

TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY
St. Louis De Montfort

Comments and Questions for Part I, Chapter I, Article 2 (#22 - #36).

In Article 1, St. Louis de Montfort explained that when we study the Incarnation, we come to a deeper understanding of Mary's special role in our salvation. We learned that it is logical to have devotion to Mary in order to grow closer to Christ. God used Mary to bring Jesus physically into the world the first time. He continues to use her to bring Jesus spiritually into souls until the end of time. God's use of Mary's presence and the action of the Holy Spirit to bring about Christ in souls has been referred to as the "Law of the Incarnation." So few Christians are aware of this great mystery.

St. Louis de Montfort continues his interesting explanation of Mary's relationship to each Person of the Blessed Trinity in Article 2. He explains that, because of her profound faith and humility in this life, the Trinity was pleased to grant her the great privilege and responsibility of Mediatrix and Dispensatrix of All Grace. Though the Church does not dogmatically proclaim Mary under these titles (and may or may not ever do so), many Catholics (Popes and Saints included) down through the ages have invoked her in this way. We will discuss the 4 Marian dogmas and the petition for a 5th Marian dogma. We will also read in beautiful language how Mary was destined from the beginning of time to be a Mother. How blessed we are to gain insight into the spiritual motherhood of the Blessed Virgin!

Questions for Article 2 (#22 - #36).

1. It is in #24 that we are presented with the idea of Mary as Mediatrix of All Grace: "It is by her that (God the Son) applies His merits to His members... and distributes His graces. She is His mysterious canal; she is His aqueduct, through which He makes His mercies flow gently and abundantly." Is this a new concept to you, that Jesus would have *all* graces come to us through His Mother? How is this a logical consequence of Mary's role in the Incarnation?

2. In #25, St. Louis de Montfort takes it a step further and says that not only is Mary the Mediatrix of All Grace, but that she is also the Dispensatrix of All Grace, deciding when and to whom the graces should be distributed. Is this taking it too far? What key points does St. Louis de Monfort make in #27 to help us understand this?

3. In paragraph #29, St. Louis de Montfort starts another Trinitarian series, this time focusing on Mary as Our Mother (note that “Ecclus” stands for Ecclesiasticus, which is the book of Sirach and not the book of Ecclesiastes). In #30, he makes what seems to be a startling claim that “he who has not Mary for his Mother has not God for his Father.” What, if anything, is he saying here about non-Catholic Christians?

4. The concluding paragraphs of this section are so beautiful and describe the love that the Holy Spirit has for Our Lady. She is truly His spouse and #34 reads like a love story: “I took so much complacency in you when you lived on earth... that I desire still to find you on earth, without your ceasing to be in Heaven.” He loves her so much that He wants to find her in us: “Reproduce yourself... that I may behold in them... (her virtues). You are always My spouse, as faithful, as pure and as fruitful as ever.”

Do you realize how much joy it brings the Holy Spirit to find Mary in your soul? Have you ever thought of Mary as dwelling “in” you? We read in #36 that the Holy Spirit always hastens to be close to His beloved spouse: “When the Holy Ghost...has found Mary in a soul, He flies there. He enters there in His fullness; He communicates Himself... *to the full extent to which (a soul) makes room for (Mary).*” This is very similar to what we read in #20. The amount of devotion that we have to Mary matters. St. Louis de Montfort will teach us that it is *true* devotion to Mary that will produce in us a “sufficiently great union” with Our Lady so that she can help us to “grow from virtue to virtue and from grace to grace.” Using the expression in #36, are you ready for the Holy Spirit to do “startling wonders” in your soul? What can you do to increase your devotion to Mary?