



**MONTFORT  
PUBLICATIONS**  
*Ad Jesum per Mariam*

# Mission Mariae

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MONFORT CENTER OF SPIRITUALITY

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## Message

Nowadays, there are more lay people, especially the Marian devotees, who show interest in the spirituality of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. This is perhaps the fruit of the celebration of the tercentenary of the death of St. Louis. The various activities like the facilitators training, Marian Conferences, pilgrimages, etc., inspired the participants especially those who have already undergone the Totus Tuus Journey. They seemed to crave for something more and wanted also others to experience the same journey. The Montfort Center of Spirituality under the new leadership have re-organized the Lay Associates and this time with more active and enthusiastic members. There are many initiatives that were planned and are already implemented. It is impressive how they worked together considering that they are coming from different places in Metro Manila.

The Totus Tuus group in Cebu is likewise gaining its momentum after hosting the successful closing activities of the Tercentenary (of the death) of Montfort early this year. There is a group that is currently preparing for consecration using the revised manual authored by Fr. Mario Belotti, SMM. The Sta. Teresita Parish group made its consecration last September 8, 2017. There were around forty parishioners who completed the 33-days preparation. Beginning February 2, 2017 (Feast of the Presentation), the participants gathered every Wednesday evening for the sessions. It was the first time also that the new method was used. This group is unique since it is composed of old and young, as well as men and women.

I am so happy that the books of Montfort like the True Devotion to Mary, the Secret of Mary and others are now available and are being distributed by the Center. The printing of these books is really providential and we thank those who are behind this. Now, I welcome the new initiative of the Publication Committee of the Montfort Center of Spirituality to publish for the first time a Newsletter. This will surely encourage those who have undergone the process of consecration to continue living it. Furthermore, they will be informed of the different activities of the center that will sustain and deepen their Montfortian Marian consecration. Congratulations to all of our associates who are dedicating their time, efforts and resources to share with us in this mission of making Mary known and loved so that Jesus Christ be known, loved and served better.

**Fr. Richard Magararu, SMM**  
*Philippine Delegation Superior*

# EDITORIAL

## On Seeking Jesus Through Mary

“Have you strayed from the road map leading to heaven?”  
“The easiest way, the shortest and the perfect way to Jesus is through Mary.”  
“For God the Father has communicated to Mary the fruitfulness in order that He might give her the power to give birth to His Son, and all the members of the mystical body.”

There are great inquisitions from the book of St. Louis Marie de Montfort on the theme Devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary.

Reflecting and meditating on these words give one a sense of direction, make an introspection into his conscience and examine the maturity level of his faith in God. “Have you strayed from the path leading to heaven?” Echoing the question to ourselves lead to other questions – where am I, where am I headed, am I travelling the right path, how far have I gone in my search for what is good, the worldly good? And oh am I lost? In truth, what it is asking for is what is Divine, not temporal but what is eternal.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and heeding the advice of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, “Keep your faith and to do that the easiest, the shortest and the perfect way to the Heavenly Creator is through the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God the Saviour.”

This sends the message that you are called to a mission of evangelizing the Catholic faith, call on as many as you can, therefore, and build a mystical body – the Church which upholds all good and divine in the name of Jesus through Mary.

To All Marian devotees shine and light the path of those who are in the dark, that they may find their way to heaven, the eternal home.

## BOOK REVIEW

### “Wisdom of the Heart - The Story of Marie Louise Trichet”

by *Benedetta Papasaogli*

BY SOL FLORES

Marie Louise Trichet is a “woman to re-discover, a co-foundress to make known, a model to imitate”. She founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Wisdom. This woman shared so extraordinarily in Saint Louis de Monthfort’s evangelical inspiration and expressed it “according to her own charism, her own personality, as a woman living the cultural conditions of her times.” She lived from May 7, 1684 to April 28, 1779.

Going through this 342-page book is a wonderful journey to France at the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth. Even better, this book makes one realize the complexities of the spiritual relationship between Marie Louis of Jesus and St. Louis de Montfort. They were in love with Christ and in love with poverty. “Marie Louise’s challenge was the same as that of her daughters today. It is to seek to renew oneself everyday in order to be with the poor.

It is to become poor, to exclude no one, certain that in every human problem of solitude and marginalization is concealed great suffering that can bring new life.”

We have gathered some of the precious gems of thought in the book for us to relish the Wisdom and Grace of Marie Louise of Jesus.

“To unite, to unify: words from Marie Louise’s lips, acquire the fullness of their meaning. Active life and contemplative life, far from creating divisions or dichotomy in the spirituality of the Daughters of Wisdom, blend their value in a simple reality: union with the Lord, obedience to His will. This Mother who embraces the complex and exuberant spiritual theme of Father de Montfort, proposes to her daughters a “little way” that of simplicity. That is the moment for us to draw close to this truly unique secret of Marie Louise, knowing that we will never reach the end of its implication.”

“Simplicity, in the language of Marie Louise of Jesus, is a word with a two fold emphasis: it means humility and unity of spirit. To be

simple means to have found the key to unify all one’s actions, doing them for love and with love as Marie Louise recommends to the Daughters of Wisdom with gentle Salesian radicalism.”

To be simple means to have “such integrity of heart before God as to approach Him with the confidences of a child going to its father...abandoning oneself in His paternal arms, so that asking and obtaining are the same.

The Secret of Marie Louise, therefore, is a secret of total surrender to the will of God alone. Simplicity includes elements of spiritual childhood, of hiddenness, and of justice.

In this evangelical lesson, Marie Louise shows us the charm of her attention to little things and the absolute spontaneity of her virtue. What was hers by nature, she lived in grace; her own manner of speaking is always clear and direct when she speaks of the great realities of the Montfortian vocation. Without appearing to do so and without even realizing that she is doing it, she teaches her daughters her art of being heroic. She gently affirms the nothingness of every human reality before the greatness of God.

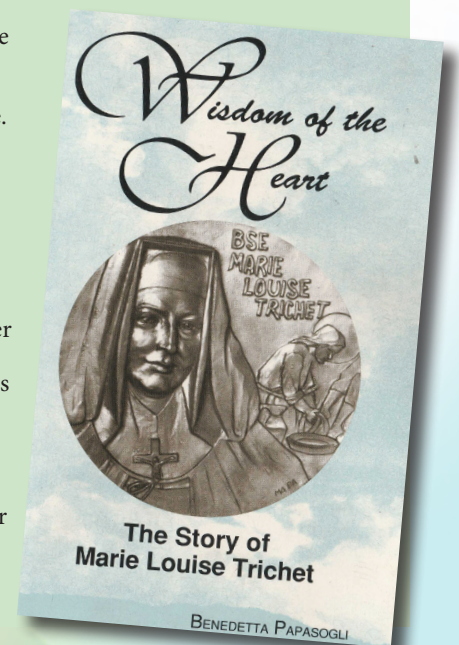
Courage, my dear daughters, let us work more than ever at our perfection faithfully following our little rules and fulfilling our little duties as best we can.

To progress means to descend

ever more, a Carmelite of our own day has written. This movement of descent and abasement is almost tangible in Marie Louise, who is more and more recollected and hidden in her simplicity, which is being stripped of everything to make room for the stark poverty of Love.”

These are but a few, but the 38 chapters is a treasure trove of gems of thought. It is really a wonderful book to be enjoyed and pondered upon.

(Book available at 47 Scout Madrinan, Timog, South Triangle, Quezon City)





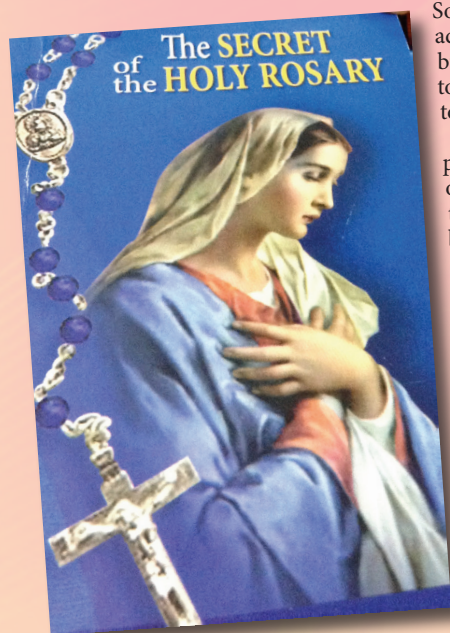
# For the Love of Mary

by *Vérité*

BY \_\_\_\_\_

SOMETIME AFTER GRADUATION from Parish Renewal Experience (PREX) in 2009, euphoria enticed me to join the Legion of Mary's Our Lady of the Annunciation Praesidium. I did not credit much the invite of the male members of the mixed group (a rare setup) because I knew that in my heart, the enthusiasm might pass and it won't be fair to the recruiters to attribute my fault to them. I wanted to see how far my renewal will take me without anybody's influence on its development or decline. PREX suffused me with a new understanding of my Catholic faith and I was so happy with the discovery that I wanted to nurture every opportunity that might increase it. If the process did not shake the earth, so to speak, I toss it. Otherwise I hang on.

I joined the choir to find a



venue for my singing better than videoke bars or other occasions of libation. In the company of church singers, my passion was tempered with a discipline I could never have plumbed had I pursued the pedestrian preoccupation. Whoever said that church singing is twice praying must have been struck by the same force that hit me when I sang with a choral ensemble. A much later discovery was the singular stirring singing with churchgoers evoked, like you are one voice, albeit without any authoritative baton to appreciate or deprecate you, or personal aggrandizement from accolades received after the celebration. My motive in singing is to allow God to hear me as I am, mere minstrel to His listening Lordship. While I credit the choir discipline for my unconscious, unobtrusive musicality, I thought I've reached the summit of my singing, at Mass, alone or with the congregation, directly to God. Pneuma Choir made me reconsider. I found the austere composition of this 4:30 company

of choristers plain, unassuming, not attracting attention, welcoming. The spare group seemed to thrive in economy yet was not averse to expansion.

My initial active membership in the Legion of Mary was short-lived, a *deja vu* I felt early on. My fledgling faith could not put up with a member and attendant occasions of sin whenever I was in the group's meeting or other activities. My focus on the seriousness and solemnity of the proceedings had a separate piece. I quit.

Between leaving the Legion and occasions of filling the void, an emptiness yawned even more widely. I still served at PREX weekends, sometimes dividing my time between two parishes that appreciated my animating and sharing services, but even the holy endeavor left me wanting. Something was missing. Something which felt like an adrenaline rush during the seminar but was now only a hole a heart used to inhabit. I was looking for the heart to fill that hole again.

I tried an apostolate that sounded prayer-oriented. For the first few outings with the group, I observed that, save at Mass, they do not pray before or after any activity in or outside the church. I did not mind it so long as their dedication took them to marginalized areas to sing at street Masses. The discontent with a prayer group that did not give justice to its name nagged on I had to bring the matter to the attention of the coordinator. Once or twice, I was allowed to lead and close the prayer (probably to keep my whining at bay) but no one was forthcoming to assume the task after me. We were carrying an ill-fitting name. I quit.

But PREX was – is – quite another. Class Number 9 left an indelible imprint in my being that comes alive whenever a weekend is conducted. I drop everything for it. I do not only attend every class to be seen and heard but also to pray and sing and dance and serve. Like David did. I do not have to be reminded of it, it has become a devotion of sorts I am ill at ease if not fulfilled. I decided to not only deliver a talk at one class in San Jose ang Tagatanggol Parish but also to serve Mary's spouse full-time. It was a paradigm shift. A calling that has been waiting to be chosen. From the weekend hall, I joined the music ministry, filling in for animators who do not make it, moving on to the secretariat core group up till the secretaryship of the body. In-between Legion work and BEC, I made myself available to home visits in Doña Juana presenting to the residents PREX as the third factor of our sales pitch (the other two being BEC and the church-based cooperative).

I felt the difference between comfort zone and apostolate. At the Holy Spirit Parish, the proximity to

# A Synopsis of the Life of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort

by *Rose*

BY \_\_\_\_\_

Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort was a French Roman Catholic priest and Confessor. He was known in his time as a preacher and was made a missionary apostolic by Pope Clement XI.

While preaching, Montfort found time to write a number of books which later became classic Catholic titles that influenced several popes. Montfort is known for his particular devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the practice of praying the Rosary.

Considered as one of the early writers in the field of Mariology, his most notable works were *The Secret of Mary* and *The True Devotion to Mary*.

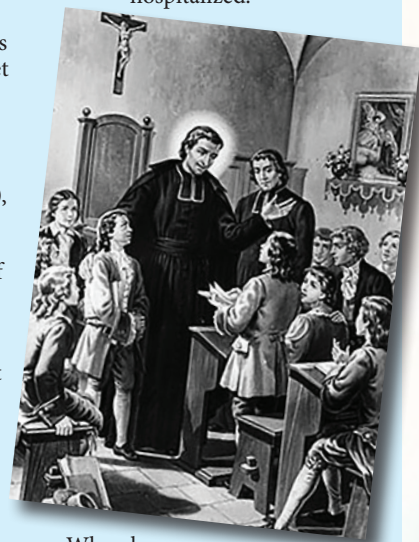
The Roman Catholic Church, under the pontificate of Pope Pius XII, canonized Montfort on July 20, 1947. A "founders statue" created by Giacomo Parisini is located in an upper niche of the south nave of Saint Peter's Basilica.

The early life of Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort

Louis de Montfort was the eldest of 18 children of Jean-Baptiste and Jeanne Robert Grignion. He was born on January 31, 1673 in Montfort-sur-Meu. His father was a notary, all his childhood was spent in Iffendic where his father bought a farm. At the age of 12 he entered the St. Thomas Becket a Jesuit college in Rennes where his uncle was a parish priest. He studied philosophy and theology at the later part of his ordinary schooling. Louis was inspired listening to a local priest, Abbe Julien Bellier, stories about his experience as an itinerant missionary, the stories inspired Louis to preach for the very poor and with the help of some of the priests he learned about the Blessed Mother Mary.

To further his studies he was fortunate to find a benefactor at the

end of 1693 who sent him to the renowned Seminary of Saint-Sulpice in Paris. But that did not last long, upon arrival in Paris he found out that his benefactor did not send enough money for his study for priesthood so he lived from boarding house to other living with the very poor. He did not neglect his studies he studied theology at the Sorbonne University. With his difficulties and exposure to all the elements he got sick and was hospitalized.



When he was released from the hospital to his surprise he found himself with a place reserved at the Little Saint-Sulpice, in July 1695. He was given a job as librarian that gave him an opportunity to study more on the available resources on spirituality and more about the Virgin Mary, her place in the Christian life.

In the next issue of the *Mission Mariae*, we will see the Louie Marie Grignion de Montfort belief on angels, his way to priesthood to the development of his great love for the Blessed Mother Mary.

the weekender was bread; going to Doña Juana (often times on foot) was crumbs. Like in Matthew's Gospel where the woman stubbornly entreated Jesus on behalf of her sick daughter, I was convinced it was either bread or crumbs for both puppies and children or Matthew was kidding. God created the world with heart and humility, no hierarchy, double standard or inequality. Why would I deprive an already depressed community of my service, when it was entirely up to me? In order, however, to make my move official, and upon the counsel of well-meaning brethren, I coursed my decision through channels of authority, and was favorably rewarded.

Where the Totus Tuus Journey

taught me to give Mary my all, I owe the Legion, as the threshold to the deepening door, my punctuality and regularity as regards attendance and the recitation of the *Catena*, substantial active work, and absolute respect for the confidentiality of discussions. It briefly defined my transition from a reckless rascal to a silent, simple sojourner in the pursuit of constant, continuing consecration.

More than the euphoria PREX enchanted me with, and the discipline the choir instilled, the *Journey* enhanced the humility the Legion inculcated in my person, heretofore so puffed up with himself.

PREX taught me how to bend my knees. Singing made me soar. The Legion kept me knelt.



# October 7: Feastday of Our Lady of the Rosary

The feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was instituted to honor Mary for the Christian victory over the Turks at Lepanto on October 7, 1571. Pope St. Pius V and all Christians had prayed the Rosary for victory. This victory saved Europe from being overrun by the forces of Islam. The Rosary, or the Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is one of the best prayers to Mary, the Mother of God.

The Battle of Lepanto was not the only military engagement in which widespread praying of the Holy Rosary is believed to have granted victory to Catholic forces. Another such

victory was that of Spain in 1646 over the Dutch in the naval conflicts known as the Battles of La Naval de Manila. Rosaries were being prayed aplenty and Spanish officers were vowing to offer their homage to Our Lady in the Sto. Domingo Church of the Dominican friars, then located in the walled city (Intramuros), if she would make victory theirs. In that church was the ivory figure of Our lady of the Most Holy Rosary. It was later, in 1652, held by church authorities in Manila that the victory must have been, in fact, miraculous.

Unfortunately, the Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros was destroyed by aerial bombing

during the Second World War, although the figure was saved and stored securely at the (Dominican) University of Santo Tomas. She got a new home after the Dominicans rebuilt their Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon city, adjoining Manila, in 1954. Our Lady actually arrived in her new shrine there in 1957.

Every year on the second Sunday of October there are novenas, masses, rosaries and processions for the days leading up to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, when she is also crowned. This year 2017, the La Naval de Manila Celebrations will take place on October 8.



## THE VERSE:

**“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy heart, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”**

- Genesis 3:15, American Standard Version

BY SANCTI

### THE MEANING OF THE VERSE:

“I will put enmity between thee and the woman” means there is an enemy between the two, enmity means enemy

“and between thy seed and her seed” pertains to Satan’s offspring or legacy or SEED are those that follow him and his evil ways, the woman’s offspring signifying Mary’s (all other births were attributed to the lineage of men) SEED is Jesus Christ, born of a virgin.

“he shall bruise thy head” Jesus Christ will defeat Satan ultimately by his death, burial and resurrection.

“and thou shalt bruise his heel” this statement once again attributes the action that Satan took to try and stop what Jesus is doing, and unbeknownst to Satan the phrase ‘bruise his heel’ is meant to set back or trip up Jesus. But by Satan’s actions he actually brings to fruition what God wanted all along. Satan saw Jesus as a threat and would try to destroy him, because he knew the meaning of bruise his head, that Jesus came to destroy Satan. Satan views this as a challenge of Jesus against him and obliges this challenge with counter attacking Jesus.

## CHECKLIST: ARE YOU A GENUINE PERSON?

BY LUNE

- You respect everyone
- You don’t impose yourself on others
- You don’t brag
- You express your opinions constructively
- You always honor your promise
- You admire others and openly praise them
- You are nice and helpful
- You are not an attention seeker
- You live by example

### Results:

- 8 – 9 / 9 = You are a Genuine Person
- 6 – 7 / 9 = You are Almost There
- 5 & below = You need some work

## October Feasts

October 1  
Memorial of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin

October 7  
Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary  
Our Lady of the La Naval

October 13  
Apparation at Fatima  
MONTFORT CENTER  
OF SPIRITUALITY (MCS) EVENTS

October 7  
START OF TOTUS TUUS JOURNEY  
(33 Sessions)  
Holy Spirit Parish,  
BF Homes, Quezon City

October 11  
START OF TOTUS TUUS JOURNEY  
(33 Sessions)  
MCS - Madrinan

October 21 – 28  
MCS ANNUAL MARIAN EXHIBIT  
47 Scout Madrinan, Timog, South Triangle,  
Quezon City  
For inquiries  
please email: gcsfernandez@gmail.com

November 11  
MCS 27TH MONTFORTIAN YEARLY  
PILGRIMAGE  
For inquiries please email:  
fedsmm@hotmail.com,  
fehabijan@gmail.com,  
rellycruz@gmail.com

November 19 (Sunday)  
MCS ADVENT RECOLLECTION  
47 Scout Madrinan, Timog,  
South Triangle, Quezon City  
Theme: Mary the Perfect Model  
to Holiness  
8AM – 12NN  
For reservation, pls call 0926-125-2101

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