

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

Day 5 of 33

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

SELFISHNESS

READING – Imitation of Christ: Book 3, Chapter 40

Thanks be to You from Whom all things come, whenever it is well with me. In Your sight I am vanity and nothingness, a weak, unstable man. In what, therefore, can I glory, and how can I wish to be highly regarded? Is it because I am nothing? This, too, is utterly vain.

Indeed, the greatest vanity is the evil plague of empty self-glory, because it draws one away from true glory and robs one of heavenly grace. For when a man is pleased with himself, he displeases You, when he pants after human praise he is deprived of true virtue. But it is true glory and holy exultation to glory in You and not in self, to rejoice in Your name rather than in one's own virtue, and not to delight in any creature except for Your sake.

Let Your name, not mine, be praised. Let Your work, not mine, be magnified. Let Your holy name be blessed, but let no human praise be given to me. You are my glory. You are the joy of my heart. In You I will glory and rejoice all the day, and for myself I will glory in nothing but my infirmities.

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

Preparation Period Focus

Day 5: Spirit of the world – SELFISHNESS

The world is selfish and exalts itself. The soul of this pilgrim sees the influence of the selfish spirit in him. He experiences the effects of such an influence- lack of peace and tranquility of the soul. Thus, he declares that the world is vain, weak and inconstant. He decides to do all things for God's glory alone.

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.