pray, practice renouncement of your own will; mortification, purity of heart. This purity is the indispensable condition for contemplating God in heaven, to see Him on earth and to know Him by the light of faith. The first part of the preparation should be employed in casting off the spirit of the world which is contrary to that of Jesus Christ. The spirit of the world consists essentially in the denial of the supreme dominion of God; a denial which is manifested in practice by sin and disobedience; thus it is principally opposed to the spirit of Christ, which is also that of Mary.

It manifests itself by the concupiscence of the flesh, by the concupiscence of the eyes and by the pride of life, and by disobedience to God's laws and the abuse of created things. Its works are: sin in all forms, then all else by which the devil leads to sin; works which bring error and darkness to the mind, and seduction and corruption to the will. Its pomps are the splendor and the charms employed by the devil to render sin alluring in persons, places and things.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period:
the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be
(see Appendix).

Day 2 of 33 | Reading: Matthew 5:48; 6:1-15

SO BE PERFECT, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period:
the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be
(see Appendix).

Day 3 of 33 | Reading: Matthew 7:1-14

STOP JUDGING, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove that splinter from your eye,' while the

wooden beam is in your eye? You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye.

Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him?

Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets. Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

Day 4 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 3, Chapters 7 and 40

LORD, what is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You visit him? What has man deserved that You should give him Your grace? What cause have I, Lord, to complain if You desert me, or what objection can I have if You do not do what I ask? This I may think and say in all truth: "Lord, I am nothing, of myself I have nothing that is good; I am lacking in all things, and I am ever tending toward nothing. And unless I have Your help and am inwardly strengthened by You, I become quite lukewarm and lax." But You, Lord, are always the same. You remain forever, always good, just, and holy; doing all things rightly, justly, and holily, disposing them wisely.

I, however, who am more ready to go backward than forward, do not remain always in one state, for I change with the seasons. Yet my condition quickly improves when it pleases

You and when You reach forth Your helping hand. For You alone, without human aid, can help me and strengthen me so greatly that my heart shall no more change but be converted and rest solely in You.

He who wishes to be too secure in time of peace will often become too dejected and fearful in time of trial. If you were wise enough to remain always humble and small in your own eyes, and to restrain and rule your spirit well, you would not fall so quickly into danger and offense. When a spirit of fervor is enkindled within you, you may well meditate on how you will feel when the fervor leaves. Then, when this happens, remember that the light which I have withdrawn for a time as a warning to you and for My own glory may again return.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

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Day 5 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 3, Chapter 40

HENCE, if I knew well how to cast aside all earthly consolation, either to attain devotion or because of the necessity which, in the absence of human solace, compels me to seek You alone, then I could deservedly hope for Your grace and rejoice in the gift of new consolation. Thanks be to You from Whom all things come, whenever it is well with me. In Your sight I am vanity and nothingness, a weak, unstable man. In what, therefore, can I glory, and how can I wish to be highly regarded? Is it because I am nothing?

This, too, is utterly vain. Indeed, the greatest vanity is the evil plague of empty self-glory, because it draws one away from true glory and robs one of heavenly grace. For when a man is pleased with himself he displeases You, when he pants after human praise he is deprived of true virtue. But it is true glory and holy exultation to glory in You and not in self, to rejoice in Your name rather than in one's own virtue, and not to delight in any creature except for Your sake. Let Your name, not mine, be praised. Let Your work, not mine, be magnified. Let Your holy name be blessed, but let no human praise be given to me. You are my glory. You are the joy of my heart. In You I will glory and rejoice all the day, and for myself I will glory in nothing but my infirmities.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

Day 6 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 1, Chapter 18

CONSIDER the lively examples set us by the saints, who possessed the light of true perfection and religion, and you will see how little, how nearly nothing, we do. What, alas, 24 is our life, compared with theirs? The saints and friends of Christ served the Lord in hunger and thirst, in cold and nakedness, in work and fatigue, in vigils and fasts, in prayers and holy meditations, in persecutions and many afflictions. How many and severe were the trials they suffered—the Apostles, martyrs, confessors, virgins, and all the rest who willed to follow in the footsteps of Christ! They hated their lives on earth that they might have life in eternity.

How strict and detached were the lives the holy hermits led in the desert! What long and grave temptations they suffered! How often were they beset by the enemy! What frequent and ardent prayers they offered to God! What rigorous fasts they observed! How great their zeal and their love for spiritual perfection! How brave the fight they waged to master their evil habits! What pure and straightforward purpose they showed toward God! By day they labored and by night they spent themselves in long prayers. Even at work they did not cease from mental prayer. They used all their time profitably; every hour seemed too short for serving God, and in the great sweetness of contemplation, they forgot even their bodily needs.

They renounced all riches, dignities, honors, friends, and associates. They desired nothing of the world. They scarcely allowed themselves the necessities of life, and the service of the body, even when necessary, was irksome to them. They were poor in earthly things 25 but rich in grace and virtue.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

Day 7 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 1, Chapter 18, cont.

OUTWARDLY DESTITUTE, inwardly they were full of grace and divine consolation. Strangers to the world, they were close and intimate friends of God. To themselves they seemed as nothing, and they were despised by the world, but in the eyes of God they were precious and beloved. They lived in true humility and simple obedience; they walked in charity and patience, making progress daily on the pathway of spiritual life and obtaining great favor with God.

They were given as an example for all religious, and their power to stimulate us to perfection ought to be greater than that of the lukewarm to tempt us to laxity.

How great was the fervor of all religious in the beginning of their holy institution! How great their devotion in prayer and their rivalry for virtue! What splendid discipline flourished among them! What great reverence and obedience in all things under the rule of a superior! The footsteps they left behind still bear witness that they indeed were holy and perfect men who fought bravely and conquered the world.

Today, he who is not a transgressor and who can bear patiently the duties which he has taken upon himself is considered great. How lukewarm and negligent we are! We lose our original fervor very quickly and we even become weary of life from laziness! Do not you, who have seen so many examples of the devout, fall asleep in the pursuit of virtue!

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

Day 8 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 1, Chapter 13

SO LONG as we live in this world we cannot escape suffering and temptation. Whence it is written in Job: "The life of man upon earth is a warfare." Everyone, therefore, must guard against temptation and must watch in prayer lest the devil, who never sleeps but

goes about seeking whom he may devour, find occasion to deceive him. No one is so perfect or so holy but he is sometimes tempted; man cannot be altogether free from temptation.

Yet temptations, though troublesome and severe, are often useful to a man, for in them he is humbled, purified, and instructed. The saints all passed through many temptations and trials to profit by them, while those who could not resist became reprobate and fell away. There is no state so holy, no place so secret that temptations and trials will not come. Man is never safe from them as long as he lives, for they come from within us—in sin we were born. When one temptation or trial passes, another comes; we shall always have something to suffer because we have lost the state of original blessedness.

Many people try to escape temptations, only to fall more deeply. We cannot conquer simply by fleeing, but by patience and true humility we become stronger than all our enemies. The man who only shuns temptations outwardly and does not uproot them will make little progress; indeed they will quickly return, more violent than before.

Little by little, in patience and long-suffering you will overcome them, by the help of God rather than by severity and your own rash ways. Often take counsel when tempted; and do not be harsh with others who are tempted, but console them as you yourself would wish to be consoled.

The beginning of all temptation lies in a wavering mind and little trust in God, for as a rudderless ship is driven hither and yon by waves, so a careless and irresolute man is tempted in many ways.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

Day 9 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 1, Chapter 13

FIRE TEMPERS IRON and temptation steels the just. Often we do not know what we can stand, but temptation shows us what we are.

Above all, we must be especially alert against the beginnings of temptation, for the enemy is more easily conquered if he is refused admittance to the mind and is met beyond the threshold when he knocks.

Someone has said very aptly: “Resist the beginnings; remedies come too late, when by long delay the evil has gained strength.” First, a mere thought comes to mind, then strong imagination, followed by pleasure, evil delight, and consent. Thus, because he is not resisted in the beginning, Satan gains full entry. And the longer a man delays in resisting, so much the weaker does he become each day, while the strength of the enemy grows against him.

Some suffer great temptations in the beginning of their conversion, others toward the end, while some are troubled almost constantly throughout their life. Others, again, are tempted but lightly according to the wisdom and justice of Divine Providence Who weighs the status and merit of each and prepares all for the salvation of His elect.

We should not despair, therefore, when we are tempted, but pray to God the more fervently that He may see fit to help us, for according to the word of Paul, He will make issue with temptation that we may be able to bear it. Let us humble our souls under the hand of God in every trial and temptation for He will save and exalt the humble in spirit.

In temptations and trials the progress of a man is measured; in them opportunity for merit and virtue is made more manifest.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

Day 10 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 3, Chapter 10

NOW AGAIN I WILL SPEAK, Lord, and will not be silent. I will speak to the hearing of my God, my Lord, and my King Who is in heaven. How great, O Lord, is the multitude of Your mercies which You have stored up for those who love You. But what are You to those who love You? What are You to those who serve You with their whole heart?

Truly beyond the power of words is the sweetness of contemplation You give to those who love You. To me You have shown the sweetness of Your charity, especially in having made me when I did not exist, in having brought me back to serve You when I had gone far astray from You, in having commanded me to love You.

O Fountain of unceasing love, what shall I say of You? How can I forget You, Who have been pleased to remember me even after I had wasted away and perished? You have shown mercy to Your servant beyond all hope, and have exhibited grace and friendship beyond his deserving.

What return shall I make to You for this grace? For it is not given every man to forsake all things, to renounce the world, and undertake the religious life. Is it anything great that I should serve You Whom every creature is bound to serve? It should not seem much to me; instead it should appear great and wonderful that You condescend to receive into Your service one who is so poor and unworthy.

It is a great honor, a great glory to serve You and to despise all things for Your sake. They who give themselves gladly to Your most holy service will possess great grace. They who cast aside all carnal delights for Your love will find the most sweet consolation of the Holy Ghost.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

Day 11 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 1, Chapter 25

ONE DAY WHEN A CERTAIN MAN who wavered often and anxiously between hope and fear was struck with sadness, he knelt in humble prayer before the altar of a church. While meditating on these things, he said: “Oh if I but knew whether I should persevere to the end!” Instantly he heard within the divine answer: “If you knew this, what would you do? Do now what you would do then and you will be quite secure.” Immediately consoled and comforted, he resigned himself to the divine will and the anxious uncertainty ceased.

His curiosity no longer sought to know what the future held for him, and he tried instead to find the perfect, the acceptable will of God in the beginning and end of every good work.

“Trust thou in the Lord and do good,” says the Prophet; “dwell in the land and thou shalt feed on its riches.”

There is one thing that keeps many from zealously improving their lives, that is, dread of the difficulty, the toil of battle. Certainly they who try bravely to overcome the most difficult and unpleasant obstacles far outstrip others in the pursuit of virtue. A man makes the most progress and merits the most grace precisely in those matters wherein he gains the greatest victories over self and most mortifies his will. True, each one has his own difficulties to meet and conquer, but a diligent and sincere man will make greater progress even though he have more passions than one who is more even-tempered but less concerned about virtue.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

Day 12 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 1, Chapter 25

TWO THINGS particularly further improvement—to withdraw oneself forcibly from those vices to which nature is viciously inclined, and to work fervently for those graces which are most needed.

Study also to guard against and to overcome the faults which in others very frequently displease you. Make the best of every opportunity, so that if you see or hear good example you may be moved to imitate it. On the other hand, take care lest you be guilty of those things which you consider reprehensible, or if you have ever been guilty of them, try to correct yourself as soon as possible. As you see others, so they see you.

How pleasant and sweet to behold brethren fervent and devout, well-mannered and disciplined! How sad and painful to see them wandering in dissolution, not practicing the

things to which they are called! How hurtful it is to neglect the purpose of their vocation and to attend to what is not their business!

Remember the purpose you have undertaken, and keep in mind the image of the Crucified. Even though you may have walked for many years on the pathway to God, you may well be ashamed if, with the image of Christ before you, you do not try to make yourself still more like Him.

The religious who concerns himself intently and devoutly with our Lord's most holy life and passion will find there an abundance of all things useful and necessary for him. He need not seek for anything better than Jesus. If the Crucified should come to our hearts, how quickly and abundantly we would learn! A fervent and diligent man is ready for all things.

It is greater work to resist vices and passions than to sweat in physical toil. He who does not overcome small faults, shall fall little by little into greater ones. If you have spent the day profitably, you will always be happy at eventide. Watch over yourself, stir up yourself, warn yourself, and regardless of what becomes of others, do not neglect yourself. The more violence you do to yourself, the more progress you will make.

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat, and the Glory Be* (see Appendix).

END OF PART I

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PART II

FIRST WEEK (DAYS 13 TO 19): KNOWLEDGE OF SELF

BY PRAYING the Litany of Holy Spirit, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Ave Stella Maris daily, we pray for knowledge of self so as to know our sins and weakness. Humility is the key and renouncing our own will is required. All this should be performed at

the feet of Mary so that she can enlighten us, guide us and help us persevere without despair.

Day 13 of 33 | Reading: Luke 11:1-10

PRAYERS, examinations, reflection, acts of renouncing our own will, contrition for our sins, and contempt for ourselves—all performed at the feet of Mary—are our means of hope, for it is from her that we seek the light to know ourselves. It is near her that we will be able to measure the depth of our miseries without despairing.

We should dedicate all our pious actions to asking for self-knowledge and contrition for our sins, doing so with a spirit of piety. During this period, we should focus not so much on the opposition between the spirit of Jesus and ours, but rather on the miserable and humiliating state to which our sins have brought us. Moreover, since True Devotion is an easy, short, certain, and perfect way to attain union with Our Lord—a union that leads to Christlike perfection—we should seriously embark on this path, deeply convinced of our misery and helplessness. But how can we attain this without knowing ourselves?

Luke 11:1-10

He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,’ and he says in reply from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.’ I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves

because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.”

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?”

Recite the prayers for the 12-day preparatory period: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella* (see Appendix).

Day 14 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 3, Chapter 13

MY CHILD, he who attempts to escape obeying withdraws himself from grace.

Likewise he who seeks private benefits for himself loses those which are common to all. He who does not submit himself freely and willingly to his superior, shows that his flesh is not yet perfectly obedient but that it often rebels and murmurs against him.

Learn quickly, then, to submit yourself to your superior if you wish to conquer your own flesh. For the exterior enemy is more quickly overcome if the inner man is not laid waste. There is no more troublesome, no worse enemy of the soul than you yourself, if you are not in harmony with the spirit. It is absolutely necessary that you conceive a true contempt for yourself if you wish to be victorious over flesh and blood.

Because you still love yourself too inordinately, you are afraid to resign yourself wholly to the will of others. Is it such a great matter if you, who are but dust and nothingness, subject yourself to man for the sake of God, when I, the All-Powerful, the Most High, Who created all things out of nothing, humbly subjected Myself to man for your sake? I became the most humble and the lowest of all men that you might overcome your pride with My humility.

Learn to obey, you who are but dust! Learn to humble yourself, you who are but earth and clay, and bow down under the foot of every man! Learn to break your own will, to submit to all subjection!

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella* (see Appendix).

Day 15 of 33 | Reading 1: Luke 13:1-5

AT THAT TIME some people who were present there told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. He said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

Reading 2: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 81 and 82

IN ORDER TO EMPTY ourselves of self, we must die daily to ourselves. This involves our renouncing what the powers of the soul and the senses of the body incline us to do. We must see as if we did not see, hear as if we did not hear and use the things of this world as if we did not use them. This is what St. Paul calls "dying daily". Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain and does not bear any good fruit. If we do not die to self and if our holiest devotions do not lead us to this necessary and fruitful death, we shall not bear fruit of any worth and our devotions will cease to be profitable. All our good works will be tainted by self-love and self-will so that our greatest sacrifices and our best actions will be unacceptable to God. Consequently when we come to die we shall find ourselves devoid of virtue and merit and discover that we do not possess even one spark of that pure love which God shares only with those who have died to themselves and whose life is hidden with Jesus Christ in him.

We must choose among all the devotions to the Blessed Virgin the one which will lead us more surely to this dying to self. This devotion will be the best and the most sanctifying for us. For we must not believe that all that glitters is gold, all that is sweet is honey, or all that is easy to do and is done by the majority of people is the most sanctifying. Just as in nature there are secrets enabling us to do certain natural things quickly, easily and at little cost, so in the spiritual life there are secrets which enable us to perform works rapidly, smoothly and with facility. Such works are, for example, emptying ourselves of self-love, filling ourselves with God, and attaining perfection. The devotion that I propose to explain is one of these secrets of grace, for it is unknown to most Christians. Only a few devout people know of it and it is practiced and appreciated by fewer still.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella* (see Appendix).

Day 16 of 33 | Reading 1: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, No. 228

DURING THE FIRST WEEK they should offer up all their prayers and acts of devotion to acquire knowledge of themselves and sorrow for their sins. Let them perform all their actions in a spirit of humility. With this end in view they may, if they wish, meditate on what I have said concerning our corrupted nature, and consider themselves during six days of the week as nothing but sails, slugs, toads, swine, snakes and goats. Or else they may meditate on the following three considerations of St. Bernard: "Remember what you were—corrupted seed; what you are—a body destined for decay; what you will be—food for worms." They will ask our Lord and the Holy Spirit to enlighten them saying, "Lord, that I may see," or "Lord, let me know myself," or the "Come, Holy Spirit". Every day they should say the Litany of the Holy Spirit, with the prayer that follows, as indicated in the first part of this work. They will turn to our Blessed Lady and beg her to obtain for them that great grace which is the foundation of all others, the grace of self-knowledge. For this intention they will say each day the Ave Maris Stella and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin.

Reading 2: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis

Book 2, Chapter 5

WE MUST not rely too much upon ourselves, for grace and understanding are often lacking in us. We have but little inborn light, and this we quickly lose through negligence. Often we are not aware that we are so blind in heart. Meanwhile we do wrong, and then do worse in excusing it. At times we are moved by passion, and we think it zeal. We take others to task for small mistakes, and overlook greater ones in ourselves. We are quick enough to feel and brood over the things we suffer from others, but we think nothing of how much others suffer from us. If a man would weigh his own deeds fully and rightly, he would find little cause to pass severe judgment on others.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella* (see Appendix).

Day 17 of 33 | Reading 1: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis

Book 1, Chapter 24

IN ALL things consider the end; how you shall stand before the strict Judge from Whom nothing is hidden and Who will pronounce judgment in all justice, accepting neither bribes nor excuses. And you, miserable and wretched sinner, who fear even the countenance of an angry man, what answer will you make to the God Who knows all your sins? Why do you not provide for yourself against the day of judgment when no man can be excused or defended by another because each will have enough to do to answer for himself?

Reading 2: Luke 16:1-8

THEN HE ALSO SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, “A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, ‘What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.’ The steward said to himself, ‘What shall I do now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome

me into their homes.’ He called in his master’s debtors one by one. To the first, he said, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He replied, ‘One hundred measures of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.’ Then to another, he said, ‘And you, how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘One hundred kors of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.’ And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.”

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella* (see Appendix).

Day 18 of 33 | Reading 1: Luke 17:1-10

[On Leading Others Astray]

HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, “Things that cause sin will inevitably occur, but woe to the person through whom they occur. It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he be thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.

[On Fraternal Correction]

Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he wrongs you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times saying, ‘I am sorry,’ you should forgive him.”

[The Power of Faith]

And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” The Lord replied, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to [this] mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

[Humble Service]

“Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here immediately and take your place at table’? Would he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished’? Is he grateful to that

servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.’”

Reading 2: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis

Book 1, Chapter 24

MY CHILD, do not let the labors which you have taken up for My sake break you, and do not let troubles, from whatever source, cast you down; but in everything let My promise strengthen and console you. I am able to reward you beyond all means and measure. You will not labor here long, nor will you always be oppressed by sorrows. Wait a little while and you will see a speedy end of evils

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella* (see Appendix).

Day 19 of 33 | Reading: Luke 18:15-30

[Jesus and the Children]

PEOPLE WERE BRINGING even infants to him that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. Jesus, however, called the children to himself and said, “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.”

[The Rich Aristocrat]

An official asked him this question, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother.’” And he replied, “All of these I have observed from my youth.” When Jesus heard this he said to him, “There is still one thing left for you: sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will

have a treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” But when he heard this he became quite sad, for he was very rich.

[The Danger of Riches]

Jesus looked at him [now sad] and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” Those who heard this said, “Then who can be saved?” And he said, “What is impossible for human beings is possible for God.”

[The Reward of Renunciation]

Then Peter said, “We have given up our possessions and followed you.” He said to them, “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not receive [back] an overabundant return in this present age and eternal life in the age to come.”

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit*, *Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, and *Ave Maris Stella* (see Appendix).

END OF PART II

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PART III

SECOND WEEK (DAYS 20 TO 26):

KNOWLEDGE OF MARY

BY PRAYING THE *Litany of the Holy Spirit*, the *Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, the *Ave Maris Stella*, the *St. Louis De Montfort's Prayer to Mary*, and the *Holy Rosary* daily, we pray for knowledge of Mary. Using reflections from the Gospels and the True Devotion books, we wish to learn how to imitate her virtues especially her profound humility, her faith, her obedience, her continual mental prayer, her purity, her mortification, her charity, her patience, her angelic sweetness and her divine wisdom. We pray to offer Jesus all our actions and prayers with Mary, through Mary, for Mary, and in Mary.

Day 20 of 33 | Knowledge of the Blessed Virgin Mary

ACTS OF LOVE, pious affection for the Blessed Virgin, imitation of her virtues—especially her profound humility, lively faith, blind obedience, continual mental prayer, mortification in all things, surpassing purity, ardent charity, heroic patience, angelic sweetness, and divine wisdom—"there being," as St. Louis de Montfort says, "the ten principal virtues of the Blessed Virgin."

We must unite ourselves to Jesus through Mary, for this is the characteristic of our devotion. Therefore, St. Louis de Montfort asks that we strive to acquire a deeper knowledge of the Blessed Virgin.

Mary is our sovereign and mediatrix, our Mother and our Mistress. Let us, then, endeavor to understand the effects of her royalty, mediation, and maternity, as well as the grandeurs and prerogatives that are the foundation or consequences thereof. Our Mother is also a perfect mold in which we are to be shaped, so that we may make her intentions and dispositions our own. This can only be achieved by studying the interior life of Mary—her virtues, sentiments, actions, participation in the mysteries of Christ, and her union with Him.

Reading 2: Luke 2:15-21; 41-52

WHEN THE ANGELS WENT AWAY FROM THEM to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and the Rosary* (see Appendix).

Day 21 of 33 | Reading: *The Secret of Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 23-29

IF WE WOULD GO UP TO HIM and be united with Him, we must use the same means He used to come down to us, to be made man and to impart His graces to us. That means is a true devotion to our Blessed Lady. There are several true devotions to Our Lady: here I do not speak of those that are false.

The first consists in fulfilling our Christian duties, avoiding mortal sin, acting more out of love than fear, praying to Our Lady now and then, honoring her as the Mother of God, yet without having any special devotion to her.

The second consists in entertaining for Our Lady more perfect feelings of esteem and love, of confidence and veneration. It leads us to join the Confraternities of the Holy Rosary

and of the Scapular, to recite the five decades or the fifteen decades of the Rosary, to honor Mary's images and altars, to publish her praises and to enroll ourselves in her sodalities. This devotion is good, holy and praiseworthy, if we keep ourselves free from sin; but it is not so perfect as the next, nor so efficient in severing our soul from creatures or in detaching us from ourselves, in order to be united with Jesus Christ.

The third devotion to Our Lady, known and practiced by very few persons, is the one I am now about to disclose to you, predestinate soul. It consists in giving oneself entirely and as a slave to Mary, and to Jesus through Mary; and after that to do all that we do, with Mary, in Mary, through Mary and for Mary. I shall now explain these words.

We should choose a special feast-day on which to give, consecrate and sacrifice to Mary voluntarily, lovingly and without constraint, entirely and without reserve: our body and soul, our exterior property, such as house, family and income; and also our interior and spiritual possessions; namely, our merits, graces, virtues and satisfactions.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and the Rosary* (see Appendix).

Day 22 of 33 | Reading: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 106-110

FIRST, true devotion to our Lady is interior, that is, it comes from within the mind and the heart and follows from the esteem in which we hold her, the high regard we have for her greatness, and the love we bear her.

Second, it is trustful, that is to say, it fills us with confidence in the Blessed Virgin, the confidence that a child has for its loving Mother. It prompts us to go to her in every need of body and soul with great simplicity, trust, and affection. We implore our Mother's help always, everywhere, and for everything. We pray to her to be enlightened in our doubts, to be put back on the right path when we go astray, to be protected when we are tempted, to be strengthened when we are weakening, to be lifted up when we fall into sin, to be encouraged when we are losing heart, to be rid of our scruples, to be consoled in the trials,

crosses, and disappointments of life. Finally, in all our afflictions of body and soul, we naturally turn to Mary for help, with never a fear of importuning her or displeasing our Lord.

Third, true devotion to our Lady is holy, that is, it leads us to avoid sin and to imitate the virtues of Mary. Her ten principal virtues are: deep humility, lively faith, blind obedience, unceasing prayer, constant self-denial, surpassing purity, ardent love, heroic patience, angelic kindness, and heavenly wisdom.

Fourth, true devotion to our Lady is constant. It strengthens us in our desire to do good and prevents us from giving up our devotional practices too easily. It gives us the courage to oppose the fashions and maxims of the world, the vexations and unruly inclinations of the flesh, and the temptations of the devil. Thus a person truly devoted to our Blessed Lady is not changeable, fretful, scrupulous, or timid. We do not say however that such a person never sins or that his sensible feelings of devotion never change. When he has fallen, he stretches out his hand to his Blessed Mother and rises again. If he loses all taste and feeling for devotion, he is not at all upset because a good and faithful servant of Mary is guided in his life by faith in Jesus and Mary, and not by feelings.

Fifth, true devotion to Mary is disinterested. It inspires us to seek God alone in his Blessed Mother and not ourselves. The true subject of Mary does not serve his illustrious Queen for selfish gain. He does not serve her for temporal or eternal well-being but simply and solely because she has the right to be served and God alone in her. He loves her not so much because she is good to him or because he expects something from her, but simply because she is lovable. That is why he loves and serves her just as faithfully in weariness and dryness of soul as in sweet and sensible fervor. He loves her as much on Calvary as at Cana. How pleasing and precious in the sight of God and his holy Mother must these servants of Mary be, who serve her without any self-seeking. How rare they are nowadays!

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and the Rosary* (see Appendix).

Day 23 of 33 | Reading: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 120-121

AS ALL PERFECTION consists in our being conformed, united, and consecrated to Jesus, it naturally follows that the most perfect of all devotions is that which conforms, unites, and consecrates us most completely to Jesus. Now, of all God's creatures, Mary is the most conformed to Jesus. It therefore follows that, of all devotions, devotion to her makes for the most effective consecration and conformity to Him. The more one is consecrated to Mary, the more one is consecrated to Jesus.

That is why perfect consecration to Jesus is but a perfect and complete consecration of oneself to the Blessed Virgin, which is the devotion I teach; or, in other words, it is the perfect renewal of the vows and promises of holy baptism.

This devotion consists in giving oneself entirely to Mary in order to belong entirely to Jesus through her. It requires us to give:

1. Our body with its senses and members;
2. Our soul with its faculties;
3. Our present material possessions and all we shall acquire in the future;
4. Our interior and spiritual possessions, that is, our merits, virtues, and good actions of the past, the present, and the future.

In other words, we give her all that we possess both in our natural life and in our spiritual life, as well as everything we shall acquire in the future in the order of nature, of grace, and of glory in heaven. This we do without any reservation, not even of a penny, a hair, or the smallest good deed. And we give for all eternity without claiming or expecting, in return for our offering and our service, any other reward than the honor of belonging to our Lord through Mary and in Mary, even though our Mother were not—as in fact she always is—the most generous and appreciative of all God's creatures.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and the Rosary* (see Appendix).

Day 24 of 33 | Reading: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 152-164

This devotion is a smooth, short, perfect, and sure way of attaining union with our Lord, in which Christian perfection consists.

(1) This devotion is a smooth way. It is the path which Jesus Christ opened up in coming to us, and in which there is no obstruction to prevent us from reaching him. It is true that we can attain divine union by other roads, but these involve many more crosses, exceptional setbacks, and difficulties that we cannot easily overcome.

(2) This devotion is a short way to discover Jesus, either because it is a road we do not wander from, or because, as we have just said, we walk along this road with greater ease and joy, and consequently with greater speed. We advance more in a brief period of submission to Mary and dependence on her than in whole years of self-will and self-reliance.

(3) This devotion is a perfect way to reach our Lord and be united to him, for Mary is the most perfect and most holy of all creatures, and Jesus, who came to us in a perfect manner, chose no other road for his great and wonderful journey. The Most High, the Incomprehensible One, the Inaccessible One, He who is, deigned to come down to us, poor earthly creatures who are nothing at all. How was this done? The Most High God came down to us in a perfect way through the humble Virgin Mary, without losing anything of his divinity or holiness. It is likewise through Mary that we poor creatures must ascend to Almighty God in a perfect manner without having anything to fear.

(4) This devotion to our Lady is a sure way to go to Jesus and acquire holiness through union with him. The devotion which I teach is not new. Indeed, it could not be condemned without throwing the foundations of Christianity. It is obvious, then, that this devotion is not new. If it is not commonly practiced, the reason is that it is too sublime to be appreciated and undertaken by everyone. This devotion is a safe means of going to Jesus

Christ, because it is Mary's role to lead us safely to her Son, just as it is the role of our Lord to lead us to the eternal Father.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and the Rosary* (see Appendix).

**Day 25 of 33 | Reading: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*
by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 213-222**

MY DEAR FRIEND, be sure that if you remain faithful to the interior and exterior practices of this devotion which I will point out, the following effects will be produced in your soul:

[Knowledge of our unworthiness]

By the light which the Holy Spirit will give you through Mary, his faithful spouse, you will perceive the evil inclinations of your fallen nature and how incapable you are of any good. Finally, the humble Virgin Mary will share her humility with you so that, although you regard yourself with distaste and desire to be disregarded by others, you will not look down slightly upon anyone.

[A share in Mary's faith]

Mary will share her faith with you. Her faith on earth was stronger than that of all the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and saints.

[The gift of pure love]

The Mother of fair love will rid your heart of all scruples and inordinate servile fear.

[Great confidence in God and in Mary]

Our Blessed Lady will fill you with unbounded confidence in God and in herself: 1) Because you will no longer approach Jesus by yourself but always through Mary, your loving Mother.

[Communication of the spirit of Mary]

The soul of Mary will be communicated to you to glorify the Lord. Her spirit will take the place of yours to rejoice in God, her Savior, but only if you are faithful to the practices of this devotion.

[Transformation into the likeness of Jesus]

If Mary, the Tree of Life, is well cultivated in our soul by fidelity to this devotion, she will in due time bring forth her fruit, which is none other than Jesus.

[The greater glory of Christ]

If you live this devotion sincerely, you will give more glory to Jesus in a month than in many years of a more demanding devotion.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and the Rosary* (see Appendix).

Day 26 of 33 | Reading: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 12-15, 38

"IF YOU WISH TO UNDERSTAND THE MOTHER," says a saint, "then understand the Son. She is a worthy Mother of God." Hic taceat omnis lingua: Here let every tongue be silent. My heart has dictated with special joy all that I have written to show that Mary has been unknown up till now, and that that is one of the reasons why Jesus Christ is not known as he should be. If then, as is certain, the knowledge and the kingdom of Jesus Christ must come into the world, it can only be as a necessary consequence of the knowledge and reign of Mary. She who first gave him to the world will establish his kingdom in the world.

With the whole Church, I acknowledge that Mary, being a mere creature fashioned by the hands of God, is, compared to his infinite majesty, less than an atom, or rather is simply nothing, since he alone can say, "I am he who is." Consequently, this great Lord, who is ever independent and self-sufficient, never had and does not now have any absolute need of the Blessed Virgin for the accomplishment of his will and the manifestation of his glory. To do all things he has only to will them.

However, I declare that, considering things as they are, because God has decided to begin and accomplish his greatest works through the Blessed Virgin ever since he created her, we can safely believe that he will not change his plan in the time to come, for he is God and therefore does not change in his thoughts or his way of acting. Mary is the Queen of heaven and earth by grace as Jesus is king by nature and by conquest. But as the kingdom of Jesus Christ exists primarily in the heart or interior of man, according to the words of the Gospel, "The kingdom of God is within you," so the kingdom of the Blessed Virgin is principally in the interior of man, that is, in his soul. It is principally in souls that she is glorified with her Son more than in any visible creature. So we may call her, as the saints do, Queen of our hearts.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Ave Maris Stella, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and the Rosary* (see Appendix).

END OF PART III

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PART IV

THIRD WEEK (DAYS 27 TO 33): KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS

BY PRAYING THE *Litany of the Holy Spirit*, the *Ave Maris Stella*, the *Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus*, *St. Louis De Montfort's Prayer to Jesus*, and the prayer *O Jesus Living in Mary* daily, we pray for knowledge of Jesus. Using the Gospels and the *True Devotion* books, we wish to reflect on His grace and glory, and His sovereign dominion over us. We take Jesus as our Lord and Savior now, having renounced Satan and the world. We recall Jesus' exterior actions and also His interior life, such as the virtues of His Sacred Heart, His association with Mary in the Annunciation, His Incarnation, His infancy, the Wedding at Cana, the Last Supper, and Calvary, where He instituted the Eucharist to be with us always.

Day 27 of 33 | Reading 1: Knowledge of Jesus Christ

DURING THIS PERIOD we shall apply ourselves to the study of Jesus Christ. What is to be studied in Christ? First the God-Man, His grace and glory; then His rights to sovereign dominion over us; since, after having renounced Satan and the world, we have taken Jesus Christ for our Lord. What next shall be the object of our study? His exterior actions and also His interior life; namely, the virtues and acts of His Sacred Heart; His association with Mary in the mysteries of the Annunciation and Incarnation, during His infancy and hidden life, at the feast of Cana and on Calvary.

Reading 2: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 61-62

JESUS, OUR SAVIOR, TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN must be the ultimate end of all our other devotions; otherwise they would be false and misleading. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end of everything. "We labor," says St. Paul, "only to make all men perfect in Jesus Christ." For in him alone dwells the entire fullness of the divinity and the complete fullness of grace, virtue and perfection. In him alone we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing; he is the only teacher from whom we must learn; the only Lord on whom we should depend; the only Head to whom we should be united and the only model that we should imitate. He is the only Physician that can heal us; the only Shepherd that can feed us; the only Way that can lead us; the only Truth that we can believe; the only Life that can animate us. He alone is everything to us and he alone can satisfy all our desires. We are given no other name under heaven by which we can be saved. God has laid no other foundation for our salvation, perfection and glory than Jesus. Every edifice which is not built on that firm rock, is founded upon shifting sands and will certainly fall sooner or later. Through him, with him and in him, we can do all things and render all honor and glory to the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit; we can make ourselves perfect and be for our neighbor a fragrance of eternal life.

If then we are establishing sound devotion to our Blessed Lady, it is only in order to establish devotion to our Lord more perfectly, by providing a smooth but certain way of reaching Jesus Christ. If devotion to our Lady distracted us from our Lord, we would have to reject it as an illusion of the devil. But this is far from being the case. As I have already shown and will show again later on, this devotion is necessary simply and solely because it is a way of reaching Jesus perfectly, loving him tenderly, and serving him faithfully.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary* (see Appendix).

Day 28 of 33 | Reading: Matthew 26:1-2, 26-29, 36-46

WHEN JESUS FINISHED ALL THESE WORDS, he said to his disciples, "You know that in two days' time it will be Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father."

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be

done!" Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary* (see Appendix).

Day 29 of 33 | Reading: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 1, Chapter 1

"HE WHO follows Me, walks not in darkness," says the Lord (John 8:12). By these words of Christ, we are advised to imitate His life and habits if we wish to be truly enlightened and free from all blindness of heart. Let our chief effort, therefore, be to study the life of Jesus Christ.

The teaching of Christ is more excellent than all the advice of the saints, and he who has His spirit will find in it a hidden manna. Now, there are many who hear the Gospel often but care little for it because they have not the spirit of Christ. Yet, whoever wishes to understand fully the words of Christ must try to pattern his whole life on that of Christ.

What good does it do to speak learnedly about the Trinity if, lacking humility, you displease the Trinity? Indeed, it is not learning that makes a man holy and just, but a virtuous life makes him pleasing to God. I would rather feel contrition than know how to define it. For what would it profit us to know the whole Bible by heart and the principles of all the philosophers if we live without grace and the love of God?

Vanity of vanities, and all is vanity, except to love God and serve Him alone. This is the greatest wisdom—to seek the kingdom of heaven through contempt of the world.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary* (see Appendix).

Day 30 of 33 | Reading 1: Matthew 27:36-44

AFTER THEY HAD CRUCIFIED HIM, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, [and] come down from the cross!” Likewise, the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

Reading 2: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 2, Chapter 12

TO MANY, the saying, “Deny thyself, take up thy cross and follow Me,” seems hard, but it will be much harder to hear that final word: “Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire.” Those who hear the word of the cross and follow it willingly now, need not fear that they will hear of eternal damnation on the day of judgment. This sign of the cross will be in the heavens when the Lord comes to judge. Then all the servants of the cross, who during life made themselves one with the Crucified, will draw near with great trust to Christ, the judge.

Why, then, do you fear to take up the cross when through it you can win a kingdom? In the cross is salvation, in the cross is life, in the cross is protection from enemies, in the cross is infusion of heavenly sweetness, in the cross is strength of mind, in the cross is joy of spirit, in the cross is highest virtue, in the cross is perfect holiness. There is no salvation of soul nor hope of everlasting life but in the cross.

Take up your cross, therefore, and follow Jesus, and you shall enter eternal life. He Himself opened the way before you in carrying His cross, and upon it He died for you, that you, too, might take up your cross and long to die upon it. If you die with Him, you shall also live with Him, and if you share His suffering, you shall also share His glory.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary* (see Appendix).

Day 31 of 33 | Reading 1: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 4, Chapter 2

TRUSTING in Your goodness and great mercy, O Lord, I come as one sick to the Healer, as one hungry and thirsty to the Fountain of life, as one in need to the King of heaven, a servant to his Lord, a creature to his Creator, a soul in desolation to my gentle Comforter. But whence is this to me, that You should come to me? Who am I that You should offer Yourself to me?

How dares the sinner to appear in Your presence, and You, how do You condescend to come to the sinner? You know Your servant, and You know that he has nothing good in him that You should grant him this. I confess, therefore, my unworthiness. I acknowledge Your goodness. I praise Your mercy, and give thanks for Your immense love.

Reading 2: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 243, 245-246, and 249

LOVING SLAVES OF JESUS IN MARY should hold in high esteem devotion to Jesus, the Word of God, in the great mystery of the Incarnation, March 25th, which is the mystery proper to this devotion, because it was inspired by the Holy Spirit for the following reasons:

a. That we might honor and imitate the wondrous dependence which God the Son chose to have on Mary, for the glory of his Father and for the redemption of man.

This dependence is revealed especially in this mystery, where Jesus becomes a captive and slave in the womb of his Blessed Mother, depending on her for everything.

b. That we might thank God for the incomparable graces he has conferred upon Mary, and especially that of choosing her to be his most worthy Mother. This choice was made in the mystery of the Incarnation. These are the two principal ends of the slavery of Jesus in Mary.

Since we live in an age of pride when a great number of haughty scholars, with proud and critical minds, find fault even with long-established and sound devotions, it is better to speak of "slavery of Jesus in Mary" and to call oneself "slave of Jesus" rather than "slave of Mary." We then avoid giving any pretext for criticism. In this way, we name this devotion after its ultimate end, which is Jesus, rather than after the way and the means to arrive there, which is Mary. However, we can very well use either term without any scruple, as I myself do.

Since the principal mystery celebrated and honored in this devotion is the mystery of the Incarnation, where we find Jesus only in Mary, having become incarnate in her womb, it is appropriate for us to say, "slavery of Jesus in Mary," of Jesus dwelling enthroned in Mary, according to the beautiful prayer recited by so many great souls, "O Jesus living in Mary."

Those who accept this devotion should have a great love for the Hail Mary, or, as it is called, the Angelic Salutation. Few Christians, however enlightened, understand the value, merit, excellence, and necessity of the Hail Mary. Our Blessed Lady herself had to appear on several occasions to men of great holiness and insight, such as St. Dominic, St. John Capistran, and Blessed Alan de Rupe, to convince them of the richness of this prayer.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary* (see Appendix).

Day 32 of 33 | Reading 1: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 2, Chapter 7

TRUSTING in Your goodness and great mercy, O Lord, I come as one sick to the Healer, as one hungry and thirsty to the Fountain of life, as one in need to the King of heaven, a servant to his Lord, a creature to his Creator, a soul in desolation to my gentle

Comforter. But whence is this to me, that You should come to me? Who am I that You should offer Yourself to me?

How dares the sinner to appear in Your presence, and You, how do You condescend to come to the sinner? You know Your servant, and You know that he has nothing good in him that You should grant him this. I confess, therefore, my unworthiness. I acknowledge Your goodness. I praise Your mercy, and give thanks for Your immense love.

Reading 2: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 257-258 and 260

HERE ARE SOME VERY SANCTIFYING INTERIOR PRACTICES for those souls who feel called by the Holy Spirit to a high degree of perfection. They may be expressed in four words: doing everything through Mary, with Mary, in Mary, and for Mary, in order to do it more perfectly through Jesus, with Jesus, in Jesus, and for Jesus.

We must do everything through Mary. That is, we must obey her always and be led in all things by her spirit, which is the Holy Spirit of God. "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God," says St. Paul. Those who are led by the spirit of Mary are children of Mary and, consequently, children of God, as we have already shown. Among the many servants of Mary, only those who are truly and faithfully devoted to her are led by her spirit.

I have said that the spirit of Mary is the spirit of God because she was never led by her own spirit but always by the spirit of God, who made himself master of her to such an extent that he became her very spirit. That is why St. Ambrose says, "May the spirit of Mary be in each one of us to glorify the Lord. May the spirit of Mary be in each one of us to rejoice in God." Happy is the man who follows the example of the good Jesuit Brother Rodriguez, who died a holy death, because he will be completely possessed and governed by the spirit of Mary, a spirit which is gentle yet strong, zealous yet prudent, humble yet courageous, pure yet fruitful.

We must do everything with Mary. That is to say, in all our actions, we must look upon Mary, although a simple human being, as the perfect model of every virtue and

perfection, fashioned by the Holy Spirit for us to imitate, as far as our limited capacity allows. In every action, then, we should consider how Mary performed it or how she would perform it if she were in our place. For this reason, we must examine and meditate on the great virtues she practiced during her life, especially:

1. Her lively faith, by which she believed the angel's word without the least hesitation, and believed faithfully and constantly even to the foot of the Cross on Calvary.
2. Her deep humility, which made her prefer seclusion, maintain silence, submit to every eventuality, and put herself in the last place.
3. Her truly divine purity, which never had and never will have its equal on this side of heaven.

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary* (see Appendix).

Day 33 of 33 | Reading 1: *Imitation of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis Book 4, Chapter 11

O MOST SWEET LORD JESUS, how great is the happiness of the devout soul that feasts upon You at Your banquet, where there is set before her to be eaten no other food but Yourself alone, her only Lover, most desired of all that her heart can desire!

To me it would be happiness, indeed, to shed tears in Your presence from the innermost depths of love, and like the pious Magdalen, to wash Your feet with them. But where now is this devotion, this copious shedding of holy tears? Certainly, in Your sight, before Your holy angels, my whole heart ought to be inflamed and weep for joy. For, hidden though You are beneath another form, I have You truly present in the Sacrament.

My eyes could not bear to behold You in Your own divine brightness, nor could the whole world stand in the splendor of the glory of Your majesty. In veiling Yourself in the Sacrament, therefore, You have regard for my weakness.

In truth, I possess and adore Him Whom the angels adore in heaven—I as yet by faith, they face to face unveiled.

Reading 2: *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort, Nos. 261-262, 265

We must do everything in Mary. To understand this, we must realize that the Blessed Virgin is the true earthly paradise of the new Adam, and that the ancient paradise was only a symbol of her. In this earthly paradise are untold riches, beauties, rarities, and delights, which the new Adam, Jesus Christ, has left there. It is in this paradise that he "took his delights" for nine months, worked his wonders, and displayed his riches with the magnificence of God Himself. In this earthly paradise grows the real Tree of Life, which bore our Lord, the fruit of Life, the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which bore the Light of the world.

In this divine place, there are trees planted by the hand of God and watered by His divine unction, which have borne and continue to bear fruit that is pleasing to Him. Only the Holy Spirit can teach us the truths that these material objects symbolize. The Holy Spirit, speaking through the Fathers of the Church, also calls Our Lady the Eastern Gate, through which the High Priest, Jesus Christ, enters and goes out into the world. Through this gate, He entered the world the first time, and through this same gate, He will come the second time.

Finally, we must do everything for Mary. Since we have given ourselves completely to her service, it is only right that we should do everything for her, as if we were her personal servant and slave. This does not mean that we take her for the ultimate end, for Jesus alone is our ultimate end. But we take Mary for our proximate end, our mysterious intermediary, and the easiest way of reaching Him.

Like every good servant and slave, we must not remain idle. Relying on her protection, we should undertake and carry out great things for our noble Queen. We must defend her privileges when they are questioned and uphold her good name when it is under attack. We must attract everyone, if possible, to her service and to this true and sound devotion. We must speak up and denounce those who distort devotion to her by outraging her Son, and at

the same time, we must apply ourselves to spreading this true devotion. As a reward for these little services, we should expect nothing in return except the honor of belonging to such a lovable Queen and the joy of being united through her to Jesus, her Son, by a bond that is indissoluble in time and eternity.

Glory to Jesus in Mary! Glory to Mary in Jesus! Glory to God alone!

Recite these prayers: *Litany of the Holy Spirit, Ave Maris Stella, Litany of the Holy Name, St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary, and O Jesus Living In Mary* (see Appendix).

Day 34 | The Day of Consecration

ON THE DAY OF CONSECRATION, either fast, give alms, or offer a votive candle for the good of another (or all of the above); do some spiritual penance and approach consecration in the spirit of mortification.

Now go to Confession (or, if that is not possible, go during the 8 days prior) and then receive Communion with the intention of giving yourself to Jesus, as a slave of love, by the hands of Mary.

Now pray the words of the consecration. Copy them and have them with you at church. Read them after the Mass (in front of the tabernacle would be nice), and sign your copy of the Act of Consecration.

The Act of Consecration

O Eternal and incarnate Wisdom! O sweetest and most adorable Jesus!

True God and true man, only Son of the Eternal Father, and of Mary, always virgin! I adore Thee profoundly in the bosom and splendors of Thy Father during eternity; and I adore Thee also in the virginal bosom of Mary, Thy most worthy Mother, in the time of Thine incarnation.

I give Thee thanks for that Thou hast annihilated Thyself, taking the form of a slave in order to rescue me from the cruel slavery of the devil. I praise and glorify Thee for that Thou hast been pleased to submit Thyself to Mary, Thy holy Mother, in all things, in order

to make me Thy faithful slave through her. But, alas! Ungrateful and faithless as I have been, I have not kept the promises which I made so solemnly to Thee in my Baptism; I have not fulfilled my obligations; I do not deserve to be called Thy child, nor yet Thy slave; and as there is nothing in me which does not merit Thine anger and Thy repulse, I dare not come by myself before Thy most holy and august Majesty. It is on this account that I have recourse to the intercession of Thy most holy Mother, whom Thou hast given me for a mediatrix with Thee. It is through her that I hope to obtain of Thee contrition, the pardon of my sins, and the acquisition and preservation of wisdom.

Hail, then, O immaculate Mary, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the Eternal Wisdom willed to be hidden and to be adored by angels and by men! Hail, O Queen of Heaven and earth, to whose empire everything is subject which is under God. Hail, O sure refuge of sinners, whose mercy fails no one. Hear the desires which I have of the Divine Wisdom; and for that end receive the vows and offerings which in my lowliness I present to thee. I, N_____, a faithless sinner, renew and ratify today in thy hands the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works; and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before. In the presence of all the heavenly court I choose thee this day for my Mother and Mistress. I deliver and consecrate to thee, as thy slave, my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future; leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of me, and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God in time and in eternity.

Receive, O benignant Virgin, this little offering of my slavery, in honor of, and in union with, that subjection which the Eternal Wisdom deigned to have to thy maternity; in homage to the power which both of you have over this poor sinner, and in thanksgiving for the privileges with which the Holy Trinity has favored thee. I declare that I wish henceforth, as thy true slave, to seek thy honor and to obey thee in all things.

O admirable Mother, present me to thy dear Son as His eternal slave, so that as He has redeemed me by thee, by thee He may receive me! O Mother of mercy, grant me the grace to obtain the true Wisdom of God; and for that end receive me among those whom thou lovest and teachest, whom thou leadest, nourishest and protectest as thy children and thy slaves.

O faithful Virgin, make me in all things so perfect a disciple, imitator and slave of the Incarnate Wisdom, Jesus Christ thy Son, that I may attain, by thine intercession and by thine example, to the fullness of His age on earth and of His glory in Heaven. Amen.

After Consecration

ONCE YOU HAVE CONSECRATED yourself to Jesus through Mary, live that consecration. St. Louis-Marie de Montfort recommended the following:

- Keep praying to develop a "great contempt" for the spirit of this world.
- Maintain a special devotion to the Mystery of the Incarnation (e.g., through meditation, spiritual reading, focusing on Feasts centering around the Incarnation, such as the Annunciation and the Nativity, etc.).
- Frequently recite the Ave, Rosary, and the Magnificat.
- Recite, every day if it is not inconvenient, the "Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin" — a series of Paters, Aves, and Glorias — one Ave for each star in the Virgin's Crown. St. Louis has a special way of praying the Little Crown, which is recommended.
- Do everything through, with, in, and for Mary for the sake of Jesus, with the prayer, "I am all thine Immaculate One, with all that I have: in time and in eternity," in your heart and on your lips.
- Associate yourself with Mary in a special way before, during, and after Communion (see Supplement of the book *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* above).
- Wear a little iron chain (around the neck, arm, waist, or ankle) as an outward sign and reminder of holy slavery. This practice is optional but highly recommended by St. Louis. The appearance of this chain is not further specified.
- Renew the consecration once a year on the same date chosen above, following the same 33-day period of exercises. If desired, also renew the consecration monthly with the prayer, "I am all thine and all I have is thine, O dear Jesus, through Mary, Thy holy Mother."

Appendix

Prayers Recited Throughout the Consecration

Veni, Creator Spiritus (Latin) | Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blest (English)

Veni, Creator Spiritus,
mentes tuorum visita,
imple superna gratia
quae tu creasti pectora.

Qui diceris Paraclitus,
altissimi donum Dei,
fons vivus, ignis, caritas,
et spiritalis unctio.

Tu, septiformis munere,
digitus paternae dexterae,
Tu rite promissum Patris,
sermone ditans guttura.

Accende lumen sensibus:
infunde amorem cordibus:
infirmi nostri corporis
virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius,
pacemque dones protinus:
ductore sic te praeviso
vitemus omne noxium.

Per te sciamus da Patrem,
noscamus atque Filium;
Teque utriusque Spiritum
credamus omni tempore.

Deo Patri sit gloria,
et Filio, qui a mortuis
surrexit, ac Paraclito,
in saeculorum saecula.
Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
and in our souls take up Thy rest;
come with Thy grace and heavenly aid
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O comforter, to Thee we cry,
O heavenly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
and sweet anointing from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known;
Thou, finger of God's hand we own;
Thou, promise of the Father, Thou
Who dost the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our sense from above,
and make our hearts o'erflow with love;
with patience firm and virtue high
the weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
and grant us Thy peace instead;
so shall we not, with Thee for guide,
turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
the Father and the Son to know;
and Thee, through endless times confessed,
of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
with Thou, O Holy Comforter,
henceforth by all in earth and heaven.
Amen.

Ave Maria Stella (Latin)

Ave maris stella,
Dei Mater alma,
atque semper Virgo,
felix cæli porta.

Sumens illud Ave
Gabrelis ore,
funda nos in pace,
mutans Hevæ nomen.

Solve vincula reis,
profer lumen cæcis
mala nostra pelle,
bona cuncta posce.

Monstra te esse matrem:
sumat per te preces,
qui pro nobis natus,
tulit esse tuus.

Virgo singularis,
inter omnes mitis,
nos culpis solutos,
mites fac et castos.

Vitam præsta puram,
iter para tutum:
ut videntes Iesum
semper collaetemur.

Sit laus Deo Patri,
summo Christo decus,
Spiritus Sancto,
tribus honor unus. Amen.

Hail Star of the Ocean (English)

Hail, O Star of the ocean,
God's own Mother blest,
ever sinless Virgin,
gate of heav'nly rest.

Taking that sweet Ave,
which from Gabriel came,
peace confirm within us,
changing Eve's name.

Break the sinners' fetters,
make our blindness day,
Chase all evils from us,
for all blessings pray.

Show thyself a Mother,
may the Word divine
born for us thine Infant
hear our prayers through thine.

Virgin all excelling,
mildest of the mild,
free from guilt preserve us
meek and undefiled.

Keep our life all spotless,
make our way secure
till we find in Jesus,
joy for evermore.

Praise to God the Father,
honor to the Son,
in the Holy Spirit,
be the glory one. Amen.

Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum,
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salvatore
meo, quia respexit humilitatem ancillae
suae.

Ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent omnes
generationes,
quia fecit mihi magna, qui potens est,
et sanctum nomen eius,
et misericordia eius in progenies
et progenies timentibus eum.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo,
dispersit superbos mente cordi sui;
deposuit potentes de sede
et exaltavit humiles;
esurientes implevit bonis
et divites dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae,
sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

Gloria Patri,
et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio,
et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

Canticle of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the
Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for He has looked with favor on His lowly
servant.

From this day all generations will call me
blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is His Name.
He has mercy on those who fear Him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of His arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their
thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant
Israel, for He has remembered His promise
of mercy, the promise He made to our
fathers, to Abraham and his children for
ever.

Glory to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever.
Amen.

Litany of the Holy Spirit

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Father all powerful, have mercy on us Jesus,
Eternal Son of the Father, Redeemer of the
world, save us.

Spirit of thee Father and the Son, boundless
life of both, sanctify us. Holy Trinity, hear
us

Holy Ghost, Who proceedest from the
Father and the Son, enter our hearts. Holy
Ghost, Who art equal to the Father and the
Son, enter our hearts.

Promise of God the Father,
have mercy on us.

Ray of heavenly light, have mercy on us

Author of all good, have mercy on us

Source of heavenly water, have mercy on us

Consuming fire, have mercy on us

Ardent charity, have mercy on us

Spiritual unction, have mercy on us

Spirit of love and truth, have mercy on us

Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
have mercy on us

Spirit of counsel and fortitude,
have mercy on us

Spirit of knowledge and piety,
have mercy on us

Spirit of the fear of the Lord,
have mercy on us

Spirit of grace and prayer, have mercy on us

Spirit of peace and meekness,
have mercy on us

Spirit of modesty and innocence,
have mercy on us

Holy Ghost, the Comforter,
have mercy on us

Holy Ghost, the Sanctifier,
have mercy on us

Holy Ghost, Who governest the Church,
have mercy on us

Gift of God, the Most High,
have mercy on us

Spirit Who fillest the universe,
have mercy on us

Spirit of the adoption of the children of
God, have mercy on us

Holy Ghost, inspire us with horror of sin.
Holy Ghost, come and renew
the face of the earth.

Holy Ghost, shed Thy light in our souls.

Holy Ghost, engrave Thy law in our hearts

Holy Ghost, inflame us with the flame of
Thy love.

Holy Ghost, open to us the treasures of
Thy graces

Holy Ghost, teach us to pray well.

Holy Ghost, enlighten us with Thy
heavenly inspirations.

Holy Ghost, lead us in the way of salvation

Holy Ghost, grant us the only necessary
knowledge.

Holy Ghost, inspire in us the practice of
good.

Holy Ghost, grant us the merits of all
virtues.

Holy Ghost, make us persevere in justice.

Holy Ghost, be Thou our everlasting
reward.

Litany of the Holy Spirit

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, Send us Thy Holy Ghost.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, pour down into our souls the gifts of the Holy Ghost.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, grant us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.

V. Come, Holy Ghost!

Fill the hearts of Thy faithful,

R. And enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Let Us Pray.

Grant, O merciful Father, that Thy Divine Spirit may enlighten, inflame and purify us, that He may penetrate us with His heavenly dew and make us fruitful in good works, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, liveth and reigneth forever and ever.

R. Amen.

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lord, have mercy on us,
Christ have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,
 have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
 have mercy on us
God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.
Holy Mother of God, pray for us.
Holy Virgin of virgins, pray for us.
Mother of Christ, pray for us.
Mother of divine grace, pray for us.
Mother most pure, pray for us.
Mother most chaste, pray for us.
Mother inviolate, pray for us.
Mother undefiled, pray for us.
Mother most amiable, pray for us.
Mother most admirable, pray for us.
Mother of good counsel, pray for us.
Mother of our Creator, pray for us.
Mother of our Saviour, pray for us.
Mother of the Church, pray for us.
Virgin most prudent, pray for us.
Virgin most venerable, pray for us.
Virgin most renowned, pray for us.
Virgin most powerful, pray for us.
Virgin most merciful, pray for us.
Virgin most faithful, pray for us.
Preparation for Consecration, pray for us.
Mirror of justice, pray for us.
Seat of wisdom, pray for us.
Cause of our joy, pray for us.
Vessel of honor, pray for us.
Singular vessel of devotion, pray for us.
Mystical rose, pray for us.
Tower of David, pray for us.
Tower of ivory, pray for us.

House of gold, pray for us.
Ark of the covenant, pray for us.
Gate of Heaven, pray for us.
Morning star, pray for us.
Health of the sick, pray for us.
Refuge of sinners, pray for us.
Comforter of the afflicted, pray for us.
Help of Christians, pray for us.
Queen of angels, pray for us.
Queen of patriarchs, pray for us.
Queen of prophets, pray for us.
Queen of Apostles, pray for us.
Queen of martyrs, pray for us.
Queen of confessors, pray for us.
Queen of virgins, pray for us.
Queen of all saints, pray for us.
Queen conceived without Original Sin,
 pray for us.
Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us.
Queen of the most holy Rosary, pray for us.
Queen of peace, pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
 the world, Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
 the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
 the world, Have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Let Us Pray.

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, unto us
Thy servants, that we may rejoice in
continual health of mind and body, and by
the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary,
ever virgin, may be delivered from present
sadness, and enter into the joy of Thine
eternal gladness. Through Christ Our Lord.
R. Amen

St. Louis de Montfort's Prayer to Mary

Hail Mary, beloved Daughter of the Eternal Father! Hail Mary, admirable Mother of the Son! Hail Mary, faithful spouse of the Holy Ghost! Hail Mary, my dear Mother, my loving Mistress, my powerful sovereign! Hail my joy, my glory, my heart and my soul! Thou art all mine by mercy, and I am all thine by justice. But I am not yet sufficiently thine. I now give myself wholly to thee without keeping anything back for myself or others. If thou still seest in me anything which does not belong to thee, I beseech thee to take it and to make thyself the absolute Mistress of all that is mine. Destroy in me all that may be displeasing to God, root it up and bring it to nought; place and cultivate in me everything that is pleasing to thee.

May the light of thy faith dispel the darkness of my mind; may thy profound humility take the place of my pride; may thy sublime contemplation check the distractions of my wandering imagination; may thy continuous sight of God fill my memory with His presence; may the burning love of thy heart inflame the lukewarmness of mine; may thy virtues take the place of my sins; may thy merits be my only adornment in the sight of God and make up for all that is wanting in me. Finally, dearly beloved Mother, grant, if it be possible, that I may have no other spirit but thine to know Jesus and His divine will; that I may have no other soul but thine to praise and glorify the Lord; that I may have no other heart but thine to love God with a love as pure and ardent as thine I do not ask thee for visions, revelations, sensible devotion or spiritual pleasures. It is thy privilege to see God clearly; it is thy

privilege to enjoy heavenly bliss; it is thy privilege to triumph gloriously in Heaven at the right hand of thy Son and to hold absolute sway over angels, men and demons; it is thy privilege to dispose of all the gifts of God, just as thou willest.

Such is, O heavenly Mary, the "best part," which the Lord has given thee and which shall never be taken away from thee-and this thought fills my heart with joy. As for my part here below, I wish for no other than that which was thine: to believe sincerely without spiritual pleasures; to suffer joyfully without human consolation; to die continually to myself without respite; and to work zealously and unselfishly for thee until death as the humblest of thy servants. The only grace I beg thee to obtain for me is that every day and every moment of my life I may say: Amen, so be it's all that thou didst do while on earth; Amen, so be it's all that thou art now doing in Heaven; Amen, so be it-to all that thou art doing in my soul, so that thou alone mayest fully glorify Jesus in me for time and eternity. Amen.

Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us. Jesus, hear us.

Jesus, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,
have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Son of the living God,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, splendor of the Father,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, brightness of eternal light,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, King of glory, have mercy on us. Jesus,
sun of justice, have mercy on us. Jesus, Son
of the Virgin Mary,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, most amiable, have mercy on us.

Jesus, most admirable, have mercy on us.

Jesus, mighty God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Father of the world to come,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, angel of great counsel,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, most powerful, have mercy on us.

Jesus, most patient, have mercy on us.

Jesus, most obedient, have mercy on us.

Jesus, meek and humble, have mercy on us.

Jesus, lover of chastity, have mercy on us.

Jesus, lover of us, have mercy on us.

Jesus, God of peace, have mercy on us. Jesus,
author of life, have mercy on us.

Jesus, model of virtues, have mercy on us.

Jesus, lover of souls, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our refuge, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Father of the poor, have mercy on us.

Jesus, treasure of the faithful,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd, have mercy on us.

Jesus, true light, have mercy on us.

Jesus, eternal wisdom, have mercy on us.

Jesus, infinite goodness, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our way and our life,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, joy of angels, have mercy on us.

Jesus, King of patriarchs, have mercy on us.

Jesus, master of Apostles, have mercy on us.

Jesus, teacher of Evangelists,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, strength of martyrs, have mercy on us.

Jesus, light of confessors, have mercy on us.

Jesus, purity of virgins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, crown of all saints, have mercy on us.

Be merciful, spare us, O Jesus.

Be merciful, graciously hear us, O Jesus.

From all evil, Jesus, deliver us.

From all sin, Jesus, deliver us.

From Thy wrath, Jesus, deliver us.

From the snares of the devil,
Jesus, deliver us.

From the spirit of fornication,
Jesus, deliver us.

From everlasting death, Jesus, deliver us.

From the neglect of Thine inspirations,
Jesus, deliver us.

Through the mystery of Thy holy
Incarnation, Jesus, deliver us.

Through Thy nativity, Jesus, deliver us.

Through Thine infancy, Jesus, deliver us.

Through Thy most divine life,
Jesus, deliver us.

Through Thy labors, Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thine agony and Passion,
Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thy cross and dereliction,
Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thy sufferings, Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thy death and burial,
Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thy Resurrection,
Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thine Ascension, Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thine institution of the most Holy
Eucharist, Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thy joys, Jesus, deliver us.
Through Thy glory, Jesus, deliver us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
the world, Spare us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
the world, Graciously hear us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of
the world, Have mercy on us.

Let Us Pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who hast said: Ask and
ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find,
knock and it shall be opened unto you;
grant, we beseech Thee, to us who ask the
gift of Thy divine love, that we may ever
love Thee with all our hearts, and in all our
words and actions, and never cease from
praising Thee.

Give us, O Lord, a perpetual fear and love of
Thy holy Name; for Thou never failest to
govern those whom Thou dost solidly
establish in Thy love, Who livest and
reignest world without end.

R. Amen.

Jesus, Father of the poor, have mercy on us.
Jesus, treasure of the faithful,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd, have mercy on us.

Jesus, true light, have mercy on us.

Jesus, eternal wisdom, have mercy on us.

Jesus, infinite goodness, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our way and our life,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, joy of angels, have mercy on us.

Jesus, King of patriarchs, have mercy on us.

Jesus, master of Apostles, have mercy on us.

Jesus, teacher of Evangelists,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, strength of martyrs, have mercy on us.

Jesus, light of confessors, have mercy on us.

Jesus, purity of virgins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, crown of all saints, have mercy on us.

Be merciful, spare us, O Jesus.

Be merciful, graciously hear us, O Jesus.

From all evil, Jesus, deliver us.

From all sin, Jesus, deliver us.

From Thy wrath, Jesus, deliver us.

From the snares of the devil,
Jesus, deliver us.

From the spirit of fornication,
Jesus, deliver us.

From everlasting death, Jesus, deliver us.

From the neglect of Thine inspirations,
Jesus, deliver us.

Through the mystery of Thy holy
Incarnation, Jesus, deliver us.

Through Thy nativity, Jesus, deliver us.

Through Thine infancy, Jesus, deliver us.

Through Thy most divine life,
Jesus, deliver us.

O Jesus, Living in Mary Prayer

by St. Louis de Montfort

O Jesus living in Mary,
Come and live in Thy servants,
In the spirit of Thy holiness,
In the fullness of Thy might,
In the truth of Thy virtues,
In the perfection of Thy ways,
In the communion of Thy mysteries;
Subdue every hostile power
In Thy spirit, for the glory of the Father.
Amen.

