

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary

✠ Two basic themes for this weekend: [1] **God** and [2] **Christian Holiness**

- ↳ These two themes go together because holiness comes from God and from *God alone*.
- ↳ Holiness is union with God.
- ↳ God's grace is what makes us holy.

Holiness consists in being conformed, united and consecrated to Jesus Christ.

Conformed to Jesus → to become more like Him; to think, speak, and act like Him.

United to Jesus → to become one with Him; to be with Him, to follow Him, for Him to live in you.

Consecrated to Jesus → to belong to Him; to acknowledge Him as your Lord and Master, to place yourself under His dominion.

✠ **Devotion to Mary** is essential for growth in holiness.

- ↳ God Himself has willed to distribute all His graces *through Mary*.
- ↳ The Virgin Mary is perfectly conformed, united and consecrated to her most holy Son.
- ↳ We must never separate Jesus from Mary.
- ↳ We can go to Him only through her.
- ↳ Without Mary, we shall never find Jesus.
- ↳ Mary continues to form Christ in souls.
- ↳ Her strongest inclination is to unite souls to Jesus Christ.

True Devotion to Mary as explained by **St. Louis de Montfort**

Interior practices (acts of intellect, will, and heart)

- (1) to esteem and honor her above all the other saints,
- (2) to meditate on her virtues, her privileges and her actions,
- (3) to contemplate her grandeurs,
- (4) to make acts of love, praise, and gratitude to her.
- (5) to invoke her cordially,
- (6) to offer ourselves to her and unite ourselves with her,
- (7) to perform all our actions with the view of pleasing her.

Exterior practices (words that others can hear, actions that others can see)

- (1) to proclaim her praises,
- (2) to pray the Holy Rosary,
- (3) to wear the Brown Scapular,
- (4) to sing spiritual canticles in her honor,
- (5) to adorn her altars and to crown and ornament her images,
- (6) to carry her images in procession and to wear an image of her about our own persons,
- (7) to have copies of her name or picture made and placed in churches, houses, or on the gates and entrances into cities, churches, and houses.

Teaching on Devotion to Mary as explained by **St. Alphonsus Liguori**

Other practices of Devotion to Mary include:

- (1) fasting,
- (2) novenas,
- (3) visiting Marian Shrines,
- (4) hear Mass or have Mass offered in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
- (5) have special devotion to a saint who is more closely related to Mary.

In addition, two indispensable conditions of True Devotion to Mary

which apply to *all forms* of honoring are:

- (1) When we honor her we must do so with **a soul free from sin.**
- (2) We must **persevere** in devotion to Mary.

*“Continue joyfully to honor and love Mary and do all you can to make others love her.
Feel confident that if you persevere until death in true devotion to Mary,
your salvation will be assured.”*