

Legion of Mary

33 Day Preparation for Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary
Readings Based on True Devotion to Mary
(Prepared by Ando Perlas, Member Legion of Mary)

Introduction - The Servant of God Frank Duff, founder of the Legion of Mary, when upon his initial reading of the book, True Devotion to Mary by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, had thought that the treatise proposed by this great saint, seemed to 'border on the absurd.' The absurdity that the book proposes could be on two fronts that at that time, many Catholics, could have not possibly understood completely - first, De Montfort's proposal that to find Christ, the ultimate object of our devotion, we must completely surrender ourselves to Mary and second, that the surest and shortest way to the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, is through his mother, a seemingly ordinary Jewish girl who would not pass the high standards of the world - then and even now. At that time, the teaching of the Catechism on the Blessed Virgin Mary, put her in the same category of the Saints - and thus to have read De Montfort's treatise honoring Mary in this way (as the surest and safest way to Christ) definitely came as a shock to Frank Duff and many other good Catholics.

It was only after several readings of the book True Devotion and somehow a final and 'a forced reading' thank to his closest friends who urged him to not to give up on the book, did Frank Duff, by what he admits to be his 'epiphany' and "granting of a divine favor", finally realized that everything about the book was true! This would become central to his life and on which the spirituality of the Legion of Mary would rest upon.

Therefore, for the members of the Legion and that of Mystical Body of Christ, true Christianity is a vocation of a life in Christ Jesus. The very purpose of our lives, says Saint Thomas Aquinas, is that it has to be ordained or oriented to a good - and that good is God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that man's purpose is to gain the happiness of heaven by loving and serving God in this world. Therefore, Christianity has been ordered towards one's consecration to Christ in order to be one with him - united unto him by acquiring his virtues of obedience and charity.

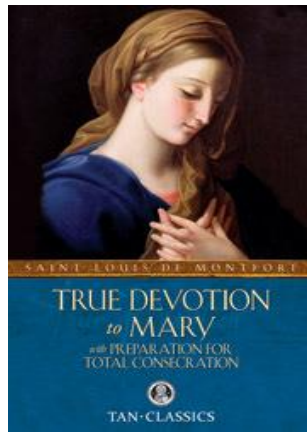
According to Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, the spirituality of total consecration is founded on the central mystery of Christianity, the Incarnation of Christ made possible by the cooperation of Mary. And therefore, it would be without doubt, that as Christ himself allowed his Divinity to be in a sense 'set aside' (consecrated) in Mary's womb, so too are led towards our own consecration to Christ in the hands of Mary. This divine sharing is not something partial but rather complete and thus Jesus gave himself to mankind

through Mary in complete surrender. Therefore, it is without doubt that in order to find Christ, we too must give ourselves in completely to Mary

General Format of the 33 Day Preparation – Each day of preparation shall be made up of the following:

- Daily Opening Prayers
- Daily Readings (based from the book True Devotion to Mary)
- Practical Reflections (for meditation and group discussions)
- Closing Prayers

Concurrently with the 33 Day Preparation Program, we RECOMMEND READING THE BOOK. “TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY” as it is the spiritual foundation of the Act of Consecration to Jesus through Mary. To facilitate that, the Spiritual Readings in this particular preparation program will be from True Devotion to Mary by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort (please note that there are also other suitable spiritual readings that may be used).



FIRST TWELVE DAYS – RENUNCIATION OF THE WORLD - Saint Louis Marie de Montfort writes, “The strongest tendency of Mary is to unite us with Jesus Christ, her Son and the greatest desire of her Son is that we come to Him by His Most Holy Mother. The one who desires to possess fruit that is ripe and beautifully formed must have access to the tree that produces it. Whoever desires the fruit of life – Jesus Christ – must possess the tree of life which is Mary.” And like a tree, it must bear fruits in a soul, and therefore at the core of this preparation is an act of surrender, a first step that needs to be taken – this act is the emptying of oneself, a renunciation of the world and of sin. The next three (3) weeks consists of interrelated processes which begins with knowing our limitations, sinful nature and hopelessness without Christ and then along the way in which we seek Christ and Mary, we are transformed into a life of sanctity and grace, as if during this preparation period, there is a new person waiting to be found.

Days 1- 12 Summary of Prayers and Readings

	Opening Prayers	Reading	Reflections	Closing Prayers
Day 1	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 78	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 2	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 79	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 3	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraphs 80-81	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 4	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 82	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 5	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 59	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 6	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 89	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 7	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 87	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 8	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraphs 98-99	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 9	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 259	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 10	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 126	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 11	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 127	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)
Day 12	Veni Creator (p.149)	Paragraph 240	See below	Ave Maris Stella (p.150)

Practical Reflections (Day 1) - How do we empty ourselves of everything that prevents us from being sanctified in Christ? What is a good starting point for conversion? Is it prayer? Is it the Sacrament of Confession? Is it getting rid of the cause of sinfulness in our lives? We can begin Day 1 with an honest and sincere *examination of conscience*. A good starting point for examining our conscience is the Ten Commandments. What should I give up so that God’s graces would flow into my soul? What virtues do I need to acquire to grow in holiness?

Practical Reflections (Day 2) - During these modern times, there seems to be less focus about the reality of sin. However, the doctrine of the Church on sin has not changed – it remains and still is an action that breaks our relationship with God and that unrepented mortal sin has consequences on our day of judgment. What are these sins that anger God and how do we avoid them – in thoughts and in action? When was the last time you went to the Holy Sacrament of Penance?

Practical Reflections (Day 3) - What does it mean to ‘die to ourselves daily?’ How would you put this into your daily Christian life? Do you take the Church’s precept on days of fasting and abstinence? Do you mortify your senses – do you control what you see and imagine? Do you immediately divert your attention (and your will) upon recognition of temptation? Do you keep company with the right people – those who would lead your soul to God?

Practical Reflections (Day 4) - What aspects of the Blessed Mother’s life would you consider as examples of ‘death to ourselves?’ What are the Seven Sorrows of Mary? Perhaps it would be good to meditate upon one of her Sorrows (daily) during this preparation period towards consecration to her.

Practical Reflections (Day 5) - True disciples of Christ are those who, after emptying themselves and renouncing the pleasures of the world, now embrace the virtues of poverty, humility, obedience, patience and chastity. Look again into yourselves and perform a 'daily virtue check' - have you been patient to your neighbors, friends and family, allowing some tolerance for their imperfections? Have you been understanding of their situation offering help for their daily needs? Are you ready to carry your cross and face your own crucifixion - because as you grow closer to Christ, you will, just like his apostles, be persecuted for your faith?

Practical Reflections (Day 6) - What are the many corruptions happening in the world today? Look around you and be sensitive to the decadence of Christian values - sanctity of human life, sacredness of God's gift of human sexuality, the centrality of the family, and more. How can you help in your own way, to renew the world and the society in which you live, with our Christian beliefs and its moral values?

Practical Reflections (Day 7) - The doctrine of our Catholic Faith, revealed and taught by Jesus Christ and preserved over the centuries by the Church Magisterium, state clearly that we should never presume salvation without any sincere action towards holiness and conversion. Look closely into your life and the decisions you are making each day and examine whether you are slowly moving away from sin and the pleasures and lies of this world. Do you regularly go to Confession and with a contrite heart asking the forgiveness of your sins (particularly mortal sins)?

Practical Reflections (Day 8) - To be truly devout to Our Lady, you must be completely devout to her Son Jesus Christ, and to be devout to Christ it requires the necessity to be free from sin. Let us acknowledge our sinfulness before God and pray that we overcome them with his grace through the Blessed Mother. In this paragraph, Saint Louis Marie de Montfort stated the sacrilege of unworthy Communion? What does it mean to receive Holy Communion unworthily? The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1385) states: *"To respond to this invitation we must prepare ourselves for so great and so holy a moment. St. Paul urges us to examine our conscience: "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself." (Corinthians 11 27-28) Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to communion."*

Practical Reflections (Day 9) - In order that the spirit of Mary lead us to Christ, Saint Louis Marie De Montfort proposes that we must renounce our spirit. What does this mean to you? He compares us with a piece of instrument (or a tool) in the hands of a skillful workman (Mary) and quite simply letting ourselves get completely 'lost' in the process of

our daily lives. As workmen as experts in their fields of craftsmanship, we let go of everything that we know (intellect) and do (will) – simply letting our Blessed Mother lead and guide us. Our Lady take possession of us. Can we trust Mary? Can we give ourselves completely in her hands?

Practical Reflections (Day 10) – To be truly devout to Our Lady, you must be completely devout to her Son Jesus Christ, and to be devout to Christ it requires the necessity to be free from sin. Acknowledge our sinfulness before God and pray that we overcome them with his grace through the Blessed Mother. Ask yourself what are the greatest obstacles to God’s grace that you face each day. How do you deal with temptations that never seem to cease? Are you careful with the words you say and the company you keep?

Practical Reflections (Day 11) – To be truly devout to Our Lady, you must be completely devout to her Son Jesus Christ, and to be devout to Christ it requires the necessity to be free from sin. Acknowledge our sinfulness before God and pray that we overcome our sinfulness with his grace that flows through the Blessed Mother. Once again, let us look closely into ourselves – our faults, our sins of omissions most specially. Have we fulfilled our commitment to our baptismal call?

Practical Reflections (Day 12) – To be truly devout to Our Lady, you must be completely devout to her Son Jesus Christ, and to be devout to Christ it requires the necessity to be free from sin. Acknowledge our sinfulness before God and pray that we overcome them with his grace through the Blessed Mother.

1st Week - KNOWLEDGE OF SELF – having renounced the world and all its false and empty promises, we create an ‘empty self’ ready for a fresh start. The waters of baptism regenerated us into a new person, and yet because of sin, we were brought once more to a dark place. By nature, because of conscience, man can recognize his sinfulness. The problem however, is that man refuse to acknowledge the source of sin – and that is his pride and refusal to accept his helplessness without God’s grace. (On paragraph 228 of True Devotion, Saint Louis Marie de Montfort writes: “During the first week, they should employ all their prayers and pious actions in asking for a knowledge of themselves and for contrition of their sins and they should do this in the spirit of humility.”

During this period, we hope to get to know who we truly are before God – that without humility we will never overcome our weaknesses and sinfulness. We need to know ourselves – and we need Christ to bring this inward change in all of us. Above all, we need Mary to bring us to Christ and Christ to our fallen selves.

Days 13 - 19 Summary of Prayers and Readings

	Opening Prayers	Reading	Reflections	Closing Prayers
Day 13	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraph 68	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178)
Day 14	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraph 100	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178)
Day 15	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraph 108	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178)
Day 16	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraph 206	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178)
Day 17	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraph 206	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178)
Day 18	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 144-145	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178)
Day 19	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraph 228	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178)

Practical Reflections (Day 13) - Jesus Christ paid dearly to redeem us from sin and evil, thus, we ask ourselves what have we given back to Him in order to glorify Him? What talents God gave us have we used the good of others and for the sake of God? Have we taken his final will and testament to pursue of His great commission to us - make disciples of all men? What does it mean to be 'slaves of love' for Christ?

Practical Reflections (Day 14) - True Devotion to Mary consists of external devotions such joining her confraternities, praying her novenas and the Holy Rosary - however, all these actions in her honor should lead towards overcoming our sins. Saint Louis Marie de Montfort teaches this important doctrine of the Church on SIN. We cannot and should not remain in the state of sin (confession is necessary along with a contrite heart) if we are to grow in our spirituality. Our consecration to Jesus through Mary requires us to be in the state of sanctifying grace. What is grace? What is sin? Perhaps it is time to take another look into our souls, a timely moment to examine our conscience.

Practical Reflections (Day 15) - During our spiritual preparation, we hope gradually move towards a virtuous life, leaving behind us our 'bad self' and its sinful inclinations. The road to holiness begins with changing our vision of the world and all its allures, then we recognized sin and evil and committed to a life of grace. Grace leads us to a life of virtue - as virtue is a building block for Christian moral living. Mary is the model of all

these Christian virtues – perhaps it’s time to look closely into each of them and ask ourselves if we are putting any of these into practice.

Practical Reflections (Day 16) – Saint Louis Marie de Montfort recognizes the inconstant nature of our sanctity and holiness and thus he says that we cannot lean on ourselves in keeping what treasures we have earned from our merits. Thus, it would be wise for us to entrust everything to Mary who will hold these treasures for us. Can you entrust to Our Lady all of your possessions and treasures? Will she ever abandon you in times of need?

Practical Reflections (Day 17) – When one gives himself to Our Blessed, she strips us of our old garments – our old self, our old sinfulness – but that’s not all – she provides us with her own garments, her own merits and graces. To all her faithful servants and slaves, she gives us her Son, Jesus Christ. All she asks of us is our faithfulness to do God’s will, in thoughts and action. She wants and needs our sanctity so that she can present to Christ her Son, a faithful slave. On our judgment day, she will be there to be our advocate to the Judge (shall we make our Lady work so hard for us begging for mercy?) It is good to begin now while we are still pilgrims on a journey.

Practical Reflections (Day 18) – What is self-abandonment? It begins with a complete trust and confidence in God alone. Saint Louis Marie De Montfort remains consistent with his treatise that if Mary is the mother of our soul and Christ is in us, what is there to fear and what else would you ever need in this life if Mary is in you – certainly not the riches of this world nor the power it may offer. You have EVERYTHING you would ever want, Mary.

Practical Reflections (Day 19) – We cannot grow in our Christian life without our humble acknowledgement of our inner corruption – and yet, the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross earned for us merits and graces giving us access to life eternal. God offers His graces in the hands of Mary and awaits all mankind to respond to the call of holiness. Now it is up to us to give ourselves completely to Mary.

2nd Week – KNOWLEDGE OF MARY – Saint Louis Marie de Montfort proposes that on the 2nd week of the preparation, the focus would be on knowledge of Mary. Though many are familiar with a part of her life – her parents – Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, her beloved husband, Saint Joseph, Saint Louis Marie de Montfort encourages us to get to know Mary interiorly. Since she is the mold by which our lives must be patterned, it is necessary to know her virtues, inner dispositions, joys and sorrows.

Days 20 - 26 Summary of Prayers and Readings

	Opening Prayers	Reading	Reflections	Closing Prayers
Day 20	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 1-8	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178), Saint Louis Marie de Montfort Prayer to Mary (p. 218) and HOLY ROSARY
Day 21	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 9-13	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178), Saint Louis Marie de Montfort Prayer to Mary (p. 218) and HOLY ROSARY
Day 22	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 16-19	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178), Saint Louis Marie de Montfort Prayer to Mary (p. 218) and HOLY ROSARY
Day 23	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 20-25	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178), Saint Louis Marie de Montfort Prayer to Mary (p. 218) and HOLY ROSARY
Day 24	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 34-36	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178), Saint Louis Marie de Montfort Prayer to Mary (p. 218) and HOLY ROSARY
Day 25	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 43-46	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178), Saint Louis Marie de Montfort Prayer to Mary (p. 218) and HOLY ROSARY
Day 26	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 55-58	See below	Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (p. 176-178), Saint Louis Marie de Montfort Prayer to Mary (p. 218) and HOLY ROSARY

Practical Reflections (Day 20)- Saint Louis Marie de Montfort wastes no time to introduce to his readers the Blessed Virgin Mary and her most significant role in the salvation of mankind as the mother of Christ, our Savior. God in his plan, kept Mary hidden, hidden from herself, her parents and even the angels. Why? Mary is the 'masterpiece' of God's work and surely, she is the greatest of all creatures and saints - as she became the New Eve in whose fiat the whole redemption depended upon.

Practical Reflections (Day 21) – The world is full of Mary’s glory for she is the mother of God and the world has not given her the honor and praises she truly deserves. Why? Is it because the world has become so blinded by evil that Mary has been obscured in our Christian faith? What can you do to give her honor and glory so that Jesus would be more glorified?

Practical Reflections (Day 22) – Man depends on God’s graciousness – everything we have, the nature that surrounds us, every breath that we take, every good thing that is meant for our good and well-being – they all came from the Triune God. And yet, the same God depended on a Jewish girl to carry out his salvation for mankind. God needed her consent, her free assent to the Divine Will so us to bring forth His Son to the world. If Mary is on your side, who would be against you?

Practical Reflections (Day 23) – In the mystery of the Incarnation of Christ, the Holy Ghost would have not been able to complete this mystery without the cooperation of Mary. Think about this for a few moments and recall (Genesis 3:15) how the Almighty had from the beginning of the Fall, immediately created a plan by putting an enmity between the woman and her seed and the serpent and thy seed. This is the protoevangelium made possible by the Mary’s fiat to God and the actions of the Holy Ghost.

Practical Reflections (Day 24) – When the Holy Ghost enters a soul, it is because He found Mary in close union with that soul. Closely reflect on this thought – the Gifts of the Holy Ghost are bestowed on you because He has found Mary resting on your soul! What are the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Has your spirituality grown because of these gifts? Are you more resolute in your desire towards holiness? The Holy Ghost makes you a new person, no longer enslaved to sin and selfishness.

Practical Reflections (Day 25) – How can one be amiss into thinking that there is no need for Mary in the salvation of man? It is through Mary that the salvation of the world was made possible by her predestination and her fiat (as God never tampered with her nature that included her free will). Let’s recall the words from Redemptoris Mater #8 and #10: “In the mystery of Christ, Mary is present even “before the creation of the world” as the one to whom the Father “has chosen” as Mother of His Son in the Incarnation. In this way, from the first moment of her existence she belonged to Christ sharing in the salvific and sanctifying grace and in that love which has its beginning in the “Beloved.”

Practical Reflections (Day 26) –Are you willing to become the servants and slaves of Mary? Are you ready to commit to a life without honor, glory, gold and silver? Are you ready to take up the cross and carry on a life of sacrifice and suffering for the sake of the Gospel? A life consecrated to Jesus in the hands of Mary is living a life of constant union

with God in union with His most holy mother Church. Are you ready to defend the Church and its teachings so as to be the ‘burning fire of the ministers of the Lord?’

3rd Week – KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST – In the book True Devotion to Mary (paragraph 280), Saint Louis Marie de Montfort states, “During the third week, they shall apply themselves to the study of Jesus Christ.” During this week, we hope to grow closer to Christ by getting to know him better based from the teachings of the Church and the Scriptures – understanding the mysteries of his Divinity and Humanity, as revealed through his Incarnation and Paschal Mystery of His life. Above all, we want to know Christ and his teachings, his unique and profound relationship with Mary and Saint Joseph,

Days 27 -33 Summary of Prayers and Readings

	Opening Prayers	Reading	Reflections	Closing Prayers
Day 27	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 61-64	See below	Litany of the Holy Name (p. 232), Saint Louie de Montfort Prayer to Jesus Mary (p. 237) and Jesus Living in Mary (p. 238)
Day 28	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 123-126	See below	Litany of the Holy Name (p. 232), Saint Louie de Montfort Prayer to Jesus Mary (p. 237) and Jesus Living in Mary (p. 238)
Day 29	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 155-156	See below	Litany of the Holy Name (p. 232), Saint Louie de Montfort Prayer to Jesus Mary (p. 237) and Jesus Living in Mary (p. 238)
Day 30	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 157 – 159	See below	Litany of the Holy Name (p. 232), Saint Louie de Montfort Prayer to Jesus Mary (p. 237) and Jesus Living in Mary (p. 238)
Day 31	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraph 164	See below	Litany of the Holy Name (p. 232), Saint Louie de Montfort Prayer to Jesus Mary (p. 237) and Jesus Living in Mary (p. 238)
Day 32	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraph 165	See below	Litany of the Holy Name (p. 232), Saint Louie de Montfort Prayer to Jesus Mary (p. 237) and Jesus Living in Mary (p. 238)
Day 33	Litany of the Holy Ghost (p. 174-175)/Ave Maris Stella (p.150)	Paragraphs 262 - 265	See below	Litany of the Holy Name (p. 232), Saint Louie de Montfort Prayer to Jesus Mary (p. 237) and Jesus Living in Mary (p. 238)

Practical Reflections (Day 27) – Saint Louis Marie de Montfort establishes that the end of our devotion and consecration to Mary is JESUS CHRIST, otherwise, it is a false devotion. Mary’s greatest desire for all souls is her Son. She leads all men to HIM, who is the way, the truth and the life – the challenge we have is that many don’t seem to listen to our Mother’s pleading. If we truly understand the unbreakable union between our Mother and Our Lord, then we would always go to Mary to seek help, solace, consolation and protection. Reflect on these words of the great Saint: “If we are in Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ, in us, we have no condemnation to fear.”

Practical Reflections (Day 28)– Saint Louis Marie de Montfort states through our consecration to Mary, we are effectively renewing our baptismal vows, specifically, through our renunciation of Satan and all his false lies and promises. It is no wonder that the devil hates Mary and her children – the battle continues with the woman of Genesis against Satan and his minions. What kind of daily battles do you fight daily? Do you see evil around you – at home, at work and in the public square?

Practical Reflections (Day 29) – Mary is the road that leads us to Jesus and for as long as we are on this road, rest assured that you will not be led astray nor get lost. Mary is the roadmap that leads to Christ. Along the way to Calvary, she was there – full of sorrow and filled with agony experiencing suffering along with her Son, Jesus. Like Mary, may we never abandon our Lord, Jesus by our actions and sinful ways. Let us glorify Christ by honoring His mother.

Practical Reflections (Day 30) – Saint Louis Marie De Montfort touches on the maternal mediation of Mary being the most perfect and surest way to Jesus. Therefore, Mary is invoked by the Church (Lumen Gentium #62) under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix and Mediatrix. Mary’s maternal mediation was completely oriented and preordained from the moment of her conception – as she collaborated with God, the source of life and a child who receives life. Mary is our Mediatrix with Christ as Christ is the Mediator with the Father. True devotion to Jesus means total consecration to the Immaculate Mediatrix, Mary.

Practical Reflections (Day 31) – Mary is not a stumbling block to Jesus as others would claim. The Church Fathers along with some of the greatest Saints have found Mary to be the ‘building block’ necessary for man to find Christ in their lives. Saint Pope John Paul II (whose spiritual life was greatly affected after having read “True Devotion to Mary”), reaffirmed Mary’s role as Advocate (for man to Jesus Christ), in his encyclical “Redemptoris Mater.” In a later address about Mary, he stated the following with regards her title as Advocate: “Mary exercises her role as “Advocate” by cooperating both with

the Spirit (Paraclete) and with the one who interceded on the Cross for his persecutors (cf Luke 23:34), whom John calls our “advocate with the Father.” As a mother, Mary defends her children and protects them from the harm caused by their own sins.”

Practical Reflections (Day 32) – As we draw near the completion of our preparation for consecration to Jesus through Mary, let us draw focus on your personal relationship with JESUS CHRIST. Who is Jesus Christ? It was the same question Our Lord asked Simon Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matthew 16: 15). What was Peter’s response? What would be your response if Jesus asked you the same question? Saint Thomas the apostle after having doubted the Risen Christ could not utter words of disbelief upon resting his fingers on the Lord’s pierced hands except to say. “My Lord and my God.”

Practical Reflections (Day 33) – Our preparation comes to an end and a new beginning in our Christian life. Saint Louis Marie De Montfort challenges us not to remain idle – “like a good servant and slave we must not remain idle... we must undertake and achieve great things for this august sacrament.” The Servant of God Frank Duff was a little bit more open and direct when he stated the “True Devotion to Mary OBLIGES apostleship.” What would be your next goal after your Formal Act of Consecration? Remember that it is not a momentary moment – but a beginning of a new life, a response to our baptismal call towards personal holiness and the pursuit of the holiness of others through evangelization. Are you willing to take up the cross and be a missionary of Christ under the mantle and protection of Our Mother?