

Theory 5b

HOW TO LIVE DEVOTION TO MARY

The Church recommends 3 things:

- I. Consecrate oneself to Mary.
- II. Live in union with Mary as a little child with its mother.
- III. Sit at the school of Mary each day in the Rosary.

Consecration to Mary

The purpose of life is to share in the life of God.

- CCC 1 God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life.
- We receive the life of God in Jesus.
 - It is the mission of the Holy Spirit to bring Jesus to us.
 - Consecration is the process of the Holy Spirit forming Jesus within us.

Think of the Consecration of the Eucharist.

- The bell is rung at the prayer of the epiclesis
- The priest asks God the Father to send the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine into Jesus.
- Consecration is the Holy Spirit bringing Jesus into the bread and wine, transforming the bread and wine into Jesus.

The Holy Spirit does something similar to us

- The Holy Spirit consecrates us.
- The Holy Spirit brings Jesus into our soul to transform us to be like God as we are told in 1 John 3:2.

How does the Holy Spirit do this?

- Through Mary.

Jesus was the 1st Person to Consecrate Himself to Mary

The first thing the Son of God did to save the world...

- He entrusted himself entirely to Mary, to be a helpless embryo in her womb, a little child in her care.
- Is it possible to depend upon on another person more than this?

As His mother, what did Mary do for Jesus?

- Everything...
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary conceived and gave birth to Jesus.
- She nourished him, protected, and provided for him, educated and formed him.
- Intuited and prompted the beginning of his public ministry at Cana, stood by him at the Cross, and laid him in the tomb.

As Christians, what will the Holy Spirit and Mary do for us?

- Everything...
- The Holy Spirit and Mary conceive and give birth to the life of Jesus in us through Baptism.
- They watch over, protect and provide for us.
- They educate and form us in the likeness of Christ.
- They walk with us as we carry our cross and support us at the moment of death: “pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.”

What should we do if we want to live in imitation of Jesus? Begin the way Jesus did: Consecrate oneself entirely to Mary to be her little son or daughter.

The Apostle John was the 2nd Person to Consecrate Himself to Mary

John 19:26-27 “Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son. Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.”

The original Greek text, “*elaben ho mathetes auten eis ta idia*,” suggests a deeper meaning: The beloved disciple took Mary not just into his physical home but into his interior life, into his soul.¹

From the Cross Jesus offered the world a great gift; he offered His mother to be our Spiritual Mother. John accepted this gift and he took her for his own mother and he began to live as her son. In the act of Consecration to Mary, we receive from Christ, Mary as our Spiritual Mother, and we begin to live as her son or daughter.

¹ Ignace de la Potterie, *Mary in the Mystery of the Covenant*, Alba House, 1992, P.225-228

Devotion to Mary is to live in imitation of Jesus' relationship with Mary

- from His infancy to childhood
- from adolescence to adulthood
- all the way to His death and Resurrection

Live in Union with Mary

Icon of Our Lady of Vladimir

- That is Jesus
- That is you

Imagine the relationship between Jesus and Mary when he was 2 years old - live in imitation of that! Depend on her as a little child depends upon its mother from moment to moment. This is how you live in dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

Cultivate an awareness of her Presence through images. St Louis de Montfort wrote: "become permanently aware of [the sweet presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary] through the habit of recollection" (*Secret of Mary*, 52). Live in constant conversation with her.

Who do we focus on - God, Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph, our Guardian Angel...?

We are part of a Family

- God the Father
- Jesus the Son
- The Holy Spirit
 - But it is hard to have a relationship with a bird or fire, therefore, the Maternal Mission of the Holy Spirit comes to us through Mary.
 - Mary is our Spiritual Mother who forms Jesus within us.
- St. Joseph was commissioned to care for us as he did Jesus.
- We have been entrusted by God to a Guardian Angel.

Each has a distinct Mission. Develop a friendship with them. Don't be afraid of the Devil and the demons; they are nothing compared to the Heavenly Host that protects us.

Sit at the School of Mary in the Rosary

Mary asked us to pray the Rosary every day to bring about the conversion of sinners and the Triumph of Her Heart

- There is an urgency to Our Lady's request
- Akita Oct 6, 2019

The Rosary is the School of Mary

- The Holy Spirit and Mary formed Jesus in her womb
- The Holy Spirit and Mary will form Jesus in you

The Rosary is the most powerful weapon against the devil.

The Rosary Podcast gives good content

- To learn the Catholic Faith
- To learn meditation – reflection and resolution
- To foster Good Conversation

The Rosary is an easy way for spouses, families, and friends to pray together.

The Rosary is easy to share with others.

When we pray the Rosary

- we mystically go to the home at Nazareth to be with Mary, Joseph and Jesus
- It's like stepping into the Home of the Holy Family

“The Rosary mystically transports us to Mary's side as she is busy watching over the human growth of Christ in the home of Nazareth. This enables her to train us and to mold us with the same care, until Christ is fully formed in us” cf. Gal 4:19 (*RVM*, 15).

Secret of Mary – St. Louis de Montfort

The Secret of Mary is her God given role to form Jesus within us. It is a secret because so few make the effort to live it.

St. Louis de Montfort, in *True Devotion* 258, writes,

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...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 soul 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.'

Montfort explains that

- Mary is the true and eternal Tree of Life that God wants planted in our soul by the Holy Spirit to bear her fruit which is Jesus.
- As we pray in the Hail Mary "Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus."

The secret of Mary is to invite her constantly to come and live in our soul and to live her virtues in us so that she may form Jesus in us because Jesus is always the fruit of her womb.

In the *Secret of Mary*, Montfort writes:

55 This devotion faithfully practiced produces countless happy effects in the soul. The most important of them is that it establishes, even here on earth, Mary's life in the soul, so that it is no longer the soul that lives, but Mary who lives in it. In a manner of speaking, Mary's soul becomes identified with the soul of her servant. Indeed, when by an unspeakable but real grace Mary most holy becomes Queen of a soul, she works untold wonders in it. She is a great wonder-worker especially in the interior of souls...

56 As Mary is everywhere the fruitful Virgin, she produces in the depths of the soul where she dwells a purity of heart and body, a singleness of intention and purpose, and a fruitfulness in good works. Do not think, dear soul, that Mary, the most fruitful of all God's creatures, who went as far as to give birth to a God-man, remains idle in a docile soul. She causes Jesus to live continuously in that soul and that soul to live in continuous union with Jesus...

57 To sum up, Mary becomes all things for the soul that wishes to serve Jesus Christ. She enlightens his mind with her pure faith. She deepens his heart with her humility. She enlarges and inflames his heart with her charity, makes it pure with her purity, makes it noble and great through her motherly care...