



**PERIOD THREE – DAYS 20-26**

**KNOWLEDGE OF MARY**

**REFLECTIONS**

Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary  
2020

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## PERIOD THREE – KNOWLEDGE OF MARY REFLECTION

We offer to God all who are making this 33 Day Consecration Journey with us. We number over 11,000 souls across the world and we give honor and glory to God through Our Lady as we march as a great army under the banner of Our Mother. If her Sacred Spouse, the Holy Spirit inspires us to do so, may we offer the merits that she showers on each of us to pass through us to bless instead...

*(name these souls who are brought to mind)*

During this last week, Period Two of our Consecration Journey, we asked for the grace of self-knowledge. The Holy Spirit has been our Guide and Sacred Enabler as we have worked under His Grace to prepare the soil of our souls to empty ourselves.

Perhaps He has shone light on hidden disordered desires, on roots of selfishness, of pride, of areas of shame that we've kept hidden even from ourselves .

And perhaps if we've stumbled a little in that challenging confrontation with self-knowledge, He may have brought to mind some wisdom from saints who remind us how essential is self-knowledge in the way of perfection into Christ Jesus, saints like little St Therese who puts it so clearly:

"Love consumes us only in the measure of our self-emptiness."

AND LOVE HAS A NAME.... "IT IS THE LORD." (John 21:7)

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HE IS WAITING WITH PASSIONATE LOVE TO GRASP US WHEN HE CATCHES SIGHT OF OUR SOULS SEEKING HIM IN OUR LAST WEEK OF THE CONSECRATION.

“...HERE HE COMES, LEAPING ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS, BOUNDING OVER THE HILLS...MY BELOVED CALLS TO ME..."ARISE, COME AWAY WITH ME, MY BEAUTIFUL ONE.“ (Solomon 2:9)

The Burning Furnace of Love Who is the Son is straining to see our hesitant and weary souls as we arrive to meet Him in our final week.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." (Luke 15:11-32)

In this quotation, the Old Testament song of Solomon is being sung by Jesus . He Himself is the Bridge giving life to the Old Testament made present in the New. The parable He teaches us speaks of the passionate Desire of our Father for your soul and for mine. Can we see the Figure of the Father, His great cloak being blown as He runs with fierce determination toward us, arms outstretched, tears running down His Face, to throw His mighty Arms around us, to kiss us?

And Jesus said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30 )

When we run to the Father, we run to the Son. And They to us.



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Our embattled souls eagerly anticipate the arrival of the Son in our fourth week. But He has a gift yet to give to us, one that will protect us and speak for us and escort us to Him "now and at the hour of our death"...the Prelude of His arrival is pronounced by Jesus himself:

"Behold, your Mother!" (John 19: 27)

In this coming week of Period Three, we look towards the Mother of God, the Mirror of Justice, the Seat of Wisdom, the Ark of the Covenant, the Gate of Heaven, the Tower of David, the Queen conceived without original sin, the Queen assumed into Heaven, the Mother undefiled, the Mother of our Creator, the *Hodogetria*, (the one who shows the Way) , the *Theotokos* (the God-bearer).

When we read the magnificent litany of St Louis de Montfort describing some of the glories of Mary, we join him in proclaiming centuries of Catholic Doctrine and Dogma concerning the Mother of God. We claim her as our Mother, and when the Mother comes she brings the whole Family.

Mary is the “beloved daughter of the Eternal Father, the admirable Mother of the Son, the faithful spouse of the Holy Spirit”, in other words,

**MARY IS THE WORLD OF GOD.**

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Saint Pope John Paul II, who made this same 33 Day Total Consecration often throughout his life, described without hesitation that Montfort's powerful offering 'To Jesus Through Mary' is both Christocentric and Trinitarian.

In this, our third period of the Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary, we turn our gaze to behold the beautiful face of our Mother.

Mary is Mother wherever Jesus is Savior....always we shall receive Jesus Christ by the intermediary of her love.

"Mary opens the depths of the Mercy of God to whom she wills, when she wills, and as she wills".  
(Saint (Padre) Pio)

These words of the saint help us to understand better the statement of St. Louis De Montfort in the Prayer to Mary in the week ahead...

"It's your privilege to dispose of all the gifts of God just as you will. Such, oh Heavenly Mary, is the best part and it will never be taken away from you".

Mary is the dispenser of all of God's gifts.

We address her as "MOTHER" and we wonder how much she loves us. St Louis de Montfort tells us:

"If you put all the love of all the mothers of all time into one heart it still would not equal the love in the heart of Mary for her children".

ARK Ministries 2020 Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary

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What does this Heavenly Mother desire to teach us, her children?

At the Annunciation, she proclaimed before Heaven and earth that she was the "handmaid of the Lord" which meant that she willed to have no identity but the Will of the One who owned her...the Lord. She was empty of self. She tenderly teaches us to empty ourselves of all that is not God's Will for our souls.

She spoke little in Sacred Scripture. She desires to draw our souls into interior silence where we will encounter God, dwelling in Divine Silence within and there, like our Mother, we will contemplate God.

We hear her say to us, "Do whatever He tells you" (John 2:5). She was not asked to fill that need for wine at the wedding feast at Cana, a need that no one else seemed to recognize. We often don't know how deeply we need God's Presence and love or the difficulties we face without Him.

Our Mother takes us to the One who has "designs for mercy" then steps aside, never offering a solution, just instructing us gently to, "Do whatever He tells you."

And sometimes it is her Sacred Spouse the Holy Spirit, Who Himself draws us closer into that love between Mother and child.

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Some years ago a woman was making her second 33 Day Consecration Journey. She believed that she knew what was expected of her to advance her prayer life with God.

God was about to move her from ritual to relationship and to do this, He introduced that woman to His Mother for the first time in her life.

It was toward the end of the third week, Knowledge of Mary. Without warning, as the woman sat alone in her room reciting the prayer to Mary, she began to cry. She wept for almost 2 days. The soft and loving heart of the Mother of Sorrows drew her and held her against herself.

This woman courageously explained that she had always held fear of her earthly mother and had never been able to be Christ's love to her own children. Those two days in the arms of the Mother of God, our Mother, were to change her life forever.

Did Mary our Mother pay a price to become our Spiritual Mother?

St Jerome teaches us that Mary knew well the depths of suffering which the Redeemer would have to endure during His life and especially at His Death.

Mary, as Mother of the Redeemer would have schooled her young Jewish Son in these ancient texts, Isaiah 50: 6, Psalm 21:17. She would read to Him that He would be scorned, punched, His most Sacred Flesh torn and mangled, pierced. These images throughout her daily life with Him would have been always before her, our Mother of Sorrows. Martyrs suffer for a brief if tortuous time at the close of their lives. Mary endured the martyrdom of her soul every day of her life until her death and for this reason, she is rightly hailed as Queen of Martyrs in her Litany.

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Mary has had the cry of the great King David spoken placed in her mouth:

"My sorrow is continually before me." (Psalm 38:17)

"Great as the sea is thy destruction: who shall heal thee?" (Jeremiah's words from Lamentations)

"My sorrow, which was compassion for my Beloved Son, never departed from before my eyes, as I always foresaw the sufferings and death which He would one day endure." (Our Lady to St Bridget )

Mary, by the merits of her sorrows and by willingly sacrificing her Son, became the Mother of all the redeemed. She knows herself to be so greatly loved by God that she endlessly beseeches Him...

"If you love me, give me, Oh my Lord, these sinners, on whose behalf I entreat Thee.. Is it possible that God will not graciously hear her?" (St Alphonsus Liguori)

How deeply are we loved by Our Mother?

For every one of us making this Consecration there will be a thousand testimonies of Our Lady's hidden, loving presence. When we say , "Mary", she says, "God".

Through this Mother, He hears and receives every one of our heart-felt petitions. Because she is our Advocate, there is never a time when we pray to her that a burden has not been eased or a sorrow softened or a loved one brought home.

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Throughout the years, saints have also testified to her intercession on our behalf and her powerful pleading before God Himself. St Dominic was one of these many.

In the monastery while on his way to midnight prayer he looked up to see a beautiful lady before him. He begged her to tell him her name and her reply gives holy joy to all of our hearts. She said:

" I am she whom you invoke every evening and when you pray the words, '*Eia ergo, Advocata nostra*' ('turn then, most gracious Advocate' ....in the Salve Regina), I PROSTRATE MYSELF BEFORE MY SON, ENTREATING HIM TO HEAR YOUR PETITIONS."

When we pray the Salve Regina, the 'Hail, Holy Queen', she, the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven and earth, prostrates herself before His Throne, beseeching God to hear and answer our petitions.

"The Son can deny nothing to His Mother." (St Jerome)

What of us? Do we desire to take her as our Mother, this "WOMAN" (John 19) ordained by God to be Mother of the Son and Mother of us, the one whom "devils not only fear but tremble at the very sound of her name" ? (St Alphonsus Liguori)

What are we moved to offer her , our " loving Mistress, our powerful Sovereign", whose humility is profound, whose obedience is total, who is our Mediatrix before God Himself?



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St. Louis de Montfort invites us to ask for the grace to endlessly say this little prayer, especially when temptations arrive at the door of our minds:

"ALL THAT I AM AND ALL THAT I HAVE IS YOUR, MOST LOVING JESUS, THROUGH MARY, YOUR MOST HOLY MOTHER".

We might hear a whispered invitation from God to offer a little sacrifice, hidden and unknown to anyone but Himself, for Our Mother's intentions. (*sacrificial prayer*)

We might make a daily swap with our Mother....we will pray for all of her intentions this day, if she will pray for ours. (*intercessory prayer*)

We might stay silent when we're accused of wrongdoing which we did not do. (*humility*)

We might offer all of our merits, dispensed through our Mother's hands to us from God, this day, for someone who has offended us. (*self-emptiness*)

GOD CAME TO US THROUGH A WOMAN. WE CAN'T IMPROVE ON HIS FORMULA SO WE GO BACK TO GOD THROUGH THAT SAME "WOMAN". THE LORD , GOD, DWELT IN THAT IMMACULATE WOMB. WE DWELT IN THE MIND OF GOD FROM BEFORE TIME BEGAN AND ALL THE WHILE THAT HE DWELT IN THAT IMMACULATE WOMB.

SO, SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II CAN RIGHTLY PRONOUNCE...

"GOD SEEKS MAN IN THE WOMB OF MARY."

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