

# THE BULLETIN

“So the faith was planted: so it must be restored.”

*Eight Pond Place, Oyster Bay, NY 11771*

*August 2024*

## The Heart of God's Mother

Adapted from a sermon by The Most Rev. Clarence Kelly  
Copyright © 1994 The Most Rev. Clarence Kelly

In his wonderful book *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort writes the following words: “Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all things.... He is our only Master Who has to teach us; our only Lord on Whom we ought to depend; our only Head to Whom we must be united; our only Model to Whom we should conform ourselves; our only Physician Who can heal us; our only Shepherd Who can feed us; our only Way Who can lead us; our only Truth Whom we must believe; [He is] our only Life Who can animate us, and our only All in all things who can satisfy us. There has been no other name given under Heaven, except the name of Jesus, by which we can be saved. God has laid no other foundation of our salvation, our perfection or our glory, than Jesus Christ. Outside of Him there exists nothing but error, falsehood, iniquity, futility, death and damnation. But if we are in Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is in us, we have no condemnation to fear.” (pp. 37-38)

But if these wonderful things about Our Lord are true, as St. Louis de Montfort asserts, then why all the fuss about Mary? Why does St. Louis and the Catholic Faith exalt, extol, admire, love and proclaim unceasingly devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary in the light of all these truths about Christ? Is devotion to Mary necessary, or is there here a contradiction? Is there here an inconsistency as the Protestants assert? No, there is no contradiction. There is no inconsistency. There is no conflict between true devotion to Christ and devotion to the Blessed Virgin

Mary. On the contrary, devotion to Mary is the surest, safest and most certain way to bring about devotion to Christ. Where Mary is known, loved and served, Jesus Christ is known, loved and served. Where Our Lady is exalted, Jesus reigns. True devotion to Mary not only does not detract from true devotion to Christ, but it establishes it and causes it to flourish. The heart that loves the Mother loves the Son. That is because the heart that loves the Blessed Virgin Mary loves what she loves and Whom she loves. Establish true devotion to Mary in your heart and your heart will burn with love for Jesus. St. Louis de Montfort says, “If we establish solid devotion to our Blessed Lady, it is only to establish more perfectly devotion to Jesus Christ, and to provide an easy and secure means for finding Jesus Christ. If devotion to Our Lady removed us from Jesus Christ, we should have to reject it as an illusion of the devil; but so far from this being the case, devotion to Our Lady is, on the contrary, necessary for us as a means of finding Jesus Christ perfectly, of loving Him tenderly, [and] of serving Him faithfully.” (Ibid., pp. 38-39)

The devil has deceived many into believing that devotion to Our Lady detracts from devotion to Christ, whereas the truth is that Jesus Christ is so little known and loved because Mary is so little known and loved. Thus did St. Louis de Montfort lovingly complain to Our Lord of the ignorance of men in this regard. In *True Devotion* St. Louis writes, “I here turn for one moment to Thee, O sweet Jesus, to complain lovingly to Thy Divine Majesty that the greater part of

Christians, even the most learned, do not know the necessary union there is between Thee and Thy Mother. She is so intimately united with Thee that it were easier to separate the light from the sun, the heat from the fire; nay, it were easier to separate from Thee all the angels and the saints than the divine Mary, because she loves Thee more ardently and glorifies Thee more perfectly than all the other creatures put together.” (Ibid., p. 39)

Because of this intimate union between the Son and the Mother, the Holy Ghost inspired the Catholic Church to make Our Lady known and loved so that her Son may be known and loved. To this end Holy Mother Church has instituted many feasts in honor of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. The principal feasts among these are the Immaculate Conception, Mary’s Nativity, the Feast of her Holy Name, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Purification, the Divine Maternity, and the Assumption, which we celebrate on August 15<sup>th</sup>. In 1944, Pope Pius XII added to this list when he instituted the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This feast we celebrate on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the First World War, Our Lady appeared to the three children at Fatima and spoke of God’s desire to honor her Immaculate Heart. During the Second World War, Pope Pius XII established the Feast of the Immaculate Heart. Pius XII consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and placed it under her special protection. He decreed that the whole Church was to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Heart on the octave day of the Assumption. In his decree the Holy Father said that the Immaculate Heart was to be honored so that we might obtain the intercession of the Mother of God, as well as “...peace among nations, freedom for the Church, the conversion of sinners, the love of purity and the practice of virtue.”

But this raises the question: If heaven itself decreed that the Immaculate Heart be honored, and if that Most Pure Heart has indeed been honored, why is it that as we look at the world today, we do not see peace? We do not see the Church free. We see the Church suffering a persecution more devastating than the bloodiest persecutions of her 2000 year history. We do not see the conversion of sinners to

God; we see the conversion of once Godly people to sin. As for purity and virtue, they are hardly to be found. And so we ask, has Our Lady failed? Has the Church prayed in vain? Have we honored the Mother of God and her Immaculate Heart to no avail? When viewed from a natural point of view, one might be tempted to say yes. But we do not view it from a natural point of view. We view it from a supernatural point of view. We say and we know and we affirm that the Blessed Virgin Mother of God has not failed. The Church has not prayed in vain. The honor bestowed upon the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Pope Pius XII and good men and women everywhere has not been for naught. It is men who have failed. We have failed because we are not holy the way we should be holy.

Yet, in spite of all this, in spite of our failures and our sins, the Immaculate Heart of Mary will triumph. Peace will be granted. The Church will be free. Sinners will be converted. Purity and virtue will be found once again in the ranks of the rebellious race of men. The Sacred Heart of Jesus will reign. The Sacred Heart of Jesus will set the hearts of men on fire, and this will be done through the intercession of that Heart which we call Immaculate. Jesus will reign through Mary. St. Louis de Montfort spoke of the last days as the Age of Mary, which will be characterized by true devotion to our amiable Mother. The Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Sacred Heart will have Its way. Holy fear and holy love will once more live in the hearts of men.

With this triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we will see a glorious rebirth of the Church. St. Louis de Montfort says: “It was through the most holy Virgin Mary that Jesus came into the world,” and so it shall be “through her that He has to reign in the world. If then, as is certain, the knowledge and the kingdom of Jesus Christ are to come into the world, they will be but a necessary consequence of the knowledge and the kingdom of the most holy Virgin Mary, who brought Him into the world for the first time, and will make His second advent full of splendor.” (Ibid., p. 11) Pray the Rosary, my dear faithful. Be pure according to your state in life. Love Our Lady, and you will share in the triumph of her Heart over the hearts of men.