

Yesterday, we establish the first level of Marian Relationship (Consecration): Mary as your Mother. But this is just the first level. You are invited to go deeper as you grow in the spiritual life!

Mary as your "Mother-Friend"

This would be like a grown child who now begins to relate to their parents as friends. The once child, now as an adult with their own challenges of having a spouse and children, has grown in appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices their parents did for them.

They grow in curiosity for deeper "insight" into their parents:

- 1-What was in their mind when they did X and Y raising us?
- 2-What was happening in their lives? What were their thoughts, intentions, desires?
- 3-What was their family history?
- 4-What were the major events in their lives that shaped and formed whom they have become?
- 5-Why are they who they are?

The questions come not in an accusatory spirit. They now know firsthand the challenges and struggles of marriage, raising children and having a family of their own. They've grown in pity, compassion and mercy towards them.

Ayer establecimos el primer nivel de Relación Mariana (Consagración): María como tu Madre. Pero este es solo el primer nivel. ¡Estás invitado a profundizar a medida que creces en la vida espiritual!

María como tu "madre-amiga"

Esto sería como un hijo ya adulto que ahora comienza a relacionarse con sus padres como amigos. El niño, ahora adulto con los retos de tener su cónyuge e hijos, ha crecido en aprecio y agradecimiento por los sacrificios que sus padres hicieron por ellos.

Crecen en curiosidad por una "visión" más profunda de sus padres:

- 1-¿Qué tenían en mente cuando hicieron X/Y criándonos?
- 2- ¿Qué estaba pasando en sus vidas? ¿Cuáles fueron sus pensamientos, intenciones, deseos?
- 3- ¿Cuál fue su historia familiar?
- 4- ¿Cuáles fueron los eventos en sus vidas que forjaron y formaron sus vidas?
- 5- ¿Por qué son quiénes son?

Las preguntas no vienen en un espíritu acusatorio. Ahora conocen de primera mano los desafíos y las luchas del matrimonio, criar hijos y tener una familia propia. Han crecido en piedad, compasión y la misericordia hacia ellos.

They ask not in accusatory ways, but in the mercy that comes from understanding the principle of the "perfectly imperfect" which heals and deepens the relation with their own parents.

Grownup children seek to understand their parents in the hope of gaining a greater "insight" into themselves:

"Into whom have I been formed by my parents?"

As we grow in the spiritual life, having a spouse and children of our own, we come to Mary as our mother curious for greater insights into "Who I am?"

Mary answers: **"You are in Christ a Beloved Child of the Father in Whom He is very well pleased!"**

The question of "who am I?" is ultimately a question of: "Whose we are? And into whom are we being conformed?" WE ARE THE FATHER'S AND WE ARE BEING CONFORMED INTO THE PERSON OF CHRIST JESUS.

Mary wants to help you grow deeper in this truth!

No preguntan de manera acusatoria, sino en la misericordia que proviene de comprender el principio de lo "perfectamente imperfecto" que cura y ayuda a profundiza en la relación con sus propios padres.

Los hijos adultos preguntan y buscan profundizar con la esperanza de obtener un mayor entendimiento de ellos mismos: **"¿En quién me han formado mis padres?"**

A medida que crecemos en la vida espiritual, acudimos con curiosidad a María como Madre para obtener una mayor comprensión de "¿Quién soy yo?" María responde: **"¡Eres en Cristo un Hijo Amado del Padre en quien Él está muy complacido!"**

La pregunta de "¿Quién soy yo?" En última instancia pregunta: "¿De quién somos? ¿Y en quién estamos siendo formados? La respuesta: SOMOS DEL PADRE Y ESTAMOS SIENDO CONFORMADOS EN LA PERSONA DE JESUCRISTO.

María te quiere ayudar a profundizar en esta verdad.

Why go to Mary?

Because she is the human creature who know Jesus Christ the most. No other creature in the history of humanity has come or will ever come to know Jesus Christ better than she does.

1- Mary is His mother. [When you become a mother of your own child, you will come to understand this truth.]

2-Mary knew Jesus for 30 years before the Apostle ever came to know of Him.

3-Mary also accompanied Jesus in His public ministry, at His death and experienced Him after His Resurrection.

4-Mary came to know Him bodily, from deep within her entrails (umbilical cord) as He grew up. But she also came to know Him in the Spirit after receiving the Holy Spirit with the Apostles in Pentecost.

5-Mary came to know Him as through His Mystical Body with the newly born Church of the early Christian community.

6-By her Assumption into Heaven, Mary knows her Son in Heaven within the mystery of the Holy Trinity.

¿Por qué ir a María?

Porque ella es la criatura humana que más conoce a Jesucristo. Ninguna otra criatura en la historia de la humanidad ha venido o llegará a conocer a Jesucristo mejor que María.

1-María como Su madre. [Cuando te conviertas en madre de tu propio hijo, llegarás a comprender esta verdad.]

2-María conoció a Jesús por 30 años antes de que el Apóstol llegara a conocerlo.

3-María también acompañó a Jesús en su ministerio público, en su muerte y después en Su resurrección.

4-María llegó a conocerlo corporalmente, desde lo más profundo de sus entrañas (cordón umbilical). Pero también llegó a conocerlo en el Espíritu, cuando recibió el Espíritu Santo junto a los Apóstoles en Pentecostés.

5-María llegó a conocerlo a través de Su Cuerpo Místico en la recién nacida Iglesia de las primeras comunidades cristianas.

6- Por su Asunción al Cielo, María conoce a Su Hijo en el Cielo dentro del misterio de la Santísima Trinidad.

As we will come to fully know Him, she already knows and wants to share it with us!

7- Scripture says that "Mary kept all these things, pondering on them in her heart" (Lk. 2:19). And it is from her Immaculate Heart that she wants to share Him with us. But this requires an exchange of hearts as is typical of best friends.

THIS IS HOW WE GROW FROM BEING CHILDREN TO BECOMING HER FRIENDS!

We cultivate a friendship with Mary as our Friend as we begin to ask her the same questions we would ask our parents:

1-What was in HER mind when HE did X and Y? She can give us greater insight into what we read in Scripture.

2-What was happening in HIS life and in the life of those who were with Jesus? What were HER/HIS/THEIR thoughts, intentions, desires?

3-What was HIS family history? She can give us insight into the 30 years of His hidden life within the Holy Family.

¡Como llegaremos a conocerlo completamente, ella ya lo conoce y quiere compartirlo con nosotros!

7- Las escrituras dice que "María guardó todas estas cosas, reflexionando sobre ellas en su corazón" (Lc. 2:19). Es desde lo más profundo de su Inmaculado Corazón que ella desea compartirlo con nosotros. Pero esto requiere un intercambio de corazones como lo hacen los buenos amigos.

¡ES ASÍ CÓMO CRECEMOS DE SER SUS NIÑOS A SER SUS AMIGOS!

Cultivamos una amistad con María como nuestra Amiga a medida que comenzamos a hacerle las mismas preguntas que le hacemos a nuestros padres:

1-¿Qué estaba en SU mente cuando ÉL hizo X/Y? Ella puede darnos una mayor comprensión de lo que leemos en las Escrituras.

2-¿Qué estaba pasando en SU vida y yo la vida de los que estaban con Jesús? ¿Cuáles fueron sus pensamientos, intenciones y deseos de?

3-¿Cuál fue su historia familiar? Ella nos puede compartir mucho de los 30 años de SU vida oculta dentro de la Sagrada Familia.

4-What were the major events in HIS life that shaped and formed whom HE is? Here Mary would love to share with you what Jesus told her after He was baptized and after He was Transfigured, when He heard the Father say to Him: "You are my Beloved Son."

5-Why HE is who HE is in relation to you? How you are "perfectly imperfect" for Him? Why He loves you so much as to give His own life for you?

Ultimately, she wants to help you understand Whose you are and How the Father is conforming you into His own Begotten Son!

As you freely come to cultivate your friendship with her, she will accept you as you are and with great tenderness she will help you grow into the full potential of Whose you are and into the mystery in Whom you are being conformed.

The words used by Jesus Christ to His Apostles are applicable to us in relationship with Mary as her friends:

"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you" (Jn. 15:15).

4-¿Cuáles fueron los eventos principales en la vida de Cristo que moldearon y formaron quién es ÉL? A María le encantaría compartir contigo lo que Jesús le dijo después de ser Bautizado y después de su Transfiguración cuando escuchó al Padre decirle: "Tú eres mi Hijo Amado".

5-¿Por qué ÉL es quién es en relación a ti? ¿Cómo eres "perfectamente imperfecto" para ÉL? ¿Por qué te ama tanto como para dar su propia vida por ti?

Por último, ¡Ella quiere ayudarte a entender quién eres y cómo el Padre te está conformando en la persona de Su Hijo Jesucristo!

A medida que libremente cultives tu amistad con ella, ella te aceptará tal como eres y te ayudará a desarrollar el máximo potencial de en Quien estas siendo conformado como hijo del Padre.

Las palabras que dirigió Jesucristo a sus Apóstoles son muy aplicables a nosotros en relación con María:

"Ya no les llamo servidores, porque un servidor no sabe lo que hace su patrón. Los llamo amigos, porque les he dado a conocer todo lo que aprendí de mi Padre" (Jn. 15:15).

The word “slaves” (Gk. *doulos*) is the same words Mary used in Lk. 1:38. Mary too has grown from being a “Handmaid [and Mother] of the Lord” to a friend. How?

In the measure in which she came to know the mystery of God as revealed by her Son: “I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.” Mary not only has come to hear, but she has come to see for herself in Heaven the great mystery of who God is. And this is precisely what she wants to share with us.

Who learn from Mary the mysteries of God, not only become her friends, but also become friends of God. Remember that friends are inclusive of the friend’s friends.

A total consecration to Mary in the spirituality of Saint Louis de Montfort calls us to be her spiritual slaves. But in the context of a “Covenant of Love” with Mary as her friends, we gradually grow from slavery to friendship.

My invitation remains: Make a Covenant of Love with Mary! How? Last conference we applied the 7 characteristics of the Paterno-Filial with Mary. Let us now apply the characteristics of Fraternal Love with her.

La palabra “servidor” (Gk. *doulos*) es la misma que María utiliza en Lc. 1:38. María también creció de ser “la esclava [y Madre] del Señor” a Su amiga. ¿Cómo?

En la medida en que ella conoció los misterios de Dios revelado por Su Hijo: “Los llamo amigos, porque les he dado a conocer todo lo que aprendí de mi Padre.” María no solo ha aprendido por lo que ha escuchado de Su Hijo, pero al estar en el cielo, ella ahora conoce del misterio de Dios en persona. Esto es lo que ella quiere compartir con nosotros.

Quien aprenda de María los misterios de Dios, no solo se hace amigo de María, sino también amigo de Dios. Recordemos que los amigos son amigos de los amigos del amigo.

En la consagración total según la espiritualidad de San Luis de Montfort, uno se hace esclavo espiritual de María. Pero en el contexto de una Alianza de Amor con María como amigo uno gradualmente crece de esclavo a amigo.

Mi invitación persiste: ¡Hagan una Alianza de Amor con María! ¿Cómo? En la última conferencia aplicamos las 7 características del amor paternofilial con María. Ahora hagámoslo con las características del amor Fraternal.

Application of Fraternal Love with Mary:

1-Freedom of Choice: Freely Choose Mary, not just as your Mother, but as your Friend.

2-No Imposition: Willingly cultivate your relationship with Mary. Talk to her! Share with her your joys and sorrows, your worries and concerns. Let her be a friend in good times and bad.

Just as you were able to gain a greater insight into our parents as you relate to them from within your own challenges with your own spouse and child, so too, let the challenges of your life be the context from which you share with Mary.

Receive from her the Mystery of God as they apply to your daily struggles.

3-Equality: Know that she fully understands your human struggles as a creature. Unlike Jesus Christ who is human and God, Mary is equal to you in being a mere human creature. Whatever you are struggling with, she too struggled with! Ask her: "How did you deal with X and Y?" She will share her experiential knowledge and wisdom from the advantageous perspective of already being in Heaven.

Aplicación del Amor Fraternal con María:

1. Elije libremente a María como tu amiga, no solo como tu madre.

2. No impuesto: Voluntariamente cultiva la amistad. ¡Hable con ella! Comparte con ella tus alegrías y tristezas; tus preocupaciones y ansiedades. Déjala ser tu amiga en las buenas y en las malas.

Así como mejor pudiste relacionarte con tus padres desde el contexto de tus propias dificultades con tu pareja y tus hijos, así también relaciónate con María desde el contexto de las dificultades de tu diario vivir.

Recibe de ella los misterios de Dios que te revelara según sean aplicable a las dificultades de tu diario vivir.

3. Igualdad: Ella entiende completamente las luchas de ser una criatura humana. A diferencia de Jesucristo, que es humano y Dios, María es igual a nosotros en el hecho de ser una mera criatura humana. ¡Con lo que sea que estés luchando, ella también luchó! Pregúntele: "¿Cómo lidiaste con X e Y?" ¡Ella compartirá su experiencia contigo desde la gran ventaja de estar en el cielo!

4-Complementary Differences: But you may say: “She is not like me! She was Immaculately conceived, ever virgin, the mother of God. She did all things perfectly. She is not like me!” That is true! But don’t let her gifts and virtues become an obstacle. To the contrary, let them become complementary differences.

5-Starts with a commitment (Marian Consecration) and then cultivate the bond of friendship (Covenant of Love) by reciprocal accompaniment.

6- Interdependence: Let the friendship grow in healthy and beautiful interdependence. You depend in her with filial love and she will depend on you to be her instrument of maternal love for others.

7-Likeness: As you mutually share interests, hobbies, experiences, thoughts, dreams, and the more, gradually let yourself grow in her likeness!

Mary is the human creature most perfectly conformed into the mystery of Jesus Christ. Anyone who grows in the likeness of Mary, also grows in conformity with Jesus Christ.

4. Diferencias Complementarias: Pero puedes decir: “¡Ella no es como yo! Ella fue concebida inmaculadamente, siempre virgen, la madre de Dios. Ella hizo todas las cosas perfectamente. ¡Ella no es como yo!” Es cierto, pero no dejes que sus dones y virtudes se conviertan en obstáculos. Al contrario, deja que se conviertan en diferencias complementarias.

5- Empieza con el compromiso (una Consagración Mariana) y luego cultiva el vínculo de amistad con María (Alianza de Amor) por medio del acompañamiento mutuo y recíproco.

6- Interdependencia: Deja que la amistad se desarrolle en una bella y saludable interdependencia. Tu depende de ella con amor filial y ella dependerá de ti para que seas su instrumento de amor maternal para otros.

7- Asemejamiento: En la medida que compartan mutuamente los intereses, aficiones, experiencias, pensamientos, sueños, y lo demás, déjate gradualmente asemejarte a ella. **No hay creatura que se haya conformado mas a Cristo. Todo aquel que se asemeje a María, crecerá en conformidad a Cristo.**

One of the greatest lessons that we can learn from Mary is how to be small.

Jesus said: “Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 18:3-4)

Mary is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven, not because she is powerful and is crown with many glories, but because she remains little, humble, small, and childlike.

What is the smallest we can become as humans? We believe that human life begins at conception. The smallest we have ever been as humans was when we were conceived in our mother’s womb.

I imagine Mary’s smallness in Heaven to be as a fetus implanted within the Mystery of the Holy Trinity. I imagine her being in the Maternal Womb of the Father connected via the umbilical cord of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus. I imagine her to be floating in the waters of God’s love. If we are to be like Mary in her great smallness in Heaven, then she would be like our fraternal twin sister. And as we are being formed into the person of Jesus Christ on Earth, we

are ultimately being prepared to be re-born of Water and the Spirit. The Father is in labor pain to birth us into eternal life. And when we are finally born, we will be born into the likeness of Mary who is fully conformed to Christ and already living in Heaven what awaits us all to experience.

In the context of this imagery, now that words of Jesus Christ make more sense:

“Jesus said: ‘Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’ Nicodemus asked: ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time to be born?’ Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit” (Jn. 3:3-5).

Mary as your Fraternal Twin Sister.

[“Twins: One of two children produced in the same pregnancy.”

<https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=11428>

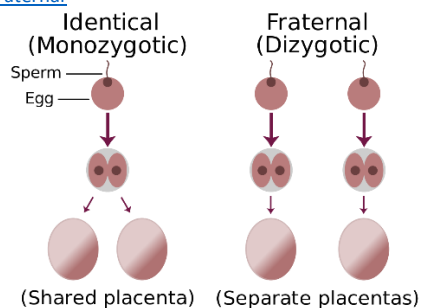
There are two most common types of Twins:

“**Identical twins** are also called monozygotic twins, meaning one fertilized egg. They occur when one egg is fertilized by one sperm as usual, but the egg splits in two shortly afterward. Each half then grows into a baby. Because they originally came from the same egg and sperm, 100 percent of their chromosomes are identical.

This means they're the same sex and have the same genetic characteristics, like hair and eye color. However, things in their environment, such as how much room they each had in the womb, can cause slight differences in their appearance.

The other name for **fraternal twins** is dizygotic twins, meaning two fertilized eggs. They're the result of the mother releasing two eggs at the same time with each egg being fertilized by a different sperm. Because they come from different eggs and sperm, they only share about 50 percent of their chromosomes like any other siblings. This means they can be the same or different sexes and aren't identical."

<https://www.healthline.com/health/pregnancy/types-of-twins#fraternal>



"The amniotic sac is a bag of fluid inside a woman's womb (uterus) where the unborn baby develops and grows. The amniotic sac is filled with clear, pale, straw-coloured fluid in which the unborn baby floats and moves.

The amniotic fluid helps to cushion the baby from bumps and injury, and maintains constant temperature for the baby. It also helps your baby's lungs, digestive system and musculoskeletal system to develop. (...)

Amniotic fluid is mainly water. (...) Without amniotic fluid, your baby is no longer protected and is at risk of infection."

<https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/pregnancy/what-is-the-amniotic-sac/>]

For the sake of continuity with the theme of applying the characteristics of fraternal love to

Mary, I would use the analogy of "Fraternal Twins."