



*When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near,
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"
Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!"
And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.
(John 19:26-27)*

Dear Parish Family,

You have probably been a Catholic for a long time. You have been coming to church regularly and praying, but it doesn't seem to be enough. Have you been looking for more? Have you tried to grow in holiness, only to fail and fall back to where you were before? Jesus knew that following His path would not be easy for us. We do not walk alone. God has provided us with a Mother to walk with us and help us draw closer to Him. On the cross, Jesus entrusted His Mother to "the disciple whom He loved." This is a moment of "adoption" – Mary becomes the mother of St. John. The Church has always understood this passage in a wider sense: Jesus gave Mary to be the mother of every Christian.

I want to invite you to join me in the Total Consecration to Mary. It is a devotion developed by St. Louis de Montfort, a French priest who died in 1716. He believed that the way to serving Jesus most perfectly was to make ourselves servants of Mary. One of the many devotees of this way was Blessed Pope John Paul II. Total Consecration means giving yourself completely and without reservation to Jesus through Mary. Why Mary? No one on earth knew Jesus as intimately as the woman who carried Him in her womb and nursed Him at her breast. And if you really want to become a better person, who else to help you besides a spiritual mother? The real problem is that we are trying to make progress by our own efforts. Surrendering ourselves into the hands of Mary means that she is now responsible for our progress. That gives us great freedom. And joy.

The Consecration consists of a 33 days of preparation. It will begin on February 20th. The actual day of Consecration will then be March 25th, the Solemnity of the Annunciation. I have put a sign-up sheet in the sacristy if you would like to be part of this. I will provide each person with a book of prayers and devotions. The daily readings and prayers take roughly 25 minutes a day. I have found great fruit in my own life from following this path. Just a quick example: I couldn't seem to write this letter until I finally surrendered it to Mary. If you choose the path of Consecration, you too will discover the power of a Mother's love.