



***Pilgrim Virgin
Statue
Home Visitation***

HANDBOOK AND GUIDE

Contents

INTRODUCTION

How to use this book..... 1

PART ONE - BEFORE THE VISIT

Preparing a Place for the Statue..... 3

What's the Purpose of her Weekly Stay?..... 4

The Day of Arrival..... 5

What to do during the Week? 6

Inviting Friends and Neighbors..... 7

PART TWO - DURING THE VISIT

The prayers of Rosary and meditations for use with each mystery are found in a separate Prayer Booklet. Other prayers that can be added after the Rosary are also found in this booklet.

PART THREE - AFTER THE VISIT

Keep Praying the Rosary..... 8

The Power of the Rosary..... 9

Fifteen Promises to those who pray the Rosary..12

Mary & the Spiritual Life (Spiritual Maxims)....13

Suggested Reading..... 19

How to use this Book

This little booklet is your companion during the *Pilgrim Virgin's* visit to your home, helping you profit from its *visit*. You will also find a series of meditations to help you pray the Rosary more fruitfully, for many of us must admit that, at times, our Rosary has probably become something routine, more of a chore than a delight! It is hoped that these meditations will help you see and appreciate how the Rosary should be prayed - that means reflecting upon the contents of each of its fifteen mysteries. For they are all inexhaustible in meditative material, and these meditations are no more than a simple opening of a door to what is a vast room of great and varied treasure. There are also some additional prayers that can be recited after the Rosary - if you so wish. I hope you find this little booklet both practical and spiritually uplifting, leading you to a greater love of God and a greater appreciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary's God-given role in our present age - which arguably is *The Age of Mary*.

Part One deals with the practical aspect of having the *Pilgrim Virgin Statue* in your home. What you must do to prepare for it; where it should be kept; and what you must do during the week that Mary spiritually visits your home. You will also find some ideas for a simple, yet solemn reception ceremony.

Part Two will provide you with a series of daily prayers and meditations that you can make part of your Family or Personal Rosary. Each mystery is laid out in such a way that anyone can easily participate in the recitation of the Rosary - even if they have never encountered nor said the Rosary before. For this reason each decade has the Rosary prayers printed out in full, so as to avoid distractions by having to needlessly turn pages back and forth. You are encouraged, at least once, to invite your friends or neighbors, Catholic or not, to pray with you and your family in front of the *Pilgrim Virgin Statue*.

Part Three gives some guidelines on what to do when the week-long visit comes to an end. The power of the Rosary is explained, there are some excellent maxims for your spiritual life, a list of the Rosary Promises given by Our Lady, and a list of suggested Marian reading. We sincerely hope that this spiritual visit of the Mother of God, under the title of the *Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima*, brings you, your family and your neighborhood, as many graces as she has brought elsewhere. To God through Jesus. To Jesus through Mary.

Part One

What to do this week?

1. Preparing a place for the Statue
2. The Purpose of Her Weekly Stay
3. The Day of Arrival
4. What to do during the Week?
5. Inviting Friends & Neighbors

Preparing a place for Mary

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima, though it is only a statue, is still a representation of the Queen of Heaven. If a king sends an ambassador to another country, but the king's message is ignored and his ambassador is mistreated, then the king himself is dishonored by the mistreatment of his ambassador. We should look upon the visit of Our Lady's statue in a similar vein.

We pray to the person, not the Statue

For those who might question the reason why Catholics pray in the presence of statues, to avoid any misunderstanding we might add that we do not pray *to the statue*, but *to the person the statue represents*. The purpose of the statue is much like the purpose of the photographs we carry of our loved ones. Nobody would dare accuse us of loving the photo more than our family. They know that the family photos we have in our offices, wallets, etc., merely help us to keep our loved ones in mind and they often serve to enkindle and preserve our love during their absence.

Altar, Candles, Flowers

Not only does the statue represent our Queen and Mother, but it is also a blessed statue and therefore it should be treated with considerable respect. Thus, it is only fitting that we prepare a special place for her, whom the statue represents, in our home - a place of honor, not some dingy, dirty corner, where she will out of sight and out of mind! It is recommended that a little altar, or pedestal of some kind, be prepared for the statue, in a safe place, out of reach of little children or animals, who might overturn the statue and so damage it.

The altar or pedestal could be covered with a white cloth, symbolizing the purity and spotlessness of her who was conceived and lived without sin. It is suggested that a couple of candles be placed on either side of the statue, and lit during times of prayer. If you wish, you could also prepare a small vase or two of flowers, in proportion to the size of the statue, and place them on the altar or by the pedestal. We also recommend that the statue be kept in a prominent place, symbolizing the prominent place Our Lady should have in our hearts.

All these things can help re-ignite and preserve our devotion to Our Lady. And it is this devotion that God expects of us – for as Our Lady herself said at Fatima: *“God wants the whole world to be devoted to my Immaculate Heart.”* Through this simple apostolate, we will play our role in bringing this about.

What is the purpose of her week-long visit?

The main purpose of the Pilgrim Virgin's week-long visit to our homes is to help us focus on the essentials that will bring about the salvation of our souls and of those around us. By the means of Our Lady's many apparitions, God has repeatedly warned us that the extent of the world's sinfulness has merited severe punishments.

Yet, this threat of Divine Justice has always been accompanied by the compassion of Divine Mercy. God has also told us how we can avoid, or at least mitigate, this just punishment. The remedy is simple and accessible to all. Yet the world, hell-bent on its self-destructive course of sinfulness, has, until now, stubbornly ignored both the warning and the remedy.

The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, as God's messenger, reminds us of both the warning and the remedy, wherever it goes. This home visitation is an impetuous act of God's mercy, knocking upon the doors of our minds and hearts, continually trying to break through the spiritual blindness and material obsession that prevents us from doing what is most important in this life: loving God and saving our own soul. As Scripture says: "*What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world, yet suffer the loss of his own soul?*"

This week-long spiritual visit of Our Lady to your home, will try to help you understand the importance of your salvation and will help you return to the basics that will give both honor and glory to God, and save your soul in the process. The simple basics that God requires and Our Lady suggests are ***Prayer and Penance***. This visit will hopefully renew your spirit of prayer and contemplation, by helping you to pray the prayer that Heaven requested in order to fight the evils of our day and avoid their consequent punishments.

This booklet will also suggest a series of penances and guidelines for your spiritual life (see *Spiritual Maxims*, page 71) from which you may choose something suitable and practicable. It will also give you some basic principles for the spiritual life and suggest some appropriate spiritual reading as a follow up to this spiritual week you are about undergo. If you are faithful to all these recommendations and maxims, then you will go a long way towards glorifying God and saving your own soul! To God through Jesus! To Jesus through Mary! To Mary through this spiritual week of prayer and reflection!

The Day of Arrival

In Catholic countries, Saturday is usually the day when the Pilgrim Virgin Statue goes to a new location. This is because Saturday is traditionally *Our Lady's Day*. The Statue would be publicly carried in procession from the home of the previous week's visitation to the home of the family where the Statue will remain for the following week. Such a public manifestation of religion gives much glory to God and also strengthens the faith of both onlookers and participants. It would be good if such customs could be continued wherever possible.

However, in many places, especially in Protestant countries, the statue is unfortunately brought to homes with much less ceremony. This, however, should not mean without any ceremony at all! Furthermore, if the statue cannot change hands on Saturday, due to some considerable difficulty or inconvenience, then it is suggested that it change hands on Sunday - for it could be returned to church on Sunday and picked-up there by the following week's recipients when they come to Sunday Mass.

Where numbers permit, and good singing voices allow, the moment of arrival could be solemnized by a simple ceremony. It is suggested that a hymn be sung at the moment the *Pilgrim Virgin Statue* arrives and while it is carried into the house, placed upon a pre-prepared altar, the candles lit and the vases of flowers put in place. However, if good voices are lacking, then it would be better to say the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary instead of singing a hymn.

Once enthroned upon its altar, the family and friends could spend a few moments in private prayer and then say the Opening Prayer (see *The Opening Ceremony* in the Fatima Visit Prayer Booklet). If time allows, and if the hour is not too late, a Rosary could be prayed in the presence of the Statue before the end of day. You will find in the Fatima Visit Prayer Booklet a suggested program for a simple opening ceremony. It is only a suggestion and may be varied or omitted at will, according to the circumstances surrounding each particular Reception of the Statue. However for the honor of God's Blessed Mother, we do recommend some kind of ceremony. For this will invariably manifest, and imprint upon the mind, the importance of the week that is to follow and also establish its spiritual tone.

In view of this, it is recommended to invite *as many* family members, friends and neighbors as possible for the arrival of the statue - for this too will show the importance of the occasion to all present.

What to do during the week

Nobody invites guests in order to ignore them. Similarly, it would be dishonorable to invite Our Lady into our home and then neglect her or even forget about her. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that **the very minimum we do is to say the Rosary daily in front of her statue.** At Fatima, Our Lady had said: *“Pray the Rosary daily!”* This week is a heaven sent opportunity to do just that. It can be the start of a family Rosary. It can be a turning point in our spiritual lives. Much more is brought about by prayer than we would like to think! It may be that our lives are not as happy as we would like them to be, simply because we have isolated ourselves from God - the source of true happiness. Is it not God who grants graces, orders events, decides what will and will not happen? What folly then to turn away from the hand that is able to take away our, often self-inflicted sadness, sorrow and suffering and give us peace and happiness instead! As it says in Scripture:

“Therefore do not be anxious saying: ‘What shall we eat?’ or, ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What are we to put on?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. Your Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His justice, and all these things shall be given you besides.” (Matt. 6:31-33)

Let us use this week in order to turn God through Mary, in such a way as to truly give Him the first place in our lives; in such a way that the spiritual takes priority over the material. Yet to do this, and to persevere in this, we must first of all pray. Our *Week with Mary* can also take on other forms or expressions of devotion. Other prayers can also be added to the daily recitation of the Rosary, such as the Litany of the Blessed Virgin or any other prayer. It is for this reason that we have added a variety of prayers to be said after each series of mysteries - these can be found in the separate Fatima Visit Prayer Booklet, under the section entitled *Additional Prayers*. However, you need not restrict yourselves to those prayers alone.

For those who are capable of singing, they might like to add to their Rosary, a verse or two of some Marian hymn. Or you may even want to sing several or even many hymns in honor of the Blessed Virgin - which is a praiseworthy thing indeed! Remember St. Augustine, who used to say that a prayer sung is a prayer said twice! Let each family do what it can, without the burden of feeling that it is tied down to a restrictive formula of devotion and prayer. However, we do suggest that when inviting friends and neighbors, you follow the readings and meditations prescribed in separate Fatima Visit Prayer Booklet.

Inviting Friends and Neighbors

At Fatima, Our Lady said that God wanted the whole world to be devoted to Her Immaculate Heart. We can positively play a part in this, by asking our friends and neighbors to come along, at least once, during the week of Our Lady's visit.

This means overcoming a certain timidity and reluctance to reach out to others and to bring them within the sphere of Our Lady's powerful influence. If Jesus is so little loved because He is so little known and understood - then so too is Mary! Many persons have a misconception of the Mother of God, a misconception that hurts her Son as well as God - who wishes that the whole world be devoted to her.

Do not fall into the trap of making this week something of a private family affair. Do not let human respect frighten you into paralysis and anonymity, whereby you are afraid of inviting others to come and pray with you.

Remember what Our Lord said regarding human respect: *Whoever confesses me before men, I will confess before my Father in heaven. Whoever denies me before men, I will deny before my Father.* The same thing could also be applied to the Mother of God - in that whosoever is ashamed of her here below, she will be ashamed of them before her Son on Judgment Day, yet whoever supports this Mother of Mercy here below, then she will mercifully intercede for them in heaven.

Do not, therefore, let timidity or fear prevent you from asking friends and neighbors to join you in honoring the Mother of God during this, Her spiritual visit to your home - for in doing so, you may be robbing them of a heaven sent opportunity and the chance of the discovery of a lifetime. Implant these words that Our Lady spoke at Fatima, deep in your heart: *"God wishes **the whole world** to be devoted to my Immaculate Heart."* Whoever loves the Son, loves His beloved Mother. Let it not be said of you that you turned people away from Mary, through fear, timidity, human respect or a misguided love of God. For God said that He wished the whole world to be devoted to Mary. If God wants that, then so be it!

Part Two

See the separate Fatima Visit Prayer Booklet for the meditations and prayers to be used in saying the Rosary and also some additional prayers that can be added at the end of the Rosary if time permits.

Part Three

After the Visit

1. Keep praying the Rosary
2. The Power of the Rosary
3. The 15 Rosary Promises
- 4 Mary an the Spiritual Life

Keep Praying the Rosary

Most probably, this past week has seen you praying the Rosary quite differently to the way you have prayed it in the past. Most persons just content themselves with the vocal prayers of the Rosary (i.e. the *Our Father's, Hail Mary's and Glory Be's*) without really entering into the meditative part of the Rosary. Yet probing the contents of the mysteries and thinking or reflecting upon them, results in very many benefits.

We find therein a great source of strength and advice for *all* the various circumstances that we encounter in our daily lives. We uncover, penetrate and absorb the spirit of Our Lord and Our Lady, which then enables us to accept, in imitation of Them, the will of God in all things – whether it brings us joy or sorrow.

The Rosary is also a source of grace, which draws down upon us many graces, inspirations, consolations, strength and perseverance in our rocky ascent to God. It is like a chain by which we climb to heaven. Remember that Our Lady said of little Francisco (one of the seers at Fatima) that he would have to say many Rosaries before he would get to heaven! Think how young and innocent this nine year old shepherd boy was, and how old and sinful we are! If *he* had to pray many Rosaries before he would get to heaven - then what about *us*?

Let us then take heed of Our Lady's requests which ask us to pray the Rosary daily. Let us take hold of this spiritual rope or chain, with which we shall climb the mountain of God that leads to heaven! To Jesus through Mary! To Heaven through the Rosary!

The Power of the Rosary

“If you recite the Family Rosary, all united, you shall taste peace; you shall have in your homes concord of souls. Hearing the Christian home resound with the praises of the Queen of Heaven [is] a simple fact in appearance, but extraordinarily received by God, such as to enrapture the Angels, which from Heaven see and hear! The Rosary recited in common gathers the parents with their children, piously joins them with those absent, with the deceased, draws all there, close to the Virgin, who, as Mother, will be in the midst of her children. We esteem the Rosary to be the most suitable and efficacious means to obtain the help of God. The flowers of the Rosary never perish.” (Pope Pius XII)

“The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin... It not only serves admirably to overcome the enemies of God and of religion, but it *is* also a stimulus and an encouragement to the practice of the evangelical virtues, which it develops and cultivates in our souls. Above all, it nourishes our Catholic faith... If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors.” (Pope Pius XI)

“The Rosary elevates minds to the truths revealed by God and shows us Heaven opened. The Virgin Mary herself has insistently recommended this manner of praying. All Graces are conceded to us by God through the hands of Mary.” (Pope Pius XI)

“Nevertheless, if men in our century, with *its* derisive pride, reject

the holy Rosary, there is an innumerable multitude of holy men of every age and every condition who have always held it dear. They have recited it with great devotion and in every moment they have used it as a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight, to preserve the integrity of life, to acquire virtue more easily, and, in a word, to attain real peace among men.” (Pope Pius XI)

“From it [the Rosary] the young will draw fresh energy with which to control the rebellious tendencies to evil and to preserve intact the stainless purity of the soul. Also in it, the old will again find repose, relief, and peace from their anxious cares. And to all those who suffer in any way, especially the dying, may it bring comfort and increase the hope of eternal happiness.” (Pope Pius XI)

“The Rosary is perfect because of the praises it offers, the lessons it teaches, the graces it obtains, and the victories it achieves.” (Pope Benedict XV)

“St. Dominic knew well that, while on the one hand Mary is all powerful with her divine Son, who grants all graces to mankind through her, on the other hand, she is by nature so good and so merciful that, inclined to aid spontaneously those who suffer, she is absolutely incapable of refusing her help to those who invoke her. The Church is in the habit of greeting the Virgin as ‘Mother of Grace’ and ‘Mother of Mercy,’ and so she has always shown herself, especially when we have recourse to her by means of the Holy Rosary.” (Pope Benedict XV)

“The Rosary is the most beautiful and the richest of all prayers to the Mediatrix of all grace; it is the prayer that touches most the heart of the Mother of God. Say it each day.” (Pope Saint Pius X)

“The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying.” (Pope Leo XIII)

“As the various mysteries present themselves one after another in the formula of the Rosary, for the meditation and contemplation of men’s minds, they also make clear what we owe to Mary for our reconciliation and salvation. No one can fail to be sweetly affected when he considers who appeared in Elizabeth’s home as the minister of the divine gifts, who presented her Son to the shepherds, the kings and Simeon. One must remember, too, that Christ’s blood shed for our sake, and those members in which He offers to His Father the wounds He received as the price of our freedom, are no other than the flesh and blood of the Virgin. The flesh of Jesus is the flesh of Mary, and however much it was exalted in

the glory of His Resurrection, still the nature of His flesh which He took from Mary remained and still remains the same.” (Pope Leo XIII)

“May the Christian nations cling more and more to the practice of the Rosary, to which our ancestors had recourse as an ever-ready refuge in misfortune, and a glorious proof and pledge of Christian faith and devotion. We have desired and desire nothing more ardently than that fervor of the faithful in performing this devotion should not languish, but should remain ever firm...” (Pope Leo XIII)

“Among all the devotions approved by the Church, none has been so favored by so many miracles as the Rosary devotion.” (Pope Pius IX)

“The Rosary is *the* weapon.” (Saint Padre Pio)

“Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world.”
(Blessed Pope Pius IX)

Fifteen Promises of Mary to those who pray the Rosary

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who've been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the Rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only Son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

(Promised by Our Lady to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan de la Roche)

Mary and the Spiritual Life

Spiritual Maxims of Jesus Christ According to St. Louis De Montfort

The following maxims or spiritual counsels were originally composed by St. Louis De Montfort. For the benefit of the general public we have decided to insert them in this edition, adapting them to the conditions of those living in the world and seeking to acquire a closer union with Christ, through Mary His Mother.

For a full appreciation and understanding of the role of Mary in our spiritual lives, we recommend two books by St. Louis De Montfort. The first book that should be read is *The Love of Eternal Wisdom*. Here he clearly shows that devotion to Mary is the best, quickest, surest and safest way of getting to Jesus and Heaven. In the second book, *True Devotion to Mary*, he explains in depth what this devotion is and is not. He also proposes a manner in which a true devotion to Mary can be attained by all. Below you will find some maxims for the spiritual life that were taken from the above mentioned book – *The Love of Eternal Wisdom*.

FIRST MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

True happiness on earth lies in voluntary poverty and in following Me.

1. My son, have no attachment to any created good, however holy it may be, whether interior or exterior, spiritual or corporal.
2. Always be on your guard against anything which draws your affection.
3. Beware of the purely natural affections of your relatives and friends when they are an obstacle to your salvation or to your perfection.
4. Do not be afraid to disoblige or to displease others if you must do so to carry your cross after Me.
5. After My example, carry your cross of contradiction, persecution, renunciation and contempt, every day.
6. Do not be ashamed to practice any act of virtue before others, and do not omit any good deed for fear of scorn or praise, when you know that God demands it of you.

SECOND MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

You are truly blessed if the world persecutes you, opposing your plans though they are good, thinking evil of your intentions, calumniating your conduct, and taking away unjustly your reputation or your possessions.

1. My son, beware of complaining to others than to Me of the bad treatment you receive, and do not Seek ways of justifying yourself, particularly when you are the only one to suffer from it.
2. On the contrary, pray for those who procure for you the blessings of persecution.
3. Thank Me for treating you as I was treated on earth, a sign of contradiction.
4. Never be discouraged in your plans because you meet with opposition; it is a pledge of future victory. A good work which is not opposed, which is not marked by the sign of the cross, has no great value before Me and will soon be destroyed.
5. Regard as your best friends those who persecute you because they procure for you great merit on earth, and great glory in heaven.
6. Regard as unfortunate those who live in luxury, who feast sumptuously, who frequent the world of fashion, who make their way in the world, who succeed in business, and who spend their lives in pleasures and amusements.
7. Never do anything, either good or evil, out of human respect to avoid any blame, insult, mockery, or praise.
8. When through your own fault some loss or disgrace befalls you, do not be disturbed by it, but rather humble yourself before God and accept it from His hands as punishment for your fault.

THIRD MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:26).

1. My son, hate your own mind with its thoughts, rejecting them if they are bad, dangerous, or useless.
2. Do not rely exclusively on your own ideas, thoughts, knowledge, visions, or contemplations, and never constitute yourself the final judge of their goodness or their malice.
3. Believe that the judgment of others, in any indifferent matter, is always more accurate and more solid than your own, however much you would like to believe the contrary.

4. Beware of your imagination and your memory, rejecting evil thoughts, extravagant and useless plans, and vain, dangerous, or at least idle representations of the past or the future.
5. Strive to empty your memory of every object other than the presence of God.
6. Do not voluntarily dwell on the evil that has been done to you or on the good that you have done.
7. Despise your own will, submitting it to that of your superiors and always renouncing it, even in matters that seem excellent to you.
8. Do nothing of any importance without taking counsel so that you may not have to repent of it after it is done.
9. Do not anxiously crave for things you do not possess, even though they might seem useful to your neighbor and glorious to My majesty.
10. Ask Me earnestly for particular favors, but request them only because it is My will that you should ask for them, and let conformity to My will be the basis of your prayer.

FOURTH MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

Take up your cross daily and follow Me.

1. My son, renounce the pleasures of your senses, innocent as they be.
2. Mortify your eyes by avoiding the sight of dangerous or curious things.
3. Mortify your ears, closing them to evil, vain, and useless discourse.
4. Mortify your tongue, by avoiding idle conversations, speaking frequently of Me or of things that concern Me, and maintaining a continual silence, if you can, on the good that you have done, on the faults of your neighbors, and on your own good qualities.
5. Mortify your taste, by not eating unnecessarily between meals, by fasting in a spirit of obedience, by eating something unpleasant, by eating with restraint and modesty when appetite and hunger make you eager for food.
6. Mortify your sense of smell, by abstaining from superfluous use of perfumes.
7. Mortify your hands by avoiding superfluous and unseemly gestures.
8. Mortify your feet, avoiding hurried and unbecoming steps. Do not walk with affectation or haste, but with simplicity and modesty.
9. Mortify your sense of touch by preferring less expensive clothing and furniture and by performing acts of penance daily.
10. Mortify your whole body, by doing your work in a spirit of penance, and by accepting joyfully the discomforts of the seasons, and the various illnesses that attack the body.

FIFTH MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

The way and the gate that lead to heaven are narrow, and few there are who find the way and enter by the gate.

1. My son, do continual violence to your natural inclinations and dispositions, that you may be one of the small number who found the way of life, and who enter by the narrow gate to heaven.
2. Do not follow the majority/the common herd, many of whom are lost.
3. Do not be deceived - there are only two ways: one that leads to life, and is narrow; the other that leads to death, and is wide; there is no middle way.
4. If your eye or your hand or foot scandalize you, cut it off without delay lest you perish. In other words: avoid the occasions of sin.

SIXTH MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

Watch and pray without ceasing.

1. My son, you must apply yourself continually to vocal/mental prayer.
2. Do everything in the spirit of prayer, that is to say, for the love of God and in the presence of God.
3. Never give up prayer, no matter what difficulty or what dryness you may experience.
4. Never give yourself up entirely to external things, for the kingdom of God is within you.
5. Esteem more highly than all exterior things those within the heart.
6. Believe that the greatest things that are done on this earth are wrought interiorly, and in the hearts of faithful souls.
7. Do everything in a spirit of faith, and let this virtue be the food of your meditations, and the quality that gives value to your actions.

SEVENTH MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

Love your enemies, do good to them that do evil to you.

1. My son, pray for them that persecute you, heap insults upon you, and rob you of your honor and property.
2. Never do to others what you would not have them do to you.
3. Bear with other's faults for the love of God Who is patient with you.
4. Rebuke those who offend Me, without fearing them.

EIGHTH MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

I converse familiarly with the simple, and I reveal My secrets only to the little ones.

1. My son, be simple as a dove, without malice, duplicity, and dissimulation.
2. The greater you are the more you should humble yourself, that is to say, be the servant of others. Choose the lowest place, the lowliest employment, the poorest clothing.
3. As God gives His grace to the humble, do all your actions with deep humility of heart, in order to obtain My grace, and My friendship.
4. Beware of what is great, illustrious and dazzling in the eyes of men, for that is valueless in My sight.
5. Love the life that is hidden, poor, and worthless in the eyes of the world for such is the object of My delight.
6. You must become like a little child, if you would enter heaven, that is to say, simple, obedient, innocent, and gentle as a little child.
7. Those who for the kingdom of God have made themselves the last and servants of others are the first and the most exalted in My sight.
8. If you exalt yourself higher than I desire, you will be brought lower than you desire, in this world and the next; if, on the contrary, you set yourself below others, I will exalt you above others, even in this world.

NINTH MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

He who is faithful in little things will be faithful also in those that are great, and he who is unfaithful in little things will be unfaithful also in those that are great.

1. My son, be very faithful to the little rules, the little inspirations, the little practices of virtue.
2. Do not neglect anything that can help you to acquire perfection.
3. If you are faithful in a few things, I assure you that I will set you over many things; that is to say, that if I see you corresponding faithfully to the few graces you receive, to the little amount of devotion you feel, etc., I will give you a share in a greater abundance of graces.
4. Take care not to neglect the little things, for otherwise you will gradually fall into lukewarmness and a lack of devotion; you will lose, little by little, your inspirations, your devotion, your merits, and your graces.

TENTH MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

I choose the least things of the world to confound/destroy what is greatest.

1. My son, humble yourself, remain humble, and I will make something of you.
2. Give your garment to him who takes from you your cloak.
3. Turn the other cheek to him who strikes you.
4. Suffer everything without complaining.
5. Be the first to accuse yourself, and to take the blame upon yourself
6. Believe all that is good of others and all that is evil of yourself.
7. Choose, if you have the grace to do so, the least agreeable in everything.
8. Rejoice amid all sorts of difficulties and contradictions especially when you are found worthy to suffer something for My sake.
9. Never despair, and never be disturbed, when you fall into sin, but humble yourself, begging My forgiveness.

ELEVENTH MAXIM

Voice of the Eternal Wisdom

Beware of false prophets. My son, you must deeply distrust:

1. The lights of your own mind, however spiritually-minded you may be;
2. The feelings of your heart, however just and sincere they may seem to you;
3. The spiritual maxims of the lukewarm;
4. The beautiful and lofty thoughts and the holy undertakings which the evil spirit, disguised as an angel of light, often inspires in the most zealous and spiritual souls to bring about their downfall by his wiles and deceptions.

TWELFTH MAXIM

Counsels of Saint Louis De Montfort

To distinguish and avoid the subtle snares of self-love, of the flesh, and of the devil, these are the important counsels I give you.

1. Never willingly take pleasure in, or rely on, what you have thought, imagined, or decided; but put your pleasure, your confidence, and your reliance only in the merits and intercession of Mary, whose slave you are, with Jesus; in the blood and the merits of Jesus before the Father; and in the infinite mercy of God your Father.
2. Do not set yourself up as your own judge, for no one is a legitimate judge of his own case; but reveal all your thoughts, ideas, etc., to your spiritual director or to your confessor; do not hide from him anything you have in your heart or anything that has affected you.
3. Obey your confessor in all spiritual matters and profit by his advice.

Suggested Reading

The following books are available from Angelis Press, 2915 Forest Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64109. Telephone 1-800-96ORDER or 1-800-966-7337.

True Devotion to Mary by St. Louis De Montfort

His best known work. It beautifully develops the true devotion introduced in *The Love of Eternal Wisdom*. Contains some of the greatest passages ever written on the Mother of God. It inspired a series of saints from St. Therese the Little Flower, to the reformed alcoholic, St. Matthew Talbot. Provided the spiritual foundations for the *Legion of Mary*. 215 pages. *Angelus Press*.

Friends of the Cross by St. Louis De Montfort

A priceless booklet of only 36 pages - yet each page, each paragraph, leads us to a greater understanding, appreciation and love of the Cross, which is our key to Heaven. It also has St. Louis' 14 amazing and practical *Rules to Follow in Carrying our Cross*, which tell us how to make our Cross more bearable. A real 'must' for anyone who suffers. *Available from Angelus Press*.

The following recommended books are NOT stocked by Angelus Press:

God Alone - the collected writings of St. Louis De Montfort

A 'must' for anyone devoted to Mary. It contains many of St. Louis' letters, his *Letter to the Friends of the Cross*, his *Methods for Saying the Rosary*, his various *Rules of Life* for different congregations, various *Spiritual Maxims*, *Morning and Night Prayers*, meditations, *Sermons*, his renowned works: *The Love of Eternal Wisdom*; *True Devotion to Mary*; *The Secret of Mary*; *The Secret of the Rosary* and much more. Hard bound. 631 pages.

The Love of Eternal Wisdom by St. Louis De Montfort

A delightful book of spirituality. The key to all the other works of the Saint. His Marian teachings come into focus when true devotion to Mary is presented as the fourth and most perfect way of arriving at a full union with Our Lord. Lots of inspirational quotes. Also a series of 12 maxims to follow in attaining a deeper spiritual life. Easy reading. 139 pages.

The Secret of Mary by St. Louis De Montfort

A pocket-sized summary of his larger work, *True Devotion to Mary*. Contains the Act of Consecration to Mary and several other beautiful Marian prayers. Ideal pocket-meditation book. 60 pages.

The Glories of Mary by St. Alphonsus de Ligouri

St. Alphonsus was only twenty years old when St. Louis de Montfort died in 1716. Yet, he too was to show an incredible love for the Mother of God - which is reflected in this masterly work. In its five parts it (a) deals with the principal Marian feasts, (b) lists various practices by which to show devotion to the Mother of God, (c) treats of the virtues of the Blessed Virgin, (d) examines her Sorrows and (e) gives a beautiful commentary upon the prayer *Hail Holy Queen*.

Consecrate Yourself to Mary

***according to the method proposed by St Louis De Montfort
in his book a "True Devotion to Mary"
The devotion of our age! A sure way to heaven!***

A thorough 5-week course of preparation is available in the book *Consecration to Mary*. All the necessary readings for consecration preparation are contained in this book as well as the consecration ceremony itself. Make as many or as few of these readings as you like - all you do is read and reflect! Making the True Devotion Consecration has never been so easy! This book is available from the Angelus Press.

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