



THE FLAME

THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

August 2025 issue

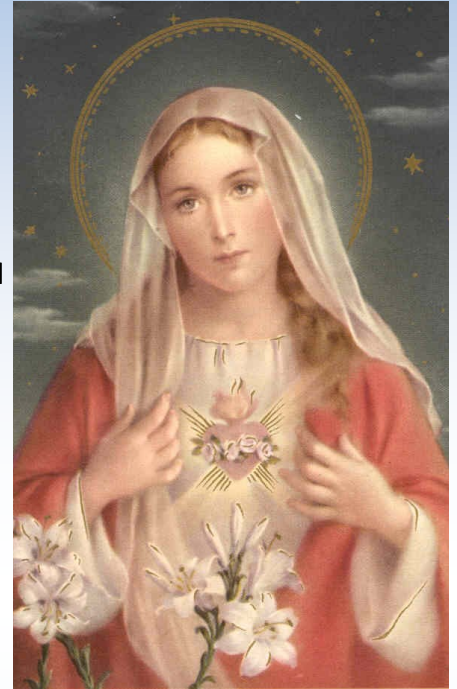


IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

By Maria Muratore

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart. Since the 16th century, the Catholic Church has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (and not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus is) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love (especially for her divine Son), virtue, and inner life. Such devotion is an incentive to a similar love and virtue.

Before making a consecration, make a careful preparation extending over some period of time. One good way to make that preparation is described in the last part of St. Louis de Montfort's *True Devotion* book. The most essential thing is not **making** an act of consecration, it is to **live** that consecration. **Living a consecration could be described as following three attitudes or spirits:**



Union — Imitation of Jesus and Mary, so as to become like them, and trying to develop as constant as possible a realization of His and her presence.



Dependence — Give to Jesus and Mary the right to dispose of everything we have, temporal and spiritual.



Obedience — Jesus and Mary have the right to ask us to do anything at all, even without reward. In consecration, we recognize that right, on a basis of love, and plan to carry it out with fullest generosity.

*St. Maximilian Kolbe spoke of the relation of consecration to our baptismal promises, in which we promised to renounce Satan and all his works, and to follow Jesus, "by whom we are **sealed** in baptism as His property. Consecration is the fullest kind of response to and carrying out of these promises. Mary, in view of her Immaculate Conception, was most fitted to respond most fully, and that she did, with a fullness and perfection beyond our ability to visualize."*

Pius IX told us that even at the start of her existence, her holiness was so great that "none greater under God can be thought of, and no one but God can comprehend it."

OUR PILGRIMAGE TO THE BEATIFIC VISION

BY JOHN McNALLY

The treasures of the Catholic Church are vast and the Deposit of Faith handed down from the Apostles is a beautiful tapestry that we can continue to marvel at now and for eternity. There is so much that could be said. However, in this article, I'd like to outline a simple, reasonable path to this place of great treasure even if the starting point is a place of no faith and no familiarity with faith matters. Even if we do not have any familiarity with anything beyond this world, a common situation for many young people today, we can begin with two indisputable facts:

- (1) we exist, but we did not create ourselves
- (2) we know that we have an inherent desire to understand life.

As we seek to understand life, we look without and we look within. As we look without, we observe:

- There are wonders in nature, but where do they come from?
- Natural science explains "How?" It doesn't address the question of "Why?"
- If we rewind the tape of time in the natural universe, it points back to a very high-energy particle.
- Did the particle create itself?
- Where did the particle come from?
- Where did all the energy that was unleashed in the "big bang" come from?
- We see the inherent incompleteness of natural science.

In addition to looking without, we look within:

- As we think about what is, we have a view that certain things are not as they "should" be.
- Example: Three children are given cookies: the first child receives 1 cookie; the second child receives 1 cookie; the third child receives 4 cookies. Immediately, there will be a strong objection: "That's not fair!!"
- Even at a young age, we are aware of a moral law that we and others should try to follow.
- This moral law is distinct from the physical universe and distinct from "the way things are"
- We are aware that we also struggle to follow this moral law

In addition to looking without and looking within, we try to look beyond:

- We are drawn to try to look "behind the scenes." We are involved in the "play" of history and we wonder if there is a "playwright."
- Certain experiences provoke awe and wonder and gratitude, but is there someone to thank? If so, how can that



someone be approached, since I am finite, and that someone appears to be "beyond the finite."
We hear that the Bible is "revelation" (self-disclosure) from God.

- We wonder: Is this revelation true and valuable and relevant?
- We have looked out at the world and looked within, and we are still searching. So, let us look at this revelation also with an open mind and an open heart to see if it is helpful.

Examination of the proposed revelation:

We look into revelation and we begin what we consider to be our search for God, but we find some surprising things.

John 15:16: "You have not chosen Me; I have chosen you."

Ephesians 1:4: "God the Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world"

Jeremiah 31:3: "I have loved you with an everlasting love"

Isaiah 43:1: "I have called you by name"

The revelation that we are examining is telling us that God loves us, wants to have a personal relationship with us, and that His plan started before the foundation of the world.

We may start our reading of revelation to gain knowledge, but this book of revelation seems to be reading us and calling us to respond and to form a new relationship. We seem to be being called to change our original goal of just gaining some information.

What is happening in this process?

Is there more than just me involved in this process?

James 4:8: "Draw close to God and He will draw close to you."

But how can it be possible to draw close to an infinite God?

First consider how we draw close to another person. We learn about them; we share with them; we listen to them; we spend time with them; we participate in activities together

How then can we draw close to God?

We learn about Him; we share with Him; we listen to Him; we spend time with Him; we participate in activities with Him.

God draws us, but we also learn that He respects our free will: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how I longed to gather you together, but you were not willing!"

As we continue to read, there seems to be an emphasis on a particular topic: eternal life.

Romans 6:23: "...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

John 14:2-3: "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that: (1) I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, (2) I will come back again and take you to myself, so that (3) where I am you also may be."

Hold on a minute. This process is getting quite personal!

"The world is our ship, not our home" (Saint Therese of Lisieux)

Our life on earth is only a limited period of time in God's training camp: Here we are being trained to be prepared for our true home. This training involves a battle.

This book of revelation highlights believing in Christ, rather than just believing about Him.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone that believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life."

Mark 1:23,24 "In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit...I know who you are – the Holy One of God."

The unclean spirits/demons know who Christ is, they don't believe in Him or trust in Him.

Believing a fact and believing in a person are two different things. The first requires knowledge only; the second also involves relationship.

To know about God is valuable, but knowing God in a close, mutually sharing relationship is our goal and our source of true happiness ("O Lord, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee")

To believe in a person involves trusting them in a certain role. We can build our trust in God by coming to know him better in a personal relationship.

We also encounter challenging verses in this revelation.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind"

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

John 13:34: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you should also love one another."

God commands are challenging. We need a supportive community

We need all the assistance (both natural and super-

natural) that we can get.

Our faith (and hope and charity (agape love)) is a dynamic work-in-process.

We soon discover that this book of revelation has many interpretations.

There are many interpretations of the Bible and many denominations, but Jesus said in *John 17:21* "so that they may all be one, as You, Father are in Me and I in You..."

So are these many denominations and ongoing church splits what God intended?

Many churches propose a belief in the Bible alone: Sola scriptura (scripture alone/the Bible alone): belief that the Bible is the only source of authority for Christian faith and practice.

Does the Bible teach this belief?

The Bible is not just one book. It is a collection of writings/a collection of books.

Does any book of the Bible say that the sole authority is this collection of writings?

All of the books included in the Bible were written before 100 AD. The determination of which books are included in the Bible was made around 400 AD.

So, no book of the Bible could even refer to the "collections of writings" (the Bible) at the time it was written because the "collection of writings" was determined later.

Looking back at history, we see that the Catholic Church made the determination of which books are included in the Bible and affirmed this in various church councils.

Where did the church receive this authority and is this receiving of authority in the Bible? Yes, in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 16 (see below)

Are church councils Biblical? Yes. The first one is actually in the Bible itself in Acts 15: The Council of Jerusalem

What does the Bible itself say about the role of the Church?

1 Timothy 3:15: "...the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth."

Matthew 16: 18-19 "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Think about another scenario that was an option for Jesus, but didn't happen: "You are Peter, and I give you this book, and upon this book, you will build My church."

Has the church that Christ founded continued to the present day? Yes

CONTINUED...

The Bible points us to the Catechism

- It is good to reflect on the Word of God and we are not the first to do this. Some Bible passages are difficult to interpret and we can benefit from learnings from the past.
- Almost everyone would like to understand the Bible better. What is the best way to do this? The best way to do this is to read the Bible and meditate upon it **for 20 centuries**. We don't have 20 centuries, but the Catholic Church and its saints did. The Catechism reflects these many centuries of meditation and prayer.

Even in the notice of publication on the very first pages, the Catechism highlights some important points regarding its value and purpose.

- **Guarding the deposit of faith** is the mission which the Lord has entrusted to his Church and which **she fulfills in every age**.
- A catechism should faithfully and systematically present the teaching of **Sacred Scripture**, the **living Tradition** of the Church and the **authentic Magisterium** (teaching authority of the Church), as well as the **spiritual heritage of the Fathers of the Church and the Church's saints**, to allow for a better knowledge of the Christian mystery and for enlivening the faith of the People of God.
- I (Pope John Paul II) declare it to be a valid and legitimate instrument for ecclesial communion and **a sure norm for teaching the faith**. May it **serve the renewal to which the Holy Spirit ceaselessly calls the Church of God**, the Body of Christ, on her **pilgrimage to the undiminished light of the kingdom!**

To give some examples of the beauty and richness contained within the Catechism (just an appetizer of its treasures, actually), shown below are brief extracts from just four paragraphs of the Catechism:

*God, infinitely perfect and blessed in Himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him **share in his own blessed life** (CCC 1) (paragraph 1)*

Scripture reference for paragraph 1 above: *2 Peter 1:4 Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to **share in the divine nature***

*"The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. **Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for**" (CCC 27)*

*God's very being is Love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, **God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and He has destined us to share in that exchange.** (CCC 221)*

*The ultimate end of the whole divine economy is **the entry of God's creatures into the perfect unity of the Blessed Trinity** (CCC 260)*

There is no contradiction between the Catechism and Scripture properly interpreted. At the back of the Catechism is a list of **Scripture citations** and the list goes on for **32 full pages!** So, the **Catechism** is a **Scripture-soaked** document and, in addition, it helps to draw out and organize all of the **principles found throughout the Bible**. It is a tremendous gift and source of guidance!

The Beautiful Tapestry of the Catholic Faith All of the preceding is part of the "tapestry of faith."

- **Each section of the tapestry of faith reinforces the other sections** and there is always more to see.
- Our faith is a work in process and there is always room for growth (Lord, I believe; help my unbelief; Lord, I trust in You; help my lack of trust; Lord, I surrender to you; help my lack of surrender)
- We **believe** and we **hope** and the Catechism provides guidance along the way. For example, we may have an intuitive sense of what "hope" is. However, our intuitive sense is not likely to be as beautiful as the description of Hope given in the Catechism. It is shown below.
- "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire **the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness**, placing our **trust in Christ's promises** and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the **grace of the Holy Spirit**." (CCC 1817)

The Beatific Vision

- Where is all this leading? It is leading to the Beatific Vision.
- We see pointers to the Beatific Vision in Scripture, for example in 1 John 3:2:
- Beloved, we are **God's children now**; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like Him, for **we shall see Him as He is**. (1 John 3:2). "We shall see Him as He is" is a reference to the Beatific Vision.
- What does the Catechism say about the Beatific Vision?
- "Desire for **true happiness** frees man from his **immoderate attachment** to the goods of this world so that he can **find his fulfillment in the vision and beatitude of God...** **"Whoever sees God has obtained all the goods of which he can conceive"** (CCC 2548) It would be impossible to make a statement that would be of stronger intensity than the previous sentence!
- All of this is consistent with Scripture. For example, the above paragraph is consistent with Psalm 27, verse 4:
- "**One thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek; To dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life**; to gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit his temple (delighting in His incomparable perfections and glory (TLB)) (Psalm 27:4)
- One final beautiful aspect of the Faith to be mentioned is that "dwelling in the house of the Lord" does not begin after we die. The beatific vision is experienced in its fullness in heaven, but **eternal life begins here on earth**.

**PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF ENDLESS GLORY!**

QUOTES ABOUT MOTHER MARY AND THE ROSARY...

1. *"The Rosary is the 'weapon' for these times." -Saint Padre Pio*

2. *"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." – Blessed Pope Pius IX*

3. *"The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary." – Saint Francis de Sales*

4. *"Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother." -St. Padre Pio*

5. *"Go to the Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying, it is what is essential. Prayer shakes the Heart of God, it obtains necessary graces!" -St. Padre Pio*

6. *"The holy Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence and you'll be amazed at the results." -St. Josemaria Escriva*

7. *"Say the Holy Rosary. Blessed be that monotony of Hail Mary's which purifies the monotony of your sins!" -St. Josemaria Escriva*

8. *"For those who use their intelligence and their study as a weapon, the Rosary is most effective. Because that apparently monotonous way of beseeching Our Lady as children do their Mother, can destroy every seed of vainglory and pride." – St. Josemaria Escriva*



9. *"You always leave the Rosary for later, and you end up not saying it at all because you are sleepy. If there is no other time, say it in the street without letting anybody notice it. It will, moreover, help you to have presence of God." – St. Josemaria Escriva*

10. *"The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin...If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors." – Pope Pius XI*

11. *"The rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description." – Archbishop Fulton Sheen*

12. *"The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying." Pope Leo XIII*

13. *"No one can live continually in sin and continue to say the Rosary: either they*

will give up sin or they will give up the Rosary" – Bishop Hugh Doyle

14. *"The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary." -Sister Lucia dos Santos*

GODOURFATHER 2025 CONFERENCE

WITH GUEST SPEAKER FR. PHILIP SCOTT

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK BELOW: [HTTPS://RALDIOC.CONFIGIO.COM/PD/1013/GOD-OUR-FATHER-2025-CONFERENCE](https://RALDIOC.CONFIGIO.COM/PD/1013/GOD-OUR-FATHER-2025-CONFERENCE)

DATE: OCTOBER 17TH AND 18TH 2025

LOCATION: ST. JOSEPH CHURCH AND ST. MONICA HALL
2811 POOLE ROAD, RALEIGH NC

JOIN US AS WE'RE LED BY FR. PHILIP SCOTT TO EXPLORE GOD AS OUR LOVING FATHER WHO HEALS OUR WOUNDEDNESS AND TEACHES US HOW TO LOVE AS THE FATHER HAS LOVED US. HOW TO BRING THIS LOVE INTO OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AND IDENTIFY AS A CHILD OF GOD. WE'LL SPEND TIME IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP BY THE "WITH YOU" MUSIC MINISTRY. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER WILL BE AVAILABLE.

For out of town attendees, we have a room block reserved at Hampton Inn & Suites Raleigh/Crabtree Valley for October 17, 2025 through October 19, 2025 for the GOD OUR FATHER 2025 conference. Booking your room is simple. Just follow the link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/godourfather2025charismaticconference/>

Fr. Philip Scott was born 1/26/60 in Lima,

Peru. After a life of sin in 1980 had a radical
Conversion experience to Our Lord Jesus.

While engaged to a wonderful girl God called
me to be a priest. I went to Seminary at Mount

St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. I was

ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of St. Petersburg,

Florida on May 6, 1989. On April 1, 1998 "I was given permission to found a
community to heal the family called Family of Jesus . We are priests, brothers

and sisters and are a Private Association of the Faithful in Puerto Maldonado, Peru. I currently give retreats to priests, couples, men
and women throughout the world in English and Spanish."

Visit his website at: <https://www.familiadejesusperu.org/>



"With You" Music Ministry leading us in Praise and Worship.

Our family-founded music ministry is dedicated to enhancing worship through contemporary praise and worship music. Founded by Miklos and Bernadett Horvath, who began their musical journey in childhood, the ministry now includes their teenagers, Máté, Ben, and Mike. Committed to bringing communities closer to Jesus, we provide heartfelt and uplifting music for the Catholic Church. Our services include musical support for Eucharistic adoration, Masses, and conferences, enriching small and large gatherings. **Come to Jesus, let us praise him!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mass, Adoration and Healing Service

Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 - 07:00 PM - 09:30 PM

Location: St. Mary Magdalene 625 Magdala Drive, Apex 27502

With Pastor Fr. Michael Coveyou, Fr. Lourduraj Alapaty, Father Francis Kayondo, Fr. Frank Epperson, Deacon Dev Lobo, and the "With You" Music ministry; prayer teams (Bilingual, too!) will be available.

Mass, Adoration and Healing Service

Date: Friday September 19, 2025 7:00pm-9:30pm

Location: St. Eugene Catholic Church, 608 Lions Club Drive, Wendell NC 27591

With Pastor Fr. Frederic M. Mizengo, Fr. Louduraj Alapaty, Deacon Anthony Favale and "WithYou" Music Ministry. Prayer teams (Bilingual, too!) available for private prayer.

(Out of State) Pilgrimage Opportunity October 10-12, 2025

Join Us in Texas! We're excited to have a group pilgrimage to

Holy Spirit 2025 National Charismatic Leadership Conference in Houston TX on

October 10-12, 2025 . We already have a group planning on attending this exciting event.

Contact me at ccsdirector@oeddor.org for more information about joining our group from North Carolina. **Registration link and speaker info: pentecosttodayusa.org**

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!!!

****OUR ANNUAL CHARISMATIC CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 17TH AND 18TH 2025****

GOD OUR FATHER 2025 CONFERENCE WITH GUEST SPEAKER FR. PHILIP SCOTT

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For more information, please visit our website: <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/charismatic-renewal>