
Ninth Day

Treatise of True Devotion to the Virgin Mary [55-59]

Mary and the Apostles of the Latter Times

Saint Louis Marie explains the **consequences** that are experienced by those who remain faithful to Blessed Virgin Mary and grow in her love. He says that these *“will clearly see, that beautiful Star of the Sea, as much as faith allows. Under her guidance they will come safely to the port in spite of storms and pirates. They will perceive the splendors of this Queen and will consecrate themselves entirely to her service as subjects and slaves of love. They will experience her motherly kindness and affection for her children. They will appreciate how full of compassion she is and how much they stand in need of her help. In all circumstances they will have recourse to her as their advocate and mediatrix with Jesus Christ. They will see clearly that Mary is the safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus Christ. They will consecrate themselves to her, body and soul, without reserve in order to belong entirely to Jesus.”*

Next, the saint asks himself **what will they be like**, these servants, these slaves, these children of Mary? He replies: *“They will be ministers of the Lord who, like flaming fire, will enkindle everywhere the fires of divine love. They will become, in Mary’s powerful hands, like sharp arrows, with which she will transfix her enemies. They will bring to the poor and lowly everywhere the sweet fragrance of Jesus, but they will bring the odor of death to the great, the rich and the proud of this world. They will be like thunder-clouds flying through the air at the slightest breath of the Holy Spirit. Attached to nothing, surprised at nothing, troubled at nothing, they will shower down the rain of God’s word and of eternal life. They will thunder against sin, they will storm against the world, they will strike down the devil and his followers. They will be the **true apostles of the latter times** to whom*

the Lord of Hosts will give eloquence and strength to work wonders and carry off glorious spoils from his enemies. Wherever they preach, they will leave behind them nothing but the gold of love.”

St. Louis Marie continues: “As true disciples of Jesus Christ, they will point out **the narrow way to God in pure truth**, according to the holy Gospel, and **not according to the maxims of the world**. Their hearts will not be troubled, nor will they show favor to anyone; they will not spare or heed or fear any man, however powerful he may be.”



Meditation

- 1) **Place yourself in the presence of God.**
- 2) **Ask for the grace** of having a *great desire* to be pleasing in the eyes of the Lord, and to have eternal life as the only goal of my most important choices, without letting myself be seduced by the spirit of the world.
- 3) **Read the text below** and then spend take time to **reflect** on it.

(From Antonio Royo Marín, *Theology of Christian Perfection*).

How to Combat the Worldly Environment Royo Marín presents **four resolutions** to make in order to resist the spirit of the world. Here is the first of the resolutions.

First Resolution: Flee from dangerous occasions. The soul that aspires to holiness must voluntarily renounce worldly spectacles since the majority of these are injected with poison, sow errors, and rouse the lowest passions. Think of the poison against the faith that we receive constantly from television. Here, especially, follows the saying of the Holy Spirit: *Whoever loves danger will perish in it* (Eccl 3:27). Certainly it is not necessary to give up all shows, but most of them. Royo Marín says, “Nobody deems it excessive to renounce most of the shows and entertainment. In reality,

nothing is lost when one renounces all things for God.

According to St. John of the Cross, all creatures are as if they did not exist before Him. Only to our blindness does the price of holiness appear too costly.”

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field that, when a man finds it, he goes back to hiding it and, because of the joy it gives him, he goes and sells everything he has and buys the field. (Mt 13:44) At the greatness of the discovered treasure (that is, the Kingdom of Heaven), the man, full of joy, **leaves everything he has.**

4) **Conclude** the meditation with the **Litany of Humility.** Cf. pg. 125

Tenth Day

Treatise: of True Devotion to the Virgin Mary [60-67]

SECOND PART – DEVOTION TO MARY IN THE CHURCH

Basic Principles of Devotion to Mary

By examining salvation history, St. Louis has spoken of the need for devotion to the Blessed Virgin. In this section of *True Devotion*, before explaining what this devotion consists of, St. Louis presents the **fundamental theological truths** that illuminate this great and solid devotion.

First Truth: *Jesus Christ, our Savior, true God and true man, must be the ultimate end of all our other devotions.* Otherwise, they would be false and misleading devotions. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega (Rev 1:8), the Beginning and the End (Rev 21:6) of everything. Furthermore, there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12). Jesus himself tells us that when the branch is broken from the vine, it withers and only serves to be thrown

Litany of Humility

(By *Servant of God Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val*)

Lord have mercy	<i>Lord have mercy</i>
Christ have mercy	<i>Christ have mercy</i>
Lord have mercy	<i>Lord have mercy</i>
Jesus, meek and humble of heart	Hear me.

O Jesus, meek and humble of Heart,

Make my heart like unto Thine.

From the desire of being esteemed	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the desire of being loved	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the desire of being extolled	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the desire of being honored	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the desire of being praised	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the desire of being preferred to others	

Deliver me, O Jesus.

From the desire of being consulted	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the desire of being approved	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the fear of being humiliated	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the fear of being despised	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the fear of suffering rebukes	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the fear of being calumniated	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the fear of being forgotten	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the fear of being ridiculed	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the fear of being wronged	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>
From the fear of being suspected	<i>Deliver me, O Jesus.</i>

Jesus, grant me—*The knowledge and love of my nothingness*

Jesus, grant me—*The perpetual remembrance of my sins*

Jesus, grant me—*The awareness of the persuasion of my stinginess*

Jesus, grant me—*The aversion for all vanity*

Jesus, grant me—*The pure intention to serve God*

Jesus, grant me—*The perfect submission to the will of the Father*

Jesus, grant me—*The true spirit of compunction*

Jesus, grant me—*The decided obedience to my superiors*
Jesus, grant me—*The holy hatred of all envy and jealousy*
Jesus, grant me—*The promptness in the forgiveness of offenses*
Jesus, grant me—*The prudence in being quiet before the business of others*
Jesus, grant me—*Peace and charity with and for all*
Jesus, grant me—*The ardent desire for being disdained and for humiliations*
Jesus, grant me—*The want to be treated like You and the grace to know how to accept it in a saintly manner.*

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be loved more than I-
That others may be esteemed more than I-
That, in the opinion of the world, others may increase and I may decrease-
That others may be chosen and I set aside-
That others may be praised and I go unnoticed-
That others may be preferred to me in everything-
That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as holy as I should—*Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.*

O Mary, Queen and Mother of the humble	<i>plead for me.</i>
Saint Joseph, protector and model of the humble	<i>plead for me.</i>
Saint Michael Archangel, who was the first to take down the proud	<i>plead for me.</i>
All the Saints, sanctified by the spirit of humility	<i>plead for me.</i>

Let us pray—Lord Jesus, who being God humbled yourself unto death and death by the cross, as to be a perennial example that confounds our pride and self-love, grant us the grace to imitate Your example so that, humbling ourselves as we should to our misery on earth, we may be exalted to enjoy You eternally in Heaven. *Amen*