

## Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary

One of the greatest means of salvation is devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary. The saints are unanimous in saying that, **"A devout client of Mary shall never perish."**

**St. Thomas Aquinas** said that **"many souls are now in Heaven through the prayers of Mary who otherwise would not be there."**

**St. Alphonsus de Liguori** says that **"devotion to Mary is morally necessary for our salvation."**

**St. Louis de Montfort** said, **"I have no better way of knowing if a man is for God than if he likes to say the Hail Mary and the Rosary."**

**St Therese of Lisieux** said **"The Rosary is a long chain that links Heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands**

**of the Holy Virgin."**

The Church teaches us to honour Mary as the patroness of a good death by means of the last words of the Angelic Salutation: "Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." Whoever says this prayer piously, will die as happily as he will die holily.

A dying man once asked: "Whence comes the joy which beams on your face at the moment when you see you are about to expire?" "It is," he replied, "because having prayed so often during all the days of my life to the Blessed Virgin for a holy and a happy death, I cannot believe that she will refuse me a favour I have asked for so often." Let us say the Hail Mary with equal attention and fervour, and we shall have the same consolation at our last hour.

The child is by nature an imitator if the model set before him is good there is reason to hope that the copy will be so likewise. Do mothers realise this? And when later in life they fail to see in their children the Christian virtues of humility, patience, charity and forgiveness do they not also fail to trace the absence of these virtues to its true and legitimate cause?

Oh! That all mothers would bear in mind that if they desire to become true Christians they must present in their own lives the models of which the children will be the living copies.

The Christian Mother



# THE IMMACULATA



## Father talks on the will of God in our lives

A very important question in your vocation as a wife and mother is 'how do I do the will of God?' God wants something different in the specific details from each of you yet He wants all of you to do His will by being a good wife and mother. For anything to be good it has to fulfil the purpose for what it was made. To be a good mother is to raise children to become saints, for God, for Heaven. To be a good wife is to look after the home in order to accommodate and help your husband achieve his ends, so you both can get to Heaven. In your lives as spouses and mothers, you will often see things that you don't want to see and you may act like you don't see, so you turn a blind eye to a situation because it is inconvenient or it costs a sacrifice and therefore you mess up achieving your end.

From Fr Martin J Scott's book, 'A Mother and Father's Rule of Life, 'How many young wives there are who spend their day frivolously and permit their husband to come home in the evening to a disordered house, a badly planned and hastily cooked dinner and an untidy wife. They are surprised that their husbands do not take care for the home, then after a while their expressions of love grow less, such wives have brought on themselves the sad condition of affairs.'

It is interesting that people often say that someone's attitude towards you has changed, what they never notice is because the attitude that you have given toward them has made them change. This is important when looking at your husband, and what you expect from your husband, marriage and children. You have to be careful that you are not portraying or projecting something which is not good. Because of something you have done, whether consciously or not, a situation has been created, which brings about

in your husband or children, a lack of love or confidence or joy in coming home and seeing you and seeing the children or being in the house, that is from you.

'A wife can make no better investment than an inviting home' this applies not just for your husband but for anyone, it says that you are welcome and whoever comes is welcome and it is a home of love and kindness and generosity and a welcoming heart. 'The inviting home means a house in order, meals rightly prepared and a wife attractively, albeit simply dressed.

'A wife can make no better investment than an inviting home'

I have gone into homes which are enough to drive a man to desperation, everything is disorder, such a home will have little attraction for a husband's leisurely hours, I have seen a home where a husband has sat down to a dinner of a few unsubstantial dishes, hastily put together chosen because they require little or no preparation.'

If you do not know how to cook, make an effort to learn, and make the effort to pass it on to your children. If a husband toils all day for his wife, shall his wife begrudge a few hours of toil for him. Sometimes when 'a wife finds her marriage a disappointment she fails to see that she has made it so, she blames marriage and her husband for the empty life whereas she has only herself to blame.'

It is very rare to find a husband who is not reciprocal to these things, in these cases this should be brought to the priest. Most men automatically reciprocate to those things. In your home when you know of something that is coming up you must plan for this, for example family events, birthdays, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Christmas etc. The ability to read into a situation, when you see that an event is coming up or such a thing is going to happen and anticipate that, then take the time and effort to be able to see that God is enlightening you with the grace to see that therefore when you neglect it, you have to answer for it. Continued overleaf...

## Divine Intimacy: May, the month of Our Lady

The heart of every Christian turns spontaneously toward his heavenly Mother, with a desire to live in closer intimacy with her and to strengthen the sweet ties which bind him to her. It is a great comfort on our spiritual way, which is often fatiguing and bristling with difficulties, to meet the gentle presence of a mother. One is so at ease near one's mother. With her, everything becomes easier; the weary, discouraged heart, disturbed by storms, finds new hope and strength, and continues the journey with fresh courage.

"If the winds of temptation arise," sings St. Bernard, "if you run into the reefs of trials, look to the star, call upon Mary. In danger, sorrow or perplexity, think of Mary, call upon Mary." There are times when the hard road of the "nothing" frightens us, miserable as we are; and then, more than ever, we need her help, the help of our Mother. The Blessed

Virgin Mary has, before us, trodden the straight and narrow path which leads to sanctity; before us she has carried the cross, before us she has known the ascents of the spirit through suffering.

Sometimes, perhaps, we do not dare to look at Jesus the God-Man, who because of His divinity seems too far above us; but near Him is Mary, His Mother and our Mother, a privileged creature surely, yet a creature like ourselves, and therefore a model more accessible for our weakness. Mary comes to meet us during this month, to take us by the hand, to initiate us into the secret of her interior life, which must become the model and norm of our own. We must consider Mary in the concrete picture of her earthly life. It is a simple, humble picture, which never leaves the framework of the ordinary life common to all mothers; under this aspect, Mary is truly imitable.



### 'The Will of God in our Lives' continued...

A Catholic wife's example as a practicing Catholic will be a great help in encouraging her husband to live as a good Catholic. There is no surer way of having a husband all that he should be than to aid him to be a practical Catholic. I do not mean that she should preach at him, but let him see for himself the good effects of religion. Men are fantastic at seeing that, they don't care about words or preaching.

'Some wives who are frequent Church goers sometimes persist in running down their neighbours and letting the home run itself. There is something the matter with their practice of religion if it does not make them better wives and better neighbours. Great harm can be done to religion by those who make a display of piety and yet give scandal by their acts to people who have little or no religion.

Let religious practice be sincere, a good test of its sincerity lies in how they act in the home, the home is where you see how you really are. If a woman is not kind, forgiving, considerate and a good housewife her

religion is only on the outside. God sees the heart, he wants the Catholic wife to be a solace to her husband, a help to him as he tries to live a good Catholic life and consequently an aid to his eternal salvation.

There is a danger to hide behind our piety to justify our negligence or not seeing things that we obviously do see but do not want to see, often this comes from a lack of honesty, coupled with a lack of virtue and self-sacrifice. The key starts with being honest and aware of our problem and then making an effort to correct it, start by improving the things that are your prerogative in the home, the cooking, cleaning etc., whatever is deficient is deficient because you have not invested the time and effort.

To come back to the original question, you have to have the grace and insight to see God's will for your life through what you see is going to make your home a Godly, holy and blessed place for your children, husband and for yourself.



## The Three Hail Marys Devotion

One of the greatest means of salvation and one of the surest signs of predestination, is unquestionably, the devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin. All the holy doctors of the Church are unanimous in saying with St. Alphonsus of Liguori: "**A devout servant of Mary shall never perish.**" The chief thing is to persevere faithfully until death in this devotion.

Numerous examples show how agreeable the three Hail Marys Devotion is to the Divine Mother and what special graces it draws, during life and at the hour of death, on those who never omit it for a single day.

This practice was revealed to St. Melchilde (13<sup>th</sup> century) while she was beseeching Our Blessed Mother to assist her in her hour of death. Our Lady appeared to her and said: "I will, certainly. But I also want you to say three special Hail Marys to me every day.

"The first Hail Mary will be in honour of God the Father, Whose omnipotence raised my soul so high above every other creature that after God I have the greatest power in heaven and on earth. In the hour of your death I will use that power of God the Father to keep any hostile power far from you.

"The second Hail Mary will be said in honour of the Son of God Who communicated His inscrutable wisdom to me. In the hour of your death I will fill your soul with the light of that wisdom so that all the darkness of ignorance and error will be dispelled.

"The third Hail Mary will be in honour of God the Holy Ghost Who filled my soul with the sweetness of His love and tenderness and mercy. In your last hour I will then change the bitterness of death into divine sweetness and delight."

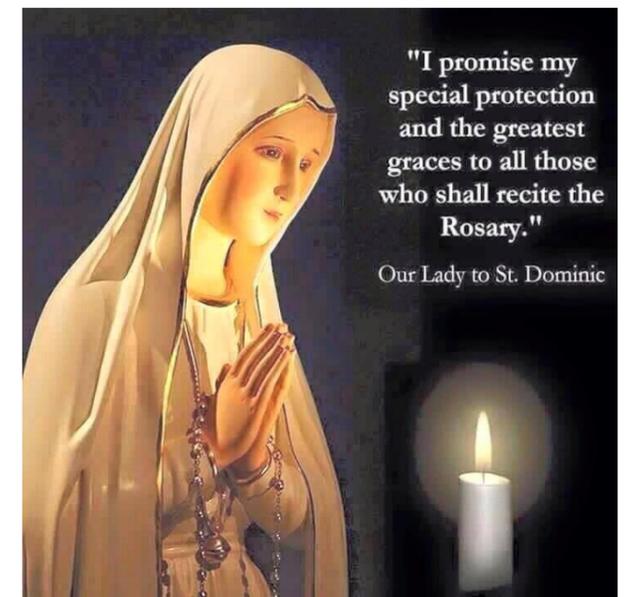
Our Blessed Mother also revealed to St. Gertrude the Great: "To any soul who faithfully prays the Three Hail Marys, I will appear at the hour of

death in a splendour so extraordinary that it will fill the soul with heavenly consolation."

St. Leonard of Port Maurice, the celebrated missionary, had the Three Hail Marys recited morning and evening in honour of Mary Immaculate, to obtain the grace of avoiding all mortal sins during the day or night; moreover he promised in a special manner eternal salvation to all those who proved constantly faithful to this practice. He gave this devotion of Three Hail Marys as a penance in the confessional, especially for those who were struggling with sins of impurity.

**Practice:** Recite morning and evening, three Hail Marys in honour of the three great privileges bestowed upon Our Blessed Mother by the most Blessed Trinity with this invocation at the end: for the morning: "O my Mother preserve me from mortal sin during this day." For the evening: "O my Mother preserve me from mortal sin during this night."

(Pope St. Pius X gave his Apostolic Blessing to this practice and the devotion was raised to an Archconfraternity by Pope Benedict XV.)



"I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary."

Our Lady to St. Dominic