As the St. Louis de Montfort Academy embarks upon a new school year, it seems fitting that this issue be dedicated to acquaint all our benefactors and friends with what actually takes place during...

A Day at the Academy

Since its founding, Saint Louis de Montfort Academy has focused on forming young men as militant Catholic gentlemen, willing to make any sacrifice, even their lives, for Holy Mother Church, as so many Roman martyrs in the days of old.

Devotion to Our Lady, seriousness, and dependability are the roots of any militant Catholic. With this in mind, the Academy instructors established a daily program that in itself would greatly help fulfill this splendid role of forming young men.

Each morning, seven resolute strikes of the bell resound throughout the Academy. The bell summons the students to form in single file along the third floor corridor where they pray to Saint Michael to aid them in the day's battles.

Punctuality for this and other formations is much emphasized, so those who are tardy often make amends by way of pushups. After this morning formation, those who wish to attend Mass in the nearby city of Shamokin take the first turns in the showers and then depart. The remaining students, after showering and preparing for inspection, gather in the chapel to pray the Joyful mysteries of the Rosary, after which they have a short study period.

Upon the return of those who attended the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, everyone gathers for inspection, an important element that helps keep the students and the school building in order. Uniforms and bedrooms must be impeccable, trousers creased, beds taut and tidy, and dressers in order.

Following that, everyone meets in the chapel to pray a perpetual novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. That done, one of the instructors calls out, "To the cortege, march!" and we file out in orderly ranks for the refectory, singing Saint Louis de Montfort's hymn "We Want God." During breakfast, a book, normally about an historic person or event, is read by the lector of the week. Sometimes the instructors would quiz the students on what was being read in order to make sure that they were not only paying attention to the food.

After breakfast and just before classes, we raise the American flag and offer a prayer for our great nation, invoking Saint John Neumann,
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, and other saints and blesseds who have lived and toiled here. Every once in a while before we head off to classes from this formation, Mr. Lyon, our headmaster, reminds us of — or reprimands us for — broken rules. "Obedience" he says, "is one of the most important rules." Then morning classes begin. Algebra, the toughest subject, is tackled first, followed by English, Religion, and Latin.

By lunch time our appetites have really grown, but we remember Saint John Bosco's words to his students, "Don't live to eat; eat to live." Mr. Whitcraft, the seventh and eighth grade teacher, often gives us a rule of etiquette during lunch. At other times lunch will be enlivened with organized debates — sometimes heated — or a short speech by one of the older students.

By two o'clock, everybody is back in the classrooms with fresh stamina for the afternoon periods: Literature, History, and study hall. A snack at 4:15 is followed, depending on the day, by a recreation period or a meeting. The games build sportsmanship and physical strength, while the meetings build a profound and indispensable understanding of the Catholic faith. The meetings are quite varied, sometimes dealing with doctrinal or spiritual matters, often with points of Catholic history, at times with facets of Catholic culture. Sometimes they are about the enemies of the Church, for we must know the thinking of our enemies if we are to debate them.

As the sun begins to set, we meet in the chapel for another five decades of the rosary, praying with chests out and shoulders back in knightly fashion. A candle-lit dinner follows. With lively conversation throughout, dinner will not uncommonly stretch out for an hour or more.

Saint John Bosco once told his boys that a group without a band is a group without a soul. Mindful of this, our instructors scheduled band practice to follow dinner. The drummers usually practice together while the brass players receive individual instructions from a teacher.

Alas, the day draws to a close. Gathering again in the chapel, we pray the Consecration to Our Lady composed by Saint Louis de Montfort and solemnly chant the Salve Regina. An hour later, everyone must be in bed.

Focused on molding young men into militant Catholic gentleman, our instructors have laid down this daily program. Thus, we learn much more than the square root of 121 or the chronological sequence of the Napoleonic Wars. We learn to be dedicated soldiers of Our Lord and His Church.

by Louis Toenjes and Nicholas Burnham
11th Grade

St. Louis de Montfort Academy
On May 2, nine Academy students were among the group of young men and women confirmed by Bishop James Timlin of Scranton at Saint Michael’s Church. In solemn procession, the bishop approached the sanctuary along the center aisle. Upon reaching the altar, he began the Mass with the prayers at the foot of the altar. His sermon explained the doctrine and importance of the sacrament of Confirmation and included an explanation of why the recipients choose another name. “When something important happens in one’s life” the bishop said, “the person tries to mark it in a special way so that it will never be forgotten. Thus it is with confirmation. It is an event that should never be forgotten.”

After the sermon the bishop confirmed all the candidates, who had anxiously awaited this hour. After the last of the candidates was confirmed, the bishop continued the celebration of the Holy Mass. After the Mass, Bishop Timlin greeted the new soldiers of Christ and their families in the vestibule. Greetings, congratulations, and photos continued in the vestibule, in front of the church, and in the church hall, where refreshments and lively conversations awaited confirmmands, families, and friends.

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Highlights from Last School Year

by Michael Slobodnik, 10th Grade

Students and staff members, with the statue’s custodian, pose before the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady Fatima

In mid-March the miraculous pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima that wept in New Orleans visited the headquarters of the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP) in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. In view of this unique opportunity to see the statue, the Academy faculty decided to waive a day of classes so the entire student body could venerate this impressive image. In addition to private and group prayers at the feet of Our Lady on her flower-bedecked pedestal, the day’s ceremonies included a procession with the statue to all the buildings of the TFP’s headquarters, with prayers and hymns all along the way. Our Lady’s tour graced every corner of the property. Alas, her time for departure came. She was carefully put into the car and, as the custodian drove her out the front gates, everyone sang a solemn Magnificat in gratitude for her visit. Truly, the visit was one that marked the minds and souls of all. It was time then for the students and faculty to return, feeling as many a loving son does upon parting from his mother but with hopes that Our Lady may one day pay a similar visit to Saint Louis de Montfort Academy.

Niagara Falls

After a strenuous school year, the faculty decided to take the students on one last outing. Because it was to be the last, they decided it had to be an exceptional one, and exceptional it was. The itinerary took us to upper New York State.

Our first stop was a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Victories in Lackawanna. This church, built by Fr. Nelson Baker early this century with fine marble, mosaics, and statuary, is a splendid tribute to Our Lady. After seeing this man-made beauty, we had lunch by a masterpiece from the hand of God, Niagara Falls. While some stayed to admire the river, the rapids, and the Falls themselves at leisure, others visited Old Fort Niagara, which dates from the seventeenth century.

Everyone reassembled in the late afternoon to embark on the Maid of the Mist, a boat that sails below the American Falls and right to the base of Canada’s Horseshoe Falls, for one of the best views of the Falls! After a barbecue nearby, provided by the parents of student Michael Gorre, we viewed the changing lights on the Falls after sunset, then returned to Herndon for the final days before summer vacation.

Wet, but sawed, students admire the American Falls after an exhilarating boat ride to the very base of Horseshoe Falls.
The First Harvest

Excited, but self-possessed, four young men traditionally attired in gowns and mortarboards solemnly processed up the center aisle of Transfiguration Ukrainian Catholic Church in Shamokin, Pennsylvania. As they removed their mortarboards and knelt to salute Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the ceremonial chords of Pomp and Circumstance, played by the Holy Choir of Angels Band, faded away. The very first commencement exercises of Saint Louis-Marie Grignon de Montfort Academy had begun.

Founded in 1995, the Academy had long been just a dream of the late founder of the Brazilian Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family, and Property (TFP) and inspirer of the TFPs around the world, Prof. Plínio Corrêa de Oliveira. He had desired a school for boys that would form them to be warriors for the Blessed Virgin in her fight against what he called the Revolution, which has aimed to destroy the Catholic Church and Christian civilization since the fourteenth century. Providence, however, willed that his desire be fully realized only after his death in October 1995. While the Academy was officially established in August, classes only began a month after Prof. Corrêa de Oliveira died. The Academy, staffed by members of the American TFP, seeks to fulfill his wish to educate young men to be especially faithful slaves of Mary, according to the method set out by the Academy’s patron saint in his book, True Devotion to Mary.

In a profoundly Catholic gesture, the commencement ceremony began with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom by Msgr. Michael Fedorovich, the church’s pastor. After chanting the Gospel, Msgr. Fedorovich delivered a sincerely touching sermon to the nearly one hundred people present. Calling on Sacred Scripture, he pointed out the prominence that first events have in both secular and religious history. For example, he emphasized the Jews’ belief that “the first born of the flocks and vegetables to be gathered at harvest time belonged to God in a special sense. And so they were dedicated and presented to God on the day of the first fruits as a part of their celebration of Pentecost” [their feast of Harvests; cf. Numbers 28:26-31].

“These are just a few thoughts,” Monsignor continued, “to color our participation in the historic, first graduation exercise of Saint Louis de Montfort Academy, a school that stands out as a lighthouse in this troubled sea we call our earth. It beckons us back to God. Everything we are or hope to be begins with the Lord’s plan for us. And the first graduates, the first harvest, emerge and we offer them back to His Almighty Providence in a special way. We have gathered, not in some grand gymnasium or auditorium, but in a holy place, in the precincts of the sanctuary so reminiscent of the Holy of Holies, to express our gratitude to God for His gift of these four, fine men.”

Addressing God with emotion, Monsignor continued, “They are Yours, O Lord. You have made them. And we share this real joy with them in Your hallowed place. You have given them to us and for this reason we mark this day not only with thanksgiving but also with joyous feasting. During the Exodus and other pilgrimages in life, You have provided Your people with leaders through whom they heard Your voice. In like manner, we have turned to hear Your word through those whom You guided to be the instructors of Saint Louis de Montfort Academy. They reflect the same teaching philosophy of the prophets of yore as they lead their charges to the living waters of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their spiritual growth and their eternal salvation — not some mundane, passing secular quest — are of primary importance on the syllabus of their classroom presentations.”

In conclusion, Msgr. Fedorovich thanked God for “allowing the parish’s and the school’s paths to cross in this life.” After the Divine Liturgy, the Academy’s headmaster, Mr. Richard Lyon, asked all to
Graduation

stand as the band played *The Star Spangled Banner*. He then thanked Msgr. Fedorovich
for graciously allowing the Academy to hold the commencement exercises in his beautiful
church on such short notice. Mr. Lyon said that by thus solving the problem of where to
hold the graduation ceremony, another problem was also solved. No guest of honor had
been invited and it was very improbable that anyone could have accepted the role at such
late notice. Nevertheless, it was clear to all that the most illustrious of all personages was
present: our Guest of Honor was Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, truly present in the
Blessed Sacrament.

Mr. Lyon then introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Mario Navarro da Costa, director
of the Washington Bureau of the American TFP. Having been a close disciple
and confidant of Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, Mr. Navarro da Costa is a man who
has dedicated himself to the noble ideals of the founder of the TFP. Quoting from Prof.
Roberto de Mattei’s biography of Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira, *The Crusader of the
Twentieth Century*, Mr. Navarro da Costa noted the close link between Saint Louis de
Montfort and Prof. Corrêa de Oliveira: “Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira and Saint Louis
Marie de Montfort, in a certain sense, necessarily had to find one another. Devotion to
Our Lady was in fact the foundation of the spirituality of Doctor Plinio, who learned it
as a child through his mother’s example.”

Quoting Saint Gregory, Mr. Navarro da Costa said, “*Probatio dilectionis exhibitio
est operus* — ‘The proof of love is work.’ Saint Louis de Montfort and Dr. Plinio
showed their love for the Blessed Virgin by working tirelessly for the glory of God.

“Dear members of the Class of 1998, you are called to do the same,” he exhorted.
Repeating Dr. Plinio’s words at a graduation ceremony many years ago, Mr. Navarro da
Costa said, “For us life is not a party, but a fight. Our destinies should be that of heroes
and not sybarites. Place Christ in the center of your life. Let all your ideals converge
upon Him. In face of the great fight, the most noble vocation of your generation, repeat
the famous phrase of the Savior: ‘Domine, non recuso laborem’ — ‘Lord, I do not refuse
the work.’”

“Praesto sum!” — ‘Lord, I am ready to serve Thee!’

Nonetheless, Mr. Navarro da Costa states that “because of Our Lady’s promise in
Fatima, we have the confidence that our struggle will be victorious, that the remnant
will return.” Further on, he says, “As Prof. de Mattei affirms in his book, Dr. Plinio’s ‘con-
fidence in the final victory of the Catholic Counter-Revolution and in the coming of
the Reign of the Immaculate Heart of Mary was the virtue [he] inspired most deeply into
his numerous disciples spread throughout the world.’”

In conclusion, Mr. Navarro da Costa said, “Have confidence and persevere, dear
members of the Class of 1998, and you will see the ‘sacred lights of the dawn of the
Reign of Mary,’ when the Blessed Virgin will say to each one of us: ‘My son, as I promised,
my Immaculate Heart has triumphed!’”

Upon ending his invigorating speech, Mr. Navarro da Costa presented Mr.
Benjamin A. Hiegert, the valedictorian of the Class of 1998, with the English edition of
Prof. de Mattei’s biography of the inspirer of the TFPs, *The Crusader of the Twenty-
hentieth Century: Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira*.

Mr. Raymond E. Drake, the president of the Academy, then conferred the diplomas on
each of the graduates: Mr. Benjamin Hiegert, Mr. Mindaugas Penikas, Mr. Gabriel Shibler,
and Mr. Christopher Toenjes. Mr. Hiegert’s valedictory address followed.

“At this moment..., when we are about to move on, to continue our preparation for
the struggles of adulthood in other places, we salute our Academy, to which we will always
be linked by ties of love and gratitude....

“In keeping with the example of its patron saint, the Academy reinforced in us
the good we learned from our families, especially the beauty of loving God above all

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For us life is not a party, but a fight. Our destinies should be that of heroes and not sybarites....
Place Christ in the center of your life. Let all your ideals converge upon Him. In face of the great
fight, the most noble vocation of your generation, repeat the famous phrase of the Savior:
‘Domine, non recuso laborem’ — ‘Lord, I do not refuse the work.’

Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira

Bulletin No. 2-1998
...the Academy reinforced in us the good we learned from our families, especially the beauty of loving God above all things, of putting everything we have — physical, intellectual, spiritual — at the service of God. The Academy also led us to a deeper understanding of the spirit of chivalry that we already admired as youngsters, and urged us to live by a knight’s code of honor....

Benjamin Hiegert, Valedictorian

things, of putting everything we have — physical, intellectual, spiritual — at the service of God. The Academy also led us to a deeper understanding of the spirit of chivalry that we already admired as youngsters, and urged us to live by a knight’s code of honor.

Having noted several points of that code, the valedictorian, in the name of Class of 1998, thanked the faculty and staff of the Academy, the parents, and all the Academy’s benefactors, the first being Msgr. Fedorovich, who on each morning of the school year “celebrated Mass at this altar and gave us the infinite gift of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who desires to be the focus of our lives, of our studies, of everything we do.”

Finally, Mr. Hiegert did not neglect to address his younger schoolmates: “Friends and companions for the last three years: Prize the self-discipline the Academy teaches you. At times this may be hard, but remember what we have all heard: Per crucem ad lucem — the Cross is the way to the Light. We must live in the Light. We must encourage others to live in the Light.” He thanked them, too, for their camaraderie, which “helped us understand the paradox that the Cross is compatible with joy.”

Mr. Raymond Drake, delivering the closing remarks, addressed the graduates: “You are the first fruits of [the Academy’s] labor to form loving sons of the Catholic Church. As such it behooves you, perhaps more than those who will follow, to set the tone, to blaze a trail, to be an example for others to emulate.” He called to mind an aspect of their relationship to the underclassmen, saying, in part, “What is, then, the role model you should provide them? What is the virtue they should readily find in you? One of prompt and loving service. Joyful, unselfish, and dedicated service. Service to Holy Mother Church, service to Christian civilization, service to our beloved country....

“The days we live in are days of great turmoil and tribulation. The Church instituted by Our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of men finds Herself beset by raging winds.... The United States itself, destined by Divine Providence to be the greatest nation of our time, finds itself today undermined and eroded by numerous crises.... In this life of service that today opens before you, do not be afraid of what at times may appear to be the overwhelming and irresistible power of God’s enemies, for the words of Saint Paul are in such circumstances more true than ever: ‘Omnia possim in eo qui me confortat!’ — ‘I can do everything in Him who comforts me!’

When encountering the might of God’s enemies, Mr. Drake urged the graduates to remember these words of Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira: “O worldly powers, you are no more than ash, dust, and nothing, for you are against God, and whoever is against God, is nothing. Sometimes God allows His enemies to take on awesome and towering proportions, so that He may then topple them with a simple flick of His Divine Finger.”

He went on to warn the graduates against “falling into mediocrity, of limiting your horizons to petty and self-gratifying interests, of reducing the noble aspirations of your souls to vulgar and banal objectives.... In your service to Holy Church and Christian civilization, be as the knights of old: humble, and tenacious; pure, and filled with audacity; meek, and lovers of righteousness; trusting, and uncompromising with evil...true twentieth-century Crusaders.”

After urging the graduates to have recourse to Saint Michael, the angels, and all the saints, especially those “who fought more ostensibly for the rights of God and His Church,” he closed with the following words: “Invigilated at every step of your way by the daily recitation of the Rosary and the frequent reception of the Sacraments, and fortified by the true devotion to Mary taught by this Academy’s patron saint, Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, go forth as true sons of the Blessed Mother to claim Her rightful place and establish Her Reign over the hearts of men, and in this struggle, let your motto forever be: Pugnemus pro Domina! Quid it Virgo! — Let us fight for Our Lady! Who is like unto the Virgin!”

Thus, with all the speeches ended, the ceremony drew to a close with the singing of one of the school’s hymns, We Want God by Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, as the graduates process out of the church.

A delightful reception awaited all at the Academy in Herndon, thirty minutes from Shamokin. Parents, relatives, friends, and students enjoyed a wonderful luncheon underneath two large, colorful tents. The graduates were presented with two grand cakes, made by their younger schoolmates. As the gradu-
ates maturely discussed their futures and showed their relatives around, the underclassmen did what was only natural: they took up games on the lawn. Later on, each of the graduates received the gift of a beautiful image of Our Lady as a token of the great devotion that the Academy aspires to instill in all its students.

The underclassmen were not forgotten in all the festivities: Each received a splendid Miraculous Medal, which came directly from the Convent on the Rue de Bac in France.

May Our Lady grant that her Academy grow and always produce brave and courageous warriors for the cause of the Catholic Church and Christian civilization, the Counter-Revolution.

Michael Gorre
12th Grade

View of the reception held at Saint Louis de Montfort Academy

Claire Lee Chennault: The Greatest Tiger of Them All

Part II

by Paul Slobodnik, 11th Grade

Ever since he first went to China, Chennault was very concerned about the Communist expansion in Southeastern Asia. He was ardently anti-Communist and he believed that because of all of its disastrous effects on individuals, as well as nations, Communism would be rejected by any country in normal circumstances. However, he saw that China was not in normal circumstances. Ten years of constant war with Japan had caused a famine, and the economy was in ruins. Chennault believed that these crises, particularly the famine, would drain the Chinese of their desire to fight Communism. He sent several reports to the United States, informing the government of the situation and the desperate need for American aid. The government ignored him, saying, at first, that the war was more important and, later, that the European front took priority. Chennault agreed that the European front was very important, but pointed out that absolutely no aid was being given to free China, while the Russians were supplying weapons and planes (many of which were from the United States) to the Communist Chinese.

As he had done so many other times in his life, Chennault decided to take the initiative. Even though he had officially retired, he decided to unite his World War II veterans and form a new group of volunteer pilots to establish air superiority over the Communists. It was a good idea, but the government would allow no such thing because of its policy of not supporting Chiang Kai Chek. The next best thing that he could think of was setting up a commercial air line to fly supplies wherever they would be needed by anti-Communists. This time, the government answered his request and with the help of other airlines, he set up the China Air Transport (CAT).

From then on, Chennault flew supplies to the free Chinese all over China, wherever there was anything that resembled a runway. His old transport planes, leftovers from World War II, were attacked by Communist planes and were shot at from the ground. He appealed to the government to allow him to use escorts, or at least to shoot back, but received a negative reply. Not even this could stop the brave pilots of the transport planes. They continued to fly supplies all over China and evacuated troops that were being surrounded. Once, Chennault was visiting a besieged city when the Communists broke through the defenses and made an all-out effort to capture him. Informed, he barely escaped by jumping into a plane and flying to another city.

Chennault showed a keen understanding of Communist tactics and goals. Right after World War II, he predicted that China would probably fall because of the lack of support from the United States. From there, he said, the Communists would try to get Korea. If they failed in that, the Communists would attack Indo-China and later Nepal. These predictions proved to be incredibly accurate. China fell in 1950, and the free Chinese fled to Taiwan. The Communists tried to take Korea and were only stopped by a bloody conflict, which ended with a peace treaty that Chennault despised. When he heard of the treaty, he repeated the words that Marshall Ferdinand Foch had spoken in 1919: “Our peace must be the peace of victors, not of the vanquished!” Unable to get all of Korea, the Communists attacked Indo-China in 1959, resulting in the Vietnam War. Communist China made an attempt to take Nepal in 1962.

Chennault knew that all of these wars could have been avoided if the United States had taken his advice and supported China, but he did not despair and fought in all of them. His planes transported supplies and made reconnaissance missions throughout the Korean War. When the French were attacked at Dien Bien Phu, his planes flew supplies into the fortress, despite the heaviest anti-aircraft fire they ever encountered. Many of Chennault’s bravest pilots lost their lives, but the last plane to leave the runway, as the Communists swarmed into the fortress, was a CAT transport.

Chennault did everything in his power to fight Communism, but there was one thing he had no power to avoid: death. After a long fight with cancer, which could only confine him to bed for the last two weeks of his life, he died on July 27, 1958. For his services to all of the free world, he received the highest medals of four countries and was made a Lieutenant General on his deathbed. He received a soldier’s burial in Arlington Cemetery and was laid beside some of America’s greatest military heroes.
After completing the reading of a biography on Saint Louis de Montfort in the dining room, the students were all asked to write compositions on what they remembered from the reading. Here we present the compositions of two of the students.

Our School Patron

Saint Louis was born in France into a large family. Even at an early age he loved Our Lord and His Mother fervently and was often to be found in the village church opening his heart to this Mother. As a youth, he began practicing a combative purity and soon subdued his pride by frequent acts of humility. After becoming a priest, he turned his thoughts from his family completely to God and his mission. Once he did help a family member, but it was out of charity, not sentiment. This showed his great detachment from the world.

His mission was to spread the “true devotion to Mary,” that is, slavery to her. In order to better fulfill his mission, he obtained permission from the Pope to travel to any place in France to preach. This he did to the fullest extent, literally covering France in his travels and inspiring many others by his heroic sacrifices of love. All through France he set up missions, established Marian devotion, built shrines, erected calvaries, and routed the devil. In all places he accomplished what he had set out to do in a wonderful, total, and saintly way.

Like all saints, he longed for silence and solitude once in a while, so it is now possible to visit the blessed, obscure dwellings where he found these. It is quite possible that in these places Our Lady showed herself to the saint and told him of her sorrows, joys, and love of all men. It was after retreating to these places for several weeks that he produced some of his most beautiful sermons and treatises. The greatest of these, True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, was kept hidden for many years by the devil, for he knew even better than we what an effect it would have on people.

From his childhood, Saint Louis was virtuous and loved the apostolate. When he became a priest he gave everything he had to Our Lady by increasing his apostolic labors. Throughout his life he offered sacrifices and reparations for the sins of man. At his death he gave what little he had left to the poor and to the completion of his work. If only there were more saints like him, the earth might soon enter into the Reign of Mary.

Michael Shbler  
11th Grade

The Torch of Mary

Fire has characteristics that are all very familiar. It illuminates, heats, and consumes. Yet, since every creature of God is a tangible symbol of some virtue or defect, fire must have some metaphorical characteristic. Looking at it historically, one can realize that it is a symbol of holocaust, or of sacrifice. It is because of this that God wanted the Jews of the Old Testament to burn their offerings. In the life of Saint Louis Marie
Grignon de Montfort, one sees that he was a man all ablaze with zeal for the glory of God and His Blessed Mother.

Just as fire brings light to material things, so did Saint Louis bring the light of his teaching to countless souls in France. During a time when devotion to Our Blessed Mother was not well practiced, he saw that he had the mission to be an apostle of Mary, to guide souls to Jesus through Mary. He went about the regions of Brittany and the Vendee as a missionary, preaching this most perfect and efficacious means to go to Our Lord. He taught that if one does not go through Our Lady to Our Lord, it is like relying on an imperfect sculptor who can make mistakes in forming one’s soul. Yet, if one goes through Our Lady and consecrates oneself to her as a slave of love, one is cast in the perfect mold of Our Lord. She will guide us and form us without error because she is most perfectly united to her Divine Son. Saint Louis also taught that she is that most kind Queen Mother through whom a humble sinner can obtain favors and graces from the King, her Divine Son. Thus Saint Louis especially spread this precious devotion to Our Lady like a light in the darkness of a France that was on the verge of the French Revolution.

Often, light can illuminate, but it does not always give warmth and heat. Likewise, Saint Louis’ teachings may have enlightened many a soul, but if he did not give the warmth of example, he would not have profoundly moved many. He was a man of strong conviction who did not tolerate any offense against God or His Blessed Mother. On one occasion, for example, he was walking through the streets of a town when his attention was caught by a singer who was singing a licentious song and selling the music to his indecent song. Saint Louis would not let this offense pass; he took the music sheets and tore them up in the face of the singer. Another time, when Saint Louis was preaching in a church, a nearby tavern was erupting in a disrespectful ruckus. Saint Louis, not tolerating this offense, went over and told the drunkards that it would be better that they never return there. Fists began to fly, yet Saint Louis came out victorious. The acceptance of upright and true doctrines is good, but it is feeble if one shrinks away from defending them.

When a fire burns in a hearth, the wood that is being burnt is reduced to ashes, to nothing. One could say that the wood gives itself up in order to provide light and heat. This metaphor can be applied to the sufferings and hardships Saint Louis bore in addition to the great physical and spiritual exertions of his missionary work. Saint Louis encountered much opposition throughout his lifetime, even from his ecclesiastical superiors. The influence of Jansenism had taken its toll even among high ecclesiastics and Saint Louis’ missionary work was a boulder that opposed the current. Sometimes, bishops would banish him from their dioceses or refuse him permission to say Mass. He was despised and rejected but, like Our Lord, he suffered without complaint. He had the true spirit of the cross of Christ that does not cower from suffering, but, rather, endures it heroically, offering up trials for holocausts.

The comparison of Saint Louis de Montfort’s life to fire is incomplete in one sense. After a fire has burned out, it simply ceases to exist. However, when a man’s whole life is consumed by the fire of his dedication and zeal, his body may deteriorate, but his soul is enriched, fortified, and made perfect. Now his soul burns with the most intense love before the King and Queen of Heaven, They whom he served so zealously on earth.

Michael Gorre
12th Grade

ACTIVITY CORNER

How large is your store of knowledge and how agile is your mind? If you accept the challenge of answering the following questions, please write to Louis Toenjes with the answers. Your answers will be compared to others. Whoever answers best will receive a package of fine Ghirardelli chocolates. The prize was kindly sponsored by Katie’s Kleaners in Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

1. Years ago, in a humble medieval village, a cheese merchant was summoned by the king. The king had received an unexpected visitor and wanted nine pounds of cheese for his guests and court. The merchant hurriedly wrapped three plump cheese balls and headed for the castle. Still wrapped in his blissful thoughts of being personally called by the king, he stumbled into an odd problem. A bridge, with a weight limit of 260 pounds, separated him from one of the castle’s entrances. He weighed 255 and the cheese weighed 9! It would have taken him too long to walk around for another entrance. Thinking quickly, he devised a way to cross that bridge without breaking the weight limit. In one trip he brought the cheese across and everything else, which added up to 264 pounds. How did he do it?

2. Who was the first canonized saint? Please write a short paragraph on this saint.
St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort

Priest, preacher, prophet, apostle, confessor, founder, writer, missionary: These are some of the titles given to this eighteenth-century French saint. However, he is best remembered as the apostle of True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Inspired by his example and his writings, the directors and faculty of this Academy volunteer their time and efforts to giving youth a Mary-centered formation. We pray that Our Blessed Mother bless our humble and imperfect endeavors, so that these young men may be part of the spiritual conversion of our country and the world, which we see as the only true solution to the contemporary crisis.

St. Louis de Montfort Academy admits students of any race, color and national or ethnic origin.

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- Mr. and Mrs. William Pakuta for sponsoring Activity Corner prize.
- Mr. Marty Fels for opening a memorial fund for his deceased wife, Laura (requests prayers).
- The parents who supplied food for the graduation, Medieval banquet, and orientation day.