



THE LEGION OF MARY

REMEMBRANCE AND DEVOTION

Mary is the friend of poverty, the path to humility, and the model of patience and all perfection. From the time of Jesus' birth she lived a life of great poverty, and until His Death on the Cross she was always patient.

FIRST

It is a joy to follow her, and it is right to honor her with humble and devout service. We ought to think daily of a more worthy offering to her as a sign of our gratitude and love.

SECOND

Surely you want to rejoice with Mary in heaven, but you must also gladly endure poverty and contempt with Mary here on earth. Reflect on her humble ways and her virginal modesty when with her friends; put a rein on your fickleness and avoid noisiness.

Do not offend Jesus and Mary with frivolous talk and unworthy action, for it is not right to offend such close friends in any way. They are with you in whatever you do, and, depending on the effort you make to improve, they will come to your waywardness, and their kindness will lead you to repentance.

THIRD

Once you recognize your errors, change your life for the better; persevere in what is good and devoutly thank God for His gifts. Act in the same way toward the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was filled with the Holy Spirit when she carried Jesus in her womb.

Take her gentleness as an example and learn to endure patiently the crosses you meet by submitting to the Will of God, which He has established from all eternity. Jesus will be your strength and Mary your faithful Mother if you behave as a docile child and devoted servant, always ready to do good.

Do you want to be pleasing to the Blessed Virgin? Be humble, patient, self-controlled, chaste, and modest; fervent, meek deeply devout; read and write, but pray even more.

FOURTH

Never let the service of Mary seem lengthy or burdensome to you, for to serve such a Queen in thought and word brings delight and joy. In addition, it will secure for you a noteworthy reward for even the least thing you do in her honor.

This humble Mother does not scorn humble services; this compassionate Virgin gladly accepts even modest gifts when they are offered spontaneously and

with devotion. This sweet Queen and merciful Lady is well aware that we are not capable of offering her great things, nor does she require impossible deeds of her poor servants.

Mary, whose slightest gesture paradise obeys, neither seeks nor has need of our possessions. If she asks for our service, it is because she desires our good. If she asks us to praise her, it is because she desires our salvation. When she urges us to celebrate her name, it is because she looks for occasions to help us, for it pleases her to repay her servants.

In a word, she is utterly faithful to her promises and most generous in her gifts.

FIFTH

Mary is filled with delight and is constantly gladdened by the songs of the Angels; but she rejoices when human beings serve her, because this gives greater glory to God and brings salvation to many. She is moved by the tears of the poor, shares the sufferings of the afflicted, helps the tempted in their hour of danger, and hears the prayers of the devout.

Those who turn to her with confidence and humility and invoke her sweet and glorious name will not go away empty-handed.

SIXTH

She has many allies, and the choirs of Angels obey her; thus she can send all these to help the abandoned. She orders demons not to dare tempt those who have sought her aid and placed themselves under her protection.

Evil spirits go in terror of the Queen of heaven and flee as if they were fleeing fire, as soon as they hear her holy name. They are afraid of the holy and dreaded name of Mary, whereas this name is supremely loved and everywhere invoked by Christians.

The demons do not dare to appear or exercise their deadly powers wherever the name of Mary most holy shines forth; they need only to hear this name and they are hurled violently to the ground, as though a lightning bolt from heaven had descended on them. And the more frequently her name is invoked with fervent love, the more quickly do they flee and the farther off they go.

SEVENTH

The name of Mary, then, should be venerated and loved by all faithful, especially loved by religious, commended by the laity, urged upon sinners, suggested to the suffering, and invoked by all in dangers. For Mary is the closest person to God and the dearest to her blessed Son Jesus.

Grace makes her all-powerful in interceding for the wretched children of Adam, for Jesus can forgive all their sins and come to their aid in times of danger. When the opportunity arises, Mary will certainly not fail to speak a good word in the ear of her Son and ask Him for mercy on the needy.

In every case entrusted to her she is immediately heard because of her exceptional dignity, for her loving Son Jesus, author of salvation for the human race, honors her by denying her nothing.

EIGHTH

Every devout believer who wants to avoid shipwreck in this world and reach the harbor of eternal salvation should take refuge in Mary, our Lady, whose measureless kindness is felt especially and more powerfully by the unfortunate. It is legitimate, therefore, to expect even the greatest gifts from her.

In fact, from her infancy mercy constantly increased within her, and she certainly did not leave it behind when she went up to heaven; indeed, it filled her even more abundantly and sweetly. For this reason, she will never be able to forget her poor devotees.

Although she is the greatest of all and bathed in happiness and joy, she never forgets the humility by which she merited to be raised above all others. She knows how to stoop to the littlest of her servants and is happy to be regarded as the Advocate of the unfortunate and to be invoked as Mother of orphans.