

04-28-2017 (Friday of the 2nd Week of Easter)

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta says that **“loneliness is the most terrible poverty.”**¹ Ultimately, loneliness is a result of being separated from God, who is Love. In other words, loneliness is the absence of Love in a person’s life. Of course, the experience of loneliness varies by degrees and can affect anyone: single, married, Priest, and Religious, and from all walks of life. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, once said that **“all the fear in the world is the fear of this loneliness . . . the loneliness into which love can no longer advance.”**² Everyone is afraid of being alone, because we were made for loving communion with *others* and ultimately *the only Other*: Jesus Christ, who we gain access to *through* His Mother: Mary. The antidote to loneliness, then, is the possession of an intimate and authentic personal relationship with Jesus Christ *truly* and *really* present in the Most Holy Eucharist. And who leads us to the Eucharistic Jesus? Mary. Today’s Gospel foreshadows the Holy Eucharist. In the Presence of the Holy Eucharist we truly dwell in the house of the Lord.

Sadly, though, many Catholics today have lost faith in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, particularly evident among young people. I heard some time ago that only 10% of 18-25 year olds go to Mass each week. Ultimately, the most fundamental reason for these numbers is because they are living in sin. The emptiness in their hearts, instead of being filled with the Eucharistic Jesus and Mary, are filled with deceptive and illusory kinds of loves. This is where Mary’s powerful intercession comes in. She leads us to Her Eucharistic Son, who alone can cure the loneliness that sin causes within us.

Today we honor St. Louis de Montfort who had only two great loves in his life: Our Eucharistic Jesus and Mary. His ardent love for the Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and Mary were clearly evident early on in his childhood.³ Moreover, his Vocation to the Priesthood, which was revealed to him by Mary, was also attributed in no small part to his deep, abiding relationship with Mary. Because of his devotion to the Eucharist and Mary we can see why he became the great Saint that he is today.

Devotion to Mary, according to the method of St. Louis de Montfort as he describes in his book *True Devotion to Mary*, is, I believe, *the* Marian Devotion par excellence that obtains for us, from Mary Mediatrix, all the Graces and strength that we need to fight against all of our Spiritual Enemies which constantly make war against our Salvation. St. Louis de Montfort in his *True Devotion to Mary* calls Mary the **“dispensatrix,”**⁴ that is, the dispenser of all that the Holy Spirit possesses. She distributes, as St. Louis de Montfort says again, **“To whom she wills, as much as she wills, as she wills, and when she wills, all His gifts and graces.”**⁵ In fact, **“every pope (six in all) since the time the book *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* was first examined by Rome, has not merely approved but recommended it.”**⁶ **“Saint Pius X practiced this devotion himself, and in addition granted the Apostolic Blessing to all who would even read St. Louis’ book, a distinction enjoyed by few books!”**⁷

¹ <http://catholicbible101.com/motherteresasaquotes.htm>.

² Art & Laraine Bennett, *The Emotions God Gave You: A Guide for Catholics to Healthy & Holy Living*. Kindle app version. Location 83%. Quote noted in footnote, no. 100 says: “Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Introduction to Christianity* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1990, 2004), 301.

³ “St. Louis de Montfort, Confessor, Marian Devotee, Founder.” <https://www.ewtn.com/saintsHoly/saints/L/stlouisdemontfort.asp>.

⁴ Louis de Montfort, St. (2013-07-15). *True Devotion to Mary, The Secret of the Rosary & the Total Consecration* (Annotated) (Kindle Location 252). Our Catholic Heritage Publications. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Louis de Montfort, St. (2013-07-15). *True Devotion to Mary, The Secret of the Rosary & the Total Consecration* (Annotated) (Kindle Locations 252-253). Our Catholic Heritage Publications. Kindle Edition.

⁶ Father William Most, *Mary in Our Life*, “Chapter XVIII: St. Louis de Montfort’s Consecration to Mary.” From: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/most/getchap.cfm?WorkNum=213&ChapNum=20>. Footnote, no. 26 says: “For a thorough theological study of this consecration, see A. Lhoumeau, *La Vie spirituelle a l’Ecole du B^e L.-M. Grignon de Montfort*; and R. P. Poupon, *Le Poème de la parfaite consécration à Marie*.”

⁷ Ibid. Footnote no. 26 excluded.

St. Pope John Paul II, whose Papal Motto: **“Totus Tuus!”**,⁸ inspired by the thought of St. Louis de Montfort in his book *True Devotion to Mary*, also says that **“this ‘perfect devotion’ is indispensable to anyone who means to give himself without reserve to Christ and to the work of Redemption.”**⁹ St. Pope John Paul II’s evident sanctity was undoubtedly due in no small part to his Total Consecration to Jesus *through* Mary according to the method of St. Louis de Montfort. In God’s Providence, God wanted St. Pope John Paul II to have a special relationship with Mary. **“In Poland before he had been elected Pope. During a celebration of the coronation of the statue of Our Lady of Ludźmierz, the scepter fell out of Mary’s hands and was caught by Cardinal Wojtyla. The priest standing beside him said, ‘Karol, Mary shares her power with you.’”**¹⁰

In our Marian Consecration Mary is constantly seeking to open windows of opportunities for us to advance towards intimate union with Jesus. This is why St. Louis de Monfort says that Mary is **“so full of inventions, that she knows all the secret ways of gaining the heart of God.”**¹¹ In the Most Holy Eucharist, the Sacred Heart of Jesus beats for us and waits to give us; and this is the Heart that Mary wants to lead all of Her Children into.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the fount of all Graces. Since Mary Mediatrix is present at every Mass, if we ask Her to grant us Her Dispositions at Holy Mass we can be assured that we will receive all the Graces that we truly need for our Salvation and the Salvation of others because Jesus never refuses His Mother. To apply our Marian Consecration to our participation in Holy Mass, Father William Most, explains: **“What of a person who has made this consecration and now wishes to have a Mass offered for a definite purpose-e.g., for the soul of his father? . . . he has a choice: he may merely request a Mass for his father, making no mention of Mary; or he may ask the priest to say a Mass for the intention for which Mary wishes it said, and then turn to Mary and ask that it be for his father-and he may be entirely confident that Mary will grant the request.”**¹²

- In the life of St. Padre Pio, it is said: **“His Masses moved the hearts of the faithful due to his profound devotion which he attained through the Virgin Mary.”**¹³ St. Padre Pio was also once **“asked if the Blessed Virgin Mary was present during the Holy Mass and he responded, ‘Yes, she places herself at a side, but I can see her, what a joy. She is always present.’”**¹⁴
- Father Michael Muller, CSSR, records the two following Eucharistic stories:
 1. **“St. Bridget writes thus: ‘One day, when a priest was celebrating Mass, I saw at the moment of Consecration how all the powers of Heaven were set in motion. I heard at the same time a heavenly music, most harmonious, most sweet. Numberless Angels came down, the chant of whom no human understanding can conceive nor the tongue of man describe. They surrounded and looked upon the priest, bowing towards him in reverential awe. The devils commenced to tremble and took to flight in the greatest confusion and terror.’ (Lib. 8, C. 56).”**¹⁵
 2. **“One day St. Gertrude went to receive Holy Communion without being sufficiently prepared. Being greatly afflicted at this, she begged the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the Saints to offer up to God in her behalf all their merits, that they might in some way supply her own deficiency; whereupon, our Saviour appeared to her and said: ‘Now, before the whole heavenly court, thou appearest adorned for Communion as thou wouldst wish to be.’”**¹⁶

⁸ Jason Evert, *Saint John Paul The Great: His Five Loves* (Lakewood, CO: Totus Tuus Press, 2014), 165.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 169.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 170.

¹¹ Louis de Montfort, St. (2013-07-15). *True Devotion to Mary, The Secret of the Rosary & the Total Consecration (Annotated)* (Kindle Location 1051). Our Catholic Heritage Publications. Kindle Edition.

¹² *Ibid.*, Footnote, no. 6. Footnote, no. 26 reference excluded.

¹³ http://www.piercedhearts.org/theology_heart/life_saints/padre_pio.htm.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Muller CSSR, Fr Michael (2013-03-11). *The Blessed Eucharist: Our Greatest Treasure* (p. 250). Veritatis Splendor Publications. Kindle Edition.

¹⁶ Muller CSSR, Fr Michael (2013-03-11). *The Blessed Eucharist: Our Greatest Treasure* (p. 84). Veritatis Splendor Publications. Kindle Edition.