



# Ta' Pinu Shrine

## Our Lady, Queen of the Family

### A CALL TO PRAYER

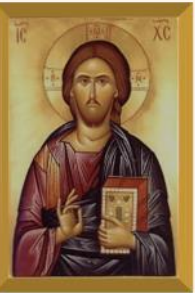


## BASIC PRINCIPLES OF TRUE DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

by St Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort (French Priest: 31 Jan 1673 – 28 Apr 1716)

### Firstly : CHRIST MUST BE THE ULTIMATE END OF ALL DEVOTIONS

Jesus, our Saviour, True God and True Man must be the ultimate end of all our other devotions; otherwise they would be false and misleading. For in him alone dwells the entire fullness of the divinity and the complete fullness of grace, virtue and perfection. In him alone we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing; he is the **only teacher** from whom we must learn; the only Lord on whom we should depend; the **only Head** to whom we should be united and the **only model** that we should imitate. He is the **only Physician** that can heal us; the **only Shepherd** that can feed us; the **only Way** that can lead us; the **only Truth** that we can believe; the **only Life** that can animate us. He alone is everything to us and he alone can satisfy all our desires .  
*Dear Jesus ,let me share your feelings of gratitude, esteem, respect and love for your holy Mother.*  
*So I can then love and glorify you all the more, because I will be imitating and following you more closely.*  
*So I can say with the saints: "Let no one who offends his holy Mother, presume to expect mercy from God,*



### Secondly: WE BELONG TO JESUS AND MARY AS THEIR SLAVES

From what Jesus Christ is ,in regard to us, we must conclude, as St. Paul says, that we belong not to ourselves but entirely to God as his members and his slaves, for he bought us at an infinite price - the shedding of his Precious Blood.  
 "All that belongs to God by nature belongs to Mary by grace", say the saints, and, according to them, just as Jesus and Mary have the same will and the same power, they have also the same subjects, servants and slaves. Following therefore the teaching of the saints and of many great men we can call ourselves, and become, the loving slaves of our Blessed Lady in order to become more perfect slaves of Jesus. Mary is the means our Lord chose to come to us and she is also the means we should choose to go to him, for she is not like other creatures who tend rather to lead us away from God than towards him.

### Thirdly: WE MUST RID OURSELVES OF WHAT IS EVIL IN US.

Our best actions are usually tainted and spoiled by the evil that is rooted in us. When God pours into our soul, infected by original and actual sin, the heavenly waters of His grace or the delicious wines of His love, His gifts are usually spoiled and tainted by the evil sediment left in us by sin. Our actions, even those of the highest virtue, show the effects of it. It is therefore of the utmost importance that, in seeking the perfection that can be attained only by union with Jesus, we rid ourselves of all that is evil in us. To rid ourselves of selfishness, we must first become thoroughly aware, by the light of the Holy Spirit, of our tainted nature. Pride and blindness of spirit, hardness of heart, weakness and inconstancy of soul, evil inclinations, rebellious passions, ailments of the body, - **these are all we can call our own** .  
*"Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain and does not bear any good fruit."* If we do not die to self and if our holiest devotions do not lead us to this necessary and fruitful death, we shall not bear fruit of any worth and our devotions will cease to be profitable. All our good works will be tainted by self-love and self-will so that our greatest sacrifices and our best actions will be unacceptable to God. We must choose among all the devotions to the Blessed Virgin the one which will lead us more surely to this dying to self. This devotion will be the best and the most sanctifying for example, emptying ourselves of self-love, filling ourselves with God, and attaining perfection.

### Fourthly: IT IS MORE HUMBLE TO HAVE AN INTERMEDIARY WITH CHRIST

It is more perfect because it supposes greater humility to approach God through a mediator rather than directly by ourselves. Our Lord is our Advocate and our Mediator of redemption with God the Father. It is through him that we must pray with the whole Church, triumphant and militant. If we are afraid of going directly to Jesus, who is God, because of his infinite greatness, or our lowliness, or our sins, implore, without fear, the help and intercession of Mary, our Mother. According to them, we have three steps to take in order to reach God. The first, nearest to us and most suited to our capacity, is **Mary**; the second is **Jesus Christ**; the third is **God the Father**. To go to Jesus, we should go to Mary, our Mediatrix of intercession. To go to God The Father, we must go to Jesus, our Mediator of redemption.



### Finally: IT IS DIFFICULT TO KEEP THE GRACES RECEIVED FROM GOD

It is very difficult, considering our weakness and frailty, to keep the graces and treasures we have received from God. It is difficult to persevere in holiness because of the excessively corrupting influence of the world. The world is so corrupt that it seems almost inevitable that religious hearts be soiled, if not by its mud, at least by its dust. It is something of a miracle for anyone to stand firm in the midst of this raging torrent and not be swept away; to weather this stormy sea and not be drowned ...

***It is only Mary, Mother of God, the singularly faithful Virgin over whom Satan had never any power,  
 It is only Mary who works this miracle for those who truly love her .***

## From the Catholic Catechism

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

**The Church is one:** she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, is born of one Baptism, forms only one Body, is given life by the one Spirit, for the sake of one hope (cf. Eph 4:3-5), at whose fulfillment all divisions will be overcome.

**The Church is holy:** the Most Holy God is her author; Christ, her bridegroom, gave himself up to make her holy; the Spirit of holiness gives her life. Since she still includes, she is "the sinless one made up of sinners." Her holiness shines in the saints; in Mary she is already all-holy.

**The Church is catholic:** she proclaims the fullness of the faith. She bears in herself and administers the totality of the means of salvation. She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times.

*She is "missionary of her very nature" (AG 2)*

**The Church is apostolic.** She is built on a lasting foundation: "the twelve apostles of the Lamb" (Reo 21:1'4) She is indestructible (cf. Mt 76:1, 8). She is upheld infallibly in the truth: Christ governs her through Peter and the other apostles, who are present in their successors, the Pope and the college of bishops'

**"The sole Church of Christ** which in the Creed we profess **to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic, subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him.**

Nevertheless, many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside its visible confines" (LG 8)

**Greed for money:** The love of money is the root of all evils, and there are some, who while pursuing it, have involved themselves in a world of sorrows. (1 Tim. 2-26)



### Gospel Reflection:

**"I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you will not have life in you".**

*(Jn 6-53)*

June starts with two big feasts dedicated to our Lord, the solemnity of the **"Body and Blood of Christ"** and the solemnity of the **"Sacred Heart of Jesus"**, two feasts so important in our spiritual life; the **"Sacred Heart of Jesus"** shows how much Jesus loved us and suffered for our redemption and the **"Body and Blood of Christ"** as food and drink for our Spiritual life.

The feast of the Body and blood of Christ is a continuation of **"Holy Thursday"**, when Jesus instituted the **"Priesthood"** and the **"Holy Eucharist"**, by ordering the apostles, **"Do this in memory of me"**. Surely, when Jesus announced the necessity that we eat his flesh and drink his blood, no one did ever imagine what he was talking about. In fact many of his followers left him to the extent that he was provoked to ask the disciples, whether they want to leave him as well. But Peter inspired by the Holy Spirit answered, **"To whom should we go, you have the words of eternal life"**.

The person who really loves the Holy Eucharist enjoys God's presence and peace from this world. St. Theresa tells us that one single Holy Communion is enough to make a person a Saint.

If Holy Communion is so useful and so powerful for our spiritual life, how come that so many people go frequently to communion and never make any progress in spiritual life. First of all, we have to firmly believe that Jesus is really present with his body, blood, soul and divinity under the species of bread and wine. Secondly, if we really love Jesus, we prepare to receive him with clean soul. Finally we have to persevere in our love and faith in him, even if don't feel any emotions when we receive Him.

Jesus warned us that the kingdom heaven is like a seed. When the seed is put in the land first it sprouts, then grows and finally it gives fruit. It is the same with the kingdom of God sown in our soul. It starts with a small spark. We receive Baptism, Holy Communion and confirmation. Then we have to continue to support that spark with the sacraments especially, especially, Confession, Holy Communion, and spiritual readings to produce the expected fruit. The farmer takes care to prepare the soil and continue to watch crop, protect it against weeds and insects if want a good harvest. Truly for many people spiritual reading is nearly impossible. But even those short readings, we hear

**Do not care much about those who are with you or against you**, but it is your greatest care that God be with you in everything you do.

**Keep your conscience clear and God will protect you**, for the malice of man cannot harm one whom God wishes to help. **If you know how to suffer in silence, you will undoubtedly experience God's help.**

**Since He knows the best time and the way to set you free;**

Therefore, **place yourself in His hands**, for God helps you and frees you from all distress.

It is often good for us and helps us to remain humble, if others know our faults and confront us with them.

**When a man humbles himself because of his faults**, he easily pleases others and readily appeases those he has angered. God protects and frees a humble man; He loves and consoles a humble man. He turns to a humble man and upon him showers great graces, so that after his humiliation, he may raise him up to glory.

**He reveals His secrets to the humble, and with kind invitation bids him to come to Him.**

Thus, the humble man enjoys peace in the midst of many vexations, because his trust is in God, and not in this world. **Do not think that you have made any progress until you look upon yourself as inferior to all others—that you are the lowest of all man.**

Above all things, **keep peace with yourself; then you will be able to bring peace to others.**

**Oh! That today you would listen to His Voice**

Opportunity may knock once !  
But temptations bang at your door forever!!

Date	Liturgical Celebrations for June 2015
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2015	5 <sup>th</sup> of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	<b>FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY</b> First Saturday of the Month Devotion at 2.00p.m Rosary procession, Confession, Holy Mass and Benediction
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI</b> It is a DAY of Double Obligation to attend mass in your parish.
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	6 <sup>th</sup> of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	<b>Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni</b> From 1.45 p.m. Confession, Rosary, Benediction, Holy Mass and Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	7 <sup>th</sup> of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.
<b>SUN 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2015 MAJOR CELEBRATION</b>	Joint Celebration at 2.00 p.m. <b>Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,</b> <b>132<sup>nd</sup> ANNIV. Of Our lady's call to Carmela Grima</b> Rosary- Procession, Holy Mass & Benediction All Ethnic Groups are requested to attend.
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	8 <sup>th</sup> of 15 Devotional Wednesdays in preparation for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

**A peaceful man does more good than a learned man.**

The passionate man turns even good to evil and is quick to believe the worst,

**the good and peaceful man, turns all things to good. The man who lives at peace suspects no one** but

the disturbed and discontented spirit who is agitated by evil is troubled will all kinds of suspicions.

He is never at peace with himself nor permits others to be at peace.

He often speaks when he should be silent and leaves undone what ought to be done. He is concerned with the duties of others but neglects his own.

**So, be zealous first of all with yourself; then you may be more justified in expressing zeal for your neighbour.**

You are well versed at excusing and justifying your own actions and yet you will not listen to the excuses of others.

**It would be more just to accuse yourself and excuse your brother.**

**If you wish others to bear with you, you must bear with them.**

during Sunday Mass can do a lot to us, if we listen to them attentively and put them into practice. However many go to Mass just to fulfil an obligation, not to improve their spirituality. That is the reason why many go to Mass perhaps everyday and receive Holy Communion but remain spiritually the same, and even for some people, mass becomes boring. We need to have faith to really believe what happens during Mass. To the woman who suffered from a haemorrhage for 12 years and touched Jesus' cloak was instantly cured, Jesus said, "Your faith has restored your health". And to the synagogue official, whose daughter was declared dead, Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, only have faith"! Perhaps one might think that during Mass, Jesus is asleep. Then have faith, believe that he is watching you, so that He will not rebuke you like He did to the apostles when they thought they were sinking because He was asleep.





## My Conversion Story

*This truly inspirational story is about John A. Bartort who in his teens, rebelled badly and wanted nothing to do with God. Later, he got married and moved from Essex down to Derbyshire, U.K. and enjoyed good fellowship at his local church. He was involved in an accident at work and became a TIO paraplegic. Sadly soon after, since his Christian community had no wheelchair accessibility nor warmth in their hearts towards him, he felt abandoned by man, but not by Jesus. He still had niggles in the back of his head: had God forgotten him as well?*

*This is part TWO of THREE, a continuation from last month's issue*

Around our local shops, I used to occasionally run into a nun named Sister Fidelma who later became one of my sponsors with Mary Kimberley! She was charismatic, literally, and the love of Jesus shone out from her face. We had some great times of fellowship in the stalls and wherever and whenever we met. I should say here that for thirty-odd years, I was fiercely anti-Catholic and was taught what verses could be used to counter Catholicism' but God has a marvellous sense of humour'. I had an intense longing to pray somewhere other than my home and Sister Fidelma suggested that as her church was accessible, why not in there?

I was mortified. I did enjoy her company and good fellowship, but **she was a Catholic!**

Months went by and my longing to find a place to pray increased. Finally I asked if I could "but only under the condition that there was to be no preaching at me or any pressure!", she smiled and said to let her know the time and she would make sure the doors were opened and I could be on my own.

If you have not had my upbringing you will never understand the problems, I had just going into a Catholic church. The day came and I went with my Bible, holding it tightly and remembering over and over in my head special anti-Catholic verses first in case anyone tried to convert me.

It was worse than I thought. The first thing that caught my attention was an idol of Mary. Then I saw an idol of Jesus on the cross. I looked around desperately and found solace at the side of the church where there was a stone pillar with a brass box on top with a candle by it. I positioned myself in front of it so that this pillar blocked my view of these terrible idols!

My first prayer was *"Please Lord, do not strike me dead for being in here, I just want to be alone with you and pray."* I knew nothing of Catholic beliefs at all except that they worshipped Mary, that the Catholic Church was the whore of Rome and the pope was the Antichrist. This did not dwell with me, but I just sat there thinking of all the good things that God had blessed us with. I am not sure how long I had been praying when this voice came so clearly into my head, **"My child be still. My child be still and know that I am God."** It amazed me. My immediate reaction was "How can you be in a place like this?" I was so shocked I hastily closed my Bible and went straight home.

The next Thursday I went again, once more positioning myself so I couldn't see the idols. The same thing happened, *"My child be still. My child be still and know that I am God."* This time I felt that I should just be still. I waited and as I sat there in my wheelchair praying. I had such a wonderful sense of God's love as peace flooded over my whole being. Silently, I began to worship in tongues; and told Jesus how much I loved Him and missed being with others to have fellowship with. About three hours later I left for home.

For about six weeks this happened every Thursday and eventually I meet the priest, Father Alan, and asked if I could just have a chat with him. We arranged to meet two days later.

He had such a love of Jesus and he never retaliated when I asked about the idols, but just explained the Church's teaching on statues and that worship belongs to God alone. He was so patient and kind. I told him what had been going on for the past six weeks and when I told him about being still-he asked me where I was when this happened. I showed him. A huge smile spreads across his face. "Do you know where you were sitting?" he asked. I said, "Hiding from the statues." He smiled as I said that, and explained that **IT'S CALLED THE TABERNACLE' !!!**

They believe that Jesus becomes fully present during holy Mass and the remaining Hosts, that is, His real presence, are reserved there'. This meant absolutely nothing to me, but he seemed very excited. I asked him not to play with and for me, as I was a Christian and he was a Catholic.

With a loving smile he said that **Catholics are Christians**, I was his brother in Christ, and he would pray for me when I was gone. I couldn't get out fast enough! I didn't want anyone to see the tears in my eyes because I knew **GOD WAS BOTH THERE AND IN THIS PRIEST'S LIFE** and I had been so rude. !!!

His loving reply drove deep into me like a sword and rebuked me far more than words could. ( **To Be Contd...**)

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