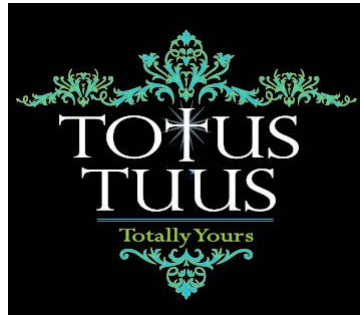


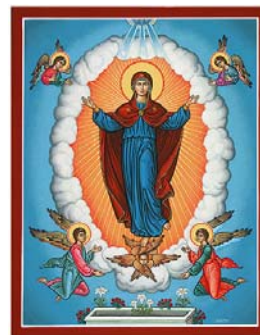
## Totally Thine: Thirty Three Days to a Closer Relationship with Jesus



### Why 33 days?

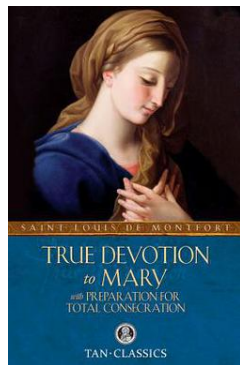
The 34<sup>th</sup> day is the Day of Consecration and should be on a Marian feast day.

- The Assumption
- Immaculate Conception
- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Annunciation



## Why Consecrate?

- To deepen our relationship with God by entering into a loving communion with Mary
- Surrender everything to Mary and thus to Jesus
- To consecrate ourselves means that we open ourselves like Mary to the gift of the Holy Spirit



*“The object of this consecration is to cast off the spirit of the world, which is contrary to that of Jesus Christ, in order to acquire fully the spirit of Jesus Christ through the Blessed Virgin.”*

*- True Devotion to Mary*

## John 17:17-19

Jesus speaks about consecration:

*"Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth."*

## Why through Mary?

- Jesus gave us Mary from the cross: *"Behold, your mother"* (John 19:26-27)
- Consecration through Mary does not subtract from worship and adoration of Jesus
- *"Mary's function as mother of men in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power."*

-Lumen Gentium 60

## Totus Tuus



- Saint John Paul II's apostolic motto
- Latin phrase meaning *"totally thine"*
- What did that mean to JP2?

## Devotion to Mary

- John Paul II wrote, *"In her, the many and intense sufferings were amassed in such an interconnected way that they were not only a proof of her unshakeable faith but also a contribution to the redemption of all!"*
- *"And again, after the events of her Son's hidden and public life, events which she must have shared with acute sensitivity, it was on Calvary that Mary's suffering, beside the suffering of Jesus, reached an intensity which can hardly be imagined from a human point of view but which was mysterious and supernaturally fruitful for the redemption of the world."*

–Salvifici Doloris, #25

## Marian Consecration - Christocentric

*"Her ascent of Calvary and her standing at the foot of the Cross together with the Beloved Disciple were a special sort of sharing in the redeeming death of her Son."*

–Salvifici Doloris, #25

\*Apostolic Letter of the Supreme Pontiff, John Paul II, to the bishops, priests, religious families, and to the faithful of the Catholic Church on the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering

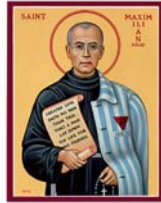


*"At one point I began to question my devotion to Mary, believing that, if it became too great, it might end up compromising the supremacy of the worship owed to Christ."*

In the writings of St. Louis de Montfort's writings he found his answer.

*"Yes, Mary does bring us closer to Christ; she does lead us to him, provided that we live her mystery in Christ."*

–Gift and Mystery



## Saints dedicated to Mary

- Saint Louis de Montfort founded the Company of Mary, and wrote works entitled *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin* and *The Secret of Mary*.
- Saint Maximilian Kolbe and six friends founded the Crusade of Mary Immaculate, devoted to the spread of the Miraculous Medal, which they wore, and devotion to Our Lady as the path to Christ.
- St. Pope John Paul II had such a strong devotion to Mary that his papal coat of arms had a large "M" on it.

## St. Louis de Montfort



- Ordained a priest in France in 1700 at the age of 27
- Most famous writings include: *The Secret of the Rosary*, *True Devotion to Mary*, and *The Secret of Mary*
- Many battles with Satan. At his beatification investigation, many witnesses testified that they had heard struggles between Louis and the devil including the sound of fist blows and the swish of whips.

St. John Paul II said these words in an address to the de Montfort fathers (referencing “True Devotion to Mary”) –

*“The reading of this book was a decisive turning-point in my life. I say ‘turning-point,’ but in fact it was a long inner journey.”*

### *Fundamental Truths of Devotion to the Blessed Mother*

1. Jesus Christ is the Last End of Devotion to Mary
  - Establishes more perfectly devotion to Jesus
  - Provides easy and secure way to Jesus
2. We Belong to Jesus and Mary as Their Slaves
  - We do not belong to ourselves but are entirely His – bought with the price of His Blood (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
  - Slavery of the will is the most perfect and glorious to God

## Fundamental Truths

### 3. We Need Mary in Order to Die to Ourselves

- Whoever wishes to follow Jesus must renounce himself (Jn. 12:25)
- Mary draws us to this desire

### 4. We Need Mary as Our Mediatrix with Our Mediator, Jesus Christ

- Jesus is our Mediator; we need a mediator to Him
- A more humble approach through Mary our Mother

## Fundamental Truths

### 5. We Need Mary in Order to Preserve the Graces and Treasures We Have Received from God

- Protection from evil
- Mary is untouched by evil and protects all that we entrust to Her



## True Devotion to Mary

- *“God has never made and formed but one enmity; but it is an irreconcilable one, which shall endure and grow even to the end....between Mary and the devil.” (Gen 3:15)*
- *“God has given Mary such great power against the devils....they fear one of her sighs for a soul more than the prayers of all the saints.” No.54*

## Formation of the Apostles for Later Times

The children of Mary “will know what is the surest, the easiest, the shortest and the most perfect means of going to Jesus Christ; and they will give themselves to Mary, body and soul, without reserve, that they may thus belong entirely to Jesus Christ.” N.55

## 33 Days

Divided into four distinct periods of prayer  
(different themes)

1. Preliminary days – study **fundamentals of the Christian life** and prepare us for the more focused weeks of self, Mary, and Jesus
2. First week - begins on day 13 -19 - **knowledge of self**
3. Second week – from day 20 through day 26 - **knowledge of Mary**
4. Third week - day 27 to day 33 - **knowledge of Jesus**

## Preparation for Consecration

St. Louis de Montfort's preparation period involves daily meditations and simple but powerful prayers to the Holy Spirit—

- Scriptural readings
- Imitation of Christ
- Veni Creator
- Ave Maris Stella
- Litany of the Holy Ghost

All to quietly transform us into a deeper relationship with God.

## Day of Consecration

- A Marian Feast Day (as planned)
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Attend Mass and receive the Eucharist
- Pray the Act of Consecration

\*\*The idea of holy slaves of Mary resulted in the practice of wearing a chain as an outward sign of one's consecration to Jesus and Mary and is a way of keeping our pledge to them always new and real.

## The Act of Consecration

I, (name), a faithless sinner, **renew** and ratify today in thy hands the **vows of my Baptism**; I **renounce** forever satan, his pomps and works; and I **give myself entirely to Jesus Christ**, the Incarnate Wisdom, to **carry my cross after Him** all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before. In the presence of all the heavenly court I **choose thee this day for my Mother** and Mistress. I deliver and **consecrate** to thee, **as they slave**, my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present, and future; leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of me, and all that belongs to me, without exception, **according to thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God**, in time and in eternity."

## Consecration Prayer

St. Maximilian Kolbe: "Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter you obtain the *grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.*"

## Renewal of Consecration

St. John Paul II: "I am totally yours, and all that I have is yours. I take you for my all. O Mary, give me your heart."

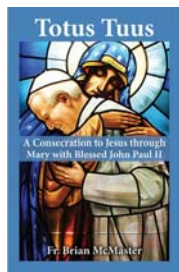
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St. Louis de Montfort: "I am all Thine and all that I have belongs to Thee, O my sweet Jesus, through Mary, Thy holy Mother."

## Retreats for Consecration



- “33 Days to Morning Glory”
  - prayed as a parish at CTK
  - Prays through the wisdom of St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Blessed Mother Teresa, and St. John Paul II



- “Totus Tuus”
  - In the thought and spirit of St. Pope John Paul II – includes words from some of his homilies and writings

## Diocesan Consecration

- Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- October 7-8, 2000
- Professed as families in the Diocese of Lubbock



## Ave Maris Stella

*Hail, bright star of ocean,  
God's own Mother blest,  
Ever sinless Virgin,  
Gate of heavenly rest.*

*Virgin all excelling,  
Mildest of the mild,  
Freed from guilt, preserve us,  
Pure and undefiled*

*Taking that sweet Ave  
Which from Gabriel came,  
Peace confirm within us,  
Changing Eva's name.*

*Keep our life all spotless,  
Make our way secure,  
Till we find in Jesus,  
Joy forevermore.*

*Break the captives' fetters,  
Light on blindness pour,  
All our ills expelling,  
Every bliss implore.*

*Through the highest heaven  
To the Almighty Three,  
Father, Son and Spirit,  
One same glory be. Amen*

*Show thyself a Mother;  
May the Word Divine,  
Born for us thy Infant,  
Hear our prayers through thine.*

## Songs

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TacNIbmDZ4s> - "Ave Maris Stella"
- "Holy Mother" sung by Eric Clapton and Pavarotti found on the album, *The Duets* from Pavarotti. Eric Clapton also sings it as a solo on several of his albums.