

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

Day 4 of 33

Part I – Preparation: Emptying Yourself of the Spirit of the World: INCONSTANCY OF MIND

READING – Imitation of Christ: Book 3, Chapters 7, 40

That man has no good of himself, and that he cannot glory in anything.

Lord, what is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You visit him? What has man deserved that You should give him Your grace? What cause have I, Lord, to complain if You desert me, or what objection can I have if You do not do what I ask? This I may think and say in all truth: "Lord, I am nothing, of myself I have nothing that is good; I am lacking in all things, and I am ever tending toward nothing. And unless I have Your help and am inwardly strengthened by You, I become quite lukewarm and lax. But You, Lord, are always the same. You remain forever, always good, just, and holy; doing all things rightly, justly, and holily, disposing of them wisely.

I, however, who am more inclined to go backward than forward, do not always remain in one state, for I change with the seasons. Yet my condition quickly improves when it pleases You and when You reach forth Your helping hand. For You alone, without human aid, can help me and strengthen me so greatly that my heart shall no more change but be converted and rest solely in You. Hence, if I knew well how to cast aside all earthly consolation, either to attain devotion or because of the necessity which, in the absence of human solace, compels me to seek You alone, then I could deservedly hope for Your grace and rejoice in the gift of new consolation.

He who wishes to be too secure in time of peace will often become too dejected and fearful in time of trial. If you were wise enough to remain always humble and small in your own eyes, and to restrain

and rule your spirit well, you would not fall so quickly into danger and offense. When a spirit of fervor is enkindled within you, you may well meditate on how you will feel when the fervor leaves.

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

Preparation Period Focus

Day 4: Spirit of the world – INCONSTANCY OF MIND

The pilgrim soul begins to see the influence of the spirit of the world. He acknowledges his inconstancy and exalts the constancy and love of God.

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 confirm 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.