

TRUE DEVOTION TO MARY
St. Louis De Montfort

Comments and Questions for Part I, Chapter I, Article 1 (#14 - #21).

St. Louis de Montfort has divided this book into two major parts. In the first part, he discusses Marian devotion in general and helps us to understand Mary's role in salvation history. In the second part, he defines what he considers to be *perfect* devotion to Mary and teaches us his unique method of giving ourselves to her entirely through total consecration. By giving ourselves completely to Jesus through Mary, Our Lady will help us to grow and persevere in holiness by more perfectly living out our Baptismal promises.

In the Preliminary Remarks (#1 - #13), St. Louis de Montfort praised and extolled Our Lady with great fervor and enthusiasm. Now, in Part I, he will attempt to lay the foundation for the awesome claims he has made about her. He begins by examining in greater detail the unique relationship that exists between the Blessed Mother and Each Person of the Blessed Trinity. He does this in the context of the Incarnation (Article 1) and the role of Mary in the sanctification of souls (Article 2).

Our Lady's role in the Incarnation is central to understanding St. Louis de Montfort's "theology" of Mary. He explains that Mary's role in the mysteries of our salvation flow directly from her role in the Incarnation. In other words, her "Yes" at the Annunciation included her "Yes" (her surrender) to God's Will in everything that would happen to her until the end of time and for all eternity.

Questions for Article 1 (#14 - #21).

1. After St. Louis de Montfort used such beautiful words to describe Our Lady in his introduction, he now reminds us in #14 of who she really is compared to God – nothing at all. He then goes on to say in #15 that, nonetheless, God willed to use her to bring forth His Son and since God does not change, He will continue to use her to bring forth Jesus in souls until the end of time. Have you ever considered the fact that God does not change? What are other examples of this?

2. In #18, we read spectacular words about Jesus in the womb of Mary. Our Lord had great joy in depending on her from the moment of His Conception, throughout His Life and even in His Death on the Cross. He also compares Mary to Abraham. Have you ever considered that Abraham foreshadowed the Blessed Mother in the sacrificial offering of his son? What specific role/title of Our Lady does St. Louis de Montfort describe here?

3. Continuing with #18, we read that “Jesus Christ gave more glory to God the Father by submission to His Mother...” Isn’t this an amazing sentence? Does that make you think twice about the importance of the virtue of obedience? The saints say it is one of the most difficult virtues to practice. Why is this? What virtue must we acquire to help us to be more obedient?

4. In #19, St. Louis de Montfort describes something that most Christians probably don’t think about – Our Lord performed his first public miracles “by” Mary. What lessons can we learn from this? What was His first miracle of “grace?” What was His first miracle of “nature?”

5. St. Louis de Montfort says in #20 that it is with Mary and in Mary that the Holy Spirit “produced” Jesus and that He “goes on producing daily, to the end of the world, the predestinate and the members of the Body of that adorable Head.” This is the first of several times in this book that we see the word “predestinate.” How does the Church describe this term?

6. In #20, what does St. Louis de Montfort mean by “find Mary in a soul?” What does this tell us about the Sacrament of Confirmation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit?