



THE LEGION OF MARY

LIFE WITH MARY

Life with the Mother of Perpetual Help is extremely important to every true servant and Child of Mary, for it is the best proof of our love and devotion to her. Pious practices are good and recommended, but they are transitory. We cannot say the Rosary all day, for we have other duties to perform, but we can spend all our life with Mary. We can and we should live with her in all circumstances and works of our daily life, for Mary wishes to be with her Children in whatever they do and wherever they go.

Our daily life with Mary greatly glorifies God and renders our life and its petty occupations highly meritorious in the sight of Christ. Life with Mary keeps us away from sin, for no child would dare to commit an indecent act in the presence of his mother. Life with Mary helps us to practice the most difficult Christian virtues because Mary strengthens us to perform what is hard for our weak nature. Life with Mary means a holy life for her Children, for Mary is the most perfect example of a Christian life. She prompts her Children to imitate her. A continuous life under Mary's eyes engraves her likeness on her Children's hearts, rendering them precious in the eyes of the Creator.

How should we live with Mary? The concise formula of a life with Mary is:

We Must Live For Mary: To live for Mary means that no matter who we are what we are doing, we must do it for her. Saint Paul once wrote to the people of Corinth, *Whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all for the glory of God* (1 Cor. 10:1). This advice can be applied to Mary also. The Children of Mary should do everything for the glory of their heavenly Mother in order to please her. Mary does not keep our good works for herself. She enhances them with her own merits and offers them to God.

It is not hard to do all things for our heavenly Mother of Perpetual Help. A good and right intention directs our works, even the indifferent ones, such as eating and playing, to Mary. Mary's Children should make it their daily practice to repeat in all their works and occupations, *I am doing this for the greater glory of my heavenly Mother Mary.*

We Must Live With Mary: Children live with their mothers. We must imitate little children and behave with Mary as they do with their earthly mothers. We must stay in contact with her in all our works and occupations. A constant remembrance of our heavenly Mother will

unite us to her and will help to behave as Mary's Children. Spending our days in her presence makes it possible to pass our time with Mary.

This is the life with Mary. If we achieve it by a steady everyday practice of remembering Mary in all our works, occupations and amusements, we will live with Mary and become perfect Children in whom she will be well pleased and of whom she will be proud before the angels of heaven.

Is such a life possible for men? Can they spend all their life with Mary? Yes. Life is only today. Today is a lifetime in miniature, for what we have of our life is today. Life is composed of minutes, hours, weeks, and months. If we spend them with Mary, our whole life will pass in her presence.

Mary is the best possible companion of our Christian life. *There is a proverb which says, Tell me with whom you converse (live), and I'll tell you who you are.* If Mary is our constant companion in our work, in our occupation, in the discharge of our personal duties and recreations, we will be influenced by her and will become holy. This is exactly the life that Mary expects of her Children.

Mary's Children spend their life in the presence of their heavenly Mother in the following way:

FIRST

They start their work by asking Mary's blessing. They dedicate their days to her by an act of a renewed daily consecration. During their work they often turn to Mary with short, fervent ejaculatory prayers offering themselves and their work to God through Mary.

SECOND

They treat their neighbor in Mary's way. They see in him God's child. They avoid hurting him or causing him any annoyance. They excuse his faults and defend his good name.

THIRD

In their troubles they submit to God's will repeating with Christ, *Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done.* (Luke 22:42).

FOURTH

They have recourse to Mary in all their problems and affairs, for Mary is their steady counselor. They do not undertake anything without first asking Mary's advice and help. They go to Mary in their joys, and they turn to her for consolation in their troubles. They ask her for help, but they never forget to thank her for helps and favors she bestows upon them.

FIFTH

If they commit a fault or mortal sin, they take refuge in Mary's Arm, asking her to obtain forgiveness of their sin from Jesus. They repent at once they promise to amend their life and to repair Their mistake.

SIXTH

They wear a medal around their neck. They pray before her picture and say their daily Rosary before they retire. They commend themselves to Mary before going to sleep, they ask her to watch over them, and they thank her for the protection she showed them during the day. When they wake up in the morning their first thought is of God and Mary.

This is the way to spend your life with Mary, to get rich in spiritual goods and merits for heaven and to secure eternal salvation as good Christians and loving Children of the great Mother of Perpetual Help.