



Patron: Devotion to Mary, Preachers

He was born in 1673 in Montfort-sur-Meu, the eldest surviving child of eighteen born to Jean-Baptiste and Jeanne Robert Grignion. At the age of 12, he entered the Jesuit College of St Thomas Becket in Rennes, where his uncle was a parish priest.^[2]

At the end of his ordinary schooling, he began his studies of philosophy and theology, still at St Thomas in Rennes. Listening to the stories of a local priest, the Abbé Julien Bellier, about his life as an itinerant missionary, he was inspired to preach missions among the very poor. Bellier was promoting among his students a consecration and entrustment to Mary.^{[3][4]} Under the guidance of Bellier and other priests, de Montfort began to develop his strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.



He was then given the opportunity, through a benefactor, to go to Paris to study at the renowned Seminary of Saint-Sulpice^[5] towards the end of 1693. When he arrived in Paris, the money did not cover it all, so he lodged in a succession of boarding houses, living among the very poor, in the meantime attending the Sorbonne University for lectures in theology. After less than two years, he became very ill and had to be hospitalized, but survived his hospitalization and the blood letting that was part of his treatment at the time.

Upon his release from the hospital, to his surprise he found himself with a place reserved at the Little Saint-Sulpice, which he entered in July 1695. Given that he was appointed the librarian, his time at Saint-Sulpice gave him the opportunity to study most of the available works on spirituality and, in particular, on the Virgin Mary's place in the Christian life. This later led to his focus on the Holy Rosary and his acclaimed book the Secret of the Rosary.

Even as a seminarian in Paris, Montfort was known for the veneration he had toward the angels: he "urged his confreres to show marks of respect and tenderness to their guardian angels." He often ended his letters with a salutation to the guardian angel of the person to whom he was writing: "I salute your guardian angel". He also saluted all the angels in the city of Nantes, a custom that,

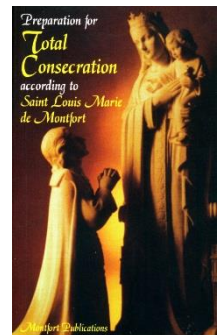
it appears, he repeated when he entered a new village or city.^[6]

He was ordained a priest in June 1700,^[9] and assigned to Nantes. His great desire was to go to the foreign missions, preferably to the new French colony of Canada, but his spiritual director advised against it. His letters of this period show that he felt frustrated from the lack of opportunity to preach as he felt he was called to do.

In November 1700 he joined the Third Order of the Dominicans and asked permission not only to preach the rosary, but also to form rosary confraternities.^[7] He began to consider the formation of a small company of priests to preach missions and retreats under the standard and protection of the Blessed Virgin. This eventually led to the formation of the **Company of Mary**. At around this time, when he was appointed the chaplain of the hospital of Poitiers, he first met Marie Louise Trichet. That meeting became the beginning of Marie Louise's 34 years of service to the poor.

Still desiring to be a missionary, Montfort made a pilgrimage to Rome to ask the advice of Pope Clement XI.^[8] The Pope recognized his real vocation and, telling him there was plenty of scope for its exercise in France, sent him back with the title of Apostolic Missionary.^[8] On his return from his long pilgrimage to Rome, Montfort made a retreat at Mont Saint Michel "to pray to this archangel to obtain from him the grace to win souls for God, to confirm those already in God's grace, and to fight Satan and sin".^[6] These occasions gave him time to think, contemplate and write.

He left Nantes and the next several years were extraordinarily busy for him. He was constantly occupied in preaching missions, always walking between one and another. Yet he found time also to write: his *True Devotion to Mary*,^[9] *The Secret of Mary*^[10] and the *Secret of the Rosary*, rules for the Company of Mary and the Daughters of Wisdom, and many hymns. His missions made a great impact.



The heated style of his preaching was regarded by some people as somewhat strange and he was poisoned once by the Jansenists for teaching against Predestination.^[2] Although it did not prove fatal, it caused his health to deteriorate. Yet he continued, undeterred. He went on preaching and established free schools for the poor boys and girls. The bishop of La Rochelle had been impressed with Montfort for some time and invited him to open a school there. Montfort enlisted the help of his follower Marie Louise Trichet, who was then running the General Hospital in Poitiers. In 1715 Marie Louise and Catherine Brunet left Poitiers for La Rochelle to open the school there and in a short time it had 400 students.

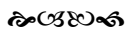
On August 22, 1715, Trichet and Brunet, along with Marie Valleau and Marie Régnier from La Rochelle, received the approbation of Bishop de Champflour of La Rochelle to make their religious profession under the direction of Montfort. At the ceremony Montfort told them: "Call yourselves the Daughters of Wisdom,^[5] for the teaching of children and the care of the poor." The Daughters of Wisdom grew into an international organization and the placing of Montfort's *founders statue* in Saint Peter's Basilica was based on that organization.^[1]



Only a year later, he fell ill and died on 28 April 1716. He was 43 years old, and had been a priest for only 16 years. His last sermon was on the tenderness of Jesus and the Incarnate Wisdom of the Father. Thousands gathered for his burial in the parish church, and very quickly there were stories of miracles performed at his tomb.

In Montfort's approach to Marian consecration, Jesus and Mary are inseparable. He views "consecration to Jesus in Mary" as a special path to being conformed to, united and consecrated to Christ, also encouraging Daily Communion, which was not the practice at the time.

St. Louis-Marie is perhaps most famously known for his prayer of entrustment to Our Lady, "Totus Tuus ego sum," which means, "I am all yours." The late-Pope John Paul II took the phrase "Totus Tuus" as his episcopal motto. https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=4306



How to Pray the Chaplet of St. Louis de Montfort meditating on the 10 Virtues of Mary (Decade Rosary Form)

<https://www.praymorenovenas.com/st-louis-de-montfort-novena>

Opening Prayer on Crucifix: St. Louis de Montfort, you consecrated yourself to Jesus through Mary in your earthly life and are even more fully devoted to them now in Heaven. I ask that you present my petitions before our most blessed Mother, who will in turn place them at the feet of her Son.
insert petitions here **Our Father...**



1. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was deep humility. Please intercede on my behalf that I may grow in humility, seeing myself through God's eyes, that I may offer myself more fully to Christ working through me. **Hail Mary...**

2. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was lively faith. Please intercede on my behalf that my faith may be invigorated and apparent to all who encounter me. **Hail Mary...**

3. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was blind obedience. Please intercede on my behalf that I may become a more immediately obedient child of God. **Hail Mary...**

4. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was unceasing prayer. Please intercede on my behalf that I may grow in my endurance to live in such a way that I pray without ceasing. **Hail Mary...**

5. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was constant self-denial. Please intercede on my behalf that I may order all my desires to be God's desires for me, and reject all selfishness and pride. **Hail Mary...**

6. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was surpassing purity. Intercede on my behalf that through God's refining fire, I may become ever purer. **Hail Mary...**

7. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was ardent love. Intercede on my behalf that my heart may be overcome by a more intense love for God and neighbor. **Hail Mary...**

8. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was heroic patience. Intercede on my behalf that I may grow in patience, especially in trying situations. **Hail Mary...**

9. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was angelic kindness. Intercede on my behalf that I may practice kindness with all, especially those whom I find most difficult to love. **Hail Mary...**

10. St. Louis de Montfort, one of the ten principal virtues that Mary exemplified was heavenly wisdom. Intercede on my behalf that my heart may be attentive to heavenly wisdom. **Hail Mary...**

Closing Prayer on Medal: Great Apostle and son of Our Lady, St. Louis de Montfort, your only desire was to set aflame the world with the love of Jesus through Mary. We implore you to obtain for us a perfect and constant devotion to Mary that we may participate in the faith, hope, and charity of Our Lady and that we may receive the favors we ask of you in this chaplet. Amen.