

To Jesus Through Mary

“To Jesus through Mary...” St. Louis de Montfort coined this phrase rather well to express the proper place of Marian devotion. St. Louis went on to write some wonderful treatises on devotion to the Virgin Mary which culminated in his writing, “True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin.”

St. Louis de Montfort considered the role of our Lady to be so important that he developed it in a book. The manuscript of this was hidden during the French Revolution and was lost for many years, until it was providentially discovered in 1842. Unfortunately, the first pages, including the title page, went missing.

The book is divided into two parts: true devotion to our Lady in general and the perfect true devotion, or holy slavery.

The work has a long preparation, since St. Louis tells us that before writing it, he had discussions with the most saintly and learned people of his time and read almost every book that treated of devotion to Mary.

On reading his book, one cannot fail to be impressed with his familiarity with Scripture and the writings of the Church Fathers. Its aim is to lead us to a closer union with Christ through a more faithful observance of our baptismal promises. It is not a question of saying some special or extra prayers to our Lady, but living a life of total consecration to Jesus through Mary, and for their glory.

“For us who participate in this devotion, and who set out to understand the basic and essential ideas in this book, will be rewarded by finding an authentic spirituality, which will ensure growth in holiness and lead to a renewal of his Christian life, in harmony with the spiritual and Marian teaching given in our day.”

With this introduction to the true devotion to our Lady, the Altar & Rosary Society has requested that we participate in this devotion to our Lady in preparation for our patronal feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

So for this end, all of our parishioners are invited to seriously reflect and consider whether they wish to take part in this consecration to Our Lady. The devotion is one that is extensive with a 30 day preparation before the last day on which the formal act of consecration is made. The preparation consists of a daily meditation and prayer, usually a litany or the Magnificat. One needs to realize that this devotion does not consist only of a consecration prayer, but a devotion in which one seriously reflects and meditates upon one's spiritual life, the particular sins and faults that one may be attached to, and the remedy to assist in overcoming them. Then on the final day, one consecrates oneself to the Virgin Mary by committing all to her. Through this devotion, Our Lady then “uses” us for the end which is the glory of Her Son and the salvation of our souls. Of course, the devotion does not end there with the consecration, but it is something that continues to prompt us to seek that degree of perfection to which we are all called.

So we now extend the invitation to you. If you are seriously interested in this devotion and truly wish to seek a closer union to Christ and the Virgin Mary, please see the sign up

sheet in the breezeway. We will then order the book for you in which we ask for a minimal payment for it. A weekly meeting each Sunday is scheduled, beginning on Sunday, June 15th, following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, for a summary of the week's meditations, any insights, guidance, etc. The culmination of the devotion will end with the consecration made after the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, July 13th.

Again I emphasize the important commitment you make for this consecration and please consider it seriously. An invitation is also extended to those who have already made the consecration in which you may renew it and also participate again in the preparation which I am certain will assist you in renewing and guiding you in the spiritual growth in grace.

I pray that Our Lady will bless you all for your interest in this devotion to Her and to remember the importance of it because this true devotion to Mary renews our own Faith and by His grace we are strengthened in becoming that better example and witness to Christ and our Catholic Faith. To Jesus through Mary...

God bless you,

Fr. Joseph Hearty, FSSP