

THE TRUE DEVOTION

This involves giving ourselves totally to Jesus through Mary.

The True Devotion goes back to St. Louis Marie de Montfort, a French priest (1673-1716, canonised in 1947). It is hoped that he will be made a Doctor of the Church. St. Louis says that the True Devotion is a perfect renewal of our baptismal promises and calls it a secret.

The Catholic Church regards the True Devotion as a sound, safe, authentic and traditional devotion (Pope Pius XII).

Reasons why this devotion is recommended*

- ❖ By it we give ourselves completely to God. Whatever we do, it will always be done for Jesus and Mary (whether we think of it or not).
- ❖ It helps us to imitate Jesus. By approaching Jesus through Mary, this devotion is an expression of great humility.
- ❖ It obtains many blessings from Our Lady. This is because Our Lady never allows herself to be surpassed in love and generosity. She shares her virtues with us and enriches our good works as she presents them to Jesus.
- ❖ It is an excellent means of giving glory to God. It ensures that the value of all our good works is being used for the greater glory of God.
- ❖ It leads to union with Our Lord. St. Louis calls it a smooth, short and perfect way to reach Our Lord and be united to Him.
- ❖ It gives great freedom of spirit. It is a wonderful means of perseverance and is of great benefit to our neighbour.
- ❖ It was practised by St. Pope John Paul II. (during his youth he used to carry the Secret of Mary booklet in his pocket)

The wonderful effects of this devotion*

- ❖ Knowledge of our unworthiness, which results in Our Lady sharing her humility with us.
- ❖ A share in Our Lady's faith, which assists in our faith becoming firm, steadfast, active and courageous.
- ❖ The gift of pure love, which leads us to wanting to please God, our loving Father, at all times.
- ❖ Great confidence in God and in Mary, because we approach Jesus through Mary.
- ❖ Communication of the spirit of Mary, which helps us to become models of Jesus and give glory to Him. We echo her words: "My soul glorifies the Lord."

* Taken from St. Louis' book *True Devotion*

Questions

What do I do if I feel drawn to this devotion or would simply like to find out more?

Read the books *True Devotion* and *The Secret of Mary* at least twice in order to appreciate what this devotion means. Remember that the Holy Spirit can give you the gifts of wisdom and understanding necessary to accept it. This reading should not be rushed.

If I decide I want to give myself entirely to Jesus through Mary what should I do?

St. Louis recommends that you choose a particular day. Eg. the feast of the Immaculate Conception or the Annunciation, to make this giving of yourself (consecration) and then spend a period of preparation of just over a month as detailed in the Preparation book and outlined in the *Catechism on True Devotion*. You should go to Confession on or shortly before the chosen day.

What happens on my day of Consecration?

You recite the words (*True Devotion*, P145) after Mass, after paying some tribute of your love of Jesus and Mary (eg. a candle). In view of your commitment, it is recommended that you write out the words yourself and sign and date it.

Write to the Director of the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts at the Montfort Missionaries (address below) saying that you have made your consecration in the manner requested by St. Louis de Montfort. It is recommended that you also ask to join the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts when you will be sent a certificate of enrolment (See Other matters to note).

What am I then required to do?

- a) Every morning you should renew simply your consecration using any little prayer, eg. "I am all yours and all that I have is yours, O most loving Jesus through Mary, your holy mother."
- b) Aim to do everything for Jesus through Mary. Use the Holy Spirit to help you to be fervent and to realise how dependent you are on Mary's help.
- c) If possible say the Little Crown of the Blessed Virgin every day (see leaflet).
- d) Other recommended prayers are the Rosary, Angelus and Magnificat (as your circumstances of life allow).
- e) Renew your consecration each year on the same date after some form of preparation.

Is there a local Support Group?

There is a group in St Peter's Parish, Leamington Spa which meets at various times though the year near significant feast days of Our Lady. You are welcome to attend if you are also seeking whether to consecrate yourself to Jesus and Mary (see local contact details).

St Peter Apostle Website

catholicleamington.org.uk

See Parish Groups/True Devotion for a summary.

Other matters to note

❖ The Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts

By joining:-

1) There is a commitment in the apostolate of the Company of Mary (Montfort Missionaries) such as praying for their work, their missions, financial aid that you might like to offer, trying to promote the teaching and the writings of St. Louis de Montfort, especially regarding Devotion to Mary, or some other active participation in their apostolate.

2) There are many indulgences available to you.
(See the statutes and decree for details).

Website <http://www.montfort.org.uk/assocMQOAH.php#Commit>).

❖ Essential reading:- True Devotion and Secret of Mary

Available to view on website <http://www.montfort.org.uk> > resources

❖ Other recommended books/booklets

Preparation for Consecration

Catechism on True Devotion to Mary

Love of Eternal Wisdom (*Jesus*)

Secret of the Rosary

Friends of the Cross

Wisdom's Fool

Little Crown leaflet

❖ Address of the UK office

Montfort Missionaries

Montfort House

Burbo-Bank Road

Liverpool

L23 6TH

0151 2876862

Website <http://www.montfort.org.uk>

❖ Local contact:

Peter Dimambro

01926 428399 Email mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk

He will be happy to help you with anything you may wish to know about the True Devotion. He holds a small stock of the above.

April 2021