



A Servant of God
MARIE DES VALLÉES

February 25

UNIT OF EUDIST SPIRITUALITY

PRESENTATION

The Unit of Eudist Spirituality extends a warm welcome to all those who wish to join the entire Eudist Family in the celebration, on this day, of the memory of Marie des Vallées, usually known as «The Saint of Coutances».

Sister Marie is an important figure in the life of Saint John Eudes, as she is particularly close to the foundation work he underwent from 1641, following as such the will of the Lord as it was transmitted to him by this woman.

As we celebrate the memory of this fine person, we wish to offer a reflexion by Saint John Eudes on this servant of God as taken from one of his works «THE ADMIRABLE LIFE OF MARIE DES VALLÉES».

Fr. Alvaro Duarte Torres, cjm
Director of Unit of Eudist Spirituality

A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Marie de Vallées was born in France, on February 15, 1590 and passed away in her homeland in 1656. At a very young age, she received the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation. From this point on, she submitted herself



wholly to the will of God. The world in which Marie lived was plagued with corruption. The formation of priests was very bad and socery was common amongst the poor. Marie stands out as mystical figure greatly misunderstood in her times.

¿WHAT DO TRUE DEVOTION CONSIST OF?

(Saint John Eudes, The Admirable Life of Marie of Vallées, Book 9, Section 2, Chap. 4

In 1645 In 1645, on the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene, sister Marie saw a great many people kneeling in the chapel of the Holy Rosary. She then asked the Lord what was the meaning of a true devotion. The answer was the following:

«The true devotion has three steps. The first is to love God only, to love Him wholly and in true love for Him. The second is to annihilate oneself and to destroy all of one's passions, feelings and desires so as to let God live and reign entirely within him. The third is to live outside one's natural being, a life unknown to whom it belongs».



The true devotion, as sister Marie one day said, consists of giving oneself entirely and wholeheartedly to God so as to let Him do in us whatever pleases. It is a great injustice to deprive God of the liberty He possesses to dispose of His creatures as He wishes. He has given us the liberty to accomplish whatever we can do. Therefore, isn't it reasonable that He may also have the entire and absolute right to do in us whatever He wishes? Those who serve Him, may He grant them paradise and deliver them from hell and give them grace and solace as they submit their liberty.

Therefore, the perfect devotion consists of doing and suffering all He demands, with much taste and love for Him, without considering neither heaven, nor hell, nor anything else, only being satisfied with being agreeable,

with a donation and total surrender to His divine will, so as to having done, by the help of His divine grace, all which is possible for His service, He may reward us with nothing if such is what pleases Him, including sending us to hell, if by His grace, all which we may have done for His service be without sin.

In one word, the true devotion consists of giving up one's will and one's liberty and offering them to God so that He may guide us on the paths that please Him, in sickness and in health, in richness or in poverty, in consolation or in devastation, that He may do with us whatever pleases Him, in our life and our death, in our body or in our soul, in our time or in eternity, never searching for one's own interests nor longing for anything else than His glory and responding to His adorable will.

LIVE JESUS AND MARY
Christians with hearts afire!

¡LET US SPREAD THE
SPIRITUALITY OF
LOVE!



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