

**St. Louis de Montfort and St. Pope John Paul II on the Total Consecration**

**A Marian Consecration Talk Given**

**At**

**Our Lady of Peace Shrine  
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Santa Clara, CA 95054**

**On**

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**By**

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**Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!  
St. Louis Marie de Montfort, pray for us!**

## Introduction:

The Catholic Encyclopedia defines Consecration in general as **“an act by which a thing is separated from a common and profane to a sacred use, or by which a person or thing is dedicated to the service and worship of God by prayers, rites, and ceremonies.”**<sup>1</sup>

### *Total Consecration in St. Louis Marie de Montfort:*

By consecrating ourselves to Mary—we—become the *thing* consecrated. Our Marian *Act of Consecration* is not a merely a **“pious gesture.”**<sup>2</sup> Rather, as Priest Theologian Father William Most points out, we take **“‘Consecrate’ in a very literal and strict sense . . . [and thus it] means to give oneself *entirely and permanently* to the service of Jesus through Mary.”**<sup>3</sup>

In his book *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort explains why making the consecration to Jesus through Mary is so important when he says, **“Mary being the most conformed of all creatures to Jesus Christ, it follows that, of all devotions, that which most consecrates and conforms the soul to our Lord is devotion to His holy Mother, . . . the more a soul is consecrated to Mary, the more is it consecrated to Jesus . . . . the most perfect consecration to Jesus Christ is nothing else but a perfect and entire consecration of ourselves to the Blessed Virgin, and this is the devotion which I teach . . . . a perfect renewal of the vows and promises of holy Baptism.”**<sup>4</sup>

I like how Fr. Most describes St. Louis de Montfort’s idea of Total Consecration. He says, **“St. Louis de Montfort loves to describe this consecration as “slavery” to Jesus through Mary. This description is very helpful in bringing us to realize that by it we propose to live in the closest dependence on Mary our Queen, considering ourselves as her property, so that our body and soul and our possessions, even our spiritual goods, belong to her and cannot be used or disposed of except according to her will . . . . But by this consecration we add a new title to our slavery: we do not merely acknowledge our natural condition, but we make ourselves slaves by *love*.”**<sup>5</sup>

Now many people who have read *True Devotion* for the first time have had a difficult time understanding it. It’s very deep. Even John Paul II admitted that he needed to reread *True Devotion to Mary* several times before he could grasp it. Like many of our Protestant brethren, St. Pope John Paul II, too, initially feared that devotion to Mary might take away from devotion to Jesus Christ. But he said that de Montfort helped him to understand that devotion to Mary leads people to a deeper union with Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup>

### *Total Consecration in St. Pope John Paul II:*

St. John Paul II took his papal motto: “Totus Tuus” (meaning totally yours) from De Montfort’s Latin prayer of total consecration to the Blessed Virgin. *True Devotion* was for St. John Paul II a **“decisive turning point”** in his life. Moreover, he says that **“this Saint’s teaching has had a profound influence on the Marian devotion of many of the faithful and on my own life.”** St. Pope John Paul II in his encyclical letter *Redemptoris Mater*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04276a.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> From his book *Mary in Our Life*, Chapter XVIII: St. Louis de Montfort’s Consecration to Mary. This is an online version of the book taken from: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/most/getchap.cfm?WorkNum=213&ChapNum=20>. Hereafter *Mary in Our Life*. (MIOL).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Louis de Montfort, St.. *True Devotion to Mary, The Secret of the Rosary & the Total Consecration (Annotated)* (Kindle Locations 888-892). Our Catholic Heritage Publications. Kindle Edition.

<sup>5</sup> *Miol*.

<sup>6</sup> John Paul II fondly recalls Louis de Montfort’s Marian Doctrine in a Message on the 160th Anniversary of “True Devotion.”

specifically recommends the Marian spirituality of St. Louis Marie de Montfort.<sup>7</sup> As far as I know, nowhere else has he specifically recommended another Marian form of spirituality.

### **Applications to our Times:**

Now how does all of this apply to us in our time? I'll start by saying that it is my hope that after this talk more people will want to make the Total Consecration according to the method of St. Louis de Montfort. I think it is desperately needed today. At this point in time, there are very few people living out their baptismal vows and De Montfort teaches that this consecration entails **“a perfect renewal of the vows and promises of holy Baptism.”** Let's look at these promises now, and I want you to recite them out loud.<sup>8</sup>

**V.** Do you renounce Satan?

**R.** I do.

**V.** And all his works?

**R.** I do.

**V.** And all his empty [works]?

**R.** I do.

### **OR:**

**V.** Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?

**R.** I do.

**V.** Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?

**R.** I do.

**V.** Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?

**R.** I do.

**V.** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

**R.** I do.

**V.** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

**R.** I do.

**V.** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

**R.** I do.

<sup>7</sup> St. Pope John Paul II, *Redemptoris Mater*, #44.

<sup>8</sup> The following version of the Baptismal promises taken from:

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/activities/view.cfm?id=1047>. Brackets mine.

Many Catholics profess these promises often and yet this year's latest Gallup poll in relation to moral issues<sup>9</sup> reflects a different picture. In it, we hear that divorce is approved of by 73 percent. Fornication is okay with 69 percent. Abortion 43 percent; teen sex and pornography at 36 percent.<sup>10</sup> These are all behaviors contrary to our Baptismal promises. Amazingly 91 percent of the people in the United States think contraception is morally acceptable. This is something the Catechism of the Catholic defines as "intrinsically evil." This is a crisis of faith, indicative of a great apostasy. Catholic Apologist, Dave Armstrong, recently said, "**The primary cause of our current moral mess is the sexual revolution: especially starting with widespread use of the Pill in 1960. That and taking God out of the schools, combined with legal abortion in 1973.**"<sup>11</sup> This kind of moral climate produces lukewarmness among Catholics, and according to Pope Pius V, "**All the evils of the world are due to lukewarm Catholics.**"<sup>12</sup> Why? Because as God's chosen ones, namely, as Catholics, we have the fullness of the Faith and thus our sins hurt Christ and His Mystical Body of Christ much more than the sins of non-Catholics.

The ancient dragon Satan is fast on the move going after the Woman and Her Children, as he has always done throughout the history of the Church. That is why consecration not only is important for our holiness but for our spiritual protection as well since we're living in very perilous, demonic times. An exorcist, Fr. Chad Ripperger, FSSP, noted some cases of people who were undergoing attacks of demonic oppressions. In one of these cases a demon revealed some things concerning demons' abilities to afflict a person's "property," which in turn prompted Fr. Chad to draft a prayer of consecrating one's exterior goods to the Blessed Virgin Mary based on St. Louis de Montfort's method of consecration.<sup>13</sup> He noticed that this prayer immediately put a stop to these diabolic oppressions.<sup>14</sup>

Nevertheless, Sr. Lucia's well-known statement to Cardinal Carlo Caffarra, Archbishop Emeritus of Bologna and the founding President of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family, is interesting to note. Sr. Lucia told him that the "**decisive battle between the kingdom of Christ and Satan will be over marriage and family,**"<sup>15</sup> and in May of this year Cardinal Caffarra remarked that what Sr. Lucia wrote to him is "**being fulfilled today.**"<sup>16</sup> Total consecration is intimately linked to the Fatima message, which speaks about many things pertaining to marriage and family. Interestingly, I discovered that the year before 1917 when the Angel was visiting the three Fatima children, the first contraceptive clinic opened in Brooklyn, New York.<sup>17</sup> Given our present moral state after the introduction of contraception, clearly marriage and family today haven't gotten any better but seems to be getting drastically worse. I remember speaking with Fr. Pintacura at his last Fatima talk on the miracle of the sun, and he mentioned something to this effect, that we can't do anything more. We need Mary's intervention. We need the triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart.

We must do our part to hasten the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and one of the, if not, the most powerful ways of bringing this about is by each person making their individual consecration according to the method of St. Louis de Montfort. This form of Marian consecration elevates devotion to Mary to a whole new level. A Mariologist Theologian, Father Johann Roten, explains that when a person consecrates himself to Jesus through Mary, "**the existential bond with Jesus through Mary is here not only symbolized through a medal**

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.crisismagazine.com/2017/academics-therapists-horn-dogs>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> "The Singular Wickedness of America & Possible Coming Judgment." 09/04/2017.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/davearmstrong/2017/09/singular-wickedness-america-possible-coming-judgment.html>. Hereafter, Armstrong.

<sup>12</sup> Father William Casey, The Fathers of Mercy. "Luke Warm Catholicism: Ruin of Souls And A Scourge Upon The Church!"

<http://www.courageouspriest.com/luke-warm-catholicism-ruin-souls-scurge-church>.

<sup>13</sup> One can find the prayer on this site: <http://www.sensustraditionis.org/Oppression.pdf>. Please note any copyright requests.

<sup>14</sup> For Fr. Chad's full explanation of his cases, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJc6WGOwtsQ&t=437s>. Watch from 33:35 minutes – 37:45 minutes.

<sup>15</sup> Diane Montagna, "(Exclusive) Cardinal Caffarra: 'What Sr. Lucia wrote to me is being fulfilled today.'" 05/19/2017.

<https://aleteia.org/2017/05/19/exclusive-cardinal-caffarra-what-sr-lucia-wrote-to-me-is-being-fulfilled-today/>.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Joseph Pronechen, "Fatima and the Miracle of the 'Son.'" 10/13/2017. <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/fatima-and-the-miracle-of-the-son>.

or scapular, it also becomes an existential and embodied reality and dedication of the whole person.”<sup>18</sup> Moreover, St. Pope John Paul II said, “In repeating every day ‘Totus tuus [totally yours],’ and living in harmony with her, one can attain to the experience of the Father in limitless confidence and love, to docility to the Holy Spirit, and to the transformation of self according to the image of Christ.”<sup>19</sup> We conquer the world, the devil, and the flesh the more we become like Christ. Hence why in the book *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, St. Pope John Paul II said, “The victory, if it comes, will come through Mary . . . Christ will conquer through her, because he wants the Church’s victories now and in the future to be linked to her.”<sup>20</sup> And the final victory will come about through Our Lady of Fatima, who promised that Her Immaculate Heart would triumph in the end; the Woman will crush the head of the ancient serpent.

Speaking of victory, there was once a Priest who had a strong devotion to Mary who described Mary as wearing combat boots. This reference sounds strange, but looking at how She has conquered various enemies of the Church throughout the centuries, this title actually quite appropriate. In fact, in the Old Testament book *Song of Songs*, we hear of Mary: “Who is she that cometh forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array?”<sup>21</sup>

Dr. Carrie Gress, Ph.D, who recently wrote an incredible book on Mary entitled *The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis*, says Mary

**has been called la Conquistadora, meaning “the conqueror” . . . a popular devotion that continues in the American Southwest. In the Litany of Our Lady of Sorrows, her more militant side shines through. In it, she is called Shield of the oppressed, Conqueror of the incredulous, Protectress of those who fight, Haven of the shipwrecked, Calmer of tempests, Retreat of those who groan, Terror of the treacherous, and Standard-bearer of the Martyrs.**<sup>22</sup>

**More recently, St. Maximilian Kolbe’s “Militia of the Immaculate Conception” and the Blue Army— in contrast to the Communist Red Army, formed in response to the apparitions of Fatima— also reflect her role as the twelve-star general leading her troops in a spiritual battle. One twelfth-century knight wrote, “Our Lady is powerful in battles . . . She is the hope of . . . knights who fight . . . Without her aid, knights cannot win.”**<sup>23</sup>

**And again, in 1986 in the Philippines, the twenty-year dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos was shaken up by the election of Corazon “Cory” Aquino. But as the Marcos regime came to an end, it appeared the dictator would not go out without a fight. He sent out his loyalist military, including tanks and soldiers, to keep a grip on the country through any means possible; Marcos had given orders to fire on the people if necessary. Cardinal Jaime Sin recounts the turn of events: What I am telling you now was told to me by many of these same soldiers who were ready to fire on the people. The tanks were trying to penetrate the crowd. And the people were praying and showing their rosaries. That is when, according to these soldiers, the Marines who were riding on top of the tanks, the so-called Loyalists (to Marcos), they saw up in the clouds the form of the cross . . . Then, a beautiful lady appeared to them. I don’t know if she appeared in the sky or was standing down on the ground. (Others would later tell me they thought she was a nun, dressed in blue, and that she was standing in front of the tanks.) So beautiful she was, and her eyes were sparkling. And the**

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<sup>18</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 2257-2259). TAN Books. Kindle Edition. Footnote refers to Roten, “Marian Devotion,” 86.

<sup>19</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 2259-2261). TAN Books. Kindle Edition. Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Pope John Paul II, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, 220-221.

<sup>21</sup> 6:10. Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 394-395). TAN Books. Kindle Edition. Translation of passage taken from Douay-Rheims Bible translation (Charlotte, NC: Saint Benedict Press, 2000).

<sup>22</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 395-399). TAN Books. Kindle Edition.

<sup>23</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 400-403). TAN Books. Kindle Edition.

beautiful lady spoke to them like this: “Dear soldiers, stop! Do not proceed! Do not harm my children!” And when they heard that, the soldiers put down everything. They came down from the tanks and they joined the people. So, that was the end of the Loyalists. I don’t know who these soldiers are. All I know is that they came here crying to me. They did not tell me that it was the Virgin. They told me only that it was a beautiful sister. But you know, (he paused, laughing heartily), I have seen all the sisters in Manila, and there are no beautiful ones. So it must have been the Virgin! 9 Reports say there were more than one million Filipino men, women, and children praying together in the streets, holding their rosaries as the soldiers advanced. The Marcos regime ended without massive bloodshed, thwarted at the last minute by the faith-filled prayers of a million people and the woman who wears combat boots.<sup>24</sup>

So Total Consecration lived in light of the Fatima message is still relevant for us today. It helps us to be victorious over our external enemies, but above all it helps us to overcome the greatest enemy: ourselves. We Catholics have the responsibility of urgently heeding Our Lady of Fatima’s message for peace in the world. The salvation of so many sinners out there depends on our response. Why? Because we have the fullness of the Truth in the Catholic Faith and as such we have all the weapons of mass conversion at our disposal.

Dr. Gress recounts an interesting story:

**There is a story that tells of a priest, doing missionary work in Japan, attending an international event that brought together Christians from around the world as well as foreign dignitaries. The Japanese ambassador approached the priest and said, “War is your fault.” Surprised by such a stark statement, the priest asked what he meant. The ambassador answered, “You Catholics, all of you— we do not have peace in the world. It is your fault.” The priest asked for more clarification. “Ambassador, why do you blame us?” “I’ve read about this,” he replied. “The Lady came to you at Fatima, right? That’s what you believe? She told you what to do to secure peace in the world. Well, there’s no peace in the world, so obviously you Catholics haven’t done it.” The priest, acknowledging that the ambassador was right, still protested, “Isn’t peace everyone’s responsibility?” The ambassador spoke vehemently, “No, she came to you Catholics. Not to Buddhists. Not to Hindus. She came to you, and it is your responsibility.”<sup>25</sup>**

Pope Francis recently quoted the Church Fathers who spoke of Mary as the Untier of Knots. He referred to people estranged from God as having “knotted hearts.” He says, **“These knots take away our peace and serenity.”<sup>26</sup>** Our Lady of Fatima told St. Jacinta that: **“The sins that take most souls to Hell are the sins of the flesh,”** and **“certain fashions will come that will offend Jesus very much.”<sup>27</sup>** There’s a lot of unhappiness today because many souls are not pure; they’re knotted up by the flesh. Peace and Joy are fruits of the Holy Spirit, and these fruits are born from a soul that is not imprisoned and dominated by the flesh. I will speak more about this below. Nevertheless, true devotion to the Mother of God always leads to a deeper union with God. After all She is Our Lady of Peace and the Cause of Our Joy. And real joy is not bodily but spiritual. Saint Maximilian Kolbe says, **“True knowledge of the Immaculata can only be acquired in prayer. The purer a soul is, the greater efforts it makes to avoid sin . . . the more and the better will it get to know the Immaculata.”<sup>28</sup>**

<sup>24</sup> Gress, Carrie. The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis (Kindle Locations 419-435). TAN Books. Kindle Edition.

<sup>25</sup> Gress, Carrie. The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis (Kindle Locations 2275-2284). TAN Books. Kindle Edition. Footnote, no. 21 says, 21Donald Calloway, “Five First Saturdays in Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” Thirteenth of the Month Club, <http://www.marian.org/13th/firstsaturday.php>. The last quotation from footnote, no. 7: “Ramon Llull, Libre de Sancta Maria (1290), qtd. in Amy G. Remensnyder, La Conquistadora (London: Oxford University Press, 2014), 15.”

<sup>26</sup> Edward Pentin, “Pope Francis’ Consecrating the World to Mary Culminates Fatima Celebration.” 10/15/2013.

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/pope-francis-consecrating-the-world-to-mary-culminates-fatima-celebration>.

<sup>27</sup> [http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/english\\_pdf/angelofpeace1.pdf](http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/mir/english_pdf/angelofpeace1.pdf).

<sup>28</sup> Fr. Manteau-Bonamy, Immaculate Conception and the Holy Spirit, (Libertyville: Prow Books, 1977), 124.

With Our Lady helping us to root out our *sins*, She also helps us to root out our *imperfections*, which dispose us to sin. Dr. Gress remarks:

**Mary also works through our imperfections. St. Maximilian Kolbe assures us that “the Immaculate knows everything and directs everything, on condition that we let ourselves be guided perfectly by her.” With the smallness of our childlike trust, she can do great things. She can even work with our weaknesses and repeated sins: “Every fall, even if it be very grave and repeated, serves us always and only as a little step towards a higher perfection.” Such falls, he adds, Our Lady permits “in order to heal us of our self-love, our pride, in order to lead us to humility and render us in this way more docile to divine graces.” Mary knows our weaknesses but also how to correct them.<sup>29</sup>**

That is why a deep prayer life is so important for conquering sin and imperfection. That being said, so how does one deepen his/her prayer life?

St. Pope John Paul II was asked how he prays in *Crossing The Threshold of Hope*. He responded by saying that he prays as the Holy Spirit allows him to pray. Most people don't understand that they don't determine how much they believe in God, how important Our Lady or the Blessed Sacrament is to them, and if Heaven and Hell mean anything to them practically speaking. These are gifts from God; God has to enlighten you. And it all begins with a good confession. In fact, the single most important in any Catholic's life who has been away from confession for more than one year is for them to go to confession. That is why we highly encourage going to Confession before one consecrates him/herself according to this method. Purity of soul is essential for living out this consecration well. Dr. Gress recounts the following story:

**Many years ago, there was a very wise priest who was advising a couple that were living together, although they were both still married to their respective spouses. This couple was eager to reconcile themselves to the Faith but felt frozen in their situation. The wise priest told the couple to (1) consecrate themselves to Mary and wear a Miraculous Medal as a sign of their consecration, (2) attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation without receiving the Eucharist, and (3) say a daily Rosary together. Within a year, every obstacle that they had faced to being married to each other and in accord with the teaching of the Catholic faith vanished. While they were clearly doing many great things, as Bishop Hugh Doyle quipped, “no one can live continually in sin and continue to say the rosary: either they will give up sin or they will give up the rosary.” This couple persevered and was greatly rewarded for their obedience and devotion to Mary.<sup>30</sup>**

This couple consecrated themselves to Mary, practiced their Sunday and Holy Day Obligations with fidelity, and increased their prayer life, particularly by the daily recitation of the Rosary. As a result of these holy actions, the sins in their relationship began to die and purity of soul began to be born in their hearts.

With purity of soul comes a deeper childlike, filial relationship with Mary. Dr. Carrie Gress comments:

**When faced with violence, disease, and natural disasters, there's an impulse in all of us to want to run and hide. This impulse dates back to the early Church and the apostles, as when St. Peter left Rome to escape being crucified. Our Lord met him on the way and asked him the famous question, Quo vadis? (“Where are you going?”). Truly, it was Our Lord's will that Peter follow Him in the ultimate sacrifice. Of late, the “rapture movement” among Protestants has earned millions in book sales and films from those looking for some assurance that they won't have to suffer what other Christians have suffered throughout the ages. Fear, human weakness,**

<sup>29</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God's Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 2429-2435). TAN Books. Kindle Edition.

<sup>30</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God's Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 2435-2442). TAN Books. Kindle Edition.

vulnerability, brokenness, and sin can all add weight to the burden of difficult times. It's natural to want to turn away from the difficulties— from the Cross— but Christians are called to not live naturally but supernaturally, to live with God's grace. But to live with this grace, we must not merely rely on what is natural. We must seek out sources of grace. As we have seen, Mary is a tremendous source of grace. As our Mother, she will help prepare us to endure whatever might come our way. Not only will she not leave us orphans; she will help raise us to be spiritual adults. Popes, saints, and the witness of those who love Mary reveal that her maternal care extends to the cultivation of our own souls. Mary, the secret gardener— or “the heavenly gardener,” as she was called by St. Thérèse of Lisieux— helps her children become better followers of her Son by facilitating the maturation of their souls. John Paul II explained, “For, ‘with maternal love she cooperates in the birth and development’ of the sons and daughters of Mother Church.” As a person under her care matures, he or she becomes more and more capable to take on whatever the world (and the Devil) throws at him or her. Spiritual adulthood is rarely discussed in our culture or in the Church. Sadly, most people in the pews today had their catechetical formation halted at about the eighth-grade level. They received confirmation, but it was treated as an end of the journey instead of just a beginning. Of course, this is a reflection of the times in which we live more than upon any single individual. In 1906, sociologist Arnold van Gennep explained that cultures require a certain type of regeneration in order to sustain themselves; the culture will fall to pieces without new lifeblood. This lifeblood comes, van Gennep argued, by having one generation raise the next generation into spiritual adulthood. Few parents think of the essential reality of bringing their children to spiritual adulthood. Confirmation, as they experienced it, seems to be the capstone; after that, it's up to the child. But being children, other interests— largely material— eclipse the spiritual, so typically, the full spiritual maturation of the soul doesn't happen until much later in life, if at all. We have sufficient evidence of elderly individuals who are still not spiritually mature.<sup>31</sup>

Mary eradicates spiritual immaturity at its root. We see this accomplished in the life of St. Jacinta. She was unbelievably wise for her young age. For a child who only lived to the age of 10 she was given such profound insights into the spiritual life, notably about the horrible nature of sin.

Once sin begins to be rooted out of one's life, which this consecration seeks to accomplish, one can begin entering into a deeper kind of science, that is, the science of the Cross. And the purer a soul is the deeper one finds joy in the suffering of the Cross. Dr. Gress says:

**Part of the maturation process includes coming to find joy and consolation in the Cross instead of just pain. St. Maximilian Kolbe explains further, “Give everything over to her will— whether she wants to give us sweets or nourish us with dryness; be close to her by your will, in her arms. Her way of the Immaculate, even though it be strewn at times with crosses and suffering, is not, nevertheless, all that burdensome and obscure.” Mary helps her children see the Cross in light of love— the way her Son did as a gift of self for others. Mary always takes us to the Cross, reminding us of the depth of her Son's love for each of us.**<sup>32</sup>

Finding joy in the Cross is the key to transforming our aggressively secular and hedonistic culture. Many people today falsely believe that sense pleasures equate to real joy, which they are in fact seeking, but fail to find on account of being steeped in sins of the flesh, which darken and can totally blind one's reason from seeing the Truth. The widespread unhappiness in our culture is due to the Cross being absent from individual hearts, families, politics, and society in general. We need Cross in our society today, and in God's Providence He wants Mary to be the one who will lead us back to that grace-filled event on Calvary. Dr. Gress explains:

<sup>31</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God's Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 2344-2366). TAN Books. Kindle Edition.

<sup>32</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God's Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 2390-2395). TAN Books. Kindle Edition.



**Mary assists in transforming civilization and rolling back secularization one soul at a time. As Father Paul Scalia has pointed out, “devotion to her brings purity to the soul and therefore clarity to the mind.” We certainly have evidence of this in the medieval scholastics who were keenly devoted to her and reached intellectual heights that have scarcely been reached again. But her influence extends to all her children, not just the philosophers and theologians. The Beatitudes speak of the blessedness of “the pure of heart, for they shall see God” (Mt 5: 8). Mary helps purify our hearts, which results in seeing God. It is in seeing and knowing God that we are inoculated from wanting to hide from the Cross.<sup>33</sup>**

So let us fly to Mary in this dangerous time of ours and She will lead us to Christ Her Son, in whom alone, we will find eternal salvation and true happiness.

### **Conclusion:**

St. Louis says that **“God wishes that His holy Mother should be at present more known, more loved, more honored, than she has ever been. This no doubt will take place, if the predestinate enter, with the grace and light of the Holy Ghost, into the interior and perfect practice which I will disclose to them.”<sup>34</sup>** This perfect practice is the *Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary*. St. Pope John Paul II entered into this perfect practice, and that is why he is now St. Pope John Paul the Great!

I like the Catechism’s quote which says that **“only in God will man find the truth and happiness he never stops searching.”<sup>35</sup>** In another place, it explains that man was made for Communion with God in which he finds his happiness.<sup>36</sup> All this means that we can only be happy if we’re living for God. It is based on how we are made.

The beautiful thing about being a Catholic priest is that I know that if people make their consecration to Jesus through Mary that they will be happy, very happy. And that happiness will last for all eternity. Only those who make it to heaven will live happily ever after and the consecration to Mary is one of the safest and surest ways to make sure that you are among the few, chosen elect of God.

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<sup>33</sup> Gress, Carrie. *The Marian Option: God’s Solution to a Civilization in Crisis* (Kindle Locations 2408-2413). TAN Books. Kindle Edition.

<sup>34</sup> Louis de Montfort, St.. *True Devotion to Mary, The Secret of the Rosary & the Total Consecration (Annotated)* (Kindle Locations 447-450). Our Catholic Heritage Publications. Kindle Edition.

<sup>35</sup> No. 27.

<sup>36</sup> No. 45.