

## Day Two: Degrees of devotion to the Blessed Virgin

### 1. Place yourself in God's presence

2. Ask Him for the grace you seek: *to acquire knowledge and esteem of Mary, my tender Mother*

### 3. Today's Meditation:

*"Behold your Mother" (Jn 19:27)*

Without exception, God has called each of us. First into being and secondly to be Saints.

*"We are called to not only follow in the footsteps of Jesus but also to follow the matchless path shown to us by the Church, a path that is time-tested and proven worthy over the centuries." -Pope Saint John Paul II*

However, "If we would like to go up to God, and be united with Him, we must use the **same means He used** to come down to us to be made man and to impart His grace to us." *That is by means of a true devotion to our Blessed Lady.*

Overall, we all tend to have a true and tender devotion to our natural mother. Often "MaMa!" is a child's first word. Our Moms know us better than know any other. They seem to read our thoughts and their simple presence is usually enough to subside any of our nervousness or fear. Now we must imagine, this is only but a glimpse into the loving arms of Mary the Queen of Mothers. She who is totally united to her omnipotent Son, truly knows our thoughts and can effectively distribute grace to ease our fear. How do I respond to such a Mother? Ready, she awaits me. What will suffice to invoke her total adoption?

1<sup>st</sup> Level of Devotion- We begin a relationship with Mary by honoring her as the Mother of God and praying to the Blessed Virgin from time to time, for example, praying three Hail Mary's as you wake, each time you begin a car trip, and before you go to bed. Reciting the Angelus with true recollection or calling her in a time of need. *Will this due? How inconsistent am I left compared to Mary, the Rock of Constancy.*

2<sup>nd</sup> Level of Devotion- Now I am seeking to have more perfect sentiments of veneration (or honor, *not worship*), confidence, and love for Mary. I have heard the call of Our Lady of Lourdes and Fatima to pray the Rosary daily. With love and devotion I roll the beads of the Rosary, knowing Mary too listens and moves bead to bead, as she did with St. Bernadette in the Grotto of Massabielle. *However Jesus' devotion to His Mother, was even more complete and intense.*

3<sup>rd</sup> Level of Devotion- This is the *true devotion to Mary*, which "consists in consecrating oneself *entirely* to our Lord through her."

**Reflection Questions:** Have I experienced the warmth of a Mother, if not through my natural Mother what loving tenderness have I experienced through a Sister or a Friend? Now, Mary awaits me, guiding me to *do what every Jesus tells me*. What do I respond to such a Mother? What shall I offer her to invoke her total adoption?

**-Today's Prayer-** *Begin to practice of the first and second degrees of Devotion. Pray the Rosary before an Image of Our Lady.*