

Day Five: *The Easy, Short, Perfect and Secure Way*

1. Place yourself in God's presence

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

3. Meditation:

*"What a joy to remember that she [Mary] is our Mother!
Since she loves us and knows our weakness, what have we to fear?" -St. Therese of Lisieux*

At the age of 10, St. Therese of the Child Jesus laid dying in her bed from a mysterious illness. While her Father turned to Mary, Our Lady of Victory, to pray for her cure, Therese in fear prayed before the statue near her bed. When "*all of a sudden the Blessed Virgin appeared beautiful to me, so beautiful that never had I seen anything so attractive; her face was suffused with an ineffable benevolence and tenderness, but what penetrated to the very depths of my soul was the ravishing smile of the Blessed Virgin.*" Therese was miraculously healed. Four years following this experience of Mary's powerful intercession, she was moved with compassion to intercede for a local criminal awaiting the death penalty. She employed all "spiritual means" to save this man's soul for eternity. Nevertheless he faced his execution after refusing the sacrament of confession. However moments before his death, he was seen reaching for a crucifix and kissing the sacred wounds three times! This is an example of the *extraordinary way* of salvation. How merciful and ready is Jesus to bestow on us His saving grace, especially with the aid of a persistent intercessor!

We have the great adventure of walking the *ordinary way* to Heaven. Jesus entrusted this way to the Church through her Pastors with her Seven Sacraments. A life lived embracing regular confession and communion, maintains sanctifying grace in their soul, one's sole requirement for Heaven. Although The *way* is clear, we have experienced its enemies. Satan with his temptations, the world with its pleasures and our own flesh with its concupiscence (*our tendency to sin*). Even though the way is called *ordinary* because of its enemies, it is not typically described as easy, short, perfect or secure. In contrast, St. Louis de Montfort boldly teaches that a *true devotion to Mary* is an easy, short, perfect and secure way of attaining union with our Lord, in which our earthly and eternal happiness consists.

-Easy: Unlike us, Mary does not get distracted, she will always take us to Jesus. In her arms there are no obstacles to reaching Jesus. If we choose to place ourselves in her embrace, Mary, Protector of the Faith, will shield and defend us from the devil who strikes in fear of her.

-Short: When we are in the presence of those we love most, time seems to fly. The same is true for our spiritual life. Freed from obstacles and filled with a pure love for Jesus, Mary, the Cause of our Joy, brings us promptly to our Lord Jesus Christ.

-Perfect: Mary above any creature knows the Jesus and is totally united to Him. Consider how she knows every aspect of His person, His habits, His journeys, His miracles, His joys, His sorrows, His Passion and His glory. Jesus, pure perfection, chose Mary, the Way of Salvation, to be the most fitting path to be united to us. She remains as the most perfect way of finding and uniting totally to Jesus.

-Sure: This way is not new, “*Behold your Mother!*”, but it is tested and well-trodden, first by Christ and also by all the saints. “*With all my heart I consecrated myself to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and asked her to watch over me. She seemed to look lovingly on her Little Flower and to smile at her again.*” -St. Therese of the Child Jesus

Reflection Questions: *What do I fear most? Do I fear sin and hell more than anything? Do I take seriously my eternal Salvation? We live in a materialistic world, blind to any spiritual reality. Do I believe in the power of prayer? What are the enemies against my spiritual life? The temptations from the devil? Worldly allurements? Pleasures of my flesh? How do I get distracted on my way to Jesus? Do I love God above all things? Reflect on Mary’s love for Jesus, in His infancy, in His public life, in His Passion and in His Glory.*

-Today’s Prayer-

“August Queen of Heaven! Sovereign Mistress of the angels! You who from the beginning has received from God the power and mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly beseech you to send your holy Legions, that, under your command and by their power, they may pursue the evil spirits, encounter them on every side, resist their bold attacks and drive them hence into the abyss of eternal woe. Amen.” -St. Therese of the Child Jesus