



A Month to Increase Love for Mary

On Monday Evening Talks, May 1956, #2

We should celebrate this month of May differently than in other years. The reason is that it is the first month of May after we made the covenant of love. The Mother of God as well as we must show that we belong to one another. On her part, the Mother Thrice Admirable will fulfill her duty towards us. We do not only think of one day, but of a whole month, of thirty-one days. We may show the Mother of God that we love her. Therefore, what joy there will be in heaven, and how many graces will be distributed on earth! We may imagine that the heart of the Mother of God is wide open for us. Our interests are hers, and her interests are ours. Many graces are available to her. We only must take the covenant of love seriously. (...)

Do you do anything in common as a group? I must ask you to discuss the proposal among yourselves. We are familiar with the beautiful consecration prayer:

*My Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to you. And to show my devotion to you, I consecrate to you today my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, myself without reserve. As I am your own, my good Mother, guard me and defend me as your property and possession. Amen.*¹ (...)

What gift do we ask for during this month of May from the Mother of God? That she will show us the way that we

strive towards genuine everyday sanctity.

Years ago I had the opportunity to preach a retreat to Trappists.² They chanted their high Masses, very simply, without variations because otherwise it would be a pleasure for the ear. Their chapel is very simple, nothing superfluous is in it. There were no flowers or other decorations. They do not want anything that could give joy to the eyes or ears. It is different with us. We use the things and we see God behind them. They should lead us to him. We should ask ourselves what we could do in order to get closer to God through the world and earthly things. In virtue of the covenant of love we should strive to foster constant walking with God in the midst of our modern time. We need a new way to do that. Saint Francis de Sales³ has already shown us the way to remain in the world and to use created things in order to become holy.

May I remind you that we want to say daily the little dedication prayer during the month of May and thereby renew our covenant of love? The Mother of God will help us to (reach) our goal.

Question for discussion:

- ❖ Are we doing anything in common, as a family or as a group, during this month of May, to show increased love for the Mary?

¹ The prayer comes from the Jesuit Nicola Zucchi (+1670). In Schoenstatt, this prayer is also called the "little dedication".

² Father Kantenich conducted a retreat for the Trappists in Maria

Wald near Heimbach (Eifel) 11/29 – 12/07/1940.

³ Francis de Sales, 1567-1622, bishop of Geneva, founder of the Visitation Sisters (Salesians).