

33-DAY TOTAL CONSECRATION TO JESUS THROUGH MARY – Week One Notes

Jesus said:

"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO-ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME." (John 14:6)

Jesus describes Himself as "**THE WAY**".

This is most vital for us to remember-----we are not taking these 33 days of prayer and meditation in order to consecrate ourselves to MARY.

She is not **THE** Way.

We are consecrating our hearts TO JESUS because He alone is **THE WAY**.

However, St Louis de Montfort, 300 years ago taught us **A** way to unite our hearts and lives to **THE WAY**.

He taught us how to go **TO JESUS THROUGH MARY**.

And this is where many centuries of Marian Catholic teachings come into play. Time restricts us this evening so I have chosen only 2 main points to take us into deeper understanding and we might begin by asking ourselves several important questions which will open the door to our thoughts this evening:

Firstly, can we find evidence in Sacred Scripture which tells us that Mary has any power to advocate for us before the Throne of God? Why would St Montfort tell us that if we approach this WOMAN she will draw us more speedily and more intimately into the Heart of her Sacred Son? What is the precious quality in this WOMAN which we can learn and which we can copy?

To our first question.....Is there any evidence of her power in Sacred Scripture which justifies going to Jesus through her?

In the book of Micah, that prophet foretells a Messiah-Liberator whose origin would be a descendant of the House of David. Micah also describes how this Messiah-Liberator would be "from of old, from ancient days". To be "from ancient days" expresses an everlasting time, a time that is eternal. So the prophet is describing to us that the Messiah's origins are both human (from the House of David) and Divine (from time eternal). But Micah then goes on to describe the MOTHER of this Messiah-Liberator. His words reveal her to be,

A MOTHER WHOM GOD RAISES UP FROM HIS PEOPLE, "THE SONS OF ISRAEL", TO BEGET A NEW KING, "WHO WOULD BE GREAT TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH". (Micah 5:1-4)

SUCH A WOMAN, SUCH A MOTHER, TAKES ON THE ROLE OF A REGAL QUEEN.

What does the prophet mean when he says, from His people, from the "Sons of Israel"? Who are "His" people, His "Sons of Israel"?

God's chosen people were the Hebrew / Jewish people. They were His people and from among them, Micah prophesied that God would raise up "she who is in labor and who has borne a child." This is the Queen Mother who would beget a New King.

Those people of the Old Testament well understood the power of a Queen Mother. The Queen Mother's title in those days was known as "**GEBIRAH**". Her role involved great influence.....she acted as REGENT if the king were ill or dead. **THE HONOR GIVEN TO HER AND THE POWER THAT WAS HERS CAME FROM THE KING.**

Did the wife of the king, or the sister of the king hold such power? We find our answer in the Book of Kings. When Bathsheba was wife of king David, she would enter his

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court and prostrate herself before him. **But after David's death, Bathsheba's son, Solomon prostrated himself before the queen mother and he commanded that she be seated at the right hand of his throne.**

All of these events prefigure THE WOMAN, THE MOTHER, MARY, not wife or sister but MOTHER.

Sacred Scripture leaves us in no doubt about the power and influence in the ancient regal court which the queen mother held. The Mother of God is being prefigured in these passages so we have clear evidence as to why we would now look to power of the MOTHER OF THE NEW KING, THE QUEEN MOTHER, MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD. As in those days of old all honor and power flows to her through the king. Christ is the NEW KING Whom she would beget from among God's people installing her as QUEEN MOTHER.

But now we arrive at the second question which we posed and it's in the answer that a total contradiction is to be found.

What vital quality does this, the NEW KING's MOTHER and our QUEEN have which we can copy? It's something so attractive to the King that He can't resist her ...He places her at the right hand of His Heavenly Throne, He grants her every request. It's the quality that provides the scaffolding for our 33 day consecration prayer. It's what we will seek during these next 5 weeks. It's what changes our lives, draws Christ more fully into us because He, the NEW KING cannot resist this quality, it causes Him to do whatever we ask of Him.

And we see it in abundance through THIS GEBIRAH, THIS QUEEN MOTHER, OUR QUEEN MOTHER.

God the Father didn't permit Mary to perform any miracle during her life on earth. We wonder, WHY NOT.? Why does she speak so seldom in all of the NT?

We read in the Gospel of St Matthew that Jesus was inside a particular house and Mary arrived, desiring to speak to Him, but she would not enter the house of her own accord.

...SHE REMAINED OUTSIDE AND DID NOT AVAIL HERSELF OF HER **MATERNAL AUTHORITY** TO INTERRUPT HIM. (Matthew 12:46-50)

Her "maternal authority". ...those words immediately send our minds back to Bathsheba in the Book of Kings and her power as queen regent; we remember Micah, prophesying a Queen Mother who would beget a New King. St Matthew was speaking to the Jewish people who would have known exactly the power and authority that should have been assigned to her, this Mother to the King, this WOMAN, this GEBIRAH.

And again, when the Apostles were waiting in the upper room for the descent of the Holy Spirit, St Luke writes, "All these were persevering with one mind in prayer, with the women, and **MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS.**" **And here lies the contradiction.....**

This WOMAN, who had been espoused by the Holy Spirit, who had given birth to God Incarnate, is placed last in the list of those present awaiting the Holy Spirit, that Spirit Who had "overshadowed" her at the Annunciation. Here we see how this Queen Mother comes last behind the apostles and other women.

On Palm Sunday when the NEW KING was acclaimed and palms strewn among the "HOSANNA"s on His path into Jerusalem at His hour of earthly acclaim and honor, where was the QUEEN MOTHER? Just as she was nowhere to be found when the Messiah-Liberator performed His mighty miracles, neither was she to be found at this Palm Sunday time of acclaim.

YET, JUST A FEW DAYS LATER, THERE SHE STANDS, JUXTA CRUCEM JESU, AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS OF JESUS, THE QUEEN MOTHER, THE GEBIRAH, SHARING THE GLORY OF HIS SUFFERING, THE MOCKERY, THE RIDICULE, THE SPITTING, THE HUMILIATIONS, THE PASSION AND DEATH, THE ETERNAL GLORY FOR WHICH HE WAS BORN.

IN THIS SCENE OF BRUTALITY WE FIND THE WOMAN, FILLED WITH THE QUALITY WHICH THE KING CANNOT RESIST.....**HUMILITY.**

Not for her the earthly acclaim nor the honor nor the hosannas nor the waving palms. Her son filled her with one of His greatest gifts.....**HIS HUMILITY.**

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St Bernard of Clairvaux reminds us that ,
"Humility is the foundation and the guardian of the virtues"
because without it, **"no other virtue can exist in the soul"**.

St Francis de Chantal tells us,
"God so loves humility that whenever He sees it He is immediately drawn to it."

This beautiful virtue was unknown to the world but the Son of God Himself came on earth to teach it,
"I am meek and humble of heart".

WE GO TO JESUS!

Mary is His first and most perfect disciple. She learned deep humility from her Savior and Son. She is like a mirror that exists to reveal His deep humility through her own.
If we seek to consecrate our hearts to Jesus, it will be Queen Mother, whose power is a contradiction of the power of those earthly ancient queens because hers lies in the deep humility of the NEW KING, who will protect us under the gentle mantle of this humility.

WE TOO SEEK TO CLOTHE OURSELVES IN A MANTLE OF HUMILITY DURING OUR CONSECRATION COMMITMENT.

These next 5 weeks will completely transform our spiritual lives. We may have made this consecration in the past. We may be making it for the first time....whichever it is, if we seek to clothe ourselves in Mary's humility, a mirror of the Son's, our journey will be taken to depths not ever before known.

We go to Jesus through Mary.

Here is a little novena to a dear saint whose humility transformed and continues to transform lives.
OH LITTLE THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS,
PLEASE PICK FOR ME A ROSE FROM THE HEAVENLY GARDENS AND SEND IT TO ME AS A MESSAGE OF LOVE.

OH LITTLE FLOWER OF JESUS, PLEASE ASK GOD TODAY TO GRANT ME THE FAVOR I NOW PLACE WITH CONFIDENCE IN YOUR HANDS
(ST THERESE, IF I'M NOT TO RECEIVE THE DEPTHS OF LOVE WHICH YOU WERE GIVEN, PLEASE ASK GOD TO GIVE ME INSTEAD A HEART OF HUMILITY
SO THAT WHEN I DIE AND I MEET THE FATHER, HE WILL SEE AND LOVE IN ME A FAINT SHADOW OF WHAT HE SAW AND LOVED IN HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST.)

ST THERESE, HELP ME TO ALWAYS BELIEVE AS YOU DID IN GOD'S GREAT LOVE FOR ME SO THAT I MIGHT IMITATE YOUR LITTLE WAY EACH DAY".

In these first 12 days of our consecration, the prayers are quite light so it might be a good time to ask the intercession of this dear little saint. We know that when we pray, the "great halls of the Heavenly Kingdom are thrown open to the faithful" and countless beings strain toward us to lovingly grasp our prayer. Can you see those Heavenly beings reaching toward you with such love and joy? St Therese is at the fore when we address her and she strews petals of roses as she takes our petition and presents it to the Throne of God.

WE NOW PRAY THE FIRST SET OF PRAYERS TOGETHER.....THE VENI CREATOR. THE AVE MARIE STELLA .THE MAGNIFICAT.

WE CAN MEDITATE ON THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE WHEN WE ARE ALONE.
AND WE WILL MEET TO PRAY TOGETHER NEXT MONDAY, FOR OUR SECOND SESSION AND SECOND TALK.

To Jesus through Mary