

Day Four: *Totus Tuus Maria, All Yours Mary*

1. Place yourself in God's presence

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

3. Today's Meditation:

"Tuus totus ego sum, et omnia mea tua sunt"

*I am all yours, and all that I have is yours, O most loving Jesus, through Mary, your most holy Mother
-St. Louis de Montfort*

St. Louis' Logical Conclusion for Total Consecration

1. All our perfection consists in being conformed, united and consecrated to Jesus Christ.

2. Mary is the most conformed of all creatures to Jesus Christ.

3. The more a soul is consecrated to Mary, the more it is consecrated to Jesus Christ.

*Consecration entails, being set aside only for God, as a Chalice is used only for Mass,
so a soul consecrated to Mary is a soul for God alone.*

4. Therefore, above all other devotions, the one which most consecrates and conforms the soul to our Lord, is devotion to His holy Mother, Mary, who stood at the foot of the Cross.

Jesus demonstrated His great love for us on mount Calvary. However, He felt it necessary in the year 1672 to appear to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, in order to tell the world of His Most Sacred Heart. He appeared to remind the world of the motive for His Crucifixion. His heart was seen crowned by thorns, pierced with a lance and mounted with a cross. Why? Why so much suffering from our perfect Lord? Why not praise a bare cross without His bloody corpse?

*He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed.—1 Peter 2:24*

And how can it be possible that even after such a demonstration of love, sinners still "fall into hell as fast as the snowflakes on a winter day." How this must pain our Lord. In ancient Israel burnt offerings were the highest form of sacrifices. Christ's self-offering on the cross was the one-time perfect consummation of all the sacrifices of the Old Testament, which is one reason why His heart appears surrounded by flames of fire. Also to inspire us to pray, "*Sacred Heart of Jesus, burning with love of us, inflame our hearts with love of Thee.*"

His heart burns for love of us and calls us to be consumed by that same love. However still like Jesus' disciples on the road to Emmaus we often say, "*Why were our hearts not burning within us while we walked with Him on the way?*" Therefore, to attract even more sinners, 300 years after his appearance to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Jesus found it fitting to offer His Mother's Immaculate Heart. One hundred years ago, Mary appeared in Fatima, Portugal to three shepherd children. Speaking of herself in third person, she asked them to, "*tell everybody that God gives graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell them to ask graces from Her and that the Heart of Jesus wishes to be venerated together with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Ask them to plead for peace from the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world to Her.*"

So clearly you should not hesitate to give our whole self to Mary! But how do we exactly do this?

St. Louis De Montfort explains that *“we must give her: Our body, with all its senses and members; our soul with all its power; our exterior goods of fortune, whether present or to come; our interior and spiritual goods, which are our merits, our virtues and our good works, past, present, and future. In a word, we must give her all we have in the order of nature and in the order of grace and all that may become ours in the future in the orders of nature, grace and glory; and this we must do without reserve. We must do it also for eternity, and we must do it without pretending to, or hoping for any other recompense for our offering and service, except the honor of belonging to Jesus Christ, through Mary and in Mary—even though that sweet Mistress were not, as she always is, the most generous and the most grateful of creatures.*

Reflection Questions: Examination- Am I prepared to really give Mary all? What must I give her in my body? *my health, my purity.* In my Soul? *My failings, my prayers.* Do I trust that Mary is never outdone in generosity, and if I give her all, she will give me her all?

-Today’s Prayer-

Not Jesus **or** Mary; not Mary **or** Jesus.
Neither Jesus **without** Mary; nor Mary **without** Jesus.
Neither **only** Jesus, but **also** Mary; not **only** Mary, but **also** Jesus.
Always Jesus **and** Mary; always Mary **and** Jesus.
To Mary by Jesus: *Behold, your mother!* (Jn 19:27).
To Jesus by Mary: *Do whatever he tells you* (Jn 2:5).
First, Jesus, the God-man; then Mary, the Mother of God.
He, Head; She, Neck; we, Body.
Everything **through** Jesus and **through** Mary; **with** Jesus and **with** Mary;
in Jesus and **in** Mary; **for** Jesus and **for** Mary.
In short, simply: **Jesus and Mary; Mary and Jesus.**
And through Christ, to the Father, in the Holy Spirit.
(from the Directory of Spirituality of the Institute of the Incarnate Word)