



“7 Things You Should Never Do In Your Devotion To Mary”

St. Louis de Montfort warns...

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“There are at this time, more than ever, false devotions to our Blessed Lady which it is easy to mistake for true ones. The devil, like a counterfeiter and a subtle and experienced deceiver, has already deceived and destroyed so many souls by a false devotion to the Blessed Virgin, that he makes a daily use of his diabolical experience to plunge many others by this same way into everlasting perdition.

“As a counterfeiter does not ordinarily counterfeit anything but gold and silver, or very rarely the other metals, because they are not worth the trouble, so the evil spirit does not for the most part counterfeit the other devotions, but only those to Jesus and Mary, the devotion to Holy Communion, and to our Blessed Lady, because they are, among other devotions, what gold and silver are amongst metals” (*“True Devotion to Mary”*, #90).

And even though he mentions the 7 things you must avoid in your devotion to Mary, he doesn’t go into great detail.

He admits: “I have now said many things about the most holy Virgin; but I have many more to say, and there are infinitely more which I shall omit, whether from ignorance, inability, or want of time, in the design which I have to form a true client of Mary, and a true disciple of Jesus Christ” (#111).

Thankfully, the renowned Montfort Father Armand Plessis took upon himself the task of explaining his saintly Founder’s teaching.

Here’s how he spells out the 7 false Marian devotions in his *“Commentary on the Treatise on the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin”*.

§ I. – THE CRITICAL DEVOTEES

“This class of false devotees is composed most often of proud and self-important spirits who are very attached to their own judgment, incapable of understanding the simple and naïve confidence, which we can, without any superstition, have in Mary. They boast about their knowledge, true or feigned.

“They find fault in all the practices of devotion, because they do not suit their fancy. They reject all accounts about miracles and favors obtained, because these accounts are not authentic. They see obvious exaggerations in the praises which the Fathers attribute to Mary.”

§ II. – THE SCRUPULOUS DEVOTEES

“They object forcefully to devotion to the Blessed Virgin, under the pretext that Jesus Christ must be the only end of all our devotion. According to them, indeed, devotion to Mary is an obstacle to the devotion that is due to Our Lord. We dishonor the Son by honoring the Mother. We lower the one by raising the other.

“Hence, they find excessive the praises that are addressed to Mary, or the multitudes who hurry to her altar. They consider as wasted time and foolishness the traditional marks by which the Christian people have always expressed their devotion to Mary.”

§ III. – THE EXTERNAL DEVOTEES

“Montfort will admit later that the exterior practices of devotion are necessary (#226 ss.). But they are precisely to arouse, sustain and develop the interior devotion. Whoever

makes the devotion consist only in these exterior practices breaks this necessary unity and kills true devotion.

“They only act, then, out of mechanical routine. It is necessary to say plenty of Rosaries, to hear a great number of Masses, to join all the confraternities, but without the soul having the slightest part in all these practices. Exterior devotees enjoy only the sensible part of these devotions. They become attached to them as long as the sensible endures. As soon as it stops, they completely lose heart.”

§ IV. – THE PRESUMPTUOUS DEVOTEES

“This class of false devotees is the least kind, the one that our Saint treats most harshly. Not only do they passionately indulge in all sorts of excesses, but they aspire indeed to continue thus till the end of their life. They dread only one thing, because they are instructed and have faith: eternal damnation. And they ask of devotion, Marian devotion especially, only an assurance against this disaster. Mary is solely charged with obtaining for them a happy death.

“As she is very charitable and very faithful, she will not fail to give them what they desire. They can thus rely on her for that, sin at present in complete safety, and taste without danger all the forbidden fruits. Therefore, Montfort protests energetically against such charges.

“Far from being the way of the Church herself or of true devotees, this conduct and this presumption are altogether harmful and most reprehensible. One cannot say sincerely that he loves and honors Mary if he continues to offend her divine Son – if we take refuge under the mantle of the

Mother, so as to be more sure of offending the Son with impunity.”

§ V. – THE INCONSTANT DEVOTEES

“Ecclesiasticus puts this difference between the just man and the sinner, that “a holy man continues in wisdom as the sun: but a fool is changed as the moon” (Eccli. 27:12). The inconstant devotee is like the moon. The latter increases and decreases, appears and disappears, lives and dies almost at the same time. The same applies to inconstant devotees.

“Sometimes they are fervent, sometimes lukewarm. Sometimes they seem ready to undertake everything for the service of Mary; then shortly after, they are no longer the same. They join every confraternity, and follow the rules of none. Such devotees are unworthy to be numbered among the servants of the Virgin. Mary puts them under her feet, like the moon which they resemble. On the contrary, her true servants share her constancy and fidelity.”

§ VI. – THE HYPOCRITICAL DEVOTEES

“This is the difference between the hypocritical devotees and the presumptuous devotees: the first are ashamed of their sins without having the courage to renounce them, whereas the others do not hide from them at all, and would easily be scandalous. Furthermore, the presumptuous knows very well the gravity of his state before God, and he hopes to get back into good graces with Him at the last moment of his life.

“The hypocrite, on the contrary, intends only to shield himself from the judgment of men. Some people go as far as to compromise their salvation, for fear of losing the esteem of their confessor, by sincerely admitting

their sins at the time of death. While causing less damage to Christian society, the hypocritical devotees are more in danger of being personally lost. And they are accordingly held in horror before God, Who is essentially honesty and simplicity.

“For these false devotees, Mary’s mantle serves to cover their sins and bad habits, so that nobody can notice them. It also serves to make them pass for what they are not, that is to say, for true devotees of Mary, who put their private life in accord with their doctrine and their religious practices.”

§ VII. – THE SELF-INTERESTED DEVOTEES

“The last category of false devotees includes those who allow themselves to be guided only by the interest of the moment, and most often by temporal interest. They ask Mary only for graces of the material order, to win trials or important business, to preserve or to recover health, to avoid danger, etc.... And, outside of these cases, they never think of praying to Mary.

“These souls forget that devotion, like prayer itself, has three other purposes, as important as the request itself: veneration, gratitude and reparation. They also forget that spiritual graces have more value than temporal graces. Therefore they are not in favor in the sight of God and His holy Mother.”

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These are the 7 things “*Commentary on the Treatise on the True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*” says you must avoid in your Marian devotion. This Commentary so delighted the Montfort Fathers they exclaimed...

“The “*Commentary on the Treatise on the True Devotion*” points out everything the reader must know or remember in order to penetrate completely the immortal masterpiece of St. Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort. It is an essential book for whoever desires to learn the Perfect Devotion.”

They also said this book “furnishes to readers everything they must know in order to understand and taste the doctrine of Bl. Louis-Marie de Montfort.”

St. Louis de Montfort calls this Marian devotion a “secret unknown to almost all Christians, even the most devout” (#177)... and... “a mystery of grace unknown to even the wisest and most spiritual among Christians” (#21).

ONE LAST THING: When St. Louis says “the most devout” and “the wisest and most spiritual among Christians,” he’s including most of the Saints.

He explains: “There have been some Saints, but they have been in small numbers, who have passed by this sweet path to go to Jesus, because the Holy Ghost, faithful Spouse of Mary, has by a singular grace disclosed it to them.

“But the rest of the Saints, who are the greater number, although they have all had devotion to our Blessed Lady, have not on that account, or at least very little, entered upon this way. This is why they have had to pass through ruder and more dangerous trials” (#152).

If you’d like to know the story about this ancient and distinguished Marian devotion which helps you “give Jesus more glory in a month than by any other practice, however difficult, in many years” (#222), please [CLICK HERE NOW](#).