

Backgrounder – Blessed Pope John Paul II and the Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary

Blessed Pope John Paul II made the Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary. In his apostolic letter, “Rosarium Virginis Mariae,” the Pope noted that his personal motto “Totus Tuus” (Totally Yours) was inspired by the Total Consecration.

Further, the Holy Father said that reading St. Louis de Montfort’s “True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary” marked a turning point in his life. Blessed John Paul II talked about this in an Oct. 2000 address to the 8th International Mariological Colloquium in Rome. Blessed John Paul II noted that he had read and reread de Montfort’s book. “Then I understood that I could not exclude the Lord’s Mother from my life without neglecting the will of God-Trinity,” he said, “who willed to begin and fulfill the great mysteries of the history of salvation with the responsible and faithful collaboration of the humble handmaid of Nazareth.”

During his recovery from the May 13, 1981, attempt on his life, Blessed John Paul II came to believe that it was the Blessed Virgin’s hand who guided the assassin’s bullet to barely avoid inflicting a surely fatal wound. He determined that the mysterious Third Message of Fatima foretold this attempt on his life.

At the end of the May 13, 2000, beatification Mass for Blessed Francisco Marto and his sister, Blessed Jacinta Marto (two of the three Portuguese peasant children to whom Our Lady of Fatima appeared six times in 1917), Cardinal Secretary of State Angelo Sodano read from the official text that revealed – for the first time – the Third Message of Fatima: “Even if the events to which the third part of the Secret of Fatima refers now seem part of the past, Our Lady’s call to conversion and penance, issued at the beginning of the twentieth century, remains timely and urgent today.”