

# Elements of Devotion to the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## Complete Dedication to the Salvation of Souls

### I'm Feeling Overwhelmed!

- We've covered a LOT of ground to this point:
  - Prayers, Vigils, Fasts, Bland Diet, Cenacles, Mass, Adoration
  - How can I do all this??!!!
- Each has our own situation in life and should adapt appropriately:
  - Age, Health, Work Schedule, Family, Other Responsibilities or Devotions, Care of Spouses, Parents, Grandchildren
  - Remember even Elizabeth could not do everything all the time
  - And we see her living life – cooking, cleaning, gardening, caring for children
- On the other hand, the stakes are high, Satan's attack is real and his greatest thus far, and our families and communities are in the line of fire and taking serious casualties already
  - It is like mobilization during WWII
- The keys are Honesty, Love, and Wisdom

## How To Discern How Much To Do

- Sacrifices are a big part of the devotion and key to both saving souls and opening our lives to grace
- Perspective is critical:
  - Christians don't ask what do I have to do – that's the Old Covenant rooted in obligation
  - Christians ask what can I do – the New Covenant rooted in love
  - Not “Am I doing enough?” but “How much can I love?”
    - God gives more opportunities than obligations
  - Works in three ways:
    - Accommodating our limitations without guilt
    - The sky's the limit for what we can do with God's grace
    - It continually builds our honesty and freedom
      - Saint Francis did not want a rule for the Franciscans but just the goal of live the gospel
      - P7: Jesus: “I do not force you. You have your free will; only if you want it.”

## The Opportunity Jesus Provides

- Jesus calls us to complete dedication to the salvation of souls
- P16: Jesus: “My daughter, renounce yourself. I keep insisting on this because you can only share in My work of Redemption if you live united to Me at every moment. There must be no interruption . . .”
- P22: Jesus: “My daughter, be faithful with all your strength in bringing sinners to Me. Give no thought to anything else. Always look into My eyes and see My sorrow for souls.”
- p41: Jesus: “Let your sacrifices always be fervent. I would like to increase my graces in you. However, to do that, I need greater acceptance of sacrifices. Accept My plea, be very humble and renounce every pleasure which does not serve Me. Renounce the reading of frivolous books, the hearing of your favorite music, and the seeking to be among others. On your walks, think only of My sacred Passion.
  - I want you to increase your fasts if you accept. Do not give yourself to any pleasure. Let your breakfast and your afternoon meal be bread and water. You can have other foods only at your principal meal, but make them tasteless. Do not eat to please your taste but only to nourish your body. . . . You must renounce more of your sleep. I ask you for two hours of prayer, so that you have to get up twice every night for one hour. My beloved, can I count on you? I, the Man-God, ask this of you.”

## The Opportunity Jesus Provides

- To drive back this massive assault of Satan, it seems Jesus and Mary have asked us to concentrate all the powerful grace bringing practices. It is as if they are asking laity and consecrated alike to live with the dedication of the consecrated:
- p20: Jesus: “My daughter, renounce your will. I ask this so many times because you can only share in My work of Redemption if you live united with Me totally and without interruption at every moment.
  - My little Carmelite, remember when you became a widow and your children were growing up, you would ask each one to help you for just an hour. What a great help that would have been for you. How sad you were when they excused themselves with every kind of pretext. You did your tasks alone and abandoned.
  - Think of how many children I have, My daughter. How delightful it would be if each one helped Me only for one hour. In those moments, My thoughts go in a special way towards those souls consecrated to Me. Those are the chosen ones of My Heart. Even though they are chosen, they do not want to be intimately united with Me. They are distracted by their worldly concerns. Immerse yourself in Me. **Take their place, not just for one hour but continuously.** Do not ask Me what to do. Be creative! Take advantage of every opportunity to quench My thirst with your desire to save souls.”

## Laity Versus Consecrated

- It is no surprise that Jesus and Mary call the laity to the same grace filled practices as the consecrated
  - It is what we should have been doing all along!
  - We are called to the same holiness – cf. I Peter 1:15-16
  - We are called to the same perfection – cf. Matt 5:48
  - Perfection – Matt 19:16-21 – moving from “what do I have to do” to “how much can I love” (I Cor 7:29-31, 35)
- Consecrated and Laity are called to the same holiness and perfection – the same perfect love. The only difference is the practical application with families, jobs, etc.

## More About Discernment

- Love is the first key to discernment – Love versus Self
- Love doesn't help us to discern WHETHER to be completely dedicated but rather HOW to be completely dedicated!
  - “I don't keep vigil because I get back from the city by 7, settle the kids, relieve the nurse to look after Mom through the night and then am up at 4:30 to get back to the city.”
    - Should they trust in God and keep vigil anyway?
    - That's between them and God in prayer; woe to us if we judge!
  - “I don't keep vigil because it's Monday Night Football season and I watch it no matter how much my wife complains!”
- Are we living for self or pouring ourselves out for other?

## More About Discernment

- Wisdom is the second key to discernment
  - Wisdom answers the question of how to love
  - Seek wisdom from God to discern between faith and foolishness and between wisdom and cowardice
  - How do I practically love
- Honesty is the third key to discernment
  - Self-deception is powerful. Pray to be honest with one's self and God
  - Have we been honest in our discernment of love and wisdom
- It is the Flame of Love, not the Flame of Responsibility
  - Think of what we have the opportunity to accomplish, not what we have to do
- With that context, let's examine what Jesus and Mary ask of us in this titanic battle for the salvation of our families, parish, communities, country, and world – Complete Dedication

## Great Grace Through Complete Renunciation

- P7: Jesus: “Look at my disfigured Face and My tortured Sacred Body. Didn’t I suffer to save souls? Believe in Me and adore Me.”
  - At that very moment I made acts of faith, hope, and charity begging Him to never allow that I be separated from Him. Let Him chain me to His Sacred Feet so I would always be united to Him. Thus I would always feel sheltered. He then asked me to renounce myself because I tend to be distracted and worldly.
  - Jesus: “I do not force you. You have your free will; only if you want it.”
  - I tried with all my strength. Afterward, everything fell into place drawing me closer to Him. He kept urging me.
  - Jesus: “I want to give you great graces, but you must renounce yourself completely.”
- p160: Jesus: “You no longer doubt that I have chosen you to be a worker of Redemption. Many missionary priests cannot do more than you do. Your constantly renewed sacrifices and unceasing efforts are most pleasing to Me. Your living faith in Me keeps your soul in a continual freshness and makes you ready to receive abundant graces. Hence, My little one, do not serve anyone but Me.”
  - According to the Lord, this also applies for all those making sacrifices for His work of Redemption.

## Great Grace Through Complete Renunciation

- p285: Mary: “My children, many suffer, – so to speak – being captive and blinded by material things. In spite of their goodwill, many cannot come closer to God because material goods act like a wall between God and the soul.”
  - Even among yourselves, some well-intentioned souls make serious sacrifices from time to time. Yet, they are blind because of earthly goods and material interest. As a result, they cannot receive the singular graces that they so much want. At every moment, these souls receive inspirations telling them what to do. However, they do not want to believe that this inspiration comes from God, their guardian angel or their patron saint.”
  - The heavenly Father does not want us to convince or influence these persons in any way because He expects a voluntary renunciation on their part. Also because divine Providence, divine tactfulness, sees that the interested party could not renounce, despite counsels, and could even sin by distrust.
- p216: Jesus: “My little one, spreading the Flame of Love should be the main focus of your life. It must flow smoothly like a stream of water that nothing and no one can stop. This stream of water is My grace which purifies, which destroys when need be, or saves and gives life. But it must run because God wills it.”

## Current Danger Requires Complete Dedication

- P64: Jesus: “. . . . If a fire breaks out in a place, people come from everywhere so there is as little damage as possible. Then why do you not put out Satan’s fire? You let the flame of hell carry out its destruction. Woe to you who look with cowardice, because you are responsible. You close your eyes and let souls be damned.”
- p66: Jesus: “You know, do you not, that I invited you to My private war camp? Do not be attracted by the passing comfort of this world. The coming of My Kingdom must be your only purpose in life. My words will reach a multitude of souls consecrated to Me. Trust! My grace will be with you and I will help all of you in a miraculous way.”
  - (The Lord’s words sounded very harsh in my soul. I was very surprised as I never heard but sweet words from Him.)
  - Jesus: “Do not be surprised, My little Carmelite, if you hear My severe voice in the depth of your soul. I do this with love. Do not be lovers of comfort or cowards. Do not allow yourselves to be convinced and do not make others believe that everything is meaningless. Everything has meaning! It is easier to wait for the end of a storm rather than to confront the tempest and to save souls. You do not need more examples or more explanations. Give yourselves to the work. If you do nothing, you abandon the earth to Satan and to sin. How can I wake you up? Open your eyes and see the deadly danger that claims victims all around you and which threatens even your own souls.”

## Current Danger Requires Complete Dedication

- p176: Mary: “To whom, do you think, will I ask to render an account for having set up obstacles? If someone among you was to set up obstacles, defend my Flame of Love with all your might.”
  - You must dedicate yourselves to blind Satan. The coordinated forces of the entire world are necessary to accomplish this. Do not delay because someday you will be called to account for the work entrusted to you, for the fate of a multitude of souls. I do not want even one soul damned. Satan will be blinded inasmuch as you work against him.”
  - Here the Blessed Virgin added that the responsibility will fall not only on the priests, but on all those who, seeking their comfort, did not enroll in the fight to blind Satan.
  - Mary: “Put immediately into action the outpouring of graces of my Flame of Love. To your group, I give a wonderful strength to all and to each one in particular. Your responsibility is great but your work will not be in vain. There must not be a single soul missing in this common effort. The soft light of my Flame of Love will light up, spreading fire over the entire surface of the earth. Satan, humiliated and reduced to powerlessness, will not be able to exercise his power. However, do not seek to prolong these birth pangs.” [The context is delays and doubts on the part of the priests to whom Elizabeth was sent to take up the cause of the Flame of Love]

## Current Danger Requires Dedication of Saints

- p267: Just as I was meditating on how to imitate the example of the saints, the Lord Jesus began to instruct me.
  - Jesus: “My little one, you can see why, from the very beginning, I asked you to renounce yourself. I asked this many times because you can only share in My work of Redemption if you live totally united with Me at every moment. I now repeat to you these words that long ago you returned to me as a prayer: ‘Do not spare any effort, My little one, know no limit. Do not remove yourself from My work of Redemption for even one instant. If you did, I should feel that the love you have for Me has lessened. How much I desire your love.’ Today also, these words have to be continuously present. This is how you can imitate the saints. On this, all the cooperators in My work of Redemption agree, no matter the circumstances of their lives. I do not change this condition for anyone called to follow Me: let him take up his cross and follow Me. Now you can see that there is not one saint that you cannot imitate. It is sure that I place you in different circumstances, but the requirement is one and the same.
  - Then your example to imitate is always the same: renounce yourselves and do not spare any effort, know no limit and never withdraw for even one instant from My work of Redemption. If you did, I should feel that your love for Me has lessened. Is it not simple, My Elizabeth, to follow in My footsteps? I do it that way so that no one feel rejected nor consider My request as impossible to accomplish.”

## This Dedication Can Be Done In A Family

- p229: Jesus: “You are My beloved. Do not let your thoughts wander. Think only of Me, because it grieves Me if you don’t. If I correct you, do not be upset. You know how it pleases Me that you are always attentive to My divine words. Even a minute is a long time for Me if you spend it on something else. I will help you so that I, and nothing else, fill your thoughts.
  - Do not let any creature come between us. My Elizabeth, My beloved, receive My divine words. Gather them in a bouquet. Write them down, so that others can realize that they can only possess God if they come far away from all earthly noise. Do not believe that this is impossible because you are a living proof. **I placed you in a family setting, so others could see how they can and ought to live. You serve both the family and God at the same time.**”

# Salvation of Souls is the Only Purpose in Our Lives

- p216: Jesus: “For My Cause, you must undergo great sufferings and you must continually battle for souls. Outside of this, My little one, do not waste your strength on anything else.”
- p185: Jesus: “By My divine brightness, I give to the soul that prostrates before Me the intelligence of My Divinity, and through it, their mind can understand my eternal desire, which is the salvation of souls.
  - Desire to share in My work of Redemption! Let this be the supreme goal of your lives, the most valuable gift that you can bring to Me. Take advantage of every opportunity and every means to save souls. Work at it! Remember what you once read: ‘If each Christian would save just one soul, no one would be lost.’”
  - When the Lord Jesus concluded, the Blessed Virgin spoke these sorrowful words:
  - Mary: “My little one, I want that not one soul be damned. You should want this together with me. For this purpose, I place in your hands a beam of light that is the Flame of Love of my heart.”
  - When she said these words, I experienced more deeply the sorrow of her heart.

# Salvation of Souls is the Only Purpose in Our Lives

- p261: Jesus: “Why do you wonder that I cannot renounce you or any soul. Did I not shed all the drops of My Blood for you, for all? My will is to save everyone. Elizabeth, you also must will it with all your strength at every moment of your life.”
- p30: Jesus: “My daughter, what I am about to say to you is not just for you. Share it with all My beloved children. Assimilate the essence of My words with the thoughts from your heart. You must shake lukewarm souls out of the indifference which drowns them. First, make them realize they must live in intimate union with Me; especially those who despite receiving Me frequently in their souls avoid getting closer to Me. My effort to take them to a deeper spiritual level is wasted if they turn their backs on Me and abandon Me. . . . .
  - Wish Me many souls, My little one. This is the objective of your life; keep it always before your eyes. For this reason I chose you and snatched you from the world. I appreciate that you, at least, have compassion for Me, you understand Me and console Me in My immense sorrow.”

# Salvation of Souls is the Only Purpose in Our Lives

- p69: Jesus: “Be My servant! Be always joyful! Every day that you serve Me must be a feast. Do not let anyone or anything that disturbs your cheerful spirit come near your soul. Take good care of your nuptial garment and let it radiate happiness. Wherever you go, let it be felt that you partake every day in the heavenly banquet. Desire that everyone have this same yearning. Let the coming of My Kingdom be the only object of prime importance in your life.
- P75: Jesus: “Each night, My little one, ask yourself what you have done for the coming of My Kingdom. Never be content with yourself. There is no room on earth for self-satisfaction. The reward of your labors is not a worldly reward. Work as hard as possible. See humiliation as a great instrument that guarantees abundant fruit for your work. Seek and love humiliation. I did this during My lifetime. If this is difficult for you, seek out our Mother. She is the true teacher of humility and she will help you. Seek all her virtues. You will find in My Person a powerful strength to do this. Do not think about rest; you will receive from Me an abundant reward for your tiredness.”

# Salvation of Souls is the Only Purpose in Our Lives

- P151: While I was cooking, the Lord Jesus said:
  - Jesus: “I beg you, in the future, do not think about yourself. May your thinking be only: us! If you come to Me and if you think of Me, think that the two of us are one. Let there be no gap between us. I will fill with grace the empty parts of your soul, and you, deny yourself so that, although you keep living, it will be I who live within you and you live only through Me.”
  - Jesus: “You are My little drop of water [Jesus is referring to an earlier conversation where He compares their unity to a drop of water in wine – Elizabeth being the drop of water in Jesus' wine]. Immerse yourself in the intoxicating wine of My infinite Divinity, both in its life-giving power and in its sweet aroma that you pour out for Me. May My good aroma pour out around you. When others perceive it, they will be led to Me. You see, we must be one. Do not be bound by the clay of the earth filled with worms. Let the earth be only that for you. Look at it as such and let us save souls from the worms that threaten and swarm them. Do penance and pray for them. Your acceptance of the sacrifice is the salt that, once poured over the swarming worms, they will fall like dead leeches. Let them be shriveled and annihilated. Let us have just one thought: the salvation of souls.”

## Everyone Can Exercise This Dedication

- p156: Jesus: “Trust. I have always told you that whatever you ask for in confidence, consider you have already received it. Do you think that if you asked Me for souls, I would not grant them to you? May our hands gather in unity. Ask! Never grow tired of asking and desiring for Me. If large numbers were asking, how many would be converted. All of you have been called to My work of Salvation, fathers and mothers, learned and ignorant, the well and the sick. All can work for Me, the free man and the one suffering in prison. What is important is the availability of the soul and the spiritual freedom which constitutes the culture of the soul. Especially the sick, yes, in truth, these can fly on the wings of absolute trust in Me. With a single request, they can obtain a massive conversion of souls.”
- p65: Jesus: “From the first moment of My human existence, I wanted to bring about My redeeming work. An uninterrupted desire for the salvation of souls always filled My Heart.
  - Let this desire for souls burn in all of you. Be not of little faith. Remember what I told you: If you need strong support, say ‘Father, I need Your strong, fatherly support.’ He will extend His strong, fatherly arm. Take courage and grab His arm, not only you, but all those souls that I entrust to you.”

## Practical Examples

- P162: When I went to Holy Mass on Sunday, I noticed a dress with an interesting design and wanted to examine it more closely. The Lord Jesus admonished me.
  - Jesus: “Hold back your gaze. Am I not enough to look at? May our glances melt in one another.”
- P188: I was with the Sister that had been assigned to me. She was listening to one of her favorite concerts on the radio. When she had a task to do, she gave me the hearing device saying that I should listen. Immediately, I became absorbed in the beauty of the music. After a few minutes, the Lord spoke some soft words.
  - Jesus: “Do you not think that during these occasions I am jealous of you? What did I tell you? That there will not be one hair between us!”
  - His words dominated my soul and drowned out the beauty of the music. He continued imploring me.
  - Jesus: “Listen to My heavenly words through art and musical beauty of the world also. Renounce yourself and your own entertainment. Think about how I work within you, My little sister, and do not allow any passing diversion into your soul. Take good care to not dispel the recollection of your soul by the makings of petty worldly artists. For you, only one thing is necessary, your uninterrupted sharing in My work of Redemption. Let this be your diversion! Do not say that I am very strict. Have I not asked you many times to renounce yourself? You must do this moment by moment. You cannot stop doing this even for a short time. I am your way and your life. Everything passes away, only your work for souls remains.”

## Practical Examples

- p166: At lunch, the magazine “Vigilia” fell into my hands. I began to read an article. Then the Lord silently made His voice heard.
  - Jesus: “Put it away! Did you forget that I wanted you to renounce all distracting literature? Let your life be one of contemplation, prayer and sacrifice. It would hurt Me if you do not want to be a true Carmelite. Is renunciation difficult? Don’t worry, I will repay you.”
  - I repented of what I did and quickly began to work while adoring Him.
  - Jesus: “Love only Me and serve Me even more. . . .”
- p224: During my little chores on Sunday afternoon, a newspaper fell into my hands. I began to read an article on Spanish customs. After I read a few words, the Lord Jesus said:
  - Jesus: “I have reserved you totally for Me and you have accepted this by repeating on many occasions your surrender to Me. Now, despite all this, you prefer this reading that distracts you. This is not good, My Elizabeth. May be you do not receive all what you need from Me? Why do you want to know more than you need for your eternal salvation? I do not demand this from others with such strictness, but you are My preferred one. You did not make yourself worthy. I, God, thought you worthy of your call. Even one instant is too much for you to be occupied with something else. My love does not rest. May our thoughts be in unison!”

## Practical Examples

- p218: My daughter-in-law asked me to get her some medications for her sick son. I had to wait more than an hour for the medicine... While waiting, a newspaper article caught my eye... I started to read a few lines when the Lord Jesus made a gentle request.
  - Jesus: “My little sunflower, help even more to free the suffering souls. I always share with you My eternal thoughts. Realize that even this short time is useful. If you put aside the newspaper article, you can help suffering souls come into My presence. This sharing in My work of Redemption is filled with merits. You see how I simplify what I ask of all of you. Everyone can fulfill My eternal thoughts.”
- It’s not weird; it’s logical!
  - Given a choice between indulgence and love, which do we choose
- Nothing new – St Bernard of Clairvaux – Steps of Humility & Pride
  - First step of pride and last step of humility is . . . . curiosity
    - Are eyes never to be raised at all? Yes, but only for two reasons: to look for help or to help others. David raised his eyes to . . see if help would come to him. Our Lord looked out over the crowd . . One raised his eyes in misery, the other in mercy. . Misery is a good excuse; mercy is a very commendable reason. If it is for some motive other than this . . I am afraid you imitate neither the prophet nor our Lord but Dinah, Eve, or Satan himself.

## Spiritual Renunciation

- We renounce even spiritual blessings:
  - P13: One time, I asked Him to allow me to feel His glorious and majestic presence. He said:
  - Jesus: “My little one, do not ask this for yourself. I give it to those for whom you have made a sacrifice or have offered prayers.”
  - “Forgive me, my Jesus. You see how selfish I am.” He said:
  - Jesus: “My daughter, I know your imperfection and your sinfulness, but this must not lessen your future efforts. This is a greater motive to abandon yourself and to rely on My love.”
- Our spiritual horizons open when we cease preoccupation with our salvation and focus on bring joy to our Beloved and salvation to souls

## Next Steps

- Scour our lives to eliminate every distraction from a saintly dedication to the salvation of souls
  - Beginning with the salvation of our own families (beware unwise neglect)
- Although we do not see the enemy, the casualties are strewn all around us in our families, churches, communities, nation, and world
- It is time to blind Satan and to flood the world with the greatest outpouring of grace since the Incarnation
- It is time for the Flame of Love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- How much can we love?