

TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY
St. Louis De Montfort

Comments and Questions for Part II, Chapter II, “Motives of This Perfect Consecration,”
Motives #1 - #3 (#135 – #150).

In the last section, St. Louis de Montfort described what he calls the most perfect form of true devotion to Mary – total consecration. Just as he spent the first half of the book preparing us to learn this devotion, St. Louis de Montfort now encourages us to embrace it in the second half of the book. He begins by giving us eight reasons, or “motives,” to inspire us to practice this devotion. He also continues to clarify the meaning of total consecration and how we are to live it in our daily lives. Because this is such a long chapter, it has been divided into four sections and will take four meetings to cover it: Motives #1 - #3, Motives #4 - #5, Motives #6 - #8 and Articles 1&2.

This section is very beautiful and covers the first three motives. St. Louis de Montfort will show us how total consecration to Mary will enable us to give ourselves entirely to God (Motive #1), imitate Jesus Christ and grow in humility (Motive #2) and obtain many wonderful blessings from the Blessed Mother (Motive #3). It is hard to imagine how anyone who loves the Blessed Mother would not be moved by the third motive. As St. Louis de Montfort exclaims in #136, “What a consolation this is!” How privileged we are to have this book!

Questions for paragraphs #135 - #150.

1. It is important to remember that St. Louis de Montfort insists that total consecration is the perfect renewal of the promises of Baptism. Fr. Gaffney says, “Baptism plunges us into Jesus Christ; our very being is transformed forever through the Sacrament. Total consecration... explicitly recognizes the role Mary plays in our Baptismal life.” Furthermore, Fr. Gaffney says that our act of consecration is, in a certain sense, “a *spousal covenant* which personally and lovingly ratifies this Baptismal truth (that we belong entirely to Christ), for we willingly and joyfully strip ourselves of all ownership (of everything we have).” This is a beautiful quote considering that Christ is the Bridegroom of your soul!

In #137, what “great grace” does St. Louis de Montfort say that Jesus will give to you when you totally consecrate yourself to Him through His Mother?

2. The second motive is divided into three parts. According to St. Louis de Montfort, by living a life totally consecrated to Mary, you imitate Jesus Christ, you imitate the example of the Holy Trinity and you practice the virtue of humility. First and foremost, this devotion helps you to follow the example of Jesus Christ. He humbled Himself, “taking the form of a *slave*” and submitted Himself to His Mother for 30 years! St. Louis de Montfort asks, “Are we so senseless as to imagine that we can find a more perfect or shorter means of glorifying God than that of submitting ourselves to Mary, after the example of her Son?” Why does St. Louis De Montfort say that Our Lord gave more glory to God His Father during those 30 years than if He had spent those years preaching, working miracles, and converting the whole world?

3. St. Louis de Montfort continues with the second motive in #140 - #143. He states that by living this devotion (doing all things by and through Mary), we are imitating the example of the Holy Trinity. He summarizes what we have already studied about the relationship of Mary to Each Person of the Blessed Trinity and her role as Mediatrix and Dispensatrix of All Grace (for review, see #17 - #25).

In #143, St. Louis de Montfort states that total consecration to Mary is a “practice of great humility.” We can never overstate the importance of this virtue and its necessity for growing in holiness. St. Louis de Montfort says, rather harshly, that “when you are bold enough to approach God without a mediator, God flies from you and you cannot reach Him.” What does he mean by this?

4. In #145, what does St. Louis de Montfort mean by servile and scrupulous fear and how is this different from the Holy Spirit’s Gift of Fear of the Lord?

5. The third motive is incredibly moving and beautiful. When you give yourself entirely to Mary, she gives herself entirely to you! What an awesome gift! Fr. Gaffney says that by giving her “whole self” to us, Mary is giving us Jesus because she “overflows with the Divine Nature through the gift of her Son.”

In #146, St. Louis de Montfort says that by practicing this devotion, Mary will purify and embellish your good works. What does this mean and how will this help you in your daily life?