

TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY
St. Louis De Montfort

Comments and Questions for Consequences (of Articles 1 & 2) (#37 – #48).

St. Louis de Montfort draws two main conclusions from the last two sections, Articles 1 & 2. In these articles, we learned that the Holy Trinity, with great love and pleasure, *willed* that Mary should play a very special and *active* role in our salvation. We learned that because of the holiness of her life, especially her profound humility, God rewarded her with great and powerful responsibilities in Heaven, including dispensing all the graces that Christ merited for us by His Passion, Death and Resurrection. St. Louis de Montfort shows that everything flows from Mary's role at the Incarnation. She is the Mother of the Head of the Church and she is also the spiritual Mother of the Mystical Body of Christ.

The first consequence or conclusion that St. Louis de Montfort derives from this is that Mary is the Queen of All Hearts. He briefly explains that in her role as Queen, she exerts a maternal influence and “power” over her children and is thus able to help them grow in holiness. His second conclusion, which he explains in more detail, is that Mary is necessary for salvation. We will examine the two-fold meaning of this statement and will look at similar statements made by other Saints of the Church. It is important to remember, especially when reading this section, that St. Louis de Montfort is writing about Catholics. It would not be fair to apply everything he says to non-Catholic Christians.

At the end of this section, St. Louis de Montfort focuses on what we must do to become a saint in this life. He says that in order to gain perfection, we must develop a deep and intense devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He shows us a remarkable, yet profoundly simple, way to do this in the second part of the book. Of course, we have to remain open to the influence of the Holy Spirit, receive the Sacraments often and persevere in reading this book year after year.

Finally, St. Louis de Montfort discusses the End Times and prophecies about the saints of the latter days (not to be confused with the Latter Day Saints!). He gives us an insight into the final days by describing the very specific role of the Marian saints to come. This is important for us to understand as there will be many heresies regarding the End Times. St. Louis de Montfort discusses these saints and their important role in greater detail in the next section.

Questions for paragraphs #37 - #48.

1. The first conclusion that St. Louis de Montfort states is fundamentally important. As we read in #37, since Our Lady is Our Mother, she cannot fulfill this task unless she has received from God special rights and authority over the *souls* of her children. This maternal influence is called Queenship. Unlike an earthly queen, Our Lady's royal power is maternal. She "rules" over us as a loving Mother and has an effective influence over us. In other words, in union with the Holy Spirit, she *successfully* molds her children into the image of Her Son.

Do you allow Mary to "rule" over your body and soul? Have you ever thought about what it actually means for her to be your Queen? Where do we find her Queenship implied in Scripture?

2. In #39, St. Louis de Montfort claims that since Mary was "necessary" to God in His redemptive plan, then Mary is necessary for all people to reach their ultimate goal of Heaven. This is the second conclusion that he draws from the last two sections. We already discussed that since Mary is the Mediatrix of all Grace, then all graces for salvation come to us through her. In other words, we play a passive role (she obtains graces for us whether we know it or not) and, in this sense, it is *obvious* that she is necessary for salvation. What St. Louis de Montfort is suggesting in #39 - #42 is actually something much more important for us to understand as Catholics. Using another translation of this book, the last sentence of #39 reads, "We must not confuse devotion to the Blessed Virgin with devotion to the other saints, as if devotion to her...were *something optional*." What, then, is St. Louis de Montfort saying about the necessity of Mary for our salvation?
3. Since Mary was "full of grace" at the Annunciation, how can she increase in grace from day to day as is stated in #44?

4. St. Louis de Montfort has written extensively on the End Times. He believes that the greatest saints of all time will be Marian saints and that they will be formed by Our Lady especially before the Final Coming of Christ. He says that anyone who wishes to grow in perfection must have a “very great union with the most holy Virgin” and that the great saints of the End Times “will be exceptionally devoted to the Blessed Virgin.” He begins his discussion on these saints of the latter times in #47 and continues through #58 in the next section. What period does the Church define as the “End Times?”

5. In #48, St. Louis de Montfort gives a description of the saints of the latter times. It’s hard to imagine that they will surpass in holiness all the saints that have become before them. He explains that they will need to have a great degree of sanctity because of the two-fold task that they will have. What does he say that their great mission will be?