

## **Backgrounder – St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort**

St. Louis de Montfort was born at Montfort, France on Jan. 13, 1673. He died at St. Laurent sur Serve, France on April 28, 1716. Even before ordination, he developed a strong devotion to the Dominican way of life.

He lived a life of poverty and was an itinerant preacher. He was appointed by the Pope Clement XI as an Apostolic Missionary to give parish missions.

St. Louis founded two religious orders – the Order of the Company of Mary (the Montfort Missionaries) and the Daughters of Wisdom. Another order – the Brothers of St. Gabriel – was founded in his spirit.

Amazingly, it can be argued that his most important work didn't begin until more than a century after his 1716 death. In 1842, his manuscript was discovered for a book that was published on May 12, 1853, as "True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary." It is commonly considered the source of conversion for untold numbers of people who have read it.

He also wrote the "Secret of the Rosary" and developed the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary. The de Montfort Consecration includes 33 days of prayers, with the Total Consecration occurring on the 34<sup>th</sup> day – a Marian feast day.

Pope Pius XII canonized St. Louis in 1947.