

Mary Day by Day

MARIAN MEDITATIONS FOR EVERY DAY
TAKEN FROM THE HOLY BIBLE AND
THE WRITINGS OF THE SAINTS

Introduction by

Rev. Charles G. Fehrenbach, C.S.S.R.

Illustrated



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NIHIL OBSTAT: Daniel V. Flynn, J.C.D..

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IMPRIMATUR: ✠ Patrick J. Sheridan, D.D.

Vicar General, Archdiocese of New York

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INTRODUCTION

“It is the nature of Jesus Christ to lead us surely to the Father. In the same way, it is the nature of the Blessed Virgin Mary to lead us surely to Jesus” (St. Louis Grignion de Montfort).

THERE is no end to Marian books—nor should there be. Some are for devotion, some for edification, some for enlightenment and instruction. What is eminently desirable is an all-purpose volume that incorporates all these desiderata in one small convenient frame.

In *Mary Day by Day* we have such a volume. The fusion of Scripture, reflection, and prayer in a delightfully brief potpourri more than adequately fills the need for a handy book of Marian devotion. The work is not haphazard but carefully selective. The reflections blend in with the Scripture quotes, and the prayers are redolent of both.

Mary Day by Day is definitely not a book to be read from beginning to end, not a thriller or a mystery to be taken on a plane or bus and read at one sitting. We know the ending even before we pick up the book. What we want to do here is savor its contents—in tiny, delectable portions.

The daily selection takes only a minute or two to read. That’s why it serves the purpose

of edifying the busy individual who has time only for a taste of inspiration, perhaps at the beginning of the day, or intermittently. For such a one the daily capsule will be meaningful and adequate. The volume serves as an ideal bedside book, one you can pick up at the end of a busy day as you reach for holy water and compose yourself for a peaceful sleep.

As implied, the book is not a gem to be treasured and hidden, but a *vademecum*, like the Rosary in your purse or pocket, to be utilized for solace or comfort in appropriate moments. The *Scripture* quotes stimulate to quick thought, the *Reflections* apply appropriately, and the *Prayers* synthesize the inspiration in both.

In conferring the title of Doctor of the Church on St. Alphonsus, the Holy See said of his masterpiece, *The Glories of Mary*, “This book satisfies the needs and taste of the most diverse readers. . . . It is a veritable mine of ecclesiastical lore and Marian theology.” The same can be said of *Mary Day by Day*. Borrowing from St. Alphonsus’ foreword to his own book: “May this book help us love Jesus and Mary and become saints. We cannot hope or pray for anything better.”

Rev. Charles G. Fehrenbach, C.S.S.R.



I WILL put enmities between you and the woman, and between your seed and hers. He shall crush your head. —Gen 3:15

JAN.
1

REFLECTION. The Old Testament recounts the period of salvation history that slowly prepared for the coming of Christ into the world.

It brings into gradually sharper focus the figure of the Woman, Mother of the Redeemer, already foreshadowed in the promise of victory over the serpent. —*Vatican II: The Church, 55*

PRAYER. *O Mary, you were chosen by God to be the Mother of the Redeemer. Protect me always from evil and obtain eternal salvation for me in heaven with you and your Son Jesus.*



CONCERNING mutual charity there is no need for us to write you, since you yourselves have learned from God to love each other. —1 Thes 4:9

JAN.
2

REFLECTION. The most powerful means we have for drawing down the benevolence of Mary toward us is a virtue.

That virtue is love for our neighbor.

—*St. Gregory Nazianzen*

PRAYER. *O Mary, you are partial toward those who imitate your Divine Son in love for their neighbor. Teach me to love my neighbor in the many circumstances of life, no matter what the cost.*



HE father of a just man greatly rejoices.
. . . Let your father and mother be joyful; let her who bore you rejoice.

MAR.
24

—Prov 23:24-25

REFLECTION. There is no doubt whatever that all the praises we address to the Mother are also addressed to the Son and vice versa.

We cannot do honor to the Son without at the same time giving glory to the Mother.

—*St. Bernard*

PRAYER. *O Mary, you are forever connected with Jesus as His Mother and as His closest disciple. Let me never hesitate to honor you for in doing so I am honoring your Divine Son.*



ARY, you have found grace with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

MAR.
25

—Lk 1:31

REFLECTION. O Mary, when Jesus was conceived in you, He found you a Virgin. After being born of you, He left you a Virgin.

He gives you fertility, but He does not violate your integrity.

—*St. Augustine*

PRAYER. *O Mary, you were a Virgin in conceiving, in bearing your Child, and in dying. Teach me that with God nothing is impossible, and let me face life confidently with the aid of His grace.*



MARY stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her own home. —Lk 1:56

MAY
31

REFLECTION. The heart of our good Mother Mary is all love and mercy. She desires nothing else but our happiness.

We need only have recourse to her and we will be heard. —*St. John Vianney*

PRAYER. *O Mary, you visited Elizabeth on a mission of mercy even while bearing Jesus. Teach me to be concerned for others and bring Jesus to them by my visits.*



STORE up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes, nor robbers break in and steal! For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. —Mt 6:20-21

JUNE
1

REFLECTION. Mary is my great treasure. She is my All after Jesus.

She is my honor, my tenderness, and the storehouse of my virtues! I do everything in and through her. —*St. Louis Grignion de Montfort*

PRAYER. *O Mary, you are our greatest treasure after Jesus. Help me to prize you above everything, remain united with you, and reach your Son Jesus through you.*



HOSE who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing. They go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown. They come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

AUG.
15

—Ps 126:5-6

REFLECTION. Mary sowed much in tears while on earth, and now she is reaping much in heavenly joy.

The same will be true for us. The more spiritual victories we obtain while on earth, the more we will receive in heaven. —*St. Bernard*

PRAYER. *O Mary, grant me the grace to obtain daily spiritual victories over myself, the world, and the devil. Let me imitate your faithfulness and so share your glory.*



FROM ivory palaces the music of stringed instruments brings you joy . . . ; the queen stands at your right hand in gold of Ophir.

AUG.
16

—Ps 45:9-10

REFLECTION. The heavenly host came forth rejoicing in festal array, to meet the Mother of God.

Surrounded with effulgent light, Mary was led amid praises and canticles to the throne prepared for her from the world's beginning.

—*St. Jerome*

PRAYER. *O Mary, at the Assumption you were solemnly taken into the glory of heaven. Fix my eyes on that glory, so that I may put up with the adversities of this world.*



SHOOT shall spring up from the stump of Jesse, and out of his roots a flower shall blossom. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

SEPT.
8

—Isa 11:1-2

REFLECTION. The birth of the Mother of God is the prelude to the union of the Word with flesh.

Today the Virgin is born, tended and formed, and prepared for her role as Mother of God, Who is the Universal King of the ages.

—*St. Andrew of Crete*

PRAYER. *O Mary, the birth of Jesus from you was the dawn of our salvation. May the celebration of your birthday bring the world closer to lasting peace and redound to my salvation.*



HE gave some as apostles . . . , for strengthening the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to perfect manhood.

SEPT.
9

—Eph 4:11-13

REFLECTION. Mary meditated on all she had come to know through reading, listening, and observing.

She grew in faith, increased in merits, and was more consumed by the fire of charity.

—*St. Lawrence Justinian*

PRAYER. *O Mary, you grew spiritually through meditation. Help me to set aside some time—no matter how little—for meditation each day, so that I may grow to the full stature of Christ.*