

Saint Louis de Montfort says:  
"Mary is the quickest, shortest, and easiest path to Jesus."

# family MATTERS

## THE MONTH OF MAY

Devotion to the Blessed Mother is important for the salvation and sanctification of everyone, but it is especially crucial for our youth to be accustomed to giving her their love, honor and service, and to learn how to imitate her virtues. Children, teenagers and young adults alike, should be taught the significance that Marian devotion should have in every aspect of their lives.

## May is the Month of Mary

St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort in his classic, True Devotion to Mary, wrote, "All true children of God have God for their father and Mary for their mother." Children, even more so than adults, find it natural to look with confidence to their mother, to entrust themselves to her, and to confide all their cares, worries and troubles to her maternal solicitude. One of the greatest tragedies of our day is the large number of children who have never known the Blessed Mother and who have never even had the opportunity of learning that they have a loving Mother in Heaven to whom they can go with all their daily concerns. If children grow up knowing Our Lady, cultivating the habit of flying to her arms for refuge, and striving to imitate her holiness of life, they will lay a secure foundation upon which they can build the rest of their lives.

For more info visit <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/imitating-marys-10-amazing-virtues-6169>

### Let us learn the ten amazing VIRTUES of Mary and beg Our Lady for the grace to put them into practice.

**ARDENT CHARITY:** Every action that Mary performed for those around her was done out of love for the Lord.  
*Be like the Blessed Mother and take on the disposition of love for those around you by bringing Jesus to them, the true and perfect lover.*

**PROFOUND HUMILITY:** Mary perfectly conformed herself to God's Will. She saw herself as God saw her: nothing more, nothing less.

*See yourself as God sees you! Accept compliments gracefully and quietly, and don't be embarrassed to have made mistakes in front of others.*

**UNIVERSAL MORTIFICATION:** Mary died to herself from the moment she said, "Not my will but Yours be done." She continued this throughout her entire life, continually dying to herself and totally uniting herself to her Son.

*Make sacrifices and offer them up for the great good of someone else.*

**CONSTANT MENTAL PRAYER:** Mary's entire life was a prayer, due to her constantly placing herself in the presence of the Lord, every moment of her life.

*Praise God. Make time for silence, for thanking Him, and for asking help to do His Will. Bring Christ into every little thing, offering up all your thoughts, words, actions, joys, and sorrows.*

**BLIND OBEDIENCE:** Mary was able to confidently give her fiat at the moment of the Annunciation, and also in every circumstance after that.

*We can believe and trust that God's plan for us is good and loving. This is really hard, especially at times when life is uncertain, but you are not alone in the chaos. He is right there with you.*

**DIVINE WISDOM:** Mary was able to see the beauty of God's will in every moment. She didn't run to others first; she always conversed with the Lord first, so that she could embrace His Will.

*Ask the Holy Spirit for the wisdom to see things through the eyes of Christ and not your own. Ask Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, to pray for you!*

**SURPASSING PURITY:** Everything in Mary was of God. Her mind and heart were pure. She lived her life with unity of purpose, seeking only to love and honor with all her heart, all her mind, and all her soul.

*Live a life full of prayer and frequent the Sacraments. Strive to keep your mind pure and focused on heavenly things instead of things of this world.*

**ANGELIC SWEETNESS:** Mary radiated joy and peace to everyone she encountered.

*We can open our hearts to the grace that is available to us, show gratitude for God's blessings. We can smile, and be kind, friendly, and sensitive towards others needs—putting their needs before our own.*

**LIVELY FAITH:** Mary completely submitted herself to God in an energetic way. She joyfully surrendered herself to the Lord.

*Faith is a gift from God! To receive a gift, we must be in communion with the Giver. Choose to trust Him and practice receiving His gifts with humble, open palms.*

**HEROIC PATIENCE:** Mary gave her fiat, her "yes" to Christ. Mary's patience culminated at the foot of her Son's cross, where she truly became a martyr through her patient and complete suffering in union with Christ.

*Unite your sufferings with the sufferings of Our Lord and Our Lady of Sorrows. Pray for the gift of perseverance and cultivate silence in your life and in your heart.*

Living the virtues of Mary may seem overwhelming. Don't get discouraged. With your family, choose one virtue at a time; maybe it's one that you really feel drawn to or just one that you all really struggle with. One of the greatest things about Mary is that she is not just someone from history; she is still our Mother today and she is always praying for us, supporting us, and leading us closer to her Son. She is with you every step of the way, call upon her, ask her for guidance and encouragement.

*Lastly, don't be afraid to allow her to love YOU. As St. Maximilian Kolbe said, "Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin Mary too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."*