

St. Louis de Montfort's Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary

Day 12 of 33

Part I – Preparation: Emptying Yourself
of the Spirit of the World:

LOVE OF SELF

READING – Imitation of Christ: Book 1, Chapter 25 (Cont.)

Study also to guard against and to overcome the faults which in others very frequently displease you. Make the best of every opportunity, so that if you see or hear a good example you may be moved to imitate it. On the other hand, take care lest you be guilty of those things which you consider reprehensible, or if you have ever been guilty of them, try to correct yourself as soon as possible. As you see others, so they see you.

How pleasant and sweet to behold brethren fervent and devout, well-mannered and disciplined! How sad and painful to see them wandering in dissolution, not practicing the things to which they are called! How hurtful it is to neglect the purpose of their vocation and to attend to what is not their business!

Remember the purpose you have undertaken, and keep in mind the image of the Crucified. Even though you may have walked for many years on the pathway to God, you may well be ashamed if, with the image of Christ before you, you do not try to make yourself still more like Him.

The religious who concerns himself intently and devoutly with our Lord's most holy life and passion will find there an abundance of all things useful and necessary for him. He need not seek for anything better than Jesus. If the Crucified should come to our hearts, how quickly and abundantly we would learn!

A fervent and diligent man is ready for all things. It is greater work to resist vices and passions than to sweat in physical toil. He who does not overcome

small faults, shall fall little by little into greater ones.

If you have spent the day profitably, you will always be happy at eventide. Watch over yourself, arouse yourself, warn yourself, and regardless of what becomes of others, do not neglect yourself. The more violence you do to yourself, the more progress you will make.

Take a moment for personal meditation on the reading. What is God saying to you in this passage?

Preparation Period Focus

Day 12: Spirit of the World – LOVE OF SELF

Spare the rod and spoil the child; spare the self and spoil the soul. "The more violence you do to yourself, the more progress you will make."

Examine your conscience, pray, practice renunciation of your own will; mortification, purity of heart. This purity is the indispensable condition for contemplating God in heaven, to see Him on earth and to know Him by the light of faith. The first part of the preparation should be employed in casting off the spirit of the world which is contrary to that of Jesus Christ. The spirit of the world consists essentially in the denial of the supreme dominion of God; a denial which is manifested in practice by sin and disobedience; thus it is principally opposed to the spirit of Christ, which is also that of Mary.

It manifests itself by the concupiscence of the flesh, by the concupiscence of the eyes and by the pride of life, and by disobedience to God's laws and the abuse of created things. Its works are: sin in all forms, then all else by which the devil leads to sin; works which bring error and darkness to the mind, and seduction and corruption to the will. Its pomps are the splendor and the charms employed by the devil to render sin alluring in persons, places and things.

Pray the Veni Creator Spiritus, Ave Maris Stella, Magnificat and Glory Be – On Next Page

Veni Creator Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
and in our souls take up Your rest;
Come with Your grace and heavenly aid
to fill the hearts which You hast made.

O comforter, to You we cry,
O heavenly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
and sweet anointing from above.

You in Your sevenfold gifts are known;
You, finger of God's hand we own;
You, promise of the Father,
You Who do the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our sense from above,
and make our hearts overflow with love;
with patience firm and virtue high
the weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
and grant us Your peace instead;
so will we not, with You for guide,
turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Your grace on us bestow
the Father and the Son to know;
and You, through endless times confessed,
of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
with You, O Holy Comforter,
henceforth by all in earth and heaven. Amen.

Ave Maris Stella

Hail, O Star of the ocean,
God's own Mother blest,
ever sinless Virgin,
gate of heav'nly rest.

Taking that sweet Ave,
which from Gabriel came,
peace confirms within us,
changing Eve's name.

Break the sinners' fetters,
make our blindness day,
Chase all evils from us,
for all blessings pray.

Show thyself a Mother,
may the Word divine

born for us your Infant
hear our prayers through thine.

Virgin all excelling,
mildest of the mild,
free from guilt preserve us
meek and undefiled.

Keep our life all spotless,
make our way secure
till we find in Jesus,
joy for evermore.

Praise to God the Father,
honor to the Son,
in the Holy Spirit,
be the glory one. Amen.

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he
has looked with favor on his lowly servant;
From this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who
fear Him in every generation. He has shown the
strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in
their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from
their thrones and has lifted up the lowly. He has
filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he
has sent away empty. He has come to the help of
his servant Israel for he has remembered his
promise of mercy, the promise he made to our
fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.