

Life

St. Louis-Marie Grignion was originally from France, born in Montfort in 1673 to devout parents. When he was young, he had the ambition to preach the gospel to the poor, and he had strong devotion to the Virgin Mary. When he was twenty years old, he gave up his secular life. Although his family was poor, his parents provided him with a horse and a new set of clothes for his journey, but he gave everything to the poor and walked 230 miles to Paris to study theology. Ordained a priest in 1700, he was sent to the hospital to care for the poor patients. He promoted the Rosary and the correct way to consecrate to Mary. He preached anytime and anywhere; for example, when on a ferry where passengers sang vulgar pop songs, he successfully persuaded the entire boat to kneel down and recite the Rosary. The Pope granted him the title of "Apostolic Missionary". Louis lived a simple life and preached very successfully, people called him "the good Father from Montfort", but this attracted jealousy. Some people spoke slanderously of him to the bishop and even the king, making his preaching difficult. For example, he attracted thousands of believers to construct a huge Calvary to express Christ's great love in sacrificing his life to save others. However, it was misunderstood that the people had evil intentions. The king ordered it to be demolished immediately just one day after it was built. For this reason, the bishop also did not consecrate the Calvary, and Louis was not even allowed to preach in that diocese anymore. Louis obeyed the order to dismantle the Calvary and encouraged believers to build the Calvary in their hearts. Louis died in 1716. His books *True Devotion to Mary* and *The Secret of the Rosary* had a great influence on later generations. Several popes praised him for his methods of dedicating his life to the Virgin Mary. Pope John Paul II's motto "Totally Yours." (Totus Tuus) also comes from the teachings and devotional guidance of St. Louis-Marie Grignion.

Reflection

St. Louis-Marie suffered many setbacks in his missionary work. Pope John Paul II wrote a letter on the 50th anniversary of St. Louis-Marie's canonization to reflect on this. The Pope pointed out that the incarnation of Jesus is of the greatest importance to St. Louis-Marie, and contemplation of Christ's great mystery and the cross goes hand in hand. The Pope pointed out "Day after day, he practised the imitation of Christ through what he would call the foolish love of the Cross in which he saw "the triumph of Eternal Wisdom" (Love of Eternal Wisdom, ch. XIV). Through the sacrifice of Calvary, the Son of God makes himself little and humble to the very extreme; he shares the condition of his brothers and sisters who are subject to suffering and death. Here, Christ manifests his infinite love in an eloquent manner and opens to humanity the way to new life. Louis-Marie, who followed his Lord and "fixed his abode in the Cross" (ibid., n. 180), gives a witness to holiness". Let us learn from St. Louis-Marie to bear the cross in life and follow Christ when we face pain and setbacks.

Prayer

St. Louis-Marie Grignion asked believers to:

- Pray the Rosary diligently. In "The Secret of the Rosary", he compared the Rosary to a rose sapling from heaven, "this mystical rose tree is Jesus and Mary in life, death and eternity... The buds are the childhood of Jesus and Mary, and the open blooms show us both of them in their sufferings, and the full-blown roses symbolize Jesus and Mary in their triumph and glory. . . plant it with your own hands in the garden of your soul". When we recite the Rosary and perform good deeds to irrigate the soil every day, we will see the rose tree grow from a seed into a tall, strong tree that bears fruit.
- Use thirty-three days in preparation for the devotion to the Blessed Virgin, with the purpose of being fully dedicated to Jesus through the Blessed Virgin, because consecration to Our Lady is God's will, and it is also the fastest, easiest and safest way to get closer to Jesus. Every time you make a consecration, you entrust your soul, body, spirit and material wealth to the Blessed Virgin, and renew your baptismal commitment.

May we learn from St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort to bear the cross in life and follow Christ,
And draw closer to Jesus by diligently praying the Rosary and
consecrating ourselves to Our Lady. Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, pray for us.