

Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort

1673 - 1716

PARADISE

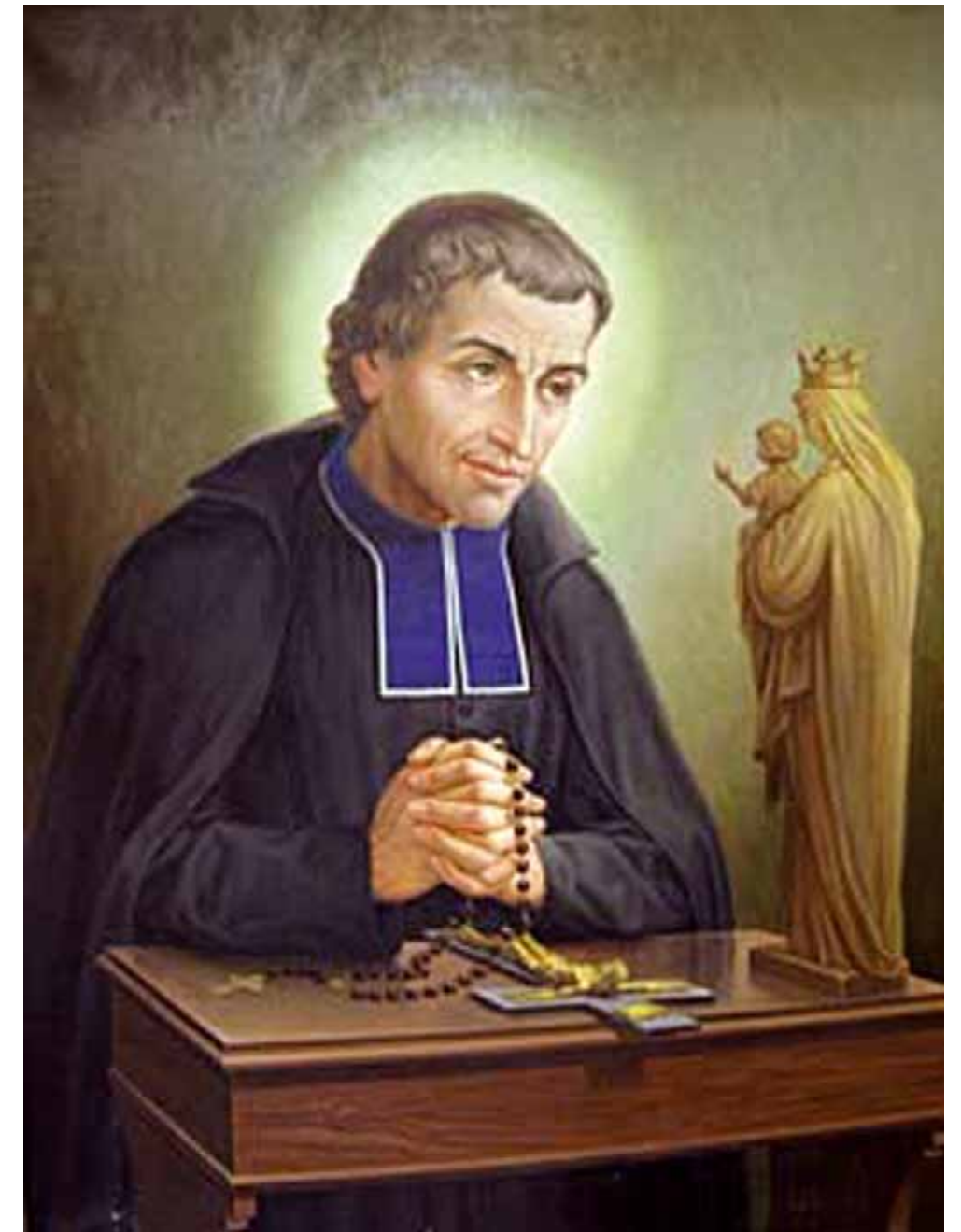
In his “Tract on True Devotion to Mary”, Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort demonstrated how the blessed achieve heaven: Chapter 44: “Only Mary found grace before God without the help of any simple creature. After Mary, all who have found favor with God have done so only through her. And any who follow in the future will still find favor only through her. Mary was full of grace when she was greeted by the Archangel Gabriel and she was to receive much more from the Holy Spirit when she was placed under his protection. From that instance she advanced day by day, moment by moment to a point of unlimited and indescribable grace. And thus, the Almighty transformed her into the recipient of His riches and the singular dispenser of His graces, so as to magnify, elevate and enrich her every wish. Thus it was that she crossed the narrow road to heaven and confronted every obstacle. She was given the throne, the scepter and the royal crown. Jesus is always and forever the fulfillment and the son of Mary; and Mary is always the faithful tree and mother that produces the fruit of life.

And in Chapter 45, St. Louis continues: God has given the keys to the chambers of divine love only to Mary; not only has she been granted the powers to enter the

most secret and most sublime roads to perfection, but also to admit others. It is Mary alone who opens the gates of Paradise to the suffering children of Eve – and even to unbelievers – making it possible for them to walk with a benevolent God, find some refuge from their enemies and nourish themselves with such delights so as to no longer fear death. It is from this fruit of the tree of life and of good and evil that all will drink deeply the waters from that heavenly fountain which is constantly flowing. Indeed, it is precisely from this earthly paradise, so blessed and untouched, that the sinners Adam and Eve were banished. Mary allows access to it only to those for whom she desires true sanctity.

In Chapter 46, the saint writes: “All the blessed of this world – as the Holy Spirit and the explanation of St. Bernard inspires me – seek your countenance age after age and especially at the end of the world; this is to say that the great saints (those richer in grace and virtue) are always the most zealous in praying to the Virgin Mary – always keeping her in their sight as their perfect model to imitate and possess as their most powerful help.”

Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort was born at Rennes in France in 1673; he was ordained a priest in 1700. He had wishes to go to Canada as a missionary,



instead he was sent to Poitiers. In 1712-13 he founded a missionary community of men for the purpose of evangelization, the Society of Mary. He died at St. Laurent-sur-Sevre on April 28, 1716.

