TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY
St. Louis De Montfort

Comments and Questions for Part II, Chapter II, "Motives of This Perfect Consecration,"
Motives #4 - #5 (#151 – #168).

St. Louis de Montfort continues to persuade us to give ourselves perfectly to Jesus by consecrating ourselves entirely to His Blessed Mother. In the first three motives, he showed us that by this devotion, we give ourselves completely to God, we imitate Christ and the Blessed Trinity, we grow in humility and we receive abundant blessings from Mary. Now, in Motives #4 and #5, he explains that total consecration to Mary gives honor and glory to God and leads us to a deep union with Christ. What greater goals are there in the Christian life? And there's more to come in the next couple of sections – true interior freedom, blessings for our neighbors and final perseverance.

In this section, St. Louis de Montfort describes the fifth motive, which is the most well-known of all the motives. We learn that consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Mary is the easiest, shortest, most perfect and most secure way of obtaining union with Jesus "in which Christian perfection consists" (#152). It is an *easy* way because Mary is always so near with her motherly comfort and encouragement. It is a *short* way because Mary will very quickly bring you closer to Jesus. It is a *perfect* way because Perfection, Himself, chose to come to us this way. It is a *secure* way because Mary is completely trustworthy and would never lead us astray. As Fr. Gaffney says, "Mary is the secret short-cut to Christ."

Questions for paragraphs #151 - #168.

1. In #151, St. Louis de Montfort claims that the majority of people do not use their good works for the greater Glory of God because "either we do not know where the greater Glory of God is to be found, or we do not wish to find it." What does this mean exactly – the greater Glory of God?

2. St. Louis de Montfort acknowledges that there are many paths to union with God, but says that compared to the "path" of Mary, the others are difficult and wearisome. Fr. Gaffney says that Jesus Christ not only took the path of Mary, He *made* the path of Mary at the Incarnation.

   It can be unsettling to read in #153 that the servants of Mary will carry heavier crosses than those who are not devoted to her. But, he just said in the previous paragraph that those who are *not* devoted to her will suffer much more. So, which one is it? The answer lies in understanding the Cross. Through total consecration, Mary teaches us "the wisdom of the Cross." Explain how her motherly love makes our crosses in life easier to bear.

3. St. Louis de Montfort says that Mary is a short path to Jesus. It is short because Mary guides our steps and keeps us on the narrow path to Heaven. She helps us to resist temptation and renounce our selfishness. St Louis de Montfort states that by obeying Mary's inspirations (which are the inspirations of the Holy Spirit), we will obtain victory over our enemies (the world, the flesh and the devil).

   As stated in #156, Mary will help you to become an "*elder* in light, in holiness, in experience and in wisdom, and that (you will) arrive in a few years at the fullness of the age of Jesus Christ." What is meant by "the fullness of the age of Jesus Christ?"

4. St. Louis de Montfort has explained how total consecration to Mary is an easy, short and perfect path to union with our Lord. In this final section of Motive #5, he describes how this devotion is a secure and safe way of attaining Christian perfection. His explanation is divided into two parts. First, he gives some history of this "slavery of love" to show that, centuries before him, many saints and scholars went to Jesus through Mary as is evident in their writings. Fr. Gaffney says that his list is far from complete.

Secondly, St. Louis de Montfort gives us his own reasons to convince us of the certainty of the path of Mary. What two specific ways does he say that Mary will aid us in attaining union with God?

5. What is "formal heresy" and how will Mary keep us from it?