

Day Two: *Strive for Holiness*

Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect (Mt 5:48).

Consecration to Jesus through Mary is a choice for holiness over worldliness.

But, what is holiness?

Holiness belongs to God. It is a proper attribute of His Divine nature. Scripture reveals to us that before the throne of God, the angels in one exultant hymn of praise cry out, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Holiness belongs to Christ, for He is the Only Son of the Father; God from God.

Holiness belongs to the Church, for Christ Her Bridegroom has sanctified her in His own blood and poured out upon her the gift of His Spirit, which is the Spirit of holiness.

As members of His Body through Baptism and participation in the Eucharist, we are called to share in this holiness. We are called, but the call itself does not produce the effect. We must respond to the call. We must make a fundamental and life-long choice for God in Christ. God wills our sanctification, that we be set apart from the world in holiness and righteousness, but we must choose to cooperate. We must choose holiness over worldliness. We must choose "to live the Gospel with consistency in daily life" (St. John Paul II, *General Audience*, February 18, 2004).

Ask for holiness and you will find it. Seek holiness and it will be given to you. Knock on the door of holiness and it will be opened to you.

The choice is yours.

Follow Mary, she's made the choice before you, "Be it done unto me"; and she will make it with you.

Further questions to consider: What do I understand by Christ's call to *be perfect*? Do I recognize that His call is directed to me? Do I only worry about "perfection" from a worldly standpoint, thinking that the perfect life comes from worldly gain, recognition, getting my way, having all the best things, etc.? Is my life 'consistent with the Gospel' in every aspect? Or do I pick and choose when to "be Christian", to "be like Christ"? What needs to change in order for God's holiness to be reflected in my life, my decisions, my actions?

-Today's Prayer-

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, **Hear me.**
From the desire of being praised, **Deliver me, Jesus.**
From the desire of being preferred to others...
From the desire of being consulted ...
From the desire of being approved ...

Come Holy Spirit, living in Mary. Give me the heart of Christ, my Lord