

## WHO WAS SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT?

Saint Louis de Montfort is one of Our Lady's greatest apostles. Pope John Paul II came to this understanding while he was a student in the seminary. He was having difficulty with the issue of devotion to Our Lady, perhaps fearful that devotion to Mary would in some way take attention away from devotion and consecration to Jesus. Then Pope John Paul II read Saint Louis de Montfort's very popular and compelling book, *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*. His conversion experience was so powerful that he spent his pontificate speaking about Marian Spirituality, culminating in his great legacy to Catholics: *The Luminous Mysteries* or the Mysteries of Light, in which he detailed five new mysteries of the Rosary.

Today, every person has the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II and, like he, commit to a fervent devotion to Mary. Saint Louis de Montfort's astounding explanation of Mary's place in theology and in our spiritual lives underscores the reason dedication to Mary is completely Christ-centric. Mary leads us to Jesus because he is always with her. Saint Louis de Montfort understood the numinous relationship between Mary and Jesus. It is a truism to say, "To Jesus through Mary." Mary, the first apostle and the first Christian, is the easiest road to Jesus Christ. It took the inspiration of a saint, like Saint Louis de Montfort, to realize that Jesus and Mary are inseparable and that all devotion to Mary is automatically a devotion to Jesus Christ. Who could possibly know Him better? Mother and Son are linked by a love that we can only imagine. On a human level, we all know of the profound relationship between mother and son. On a divine level, the profundity is beyond our comprehension. We have Saint Louis de Montfort to thank for the enlightening revelation of the love between Jesus and his mother, Mary. Saint Louis de Montfort's cause is under consideration as a Doctor of the Church.

Who was Saint Louis de Montfort? He was ordained in Paris, France, in 1700 and died in 1716. He was an itinerant preacher dedicated to a life of poverty. Saint Louis de Montfort had trouble with some bishops because of his zeal but was appointed by the pope as an "Apostolic Missionary" to give parish missions. Saint Louis de Montfort was a charismatic preacher and was immensely popular with the people. He claimed to be able to convert even the worst sinners if he were only able to touch them with the Rosary. He founded the Order of the Company of Mary (Montfort Missionaries), the Daughters of Wisdom, and later, the Brothers of Saint Gabriel were instituted in his spirit. Saint Louis de Montfort is best known for his writings about Our Lady. 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary*. It affects every reader who is alive in faith, just as it affected Pope John Paul II when he was a seminarian. The continued popularity of his writings shows the working of the Holy Spirit in the teachings of this unique apostle of Mary.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY, AS TAUGHT BY SAINT LOUIS DE MONTFORT'S TREATISE: *TRUE DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY***

Saint Louis de Montfort, as a missionary par excellence, knew that theology was a means to an end, not the end itself. He had no interest in becoming a theologian, although he could have easily done so. His writings reflect that fact. Saint Louis de Montfort wanted the whole world to love Jesus as Mary loves Jesus, and as he himself had learned to love Jesus.

As a missionary, Saint Louis de Montfort was interested in converting people from sin and leading them to the Holy Trinity. "Le Bon Pere de Montfort" did not have much time to spare during his short stay in a parish. He needed catalysts - spiritual agents that worked in a mysterious way to speed up the conversion process. *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* was the catalyst - the shortest and surest path to Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity. The other catalysts were the Secret of the Rosary and Total Consecration to Jesus in Mary, an adult renewal of our Baptismal

Promises. These spiritual, devotional gems worked miracles. Thousands were converted. Millions have since read *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* and have consecrated their whole beings to Jesus through Mary, while continuing their vocations and family obligations.

### **WHY THE TOTAL CONSECRATION?**

Why would any person want to give all they have to Jesus through Mary? 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. Like all catalysts, we will never fully know the consecration's secret for speeding up the process of coming close to Jesus; however, we have the testimony of all those consecrated around the world that it works. We also have the testimony of Pope John Paul II.

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. It doesn't get any easier than this in the spiritual life.

*To Jesus Through Mary,*

*MyConsecration.org*

[www.myconsecration.org](http://www.myconsecration.org)