

THE SECRET OF TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY

According to Saint Louis de Montfort, the secret of True Devotion “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.” It begins with a personal consecration to Mary; de Montfort provides a 33-day preparation for it, and there are others.

To do everything **with Mary** means that we recognize we can do nothing good or profitable for our salvation without recourse to Mary. We place ourselves as an instrument in Mary’s hands to do with us as she pleases. Like a young child who wants to make cookies - but can’t possibly do so without the help of his mother - we can do nothing without her assistance.

To do everything **in Mary** means that we recognize that Mary is the paradise of God; she is therefore ‘a place’ where we can dwell in the interior of our heart and soul. De Montfort writes, “She will be, as it were, the oratory of our soul, **in** which we offer up all our prayers to God, a burning lamp to enlighten our interior and to inflame us with divine love; a sacred altar upon which we contemplate God, in Mary and with her. In short, Mary will be the only means used by our soul in dealing with God.

To do everything **through Mary** means that everything we offer to God first passes through Mary’s hands. If we are honest and humble, we will recognize that everything we offer to God is imperfect at best. Like a poor peasant seeking the King’s favor, but who has only an ordinary apple to offer to appease him. He first gives it to the good queen, who represents our Lady, and she makes it more presentable to the king. Everything we offer to God, we give to Mary first; she purifies it, sanctifies it, and embellishes it in order to make it more pleasing to God. And then she herself presents the offering to Her Son on our behalf, which makes it even more pleasing and acceptable.

To do everything for Mary means we work only for her, for her interests and her glory, making her the immediate end of all our actions—though the glory of God remains the final end. As de Montfort teaches us, Mary is the echo of God. When we say Mary, she says God. When we praise and bless Mary, she magnifies and blesses God. Everything we do for Mary has its final and more perfect end in God.

This is the secret of True Devotion to Mary. It is the easiest, the shortest, the most perfect and secure way to heaven. It’s also a sure way to navigate these confusing times we’re living in. There have been several times in the history of the Church where the voice of Christ has been difficult to distinguish due to bad shepherds; bishops and priests, who, to one degree or another, depart from the Truth of Christ. We are living in such times today because the heresy of Modernism has spread far and wide. The Secret of Mary - True Devotion to Mary - will keep us on the narrow path to heaven in these confusing and uncertain times. As the disciples were all scattered in the Garden of Gethsemani, only one would stand close to our Lord at the foot of the cross, John, the beloved disciple. Why? Because he stayed close to our Lady. So too, if we practice this devotion, we will stay close to our Lady, and she will keep us close to her Son.

Pax,

Fr Bart