



Feast Day: April 28

St. Louis de Montfort: Consecration

Introductory Prayer: Lord God, you made St. Louis de Montfort an outstanding witness and teacher of total devotion to Christ your Son through the hands of his Blessed Mother. Please grant that following the same spiritual path, we may faithfully build your Kingdom here in our parish. Jesus, we trust in you.

Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #1 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkWQ3IXv6Rc)

Matthew 13: 44-52 The Pearl of Great Price.

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Father James Kelleher, SOLT video #2 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OuRXM7GL2M)

Discussion questions (credit to Father Walter Schu, LC for framework of reflections and questions):

1. *The Treasure of the Kingdom:* “From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). Christ’s heart overflows with irrepressible zeal for the Kingdom of heaven. He longs for everyone who hears him to fall in love with that Kingdom. St. Louis de Montfort’s life is a perfect example of this zeal for the Kingdom. Once he encountered Christ in the Cross and the Rosary, he was “all-in,” or as he expressed it: *totus tuus* which is Latin for “totally thine” referring to his consecration (or setting apart) of his whole life to serve Christ through Mary. True Devotion, St. Louis’s masterpiece begins with the words: “It was through the Blessed Virgin Mary that Jesus came into the world, and it is also through her that he must reign in the world.”

- a) Have you ever had a life-changing experience of God’s love?
- b) What are you willing to risk for the “pearl of great price,” Christ our Lord, our God, our King?

2. *The Joy of the Kingdom:* Discovering the Kingdom of heaven fills the heart with joy. Have we ever caught a glimpse of the Kingdom? It is there in the ardent vigor of thousands of young people acclaiming Pope Francis at World Youth Day. It is there in the reverent silence of a lone adorer in a Eucharistic chapel. It is there in the enduring strength of present-day martyrs who choose to give up their life instead of denying Christ. St. Louis rightly perceived that the Kingdom of heaven is worth everything and demands everything. He sold all he possessed to attain it.

- a) What is it that still holds you back from going “all-in” for Christ (realizing that both the internal and the external manifestation of that will vary according to our state in life)?
- b) How do we find true joy in family life with so many demands made upon our time?

3. “*Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth*”: The Kingdom of heaven is also like a net thrown into the sea. Not all that the net collects is worth keeping. So, too, not everyone enters into the Kingdom. What a sudden contrast to the joy of the Kingdom that pervades the first two images! Why does Christ include this third and final description of the Kingdom? He knows how easy it is for us to forget the most important truths of our lives: the reality of our particular judgment, for which we should be preparing at every moment. Christ knows that the stakes are high, and we need to be reminded of them. But do not be overcome by fear. St. Louis as well as other saints (e.g. St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Dominic, St. Alphonsus de Liguori, etc.) have reassured us that devotion to Mary and fidelity to her Rosary is a sure sign of predestination.

- a) Do we have a sense of urgency in seeking salvation as well as the salvation of others?
- b) Have you ever consecrated yourself to Mary? If so have you seen any evidence of fruits in your life? (There are multiple methods of Marian consecration, but the two most popular are: St. Louis de Montfort's *Total Consecration*, and Father Michael Gaitley's *33 Days to Morning Glory*.)

Men's / Women's parish team resolution for the month (choose one or suggest your own):

- Read *True Devotion to Mary* by St. Louis de Montfort.
- Sacrifice a meal (or part of a meal) once a week for the next month.
- Pray the Rosary once a week with your family.

Closing Prayer: Pray one decade of Scripture Rosary: the third Glorious Mystery, the Descent of the Holy Spirit.

1. When the days of Pentecost were drawing to a close, they were all together in one place. (Acts 2:1)
2. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind blowing. (Acts 2:2)
3. And there appeared to them parted tongues as of fire, which settled upon each of them. (Acts 2:3)
4. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak of the wonderful works of God. (Acts 2:4, 11)
5. Now there were staying in Jerusalem devout Jews from every nation under heaven. (Acts 2:5)
6. And Peter, standing up with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and spoke to them. (Acts 2:14)
7. "Repent and be baptized; and you will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)
8. Now they who received his word were baptized and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41)
9. Send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. (Ps. 103:30)
10. Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful; and kindle in them the fire of Thy love. (Pentecost Alleluia)

(Taken from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)

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