

## Day Three: *Characteristics of a True Devotion to our Blessed Mother*

### 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:

*"Love never fails." (1 Cor 13:8)*

At the age of nine, Karol Wojtyla, who would one day be called, St. John Paul the Great, lost his Mother, Emilia. His Father then told him, "*Now, Mary will be your Mother.*" "During WWII, while he was working in the factories, a book fell into his hands, which would have a great influence in his spiritual life. The *True devotion of the Blessed Virgin Mary* of St. Louis Maria e Montfort. 'I remember bringing it always in my pocket. . .' He would often read this work over and over again. And thanks to this book 'I understood that the true devotion to the Mother of God is **Christ Centered**. Even more, it is profoundly rooted in the Trinitarian Mystery of God, in the Mystery of the Incarnation and the Redemption. Karol was convinced, '**that Mary brings us to Jesus,**' and in this period he began 'to understand that **Christ also brings us to His Mother.**'"

So what marks this *true devotion to Mary*?

#### Authentic Marks of the True Devotion to our Lady

1. Interior- rooted in one's esteem and love for Mary
2. Tender- full of confidence, simplicity and trust, as a child has for his loving mother we seek her for all our needs of body and soul.
3. Holy- moving one to avoid sin and *to imitate her in her virtues of:*
  - a) Profound humility- Knowing who she is before God, nothing more and nothing less
  - b) Lively faith- Constantly seeking God's will and never settling for complacency
  - c) Continual prayer- Always being aware of God's presence
  - d) Universal mortification- Seeking to lay down her life and her will at every moment
  - e) Divine purity- Having a heart immaculately clean and unstained by sin
  - f) Ardent charity- Letting her love for God be the driving force behind every decision
  - g) Heroic patience- Always trusting that God was on the move; having more faith in His plans than her own
  - h) Angelical sweetness- Radiating joy and peace to everyone she encountered
  - i) Divine wisdom- Always begging for God's Spirit to guide her
  - j) Blind obedience- Following God's call without counting the cost

4. Constant- publicly one surrenders themselves to the Immaculate Queen and concretely she will publish in their soul a firm commitment for sanctity. Mary directs a soul from being “changeable, irritable, scrupulous or timid.”
5. Disinterested- Mary is and always has been only concerned with God. She directs us, to God her Father, the Spirit, her Souse and Jesus her Son. We honor her without self-interest, but to join all the Angels to adore her, Queen of Peace, so that we too may be selfless and totally God’s.

**Reflection Questions:** Knowledge of our Blessed Mother increases our love and affection towards her. *Do I dare to become a child again, in the arms of Mary? How can I strive to imitate her in the daily events of my life, especially when I’m weak in faith and cold in my love for God and neighbor? Which virtue in particular is Mary asking me to imitate her with?* By becoming like her, we will become more like her Son. Our love will be strengthened and by the grace of God we will become more worthy sons of so noble a mother.

**-Today’s Prayer-** *As a child running to his Mother’s aid let us beg her:*

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen. (*Memorare Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary*)