

Conference 1: Introduction and Separation from the World

I. Why and What is True Devotion

- a. What's the Big Deal about Mary- Immaculate Heart as the Answer
 - i. St. Louis Marie de Monfort tells us, "*So intimately is she[Mary] united to you that it would be easier to separate light from the sun, and heat from the fire. I go further, it would even be easier to separate all the angels and saints from you than Mary; for she loves you ardently, and glorifies you more perfectly than all your other creatures put together*" (True Devotion#63).
 - ii. Scripture tells us the answer (Slide on Scripture)
 1. 2Tim. 3:16-17 tells us, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."
 2. So from the very fact that Mary is in the Scripture, the Holy Spirit tells us there is something important about her, that it is profitable to study her to train us so we may proficient in doing the work of God/living out our Christian vocation.
 - iii. Since Mary is the embodiment of God's plan for humanity, by examining her, we can learn something about ourselves.
 - iv. Rom. 1:20-Mary can also tell us something about God since she is His most beautiful creation in the visible world.

b. True Devotion and St. Louis Marie de Montfort

- i. St. Louis Marie de Montfort¹
 1. Born January 13, 1673. Ordained a priest at the age of 27, on June 5, 1700,
 2. St. Louis traveled by foot to Rome to seek the counsel of Pope Clement XI. When he finally was received in an audience with the Holy Father in the spring of 1706. "In your missions, forcefully teach the doctrine to the people and to children. Have them renew their Baptismal vows." The Holy Father then conferred upon title of "Apostolic Missionary."
 3. He preached against Jansenism and in In 1716, he collapsed from exhaustion after preaching a mission in the village of St. Laurent-sur-Sevre, where he died on April 28.
- ii. The true Devotion to Mary
 1. He noted that the True Devotion to Jesus thru Mary was the greatest way to renew and live out our Baptismal promises.
 2. It is the highest way to imitate Christ our head because He came to us through Mary and so we can return back to him in the same manner (See True Devotion#1, 18)
 3. The actual name of the consecration is "Consecration to the Eternal and Incarnate Wisdom
 4. He thus also reminds us of the importance of keeping Jesus and Mary together (True Devotion#64-65)

¹ St. Louis Marie de Monfort biography. Accessed at:
<http://www.ssvmusa.org/Events/CatholicCulture/Montfort.Apr28.shtm>

5. Need for True Devotion in Latter Times

- a. After de Monfort died in 1716, his true devotion was lost. Then in 1841, they discovered it in a hidden treasure chest and it was translated into over 40 languages and revolutionized the world.
- b. ***St. Louis Marie de Montfort prophesied it was important for the latter times.***
- c. ***So if you want to be a sharp arrow in the hands of Mary, crushing the head of the serpent, enkindling the fires of divine love in a world that is so desperately looking for it; and obtaining an abundance of God's grace and help (True Devotion#54-56): True Devotion to Jesus thru Mary is for you!***

II. True and False Devotion to Mary

a. 7 Kinds of False Devotees

- 1. The critical devotees:** proud scholars, rash and self-sufficient spirits, who have at bottom some devotion to the holy Virgin, but who criticise nearly all the practices of devotion to her, which the simple people pay simply and holily to their good Mother, because these practices do not fall in with their own humour and fancy (True Devotion#93).
- 2. The scrupulous devotees:** Scrupulous devotees are those who imagine they are slighting the Son by honouring the Mother. They fear that by exalting Mary they are belittling Jesus (True Devotion#94).
- 3. The external devotees:** people whose entire devotion to our Lady consists in exterior practices. Only the externals of devotion appeal to them because they have no interior spirit. They say many rosaries with great haste and assist at many Masses distractedly (True Devotion#96).
- 4. The presumptuous devotees:** sinners who give full rein to their passions or their love of the world, and who, under the fair name of Christian and servant of our Lady, conceal pride, avarice, lust, drunkenness, anger, swearing, slandering, injustice and other vices (True Devotion#97). Practical example those who think the Brown Scapular gets them a "sin and do whatever you want card."
- 5. The inconstant devotees:** those whose devotion to our Lady is practised in fits and starts. Sometimes they are fervent and sometimes they are lukewarm (True Devotion#101).
- 6. The hypocritical devotees:** These hide their sins and evil habits under the mantle of the Blessed Virgin so as to appear to their fellow-men different from what they are (True Devotion#102). Example, Mary told me to not listen to the Church's teachings on Communion through a private revelation.
- 7. The interested devotees:** who turn to her only to win a court-case, to escape some danger, to be cured of some ailment, or have some similar need satisfied. Except when in need they never think of her (True Devotion#103).

b. Characteristics of True Devotion

- i. Interior: it comes from within the mind and the heart and follows from the esteem in which we hold her, the high regard we have for her greatness, and the love we bear her (TD#106).
- ii. Trustful: it fills us with confidence in the Blessed Virgin, the confidence that a child has for its loving Mother. It prompts us to go to her in every need of body and soul with great simplicity, trust and affection (TD#107)

- iii. Holy: It leads us to avoid sin and to imitate the virtues of Mary. Her ten principal virtues are: deep humility, lively faith, blind obedience, unceasing prayer, constant self-denial, surpassing purity, ardent love, heroic patience, angelic kindness, and heavenly wisdom (TD#108).
- iv. Constant: It strengthens us in our desire to do good and prevents us from giving up our devotional practices too easily. It gives us the courage to oppose the fashions and maxims of the world, the vexations and unruly inclinations of the flesh and the temptations of the devil. Thus a person truly devoted to our Blessed Lady is not changeable, fretful, scrupulous or timid (TD#109).
- v. Disinterested: It inspires us to seek God alone in his Blessed Mother and not ourselves (TD#110).

III. Week 1: Separation from the World

- a. James 4:1-4, 6-8, 10 encourages to be friends of God and not of the world
- b. St. Louis Marie de Monfort agrees (True Devotion#78-79).
- c. Mary, Spouse of the Holy helps us to do this.
- d. Three Worldly theories deflect and reject the image of God in creation:
 - i. God as Truth (Relativism); God as Goodness (Political Correctness), God as Love (Gender fluidity/Gay “so-called marriage”)
- e. **Relativism (Against the Truth of God)**
 - i. *Relativism is the belief that there is no right or wrong, no objective truth, but that everything depends on (is relative) the individual*
 - ii. *Is not love-* “Merely avoiding hurting other people as the aim of one’s life is not enough. We are made for something more. We are made for love.”...If there’s no truth, no real right or wrong, no purpose...in life, then the best we can come up with is tolerance”² – Edward Sri.
 - iii. Does not make us great but comfortable, “The world will offer you comfort, but we are not made for comfort. We are made for greatness!” (Pope Benedict XVI)³
 - iv. If “I” determine truth, then I take the place of God which is demonic and we have no power to save
 - v. Goes against mercy of God (Spiritual works-Admonish sinner, instruct ignorant, counsel doubtful)
- f. **Political Correctness (Against the Goodness of God)**
 - i. Political Correctness: A way to use language so as not to offend anyone
 - ii. Note Isaiah 5:20-23
 - iii. Not offending anyone despite truth fulfills Is. 5:20-23
 - iv. Peter Kreeft calls this “Verbicide”: the killing of words

² Edward Sri. Who Am I to Judge: Responding to Relativism with Logic and Love (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2016), p.37.

³ Pope Benedict XVI. Accessed at: <http://bustedhalo.com/dailyjolt/the-world-promises-you-comfort-but-you-were-not-made-for-comfort-you-were-made-for-greatness-pope-benedict-xvi>

