Stewardship of Faith

The Ultimate Act of Stewardship is total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary
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What is This?

This is a deeply personal decision, made by an individual who has prayerfully asked God to open up his heart to total consecration of himself to Jesus through His mother Mary. Stewardship is an understanding of the heart that everything we have is a gift from God that we are to use to help others. The Ultimate Act of Stewardship is “total consecration to Jesus through Mary” because it is giving oneself, fully and completely to God, without conditions, without strings, without reservation. We are giving back to God, freely of our own will, the very gift of our life. It is truly our ultimate possession which we recognize fully as a gift from God, our Father. We in turn return this gift, in total surrender to the will of our Father, to be used daily for His purpose. This also includes the surrendering of all of our sufferings, thoughts, words and deeds to Mary so she may take them, care for them, and distribute them in accordance with the will of her Son for His greater glory.

This total consecration of ourselves to Jesus through Mary is the ultimate loving response to the pure gift of love that Jesus gave to us by bringing us into existence.

Total consecration is the renewal of our baptismal vows, which in most cases were made on our behalf by parents and godparents, but instead we now choose to make this commitment of our own free will.

“Everything we have is a gift from God”
Consecration of oneself, following the writings of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, does not take away from one’s vocation as a father, mother, husband, wife, lay apostle, or consecrated man (priest/bishop) or woman (sister/nun). It is an enrichment of that vocation. Those who choose this pathway of holiness to Jesus through Mary, His mother, follow the example of Christ himself as He, being God, chose her as the perfect means to unite Himself to us and us to Him.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

(1 Peter 4:10 NAB)

Why Should I Choose to Totally Consecrate Myself to Jesus Through Mary?

This total consecration of ourselves to Jesus through Mary is to be done by an individual who chooses to be united more perfectly with Jesus, serving Him more faithfully and loving Him more tenderly. A deeper union with Jesus, our Savior, true God and true man, must be the ultimate end of this devotion and consecration. For in Him alone dwells the entire fullness of the divinity and the complete fullness of grace, virtue, and perfection. In Him alone, we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing; He is the only teacher to whom we should be united and the only model that we should imitate. He is the only Physician that can heal us; the only Shepherd that can feed us; the only Way that can lead us; the only Truth that we can believe; the only Life that can animate us. He alone is everything to us and He alone can satisfy all our desires.
We are given no other name under heaven by which we can be saved. God has laid no other foundation for our salvation, perfection, and glory than Jesus. He is our one and only Advocate and our Mediator of redemption with God, the Father. A deeper more personal and intimate relationship with Jesus is why each individual person prayerfully considers this total consecration of one’s self to Jesus, through Mary, and should prayerfully consider taking this sacrificial trusting journey. Mary is simply the perfect transparent pathway, being full of grace.

“Let it be done to Me according to Thy Word.” (Luke 1:38 NAB)

Like the rich young man in the gospel story, most people become frightened when asked to give up everything and follow Jesus. Saint Louis de Montfort leads us to Jesus through Mary and shows us how easy it is to consecrate our lives and still fulfill our daily obligations of living a life in this world. If your spiritual life is in the doldrums, the consecration is designed to jump-start your whole being into another level of existence. By surrendering everything, you gain everything - holiness, happiness, peace, success, freedom, and love.

In most prayers, we are asking God for something we feel we desperately need. In the consecration, we ask for nothing. Instead we place everything, including any benefits from our good works, in the hands of Our Mother, the mother of Jesus, to do whatever needs to be done. In that instant, we experience the perfect freedom of love. Imagine the experience when you trust the Lord and His Blessed Mother, ask for nothing, and thereby receive everything. Our Lady showed us the way to trust when the angel delivered the unexpected message of the coming of the Lord. The Rosary binds us to Jesus and Mary throughout the rest of our lives.

“Everything we have is a gift from God”
Why Does Our Consecration to Jesus Have to be Through Mary, His Mother?

We, as Catholic Christians, choose to follow the example set forth by our Father in Heaven, when He chose Mary as the vessel through whom He would unite Himself to all humanity. God created Mary, His most perfect masterpiece, to be the Mother of His only Son, Jesus. Through Mary, Jesus, the Savior of all humanity, came into the world. Jesus gave each of us, His beloved disciples, the GIFT of His very mother, as His final act of love for each of us, from the cross. John 19:26: “When Jesus saw his mother and disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour, the disciple took her into his home.”

We do not have to consecrate ourselves to Jesus through Mary, rather we choose to freely, in imitation of Jesus our Lord and Savior. He freely chose her to be the means by which He would unite Himself with us as the God-man. We honor the gift He entrusted to each of us in His Mother as we choose to allow her to be the means through which we become more fully united with Him. We bring glory to the Father by freely choosing Mary, His masterpiece, as the means through which we come into a deeper union with His Son, Jesus.

A deep interior level of humility exists in a disciple of Jesus Christ, who freely exclaims through one’s actions, that one is not worthy to approach the King directly. The disciple, instead, chooses to ask His most perfect creature, Mary, His mother, to take us by the hand and lead us on the holy pathway to her only Son, Jesus, our Mediator of Redemption. We give honor to Jesus when we honor His mother. We honor her simply and solely to honor Him all the more perfectly.

“Our faith is a treasured gift from God”
As we unite ourselves more deeply with Mary, we unite ourselves more perfectly with Jesus, her Son. Mary’s greatest desire is to have each of us know, love, and serve her Son, Jesus Christ, with a true purity of heart, which she herself possessed through the grace of God the Father.

As Jesus trusted in Mary, His Mother, completely without reservation, so do each of us, His disciples, choose to trust in Mary completely without reservation as we choose this holy pathway of consecration to her Son. As an infant, He was TOTALLY dependent on the protection, nourishment, guidance, care, and love of His Mother. Consumed with the desire to give glory to God, His Father, and save the human race, He saw no better or shorter way to do so than by submitting completely to Mary. We give immeasurable glory to God, the Father when we follow the example of Jesus submitting to Mary as our guide to His Son.

The Father gave and still gives His Son Jesus through Mary. The Holy Spirit formed Jesus only through Mary. He continues to form members of the mystical body and dispenses His gifts and His favors through Mary. Jesus chose freely to come into the world for the salvation of mankind through Mary. These examples of the Holy Trinity’s choice of Mary should compel us to choose Mary as the way to the Trinity.

“Everything we have is a gift from God”
Who is St. Louis de Montfort? Whom in our Catholic Family has Chosen this Marian Consecration to Christ?

St. Louis de Montfort, who dedicated his life to poverty, was ordained a priest in Paris, France in 1700. He was appointed by the pope as an “Apostolic Missionary” so as to give parish missions. He was a charismatic preacher who was immensely popular with the people. St. Louis de Montfort founded the Monfort Order of the Company of Mary (Montfort Missionaries), the Daughters of Wisdom, and the Brothers of St. Gabriel. He is best known for his writings about Our Lady, Mary. Through the ages, his ability to convert people to Mary and Jesus is repeated with almost every new reader of his masterpiece, True Devotion to Mary. He lived only sixteen years as a priest. However, with the grace of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, his life’s works have been instrumental in the conversion of souls down through the ages. His dream of having the whole world love Jesus, as Mary loves Jesus, continues to grow with each disciple’s YES to the Total Consecration.

Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa of Calcutta are just two examples of recent leaders in the Catholic Church who chose this Marian devotion and Consecration as a way of life.

References:
St. Louis de Montfort
True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin
Montfort Publication, Bayshore, NY 11706

“Our faith is a treasured gift from God”
Below is an excerpt from Pope John Paul II’s book, Crossing the Threshold of Hope:

“At first, it had seemed to me that I should distance myself a bit from the Marian devotion of my childhood in order to focus more on Christ. Thanks to St Louis de Montfort, I came to understand that true devotion to the Mother of God is actually Christocentric; indeed, it is very profoundly rooted in the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, and the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption.”

Pope John Paul II’s proclamation, “Totus Tuus” (“I am completely yours, O Mary”) is the motto he chose for his papacy.

Pope Benedict XVI has recently issued his Apostolic Blessing (pictured above) on a DVD project aimed at promoting the Marian Consecration of St. Louis Marie de Montfort. This project includes the personal testimony of His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This DVD and audio production will be available in the Summer of 2010. For further information/ordering, please contact Children of the Father Foundation at 610-853-9801 or www.childrenofthefather.org/

“Everything we have is a gift from God”
33-Day de Montfort Consecration Schedule

The de Montfort Consecration consists of 33 days of prayers with your consecration to Jesus through Mary on the 34th day, which is a Marian feast day. Although the consecration book lists only six suggested schedules for consecration (due to space constraints), the consecration may be done on any Marian feast day.

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“Our faith is a treasured gift from God”
Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.

Turn, then, most gracious Advocate,
your eyes of mercy towards us, and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

“Everything we have is a gift from God”
The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

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The Ultimate Act of Stewardship

Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary

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