

CORDI MARIAN INTERIORITY: FORMED IN MARY'S HEART FOR MISSION

Missionary Situation for Reflection

“What Does It Mean to Be a Son of the Heart of Mary?”

A young Claretian faithfully participates in the community's Marian devotions. He prays the Rosary, celebrates Marian feasts, and willingly joins pilgrimages and acts of consecration. Yet, during a formation dialogue, he admits: *“I love Mary, but I am not sure what it really means to be a Son of the Heart of Mary. Sometimes it feels like a title rather than a way of living. I know I should imitate Mary, but I do not always see how that influences my relationships, my missionary work, or the way I make decisions.”*

Another formandus shares a different concern: *“I appreciate Marian devotion, but I sometimes wonder how it relates to our missionary vocation. How does being deeply Marian make us better missionaries?”*

An experienced Claretian offers a simple response: *“Over the years I have discovered that being a Son of the Heart of Mary is not primarily about doing more Marian devotions. It is about allowing Mary to shape the way I pray, relate to others, discern God's will, and carry out my mission. The more I have allowed her to form my heart, the more I have learned to love Christ, the Church, and the people entrusted to my care.”*

These experiences raise an essential question for every Claretian: **What does it truly mean to live as a Son of the Heart of Mary?**

The answer cannot be found merely in devotional practices or theological knowledge. It lies in entering a lifelong relationship with Mary, allowing her maternal guidance to shape one's entire life according to Christ. This is the distinctive gift entrusted to our Congregation. As the Constitutions affirm: *“We attribute the founding of our Congregation to the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we honour as our Patroness under the title of her Immaculate Heart. Since we are called and truly are Sons of her Heart, we accompany her in love and trust and commit ourselves to her that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ and may cooperate with her in her maternal role in our apostolic mission.” (CC 8)*

This module invites every missionary to rediscover that the title **Son of the Heart of Mary** is not simply part of the Congregation's name but a vocation to be lived each day. It is an invitation to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of Christ through Mary's maternal companionship and to allow that relationship to shape one's prayer, community life, apostolic service, and missionary availability.

Reflection Questions

1. What does being a **Son of the Heart of Mary** mean to me personally?
2. How has my relationship with Mary influenced my vocation and missionary life?
3. Which attitudes of Mary's heart do I most desire to cultivate?
4. How can my Marian devotion become a more conscious expression of my missionary identity?

Formation Objective: This opening reflection invites the formandus to begin the module with a personal question rather than a theoretical concept: **Who am I becoming as a Son of the Heart of Mary?** Throughout this journey, the aim is not merely to understand Marian spirituality more deeply but to allow it to shape one's identity and mission in ever greater conformity to Christ.

General Introduction

Formed by Mary, Sent with Christ

The identity of every Claretian missionary is rooted in a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and expressed through the missionary charism entrusted by the Holy Spirit to St. Anthony Mary Claret. This identity is inseparably Christological, ecclesial, missionary, and Marian. The very name of our Congregation—**Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**—expresses this unity of vocation and mission. We are missionaries who follow Christ, and we live this vocation as sons who entrust themselves to the maternal Heart of Mary.

Our Constitutions place this Marian identity at the very centre of our vocation: *“We attribute the founding of our Congregation to the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we honour as our Patroness under the title of her Immaculate Heart. Since we are called and truly are Sons of her Heart, we accompany her in love and trust and commit ourselves to her that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ and may cooperate with her in her maternal role in our apostolic mission.”* (CC 8)

This constitutional statement provides the key for understanding Cordi-Marian identity. It is neither an additional devotion nor a distinguishing feature added to an already complete missionary vocation. Rather, it expresses the particular way in which Claretians are called to live their following of Christ. Mary’s maternal presence accompanies our vocation from its beginning, nurturing our growth in discipleship and encouraging our participation in Christ’s saving mission.

St. Anthony Mary Claret experienced this reality throughout his life. His relationship with Mary was deeply personal and profoundly apostolic. He entrusted his vocation, his preaching, his sufferings, and the very foundation of the Congregation to her maternal care. For him, Mary always led to Christ, strengthened missionary zeal, and sustained fidelity amid trials. Consequently, he desired that every missionary should cultivate the same filial confidence and allow Mary to accompany him in becoming an authentic apostle of the Gospel.

The Church presents Mary as the first disciple of Christ and the model of the Church’s missionary vocation. Through her faith, obedience, and complete openness to the Holy Spirit, she cooperated uniquely in God’s plan of salvation (*Lumen Gentium*, 53–58). Her life reveals the attitudes that every missionary is called to cultivate: attentive listening to the Word, generous availability to God’s will, compassionate service, steadfast fidelity in suffering, and persevering hope. These are not simply virtues to admire but dispositions to be gradually embodied in everyday life.

The **General Plan of Formation** adopts the image of the **Forge of the Heart of Mary** to describe the Claretian formative journey. It reminds us that missionaries are continually shaped by the Holy Spirit in Mary’s Heart so that they may become ever more fully configured to Christ and available for His mission (GPF 2020, Presentation, no. 2). This image highlights that formation is not limited to initial stages but continues throughout life, as every experience becomes an opportunity for deeper conversion and renewed apostolic generosity.

Accordingly, this module approaches Cordi-Marian identity not simply as a theological theme but as a **way of life**. It seeks to help each missionary understand the biblical, ecclesial, and Claretian foundations of this identity, recognize its expression in daily living, and cultivate the attitudes that characterize a true Son of the Heart of Mary. The goal is not only to know Mary better, but to allow her maternal example and intercession to shape one’s relationship with Christ, one’s life in community, and one’s service to the Church.

Formation Objectives

By the end of this module, the formandus should be able to:

- explain the biblical, theological, and Claretian foundations of Cordi-Marian identity;
- understand why being a **Son of the Heart of Mary** is constitutive of Claretian missionary identity (CC 8);

- appreciate Mary's role as Mother, disciple, companion, and model of missionary life;
- integrate Cordi-Marian identity into personal prayer, community life, missionary ministry, and vocational discernment;
- identify attitudes and behaviours that express mature Cordi-Marian identity;
- commit himself to ongoing growth as a missionary formed in the Claretian Marian tradition.

Key Orientation: This module is not primarily about learning **how to honour Mary**, but about discovering **how to live as a Son of her Heart**. As this identity matures, Marian devotion becomes a source of evangelical discipleship, apostolic charity, and joyful missionary service, enabling the Claretian to participate more fully in the mission of Christ for the life of the Church and the salvation of the world.

I. The Meaning of Cordi-Marian Identity

“Behold, your Mother.” (Jn 19:27)

Every Christian is invited to receive Mary as Mother, following Jesus' words from the Cross (Jn 19:25–27). For the Claretian missionary, this filial relationship assumes a distinctive charismatic expression. We are called not simply to foster devotion to Mary but to live as **Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, allowing her maternal presence to shape our way of following Christ and carrying out His mission.

The Constitutions express this identity with remarkable clarity: *“We attribute the founding of our Congregation to the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we honour as our Patroness under the title of her Immaculate Heart. Since we are called and truly are Sons of her Heart, we accompany her in love and trust and commit ourselves to her that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ and may cooperate with her in her maternal role in our apostolic mission.”* (CC 8)

This constitutional statement is the foundation of the Claretian understanding of Cordi-Marian identity. It affirms that our relationship with Mary is intrinsic to our vocation and directly oriented toward conformity with Christ and participation in His saving mission.

1. Identity as Gift and Vocation

Every vocation begins with God's initiative. Before it becomes a personal response, identity is a gift received in faith. Through Baptism we become children of God and disciples of Christ. Religious profession deepens this baptismal vocation by consecrating one's whole life to God through the evangelical counsels. Within this broader vocation, every religious family lives the Gospel according to its own charism.

For Claretians, this charism includes a distinctive Marian dimension. Our identity is expressed in the very name of the Congregation: **Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**. Mission and Marian identity are therefore inseparable. Mary is not an external addition to our missionary vocation but part of the way we live it.

The **General Plan of Formation** presents this Marian dimension as an essential element of Claretian identity, inviting every missionary to grow progressively in communion with Christ through the formative influence of Mary (GPF 2020, 2.1.2).

Identity is therefore dynamic. It matures throughout life as the missionary faithfully responds to God's grace and grows in the spirit of the Founder.

2. Why the Heart of Mary?

In biblical language, the **heart** is the centre of the person—the place where one listens, believes, remembers, discerns, loves, and decides. It represents the whole person in relationship with God.

The Gospel reveals Mary's heart as completely open to God's saving plan. She listens attentively to God's Word (Lk 1:26–38), treasures His action within her (Lk 2:19, 51), remains faithful at the foot of the Cross (Jn 19:25–27), and perseveres in prayer with the disciples awaiting the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14).

For this reason, the Heart of Mary symbolizes the interior dispositions that characterize authentic Christian discipleship:

- attentive listening;
- trusting faith;
- generous availability;
- compassionate love;
- persevering fidelity;
- joyful hope.

These evangelical attitudes make Mary the model of every disciple and the inspiration for every Claretian missionary.

3. What Does It Mean to Be a Son of the Heart of Mary?

The title **Son of the Heart of Mary** expresses a living relationship that gradually shapes the missionary's entire life. It embraces four closely related dimensions.

a. A Filial Relationship: The missionary receives Mary as Mother, entrusting himself to her loving care with confidence and simplicity. This filial relationship nurtures trust in God's providence and openness to His will.

b. A School of Discipleship: Mary accompanies the missionary in learning to follow Christ. By contemplating her life in the Gospel, he gradually acquires the attitudes of listening, humility, service, perseverance, and faith that characterized her discipleship.

c. A Missionary Relationship: Mary's entire life was directed toward Christ's mission. From the Annunciation to Pentecost, she remained completely available to God's saving work. Likewise, every Son of her Heart is called to bring Christ to others with generosity, compassion, and apostolic zeal.

d. An Ecclesial Relationship: As Mother of the Church, Mary teaches the missionary to love and serve the ecclesial community. She fosters communion, missionary collaboration, and faithful service to the People of God.

These four dimensions together reveal that Cordi-Marian identity is fundamentally a way of living one's vocation rather than simply practising Marian devotion.

4. Cordi-Marian Identity in the Claretian Charism

The Marian character of the Congregation originates in the lived experience of St. Anthony Mary Claret and has become a permanent element of our charism.

The **Directory** emphasizes that consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is "a characteristic note of our missionary life" (**Dir. 32**).

Similarly, the General Plan of Formation presents Mary as an indispensable presence in the missionary's journey of formation, helping him grow in communion with Christ and in apostolic availability (GPF 2020, 2.1.2).

Consequently, Cordi-Marian identity is expressed not primarily in external practices but in a missionary who increasingly reflects the attitudes of Mary's heart:

- attentive to God's Word;
- humble in service;
- compassionate toward others;
- faithful in difficulties;

- available for mission;
- committed to building communion.

These attitudes gradually become the visible expression of belonging to the Heart of Mary.

5. A Lifelong Journey

Cordi-Marian identity is never fully achieved. It grows throughout life as the missionary continues to deepen his relationship with Christ and to respond more generously to the Spirit's action.

Every stage of formation contributes to this growth:

- **Postulancy:** discovering Mary's place in Christian and Claretian life.
- **Novitiate:** developing a filial relationship with Mary and integrating Marian spirituality into religious life.
- **Post-novitiate:** expressing Marian identity through study, community life, and apostolic ministry.
- **Ongoing formation:** renewing one's missionary vocation through Mary's constant accompaniment.

This lifelong journey reflects the General Plan of Formation's understanding of formation as a continuous process of growth in Christ according to the Claretian vocation (GPF 2020, Presentation, nos. 10–12).

Missionary Reflection

Reflect prayerfully on the following questions:

1. What does being a **Son of the Heart of Mary** mean in my own vocational journey?
2. Which Gospel attitude of Mary most challenges me today?
3. How has my relationship with Mary influenced my prayer, community life, and missionary ministry?
4. In what concrete way is God inviting me to grow in my Cordi-Marian identity?

Key Insight: To be a **Son of the Heart of Mary** is to live one's missionary vocation in a filial relationship with Mary, allowing her example and maternal accompaniment to deepen communion with Christ and strengthen commitment to His mission. This identity is not acquired at once but grows progressively through faithful discipleship and lifelong formation.

II. Biblical and Theological Foundations of Cordi-Marian Identity

“Blessed is she who believed.” (Lk 1:45)

The Cordi-Marian identity of the Claretian missionary is firmly rooted in Sacred Scripture and the living Tradition of the Church. Mary's place in our vocation does not arise simply from a cherished devotion or the personal spirituality of St. Anthony Mary Claret. It is grounded in God's plan of salvation, revealed in the Scriptures and continually reflected upon in the Church's teaching. The Bible presents Mary as the first disciple of Christ, the faithful servant of the Lord, the Mother of the Redeemer, and the Mother of the Church. The Church, in turn, contemplates her as the model of discipleship and missionary openness to the Holy Spirit. These biblical and theological foundations explain why Mary occupies a constitutive place in the Claretian vocation.

1. Mary in God's Plan of Salvation

The history of salvation unfolds through God's initiative and humanity's free response. Mary occupies a unique place within this history because, through her faith and obedience, she freely cooperated in the mystery of the Incarnation.

At the Annunciation (Lk 1:26–38), Mary's response, "*Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word*" (Lk 1:38), marks the beginning of a life completely available to God's saving plan.

The Second Vatican Council teaches: "The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined Mother, so that just as a woman contributed to death, so also a woman should contribute to life." (*Lumen Gentium*, 56)

Mary's greatness therefore lies not simply in her divine motherhood but in her faithful cooperation with God's plan. Her "yes" becomes the model of every vocation, including the missionary vocation.

For the Claretian, this response remains the first lesson in missionary availability: God's mission always begins by listening, trusting, and surrendering oneself to His will.

2. Mary: The First and Perfect Disciple

The Gospels consistently portray Mary as the first disciple of Christ. Elizabeth proclaims: "*Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.*" (Lk 1:45)

Throughout her life Mary continues this pilgrimage of faith.

She:

- listens attentively to God's Word (Lk 1:26–38);
- treasures God's action in her heart (Lk 2:19, 51);
- follows Christ even when His ways remain mysterious (Lk 2:48–50);
- remains faithful beneath the Cross (Jn 19:25–27);
- perseveres in prayer with the apostolic community (Acts 1:14).

Rather than presenting Mary as extraordinary because of privileges alone, the Gospels reveal her as extraordinary because of her faithful discipleship.

The Second Vatican Council therefore calls her "the outstanding model in faith and charity" (*Lumen Gentium*, 53).

This biblical portrait gives Cordi-Marian identity its deepest meaning. The Son of the Heart of Mary is first called to become a faithful disciple before becoming an effective missionary.

3. Mary and the Church

Mary's mission extends beyond the earthly life of Jesus. Standing beneath the Cross, she receives from Christ a new vocation: "*Woman, behold your son.*" "*Behold your mother.*" (Jn 19:26–27)

The Church has always understood this scene as expressing Mary's spiritual motherhood of all Christ's disciples.

Her presence continues after the Resurrection. Together with the apostles she awaits the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14), becoming a visible sign of communion, hope, and perseverance.

For this reason, the Church recognizes Mary as:

- Mother of the Church;
- first among the disciples;

- model of evangelization;
- image of the Church responding faithfully to Christ.

The Second Vatican Council summarizes this beautifully: “She is the pre-eminent and wholly unique member of the Church and its type and outstanding model in faith and charity.” (*Lumen Gentium*, 53)

Consequently, authentic Marian spirituality always deepens communion with the Church and strengthens commitment to her evangelizing mission.

4. Mary: Model of Missionary Discipleship

Although Mary did not preach publicly like the apostles, her entire life possesses a missionary character. Immediately after the Annunciation, “Mary set out and went with haste...” (Lk 1:39). She carries Christ to Elizabeth.

At Cana she directs others toward Him: “*Do whatever he tells you.*” (Jn 2:5)

At Pentecost she accompanies the birth of the Church’s missionary outreach.

Mary’s mission is therefore one of presence, accompaniment, encouragement, and pointing others toward Christ.

Pope Francis beautifully presents her as the **Star of the New Evangelization**, who continues to accompany the Church’s missionary journey (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 284–288).

For the Claretian missionary, this offers an enduring model of evangelization:

- bringing Christ rather than oneself;
- serving quietly and generously;
- remaining close to people;
- encouraging faith and hope;
- accompanying others with maternal compassion.

5. Biblical Attitudes that Shape Cordi-Marian Identity

The Scriptures reveal a number of attitudes that characterize Mary’s discipleship and continue to inspire every Son of the Heart of Mary.

Gospel Attitude	Biblical Witness	Missionary Expression
Listening	Lk 1:26–38	Openness to God’s Word and discernment
Faith	Lk 1:45	Trust in God’s promises despite uncertainty
Contemplation	Lk 2:19, 51	Reflective and prayerful living
Service	Lk 1:39–45	Readiness to serve generously
Fidelity	Jn 19:25	Perseverance during suffering
Prayer	Acts 1:14	Dependence on the Holy Spirit
Mission	Jn 2:5	Leading others to Christ

These attitudes provide a biblical portrait of mature discipleship. They also serve as practical criteria for evaluating one’s own growth in Cordi-Marian identity.

Missionary Reflection

Read prayerfully one of the following Gospel passages:

- Luke 1:26–38
- Luke 1:39–56
- John 2:1–11
- John 19:25–27
- Acts 1:12–14

Then reflect:

1. Which attitude of Mary speaks most strongly to my present stage of formation?
2. What does this passage teach me about missionary discipleship?
3. How can I embody this Gospel attitude more concretely in my prayer, community life, or apostolic ministry?

Key Insight: The biblical and theological foundations of Cordi-Marian identity reveal Mary as the first and perfect disciple of Christ. Her life demonstrates that missionary fruitfulness begins with faith, listening, service, fidelity, and openness to the Holy Spirit. By contemplating her in the light of Scripture and the Church's teaching, the Claretian missionary discovers the attitudes that sustain a life of joyful discipleship and generous apostolic service.

III. The Claretian Vision of the Heart of Mary

“Since we are called and truly are Sons of her Heart...” (CC 8)

The Marian identity of the Claretian missionary is not simply one expression of Catholic spirituality among many. It is a constitutive dimension of the charism entrusted by the Holy Spirit to St. Anthony Mary Claret. While every Christian is called to love and imitate Mary, Claretians are invited to live their missionary vocation under the special title of **Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, allowing her maternal presence to inspire and sustain their apostolic life.

This identity did not emerge from a theological theory but from the lived experience of the Founder. Claret discovered in Mary the one who continually led him to Christ, strengthened him in his missionary labours, and accompanied him in every stage of his vocation. This personal experience became the spiritual heritage of the Congregation and continues to shape its life, mission, and formation.

1. St. Anthony Mary Claret's Marian Experience

Mary occupied a central place in Claret's spiritual and apostolic life from his earliest years. His devotion was deeply biblical, Christ-centred, and missionary. He regarded Mary not only as his Mother but also as his Protectress, Guide, and Companion in the proclamation of the Gospel.

Throughout the *Autobiography*, Claret acknowledges her maternal assistance at decisive moments of his life and mission (cf. **Aut. 270; 427; 687**). He entrusted to her his preaching, missionary journeys, sufferings, and the foundation of the Congregation. His confidence in Mary arose not from sentiment but from the conviction that she continually leads disciples to faithful service of Christ.

For Claret, devotion to Mary was always inseparable from apostolic commitment. The closer he drew to Mary, the more ardently he desired to make Christ known and loved.

2. Mary in the Identity of the Congregation

The Founder bequeathed this Marian experience to the Congregation. Consequently, Mary's place in Claretian life is not merely devotional but constitutional and charismatic.

The Constitutions affirm: *“We attribute the founding of our Congregation to the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we honour as our Patroness under the title of her Immaculate Heart. Since we are called and truly are Sons of her Heart...” (CC 8)*

This article expresses three essential convictions:

- the Congregation recognizes Mary's maternal intervention in its origin;
- every Claretian receives his vocation as a **Son of the Heart of Mary**;

- this Marian identity is directed toward conformity with Christ and participation in His apostolic mission.

The **Directory** further deepens this vision: “*The consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary... must be considered as a characteristic note of our missionary life.*” (**Dir. 32**)

Thus, Marian identity belongs to the permanent patrimony of the Congregation and is an essential element of Claretian spirituality.

3. The Forge of the Heart of Mary

One of the richest images in the Claretian tradition is the **Forge of the Heart of Mary**.

The **General Plan of Formation** adopts this image to describe the entire formative journey: “*For our Founder this process takes place in the Forge of the Heart of Mary...*” (GPF 2020, Presentation, no. 2).

A forge is a place where metal is transformed through fire into a useful instrument. The image expresses the gradual work of the Holy Spirit, who shapes the missionary through the ordinary experiences of life.

The forge reminds us that formation is:

- gradual rather than instantaneous;
- transformative rather than merely informative;
- lifelong rather than limited to initial formation;
- centred on Christ while lived in communion with Mary.

Every experience of prayer, community life, apostolic ministry, suffering, success, failure, and discernment becomes part of this formative process.

The Forge is therefore not simply a programme of renewal but a way of understanding the whole missionary vocation.

4. Distinctive Features of the Claretian Marian Spirit

The Marian spirit inherited from St. Anthony Mary Claret possesses several distinctive characteristics that continue to shape the Congregation today.

a. Christ-centred

- Mary never becomes the goal of the missionary’s journey; she continually leads to Christ.
- Her words at Cana remain the programme of every Claretian: “*Do whatever he tells you.*” (Jn 2:5)

b. Apostolic

- Mary accompanies the whole history of salvation—from the Annunciation to Pentecost—with complete availability to God’s mission.
- The Son of her Heart likewise understands his vocation as one of generous missionary service.

c. Ecclesial

- Mary lives in profound communion with Christ and His Church.
- Consequently, Cordi-Marian identity strengthens love for the Church, fidelity to its mission, and collaboration within the missionary community.

d. Contemplative in Action

- Mary unites attentive listening with generous service.
- Her life teaches missionaries to integrate contemplation and apostolic activity rather than separating them.

e. Compassionate

- Standing beneath the Cross, Mary becomes the image of compassionate accompaniment.
- Her maternal sensitivity inspires missionaries to remain close to the poor, the suffering, and those on the margins.

f. Hope-filled

- Mary's Magnificat proclaims God's fidelity even before His promises are visibly fulfilled.
- The Son of her Heart therefore carries hope into situations marked by discouragement, conflict, and uncertainty.

5. Claretian Identity in Everyday Life

The Claretian Marian spirit becomes visible in ordinary missionary life. A missionary who lives as a Son of the Heart of Mary gradually becomes a person who:

- listens before speaking;
- discerns before acting;
- serves without seeking recognition;
- remains faithful in adversity;
- welcomes new missionary challenges;
- builds fraternity within the community;
- proclaims Christ with joy and simplicity.

These attitudes are not extraordinary achievements but the ordinary fruits of a life lived in harmony with the Claretian charism.

Claret Speaks

- The Founder frequently expressed his filial confidence in Mary. Two texts illustrate his experience:
- *"I placed myself entirely in the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary."* (**Aut. 270**)
- *"Mary is my Mother, my Mistress, my Teacher, my Directress, and my All after Jesus."* (cf. **Aut. 687**)

These expressions summarize the spirit that he wished to transmit to the Congregation: a confident, Christ-centred, and missionary relationship with Mary.

Missionary Reflection

Reflect prayerfully on the following questions:

1. Which aspect of Claret's relationship with Mary speaks most strongly to my own vocation?
2. How does the image of the **Forge of the Heart of Mary** help me understand my present stage of formation?
3. Which characteristic of the Claretian Marian spirit do I most recognize in my life? Which requires greater growth?
4. How can I help my community live more consciously as a community of **Sons of the Heart of Mary**?

Key Insight: The Claretian vision of the Heart of Mary flows from the lived experience of St. Anthony Mary Claret and is permanently expressed in the Constitutions, the Directory, and the General Plan of Formation. As Sons of the Heart of Mary, we receive a distinctive way of living the Gospel—one that unites contemplation and mission, fidelity and availability, communion and evangelization, always under Mary's maternal guidance and in service of Christ's mission.

IV. The Journey of Becoming a Son of the Heart of Mary

“Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.” (Lk 2:19)

Cordi-Marian identity is not acquired through a single act of devotion or by completing a stage of formation. Like every authentic vocation, it matures progressively through daily fidelity to God, openness to the Holy Spirit, and generous participation in the Church’s mission. The journey of becoming a Son of the Heart of Mary is therefore a lifelong process of growth in discipleship.

The **General Plan of Formation** presents formation as a continuous process that accompanies the missionary throughout his life, leading him to ever greater conformity with Christ according to the Claretian vocation (GPF 2020, Presentation, nos. 10–12).

This journey can be understood through five complementary stages that are not strictly chronological but represent a continual rhythm of growth.

1. Discover: Encountering Mary in the Mystery of Christ

Every journey begins with discovery. The missionary first encounters Mary through the Gospel and the life of the Church. He comes to appreciate her place in God’s plan of salvation, her discipleship, and her unique relationship with Christ.

This discovery gradually broadens to include the Marian dimension of the Claretian vocation. Mary is no longer perceived merely as an object of devotion but as an integral part of the missionary’s own identity.

At this stage the missionary learns to appreciate:

- Mary’s role in salvation history;
- her place in the Church;
- her significance in the Claretian charism;
- the meaning of being called a **Son of the Heart of Mary**.

The journey begins with knowledge, but it is directed toward a living relationship.

2. Belong: Growing in Filial Communion

Discovery naturally leads to belonging. The missionary gradually entrusts himself to Mary’s maternal care and learns to live with confidence in her guidance. This filial relationship is expressed not simply through prayers but through an attitude of trust, openness, and availability to God’s will.

The Constitutions invite us to “accompany her in love and trust” (CC 8).

Belonging is nurtured by:

- daily prayer;
- confidence in Mary’s intercession;
- imitation of her virtues;
- gratitude for her maternal presence.

Gradually the missionary experiences Mary not simply as a figure of the past but as a living companion in his vocation.

3. Grow: Acquiring the Attitudes of Mary’s Heart

As the relationship deepens, attention shifts from external practices to interior growth. The missionary begins to cultivate the dispositions that characterized Mary’s own life.

Among these attitudes are:

- attentive listening to God's Word;
- humble service;
- generous availability;
- perseverance in difficulties;
- compassion toward others;
- joyful hope.

Growth is rarely dramatic. It takes place through the ordinary experiences of prayer, community life, ministry, successes, failures, and personal accompaniment.

The Holy Spirit gradually forms these evangelical attitudes within the missionary, enabling him to respond to life with increasing freedom and maturity.

4. Serve: Participating in Christ's Mission

Authentic Marian spirituality naturally leads to mission. Immediately after the Annunciation, Mary "went with haste" to serve Elizabeth (Lk 1:39). Her encounter with God immediately became service to others.

Likewise, the missionary discovers that Cordi-Marian identity finds its fullest expression in apostolic life.

He learns to:

- proclaim Christ with conviction;
- accompany people compassionately;
- remain close to the poor and vulnerable;
- foster communion;
- accept missionary assignments generously;
- witness to hope in difficult situations.

Mission is no longer viewed merely as an activity but as the natural expression of a life rooted in Christ.

5. Witness: Living as a Son of the Heart of Mary

The final stage is not perfection but maturity. The missionary's identity becomes increasingly integrated. Prayer, community life, ministry, and relationships are no longer experienced as separate dimensions but as expressions of one coherent way of living the Gospel.

Without consciously trying to imitate Mary, he gradually begins to reflect her attitudes:

- serenity in trials;
- compassion toward others;
- simplicity of life;
- fidelity to prayer;
- generosity in service;
- joyful perseverance in mission.

His life becomes a witness to the Marian dimension of the Claretian vocation. This is the missionary envisioned by our Founder: "*A Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a man on fire with love, who spreads its flames wherever he goes...*" (CC 9)

The Journey at a Glance

Stage	Central Question	Formation Focus	Visible Fruit
Discover	Who is Mary?	Understanding her role in Scripture, the Church, and the Claretian charism	Appreciation of Marian identity
Belong	How do I relate to Mary?	Filial trust and companionship	Confidence and openness to God
Grow	What attitudes is God forming in me?	Interior conversion and evangelical virtues	Greater human and spiritual maturity
Serve	How does my Marian identity shape my mission?	Apostolic charity and missionary availability	Generous service and pastoral compassion
Witness	What kind of missionary am I becoming?	Integration of vocation and life	Joyful and credible missionary discipleship

Missionary Reflection

Spend some time reviewing your own vocational journey.

1. Which stage best describes my present experience?
2. What events or people have helped me grow in my relationship with Mary?
3. Which evangelical attitude of Mary is the Holy Spirit inviting me to cultivate more intentionally?
4. How is my Marian identity becoming visible in my prayer, community life, and apostolic ministry?

Formation Exercise

Draw a timeline of your vocational journey. Mark the significant moments in which you experienced Mary's guidance or protection. Reflect on how these experiences have shaped your understanding of your vocation as a **Missionary Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**.

If appropriate, share one of these experiences with your spiritual director, formator, or formation community.

Key Insight: Becoming a Son of the Heart of Mary is a lifelong journey of discipleship. As the missionary grows in filial communion with Mary, he gradually acquires her evangelical attitudes, serves Christ with greater generosity, and becomes a credible witness to the Gospel in the spirit of St. Anthony Mary Claret.

V. Characteristics of Mature Cordi-Marian Identity

“...that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ and may cooperate with her in her maternal role in our apostolic mission.” (CC 8)

The purpose of Cordi-Marian formation is not merely to increase Marian devotion but to shape missionaries whose lives increasingly reflect the heart of Mary and the sentiments of Christ. Growth in this identity is not measured primarily by external religious practices but by the gradual transformation of attitudes, relationships, decisions, and missionary service.

St. Anthony Mary Claret did not want missionaries who simply honoured Mary; he wanted missionaries who allowed themselves to be formed by her. Likewise, the General Plan of Formation presents Marian formation as an interior process of conformity to Christ in the forge of the Heart of Mary (GPF 2020, Presentation, no. 2; 2.1.2).

The following characteristics are signs of a mature Cordi-Marian identity. They are not isolated virtues but interconnected dimensions of a missionary whose life has been shaped by Mary's maternal presence.

1. Christ-Centred

Mary's entire life points to Christ. At Cana she simply says, "*Do whatever he tells you.*" (Jn 2:5)

She never becomes the centre of attention but continually directs others to her Son.

Likewise, the Son of the Heart of Mary:

- places Christ at the centre of his life;
- seeks intimacy with Him through prayer;
- proclaims Christ rather than himself;
- measures every decision against the Gospel.

The Constitutions remind us that our Marian commitment exists "that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ" (CC 8).

Formation Practice: At the end of each day ask: *Did my words and actions today lead others closer to Christ or merely draw attention to myself?*

2. A Heart that Listens

Mary is the woman who listens.

- She listens to the angel.
- She listens to Simeon.
- She treasures God's action in her heart.
- She listens beneath the Cross.

Listening is therefore one of the deepest expressions of Marian spirituality.

A mature Son of the Heart of Mary:

- listens before speaking;
- welcomes God's Word daily;
- pays attention to people;
- listens respectfully in community;
- discerns before making decisions.

This listening attitude is indispensable for missionary discernment.

Formation Practice: Dedicate fifteen minutes each day to silent listening before God without seeking immediate answers.

3. Apostolic Charity

The distinguishing mark of Claretian life is apostolic charity. Our Founder describes the missionary as: "*A Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a man on fire with love...*" (CC 9)

Mary herself embodies this apostolic love. Immediately after receiving Christ, she hastens to Elizabeth (Lk 1:39). Love naturally becomes mission.

A mature Cordi-Marian missionary:

- notices the needs of others;

- serves without calculation;
- accompanies those who suffer;
- rejoices in another's growth;
- gives generously without expecting recognition.

Formation Practice: Each week identify one concrete act of hidden charity that no one else will notice.

4. Humility and Simplicity

Mary's greatness lies in her humility. She calls herself "*the handmaid of the Lord*" (Lk 1:38). Claret admired this evangelical simplicity throughout his life.

The Son of the Heart of Mary:

- accepts correction peacefully;
- acknowledges his limitations;
- avoids seeking prestige;
- lives simply;
- appreciates ordinary people.

Humility creates space for God's action.

Formation Practice: Reflect: *Where do I still seek recognition more than faithful service?*

5. Compassion and Tenderness

Mary stands beneath the Cross. She remains close to suffering humanity. Consequently, the missionary formed in her Heart develops genuine compassion.

Compassion includes:

- patience with weaknesses;
- sensitivity toward suffering;
- respectful accompaniment;
- emotional availability;
- pastoral gentleness.

This tenderness is especially important in today's fragmented world. Pope Francis frequently proposes Mary's maternal tenderness as a model for evangelization (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 288).

Formation Practice: During pastoral ministry ask: *Did people experience God's tenderness through me?*

6. Missionary Availability

Mary's response to God's call is immediate. "*Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord*" (Lk 1:38). Availability is therefore a defining Marian attitude.

The mature missionary:

- accepts assignments generously;
- remains flexible;
- welcomes new cultures;
- embraces missionary sacrifice;

- places mission above personal preferences.

The Constitutions describe this apostolic availability as an essential characteristic of the missionary vocation (CC 46–50).

Formation Practice: Prayerfully ask: *Am I available only for the mission I prefer or for the mission God entrusts to me through the Congregation?*

7. Builder of Communion

Mary gathered the disciples at Pentecost (Acts 1:14). She did not divide but united. Likewise, the Son of the Heart of Mary becomes a builder of fraternity.

He:

- promotes dialogue;
- reconciles differences;
- appreciates diversity;
- encourages collaboration;
- avoids gossip;
- strengthens community life.

This reflects our missionary community envisioned in the Constitutions (CC 10–18).

Formation Practice: This week intentionally strengthen one relationship within your community.

8. Joyful Perseverance

Mary remained faithful:

- at Bethlehem;
- in Nazareth;
- at Calvary;
- in the Upper Room.

She teaches perseverance rooted in hope rather than success.

The mature missionary:

- remains faithful during dryness;
- accepts setbacks peacefully;
- learns from failures;
- continues serving with hope;
- trusts God’s providence.

This joyful endurance becomes a powerful witness.

Formation Practice: Reflect on one present difficulty. Ask: *How would Mary invite me to live this situation with hope?*

9. Spirit of Discernment

Mary constantly pondered events in her heart (Lk 2:19, 51). She teaches reflective living. The Cordi-Marian missionary:

- seeks God’s will patiently;

- avoids impulsive decisions;
- discerns communally;
- integrates prayer and action;
- remains attentive to the movements of the Holy Spirit.

Such discernment characterizes mature missionary leadership.

Formation Practice: Before making significant decisions: Pause. Pray. Listen. Consult. Then decide.

Summary: Portrait of a Mature Son of the Heart of Mary

A missionary whose Cordi-Marian identity has matured:

- loves Christ above all;
- listens attentively to God and others;
- serves with apostolic charity;
- lives with humility and simplicity;
- accompanies people with compassion;
- remains available for mission;
- builds communion wherever he lives;
- perseveres joyfully through difficulties;
- discerns under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

These qualities are not acquired overnight. They gradually emerge as the missionary allows himself to be continually formed in the Forge of the Heart of Mary.

Missionary Reflection

Take time to evaluate your own growth.

- Which three characteristics are most evident in my life?
- Which two require greater growth?
- What concrete step can I take during the coming month to allow Mary to form me more deeply in these areas?

Personal Growth Exercise

Using the scale below, evaluate yourself honestly.

Characteristic	1	2	3	4	5
Christ-centred	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Listening heart	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Apostolic charity	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Humility	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Compassion	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Missionary availability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Communion-building	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Joyful perseverance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Discernment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Key Insight: Mature Cordi-Marian identity is not measured by the quantity of Marian devotions but by the quality of one's conformity to Christ. As the Holy Spirit forms the missionary in the Heart of

Mary, his life increasingly reflects Christ's love through humility, compassion, discernment, communion, and joyful apostolic service.

VI. Living Cordi-Marian Identity in Daily Mission

“Do whatever he tells you.” (Jn 2:5)

Cordi-Marian identity reaches its full meaning only when it is translated into everyday life. It is not enough to admire Mary's virtues or celebrate Marian feasts; the missionary is called to allow the Heart of Mary to shape his attitudes, relationships, decisions, and apostolic service. The authenticity of our Marian identity is measured less by external devotional practices than by the extent to which we think, love, discern, and serve as Mary did.

St. Anthony Mary Claret understood this well. His profound love for Mary did not isolate him from the realities of the world; rather, it made him more courageous, compassionate, available, and tireless in proclaiming the Gospel. Likewise, the Constitutions remind us that our commitment to Mary is ordered toward conformity to Christ and cooperation in her maternal mission (CC 8).

The following areas illustrate how Cordi-Marian identity becomes a concrete way of living.

1. Cordi-Marian Identity in Personal Prayer

Prayer is the first place where the missionary learns to think and love with the Heart of Mary. Mary's life was marked by attentive listening to God's Word, contemplative silence, praise, intercession, and faithful perseverance.

A Son of the Heart of Mary therefore cultivates a prayer life that is:

- centred on Christ;
- nourished by Scripture;
- attentive to the movements of the Holy Spirit;
- sustained by silence and contemplation;
- expressed through filial trust in Mary.

Marian prayer does not replace prayer to Christ but disposes the heart to receive Him more fully.

Practical Applications

- Begin the day by entrusting the day's mission to the Heart of Mary.
- Pray the Rosary contemplatively rather than mechanically.
- Practise *Lectio Divina* with Mary's attitude of pondering the Word (Lk 2:19).
- End each day with a Marian examen: *How did I respond to God today as Mary would have done?*

2. Cordi-Marian Identity in Community Life

The Heart of Mary is a school of fraternity. Mary gathered the disciples in prayer before Pentecost (Acts 1:14), fostering communion rather than division.

Likewise, Cordi-Marian identity is reflected in the way missionaries live together.

The missionary formed by Mary's Heart:

- respects each confrere as a brother;
- listens patiently;
- resolves conflicts peacefully;
- avoids gossip and unnecessary criticism;

- encourages others;
- contributes to an atmosphere of trust and hope.

The Constitutions remind us that our missionary vocation is lived in community, where mutual love strengthens our apostolic witness (CC 10–18).

Community Practice: At each community meeting ask: *How can our community become a clearer reflection of the Heart of Mary?*

3. Cordi-Marian Identity in Apostolic Ministry

Mary always directs attention to Christ. Her instruction at Cana remains the guiding principle of every apostolate: “*Do whatever he tells you.*” (Jn 2:5)

The missionary therefore does not seek personal success or recognition but desires that others encounter Christ.

This is evident when he:

- preaches with conviction and humility;
- accompanies people patiently;
- evangelizes with tenderness;
- serves without discrimination;
- remains close to the poor and marginalized;
- inspires hope rather than fear.

Our Founder desired missionaries who combined apostolic zeal with profound charity, becoming “men on fire with love” (CC 9).

Pastoral Reflection

After every apostolic activity ask:

- Did I reveal Christ?
- Did people experience God’s mercy?
- Did my ministry reflect the compassion of Mary’s Heart?

4. Cordi-Marian Identity in Leadership and Service

Authority in the Claretian tradition is fundamentally a ministry of communion and mission. Mary exercised no external authority, yet her humble presence profoundly influenced the life of Jesus and the early Church.

A superior or leader inspired by Mary’s Heart:

- exercises authority as service;
- listens before deciding;
- promotes participation;
- accompanies rather than controls;
- corrects with charity;
- encourages growth in others.

Such leadership reflects both Marian humility and evangelical authority.

Leadership Examination: When making important decisions ask: *Will this decision build communion and help others grow in Christ?*

5. Cordi-Marian Identity in Intercultural Living

Our Congregation increasingly reflects the universality of the Church. Missionaries from diverse languages, cultures, and traditions are called to live as one family.

Mary welcomed God's universal plan of salvation. Her maternal heart embraces every people and culture.

Consequently, the Son of her Heart:

- appreciates cultural diversity;
- avoids prejudice;
- learns from others;
- welcomes differences;
- builds bridges across cultures;
- promotes unity without demanding uniformity.

The General Plan of Formation repeatedly emphasizes that Claretian formation must prepare missionaries for intercultural and universal mission (GPF 2020, 2.2.7).

Community Exercise: Share within the community: *What aspect of another culture has enriched my own missionary life?*

6. Cordi-Marian Identity in Times of Suffering

Mary remained faithful beneath the Cross. She teaches that suffering, when united with Christ, becomes a place of hope rather than despair.

Missionaries inevitably encounter:

- loneliness;
- misunderstanding;
- illness;
- pastoral failure;
- community tensions;
- vocational dryness.

The Cordi-Marian response is neither resignation nor discouragement but trusting perseverance.

As Claret himself experienced persecution and countless trials, he continually entrusted himself to Mary's protection (cf. **Aut. 694–699**).

Prayer in Difficult Moments: "Mother, teach me to remain faithful beneath the cross, trusting that God is accomplishing His work even when I cannot yet see its fruits."

7. Cordi-Marian Identity in Missionary Discernment

Mary consistently sought God's will rather than her own plans.

She questioned, listened, reflected, and finally surrendered herself completely to God's invitation (Lk 1:26–38).

Likewise, every important missionary decision should emerge from prayerful discernment.

The missionary asks:

- What is God asking?

- What best serves the Gospel?
- What builds the Kingdom?
- What promotes communion?
- What reflects the Heart of Mary?

This attitude protects the missionary from activism, impulsiveness, and self-centred decision-making.

Integrating Cordi-Marian Identity

Cordi-Marian identity is not lived only in moments of prayer or explicitly Marian celebrations. It gradually permeates every dimension of life.

Area of Life	Cordi-Marian Expression
Prayer	Listening and contemplating with Mary
Community	Building fraternity and reconciliation
Ministry	Bringing others to Christ with compassion
Leadership	Serving with humility and discernment
Intercultural Living	Welcoming diversity with openness
Suffering	Persevering with hope and trust
Discernment	Seeking God's will through prayer

When these dimensions become increasingly integrated, Marian devotion matures into Marian identity, and Marian identity becomes a distinctive way of living the Gospel.

Missionary Reflection

Prayerfully examine your daily life.

1. In which area do I most clearly reflect the Heart of Mary?
2. Which area needs greater conversion?
3. What concrete practice can I adopt this month to make my Cordi-Marian identity more visible in my relationships and ministry?
4. How can my community help me grow as a true Son of the Heart of Mary?

Key Insight: Cordi-Marian identity is verified in ordinary life. Every prayer, relationship, decision, act of service, and missionary commitment becomes an opportunity to reveal the compassionate, humble, and missionary Heart of Mary, leading others more deeply to Jesus Christ.

VII. Challenges and Distortions of Cordi-Marian Identity

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” (Lk 11:28)

The journey of becoming a Son of the Heart of Mary is one of continual growth and conversion. Like every aspect of Christian discipleship, Cordi-Marian identity can mature or stagnate. It may be deepened by grace and faithful cooperation, or weakened by attitudes and practices that gradually disconnect Marian devotion from missionary life.

Formation therefore requires not only fostering Marian spirituality but also recognizing the attitudes that hinder its authentic development. St. Anthony Mary Claret understood that true devotion to Mary always leads to deeper conformity to Christ and greater apostolic fruitfulness. Devotional practices, however valuable, do not automatically produce missionary maturity. They achieve their purpose only when they transform the heart.

This section identifies some of the most common distortions that can affect Cordi-Marian identity and suggests paths for ongoing conversion.

1. Devotion without Transformation

One of the most common distortions is reducing Marian identity to external devotional practices.

A missionary may faithfully pray the Rosary, celebrate Marian feasts, or wear Marian symbols while remaining impatient, self-centred, resistant to community life, or lacking missionary zeal. Such devotion remains external because it has not yet reached the heart.

The Second Vatican Council reminds us that true devotion “proceeds from true faith, by which we are led to know the excellence of the Mother of God and are moved to filial love and to the imitation of her virtues” (**Lumen Gentium**, 67).

Likewise, the Constitutions present Marian devotion as a means of becoming conformed to Christ and cooperating in mission (**CC 8**).

Path of Growth: Move from asking: “How much do I pray to Mary?” to asking: “How much is Mary shaping my way of living?”

2. Marian Sentimentalism

Sometimes Marian spirituality remains predominantly emotional. The missionary experiences affection for Mary but avoids the demanding aspects of discipleship:

- sacrifice;
- obedience;
- perseverance;
- missionary availability;
- prophetic witness.

Yet the Gospel presents Mary not only as tender Mother but also as courageous disciple who accepted uncertainty, suffering, and the Cross.

Authentic Marian spirituality therefore unites tenderness with evangelical courage.

Path of Growth: Allow Marian devotion to lead toward greater fidelity to Christ’s mission rather than merely providing emotional consolation.

3. Activism without Marian Contemplation

The opposite danger is excessive activism.

- The missionary works tirelessly but gradually loses interior recollection.
- Prayer becomes brief.
- Silence disappears.
- Discernment weakens.
- Mission becomes functional rather than contemplative.

Mary teaches another rhythm.

- She listens.
- She ponders.
- She waits.
- She acts only after receiving God’s Word.

The General Plan of Formation consistently presents contemplation and mission as inseparable dimensions of Claretian formation (GPF 2020, Chapter 5).

Path of Growth: Recover the balance between:

- contemplation and action;
- silence and proclamation;
- prayer and ministry.

4. Christ without Mary or Mary without Christ

Two opposite imbalances may appear. Some minimize Mary's role, fearing that Marian devotion could distract from Christ. Others emphasize Marian practices without sufficient Christological depth.

Neither reflects the Claretian tradition. Mary always leads to Christ. Christ always entrusts His disciples to Mary.

The Constitutions beautifully unite these two dimensions: "...*that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ and may cooperate with her in her maternal role in our apostolic mission.*" (CC 8)

Path of Growth: Every Marian practice should strengthen one's relationship with Christ and commitment to His mission.

5. Individualistic Marian Spirituality

Another subtle distortion occurs when Marian devotion remains exclusively personal. The missionary develops a private relationship with Mary but neglects:

- community life;
- ecclesial communion;
- shared mission;
- apostolic collaboration.

Mary never lived isolated from God's people.

- She journeyed with Joseph.
- She accompanied Jesus.
- She gathered with the apostles.
- She became Mother of the Church.

Therefore, genuine Cordi-Marian identity naturally strengthens fraternity and ecclesial communion.

Path of Growth: Ask regularly: *Does my love for Mary make me more available to my community and to the Church?*

6. Cultural rather than Charismatic Marian Identity

In many cultures Marian devotion is deeply rooted in popular religiosity. While this is a rich gift, a Claretian cannot rely solely on inherited customs.

A missionary may:

- enjoy Marian processions;
- celebrate Marian festivals;
- appreciate Marian music and art;

yet never allow these practices to shape his missionary attitudes.

The Claretian vocation calls for moving from cultural devotion to charismatic identity. Mary is not only honoured; she becomes the model according to whom the missionary is formed.

Path of Growth: Move beyond asking: “How is Mary celebrated in my culture?” to asking: “How is Mary’s Heart forming my life?”

7. Loss of Missionary Zeal

Sometimes Marian devotion becomes inward-looking. The missionary finds comfort in prayer but gradually loses apostolic enthusiasm.

This contradicts Mary’s own example. Immediately after the Annunciation, “Mary set out and went with haste...” (Lk 1:39). The Heart of Mary always sends.

Likewise, Claret’s Marian spirituality generated extraordinary missionary dynamism.

The ideal Claretian remains: “*a man on fire with love, who spreads its flames wherever he goes.*” (CC 9)

Path of Growth: Ask: *Is my relationship with Mary making me more missionary or merely more comfortable?*

Discernment Guide

When reviewing one’s Marian life, the following questions may be helpful.

Healthy Growth	Warning Signs
Love for Mary deepens love for Christ	Mary gradually replaces Christ or becomes secondary
Devotion leads to missionary service	Devotion remains private and inactive
Prayer strengthens community life	Spirituality becomes individualistic
Marian trust increases availability	Comfort becomes more important than mission
Compassion grows	Judgement and rigidity increase
Missionary joy increases	Spiritual routine develops

Missionary Reflection

Reflect honestly before the Lord.

1. Which of these distortions do I recognize most readily in my own life?
2. Which practices genuinely help me grow in Cordi-Marian identity?
3. Have I allowed Marian devotion to transform my relationships, community life, and missionary ministry?
4. What concrete step is the Holy Spirit inviting me to take so that my Marian devotion may become a deeper Marian way of life?

Community Conversation

Share in small groups:

- Which challenge is most common among missionaries today?
- How can our community help one another grow in an authentic Cordi-Marian identity?
- What communal practices could better express our identity as Sons of the Heart of Mary?

Key Insight: Authentic Cordi-Marian identity is continually purified through discernment and conversion. Every distortion invites renewed openness to the Holy Spirit, who forms the missionary in the Heart of Mary so that Marian devotion becomes Marian discipleship, Marian discipleship becomes apostolic charity, and apostolic charity bears lasting missionary fruit.

VIII. Formative Pathway for Developing Cordi-Marian Identity

“Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.” (Lk 2:19)

Cordi-Marian identity is cultivated gradually through a well-integrated formation process. It develops neither automatically with the passage of time nor simply through participation in Marian devotions. Like every dimension of missionary life, it requires intentional formation, personal commitment, community support, and openness to the transforming action of the Holy Spirit.

The General Plan of Formation reminds us that formation is “a single process” embracing the whole of life and aiming at progressive conformity to Christ according to the Claretian charism (GPF 2020, Presentation, nos. 10–12).

Within this lifelong journey, every stage of formation offers particular opportunities for deepening Cordi-Marian identity.

1. Postulancy: Discovering Mary as Mother and Disciple

During the postulancy, the emphasis is on introducing the formandus to the biblical, ecclesial, and Claretian understanding of Mary. At this stage, Marian devotion often reflects family traditions or popular religiosity. Formation should help him appreciate Mary not only as an object of devotion but as the first disciple of Christ and Mother of the missionary vocation.

Formation Objectives

The postulant should:

- understand Mary’s role in salvation history;
- become familiar with the Marian dimension of the Claretian charism;
- develop a personal relationship with Mary;
- appreciate the title *Son of the Heart of Mary* as part of his vocational identity.

Suggested Formation Practices

- Study the principal Marian texts of Scripture.
- Read selected Marian passages from Claret’s *Autobiography*.
- Celebrate Marian feasts with meaningful catechesis.
- Learn the history and significance of the Congregation’s Marian identity.
- Begin the practice of Marian consecration as an expression of filial trust.

Indicators of Growth

The postulant:

- speaks naturally about Mary’s role in his vocation;
- participates meaningfully in Marian prayer;
- demonstrates openness to learning from Mary’s example;
- begins to relate Marian devotion to missionary life.

2. Novitiate: Entering the Forge of the Heart of Mary

The novitiate is the privileged time for interior formation. Here the novice is invited to move beyond external Marian practices and consciously allow Mary to form his interior life.

The General Plan of Formation presents Mary’s Heart as the forge where missionaries are shaped according to Christ (GPF 2020, Presentation, no. 2).

Formation Objectives

The novice should:

- deepen filial trust in Mary;
- integrate Marian spirituality with evangelical discipleship;
- cultivate Marian virtues in daily life;
- understand the relationship between Mary, Christ, and mission.

Suggested Formation Practices

- Daily Marian meditation using the Gospel.
- Lectio Divina on Marian texts.
- Monthly reflection on one Marian virtue.
- Personal accompaniment focusing on Marian growth.
- Community sharing on experiences of Marian formation.

Indicators of Growth

The novice:

- develops greater interior recollection;
- grows in humility and availability;
- seeks Mary's guidance naturally in prayer;
- integrates Marian devotion with the evangelical counsels.

3. Post-Novitiate: Integrating Marian Identity with Mission

During post-novitiate, academic studies, pastoral experiences, and community responsibilities increase. The challenge is to prevent Marian identity from becoming secondary amid growing apostolic commitments.

Formation should help the missionary integrate Marian spirituality into every aspect of his life.

Formation Objectives

The missionary should:

- connect Marian identity with pastoral ministry;
- develop Marian discernment in decision-making;
- strengthen apostolic charity through Mary's example;
- deepen communion between prayer, study, community, and mission.

Suggested Formation Practices

- Reflect on Marian dimensions of pastoral experiences.
- Study Mariology alongside Claretian spirituality.
- Prepare Marian catechesis and retreats.
- Evaluate apostolic experiences in the light of Mary's attitudes.
- Renew Marian consecration annually.

Indicators of Growth

The missionary:

- naturally relates Marian spirituality to ministry;
- demonstrates greater compassion in pastoral relationships;

- integrates contemplation with apostolic activity;
- exhibits growing missionary availability.

4. Ongoing Formation: Growing in Marian Fruitfulness

Cordi-Marian identity continues to mature throughout life. Every stage of missionary life presents new opportunities to rediscover Mary's maternal accompaniment.

The Directory reminds us that our consecration to the Heart of Mary remains "a characteristic note of our missionary life" (**Dir. 32**).

For senior missionaries, Marian identity often becomes simpler, deeper, and more contemplative. The emphasis gradually shifts from acquiring practices to radiating Marian attitudes.

Formation Objectives

The missionary should:

- renew his first love for Christ through Mary;
- allow life's joys and sufferings to deepen Marian trust;
- become a witness and mentor for younger missionaries;
- continue growing in missionary hope and apostolic charity.

Suggested Formation Practices

- Annual Marian retreat.
- Pilgrimages to Marian shrines.
- Spiritual accompaniment centred on vocational fidelity.
- Community reflection on Marian themes.
- Mentoring younger missionaries in Claretian Marian spirituality.

Indicators of Growth

The missionary:

- radiates serenity and hope;
- accompanies others with maternal compassion;
- inspires younger confreres by his witness;
- remains missionary despite age or limitations.

5. The Role of the Formation Community

While personal effort is indispensable, Cordi-Marian identity grows most effectively within a community that consciously lives its Marian vocation.

Formation communities should therefore become genuine **schools of the Heart of Mary**, where prayer, fraternity, discernment, and mission mutually enrich one another.

The community fosters Marian identity by:

- celebrating Marian feasts meaningfully rather than routinely;
- praying together with simplicity and recollection;
- encouraging Marian reflection during community meetings;
- integrating Marian themes into pastoral planning;
- promoting mutual care, reconciliation, and missionary joy.

In this way, the community itself becomes a living witness to what it means to be composed of **Sons of the Heart of Mary**.

The Formative Journey at a Glance

Formation Stage	Primary Focus	Desired Outcome
Postulancy	Discovering Mary	Personal relationship and vocational appreciation
Novitiate	Interior formation	Filial trust and Marian discipleship
Post-Novitiate	Integration	Marian identity expressed in mission and community
Ongoing Formation	Fruitfulness	Lifelong fidelity and joyful missionary witness

Missionary Reflection

1. Which stage of this formative pathway best describes my present situation?
2. What has helped me most to grow as a Son of the Heart of Mary?
3. What aspect of Marian formation needs greater attention in my present stage of life?
4. How can my community become more intentionally a “Forge of the Heart of Mary” for all its members?

Formation Dialogue

During spiritual accompaniment or the annual formation review, discuss:

- How has my understanding of Cordi-Marian identity matured over the past year?
- Which Marian attitudes have become more evident in my life?
- What practical commitments will help me continue growing in Marian discipleship and missionary availability?

Key Insight: Cordi-Marian identity is cultivated through a lifelong formative journey. Each stage of formation offers new opportunities to deepen filial communion with Mary, to be conformed more closely to Christ, and to become an increasingly joyful and fruitful missionary. As individuals and communities continually enter the Forge of the Heart of Mary, they become living witnesses of the Claretian charism in the service of the Church and the world.

IX. Formation Practices for Cultivating Cordi-Marian Identity

“All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with... Mary the mother of Jesus.”
(Acts 1:14)

Cordi-Marian identity does not develop through good intentions alone. It grows through repeated choices that gradually shape the mind, heart, and life of the missionary. Just as every virtue is strengthened through faithful practice, so too Marian identity matures through habits that open the person to the transforming action of the Holy Spirit.

The General Plan of Formation understands formation as an integral process involving prayer, community life, study, apostolic experience, accompaniment, and personal commitment (GPF 2020, nos. 509–515). Marian formation, therefore, should not be confined to devotional moments but should permeate the whole rhythm of missionary life.

The following practices are intended to help the missionary consciously grow as a Son of the Heart of Mary.

A. Personal Formation Practices

1. Begin Each Day with Mary

Entrust each day to the Heart of Mary, asking her to form your thoughts, words, and actions according to Christ. A simple daily prayer may be: Mother Mary, form my heart according to the Heart of your Son. May every encounter today reveal His love through my life.

This simple act reminds the missionary that every day is part of his ongoing formation.

2. Pray with Mary's Attitude

Rather than merely praying Marian prayers, strive to pray **with Mary's dispositions**:

- listening before speaking;
- trusting before understanding;
- surrendering before controlling;
- praising before complaining.

Ask during prayer: *How would Mary respond to this situation?*

3. Practise Marian Lectio Divina

Pray regularly with Marian passages such as:

- Luke 1:26–38 (Annunciation)
- Luke 1:39–56 (Visitation and Magnificat)
- Luke 2:19
- Luke 2:41–52
- John 2:1–11 (Cana)
- John 19:25–27 (Calvary)
- Acts 1:12–14 (Pentecost)

After prayer, ask:

- What attitude of Mary's heart speaks to me?
- How can I embody this attitude today?

4. Marian Examen

At the end of each day, spend a few minutes reviewing your life through the Heart of Mary.

Reflect:

- Where did I listen well today?
- Where did I reveal Christ?
- Whom did I accompany with compassion?
- Where did I resist God's invitation?
- What grace do I seek for tomorrow?

This complements the traditional Ignatian Examen by focusing on Marian discipleship.

5. Renew Marian Consecration Regularly

Consecration is not simply an annual ceremony but a continual renewal of one's availability to God's mission.

Renew this commitment on:

- Marian feasts;
- retreats;
- anniversaries of profession;
- significant missionary transitions.

Its purpose is to deepen dependence on Christ through Mary's maternal guidance.

B. Community Formation Practices

Because we are **Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, Cordi-Marian identity is also formed communally.

1. Celebrate Marian Feasts as Formation Events

Marian solemnities should become opportunities for ongoing formation rather than merely liturgical celebrations. Communities may include:

- reflection on a Marian virtue;
- sharing on Mary's role in missionary life;
- reading from Claret's writings;
- renewal of missionary commitment.

2. Community Marian Reflection

Once each month, dedicate part of a community meeting to a Marian theme. Possible topics:

- Mary's listening
- Mary's discernment
- Mary's compassion
- Mary at Pentecost
- Mary's missionary availability

Invite each member to share how this dimension is being lived in his present ministry.

3. Pray for One Another through Mary

Conclude important community meetings by entrusting:

- difficult decisions;
- struggling confreres;
- apostolic projects;
- the poor;
- benefactors;
- vocations

to the maternal intercession of Mary.

This practice strengthens fraternity and missionary communion.

4. Marian Pilgrimage

Whenever possible, communities should make an annual pilgrimage to a Marian shrine. Such pilgrimages provide opportunities for:

- prayer;
- reconciliation;
- vocational renewal;
- missionary discernment;
- fraternity.

Pilgrimage reminds the missionary that vocation itself is a journey.

C. Apostolic Formation Practices

Cordi-Marian identity should also shape the missionary's pastoral ministry.

1. Bring People to Christ

Mary's words at Cana remain the model for every apostolate: "*Do whatever he tells you.*" (Jn 2:5)

Before every pastoral activity ask: *How can this ministry help people encounter Christ more deeply?*

2. Develop a Ministry of Presence

Mary often evangelized simply by being present:

- at Nazareth;
- at Cana;
- beneath the Cross;
- in the Upper Room.

Likewise, the missionary should cultivate a ministry marked by:

- attentive presence;
- compassionate listening;
- respectful accompaniment;
- patient encouragement.

Not every pastoral need requires immediate solutions; many require faithful presence.

3. Cultivate Marian Compassion

During pastoral encounters intentionally ask:

- Who is suffering?
- Who feels forgotten?
- Who needs encouragement?
- Who remains unnoticed?

Allow Mary's maternal concern to shape pastoral priorities.

4. Evangelize with Hope

Mary's Magnificat proclaims God's faithfulness and hope (Lk 1:46–55). The Son of her Heart therefore avoids:

- pessimism;
- discouragement;
- cynicism;
- fear-based preaching.

Instead, he becomes a witness of hope rooted in Christ.

D. Annual Personal Review

At least once each year, preferably during retreat or annual renewal, evaluate your Cordi-Marian growth.
Reflect prayerfully on the following questions.

Relationship with Christ

- Has Mary helped me grow closer to Christ?
- Is Christ truly the centre of my Marian devotion?

Prayer

- Has my prayer become more contemplative?
- Do I pray with Mary's trust and openness?

Community

- Am I becoming more patient?
- Do I contribute to communion?

Mission

- Has my apostolic charity increased?
- Am I more available for mission than last year?

Personal Growth

- Which Marian attitude has grown most?
- Which still requires deliberate formation?

Discuss these reflections with your spiritual director or formator.

Practical Commitments

Choose one concrete practice from each area for the coming month.

Area	My Commitment
Prayer	
Community	
Ministry	
Personal Growth	

Review these commitments at the end of the month.

Missionary Reflection

Prayerfully ask yourself:

1. Which of these practices already nourishes my Cordi-Marian identity?
2. Which practice would most help me grow at this stage of my vocation?
3. What one concrete commitment can I faithfully live during the coming month?
4. How can my community support me in becoming a more authentic Son of the Heart of Mary?

Key Insight: Cordi-Marian identity is formed through faithful daily practice. Every moment of prayer, every act of fraternity, every pastoral encounter, and every missionary decision becomes an opportunity to enter more deeply into the Forge of the Heart of Mary. Through these ordinary yet grace-filled practices, the Holy Spirit gradually configures the missionary to Christ, making him an ever more joyful, compassionate, and zealous Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

X. Integration and Assessment

“By their fruits you will know them.” (Mt 7:16)

Formation reaches its goal only when it becomes visible in life. The purpose of Cordi-Marian identity formation is not simply to increase knowledge about Mary or to encourage Marian devotion, but to foster a gradual transformation whereby the missionary thinks, loves, serves, and evangelizes with the Heart of Mary.

Evaluation, therefore, should not focus merely on external practices but on the progressive integration of Marian identity into the whole person. The General Plan of Formation emphasizes that formation is holistic, involving continuous growth in the human, spiritual, community, intellectual, and missionary dimensions (GPF 2020, nos. 17–24).

This final section provides tools for personal reflection, community dialogue, and formative accompaniment.

A. Personal Integration

Take time for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament or before an image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Review your journey honestly before the Lord.

1. My Relationship with Mary

Reflect prayerfully.

- Has Mary become a living presence in my spiritual life or does she remain primarily an object of devotion?
- How has my understanding of being a **Son of the Heart of Mary** changed during this period of formation?
- Which experiences have most strengthened my filial relationship with Mary?

2. My Relationship with Christ

Since authentic Marian spirituality always leads to Christ, ask yourself:

- Has my love for Christ deepened through Mary's accompaniment?
- Do I increasingly seek to know and imitate Christ?
- Does my Marian devotion strengthen my commitment to the Gospel?

Remember the purpose expressed in the Constitutions: *"...that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ and may cooperate with her in her maternal role in our apostolic mission."* (CC 8)

3. My Missionary Life

Reflect on your apostolic ministry.

- Do I reveal Christ rather than myself?
- Has my compassion increased?
- Am I more available for mission?
- Do I approach people with Mary's tenderness?
- Has my missionary zeal matured?

4. My Community Life

Ask honestly:

- Am I becoming a builder of communion?
- Do I listen respectfully?
- Do I reconcile rather than divide?
- Does my presence bring peace to the community?

Mary gathered the disciples into communion before Pentecost (Acts 1:14). Every Son of her Heart should contribute to this same spirit of fraternity.

B. Self-Assessment

Rate yourself honestly.

1 = Rarely 2 = Occasionally 3 = Sometimes 4 = Usually 5 = Consistently

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I consciously live as a Son of the Heart of Mary.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mary helps me grow closer to Christ.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My prayer reflects Mary's attitude of listening.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My apostolic work flows from prayer.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I approach people with compassion and respect.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I willingly accept missionary assignments.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I contribute positively to community life.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
I seek God's will before making important decisions.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Marian spirituality influences my daily choices.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
My life reflects increasing conformity to Christ.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Reflection

Identify:

- Three strengths that I thank God for.
- Two areas requiring greater growth.
- One concrete commitment for the coming month.

C. Community Conversation

Community plays a decisive role in nurturing Cordi-Marian identity. Sharing experiences with one's confreres promotes mutual encouragement and communal discernment.

Consider discussing the following questions during a community formation meeting.

1. What does being a **Son of the Heart of Mary** mean for our community today?
2. Which Marian attitudes are most visible in our community life?
3. What aspects of Mary's Heart do we need to cultivate more intentionally?
4. How does our Marian identity shape our missionary priorities?
5. How can we become a more visible sign of the Heart of Mary in the local Church?

Conclude the meeting by praying together the **Magnificat** or another Marian prayer, entrusting the community to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

D. Formator's Assessment Rubric

The following rubric may assist formators in accompanying the gradual development of Cordi-Marian identity. It is intended to guide dialogue and discernment rather than serve as a grading instrument.

Indicator	Emerging	Developing	Integrated
Demonstrates a personal relationship with Mary	☐	☐	☐

Understands the theological and Claretian meaning of Cordi-Marian identity	☐	☐	☐
Integrates Marian spirituality with prayer	☐	☐	☐
Lives fraternity with humility and compassion	☐	☐	☐
Shows missionary availability and generosity	☐	☐	☐
Exercises discernment inspired by Mary's attitudes	☐	☐	☐
Builds communion within the community	☐	☐	☐
Reflects Christ through apostolic charity	☐	☐	☐
Demonstrates growth in joyful fidelity to vocation	☐	☐	☐

The rubric should always be accompanied by personal dialogue, spiritual accompaniment, and concrete suggestions for further growth.

E. Personal Mission Commitment

Conclude this module by formulating a personal commitment.

Complete the following prayerfully.

As a Missionary Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I commit myself to...

Review this commitment periodically during spiritual accompaniment and annual retreat.

Prayer of Commitment

Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church,

You welcomed God's Word with faith, accompanied Christ with unwavering love, and remained with the disciples as they awaited the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Form my heart according to the Heart of your Son. Teach me to listen with humility, to love with compassion, to serve with generosity, and to proclaim the Gospel with courage and joy.

Help me to live faithfully my vocation as a Missionary Son of your Immaculate Heart, so that, conformed ever more fully to Christ, I may cooperate with you in bringing His saving love to all people.

Amen.

Key Insight: Cordi-Marian identity is not a destination that one reaches once and for all but a lifelong vocation of becoming. Every stage of formation, every missionary assignment, every community experience, and every encounter with God's people offers a new opportunity to enter more deeply into the **Forge of the Heart of Mary**. As the Holy Spirit gradually conforms us to Christ through Mary's maternal guidance, we become what our Founder envisioned and our Constitutions proclaim: **true Sons of the Heart of Mary**, missionaries whose lives radiate the love of Christ and whose apostolic service bears lasting fruit for the Church and the world (CC 8–9).

Conclusion

Living as Sons of the Heart of Mary

Throughout this module we have reflected on the meaning, foundations, formation, and lived expression of Cordi-Marian identity. The journey has revealed that becoming a **Son of the Heart of Mary** is not simply embracing a Marian devotion or preserving a cherished tradition of the Congregation. It is accepting a lifelong vocation to be formed by the Holy Spirit in the maternal Heart of Mary so as to become ever more fully conformed to Jesus Christ and more available for His mission.

The title **Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** expresses the very heart of our vocation. Our missionary identity and our Marian identity are inseparable. We do not merely work *for* Christ while honouring Mary; we participate in Christ's mission precisely as sons formed in her Heart. As the Constitutions remind us, we entrust ourselves to Mary "*that we may be conformed to the mystery of Christ and may cooperate with her in her maternal role in our apostolic mission*" (CC 8).

St. Anthony Mary Claret understood this truth through his own lived experience. Mary's presence was not an occasional consolation but the atmosphere in which his missionary vocation matured. She sustained him in difficulties, inspired his apostolic zeal, strengthened his confidence in Divine Providence, and continually led him to Christ. He desired that every missionary of the Congregation should experience the same filial relationship and discover in Mary not only a Mother to love but also a Formator to imitate and a Companion to follow.

For this reason, Cordi-Marian identity can never remain merely theoretical. It must become visible in daily life. Every act of prayer, every community relationship, every pastoral encounter, every decision, and every missionary assignment become an opportunity to reveal the Heart of Mary. The authenticity of our Marian identity is measured less by the number of devotional practices we perform than by the degree to which our lives reflect Mary's faith, humility, compassion, discernment, availability, and apostolic charity.

The image of the **Forge of the Heart of Mary** beautifully captures this lifelong process. A forge is a place where raw metal is gradually transformed through fire into a useful instrument. Likewise, under the action of the Holy Spirit, the Heart of Mary becomes the place where missionaries are purified, strengthened, and configured to Christ. This transformation does not occur only during the years of initial formation. It continues throughout life as every experience, success and failure, joy and suffering, prayer and ministry, becomes an occasion for deeper conversion and renewed missionary generosity. The General Plan of Formation therefore presents the Forge not simply as a programme but as a permanent style of Claretian life and formation (GPF 2020, Presentation, no. 2).

Our contemporary world urgently needs missionaries whose lives radiate both evangelical conviction and maternal compassion. It needs missionaries who combine contemplative depth with apostolic creativity, fidelity with openness, courage with tenderness, and zeal with humble service. These qualities are not acquired merely through human effort; they are the fruits of allowing the Heart of Mary to shape the whole person according to the image of Christ.

The final aspiration of every Claretian, therefore, is not simply to **speak about Mary**, nor even to **imitate Mary**, but to **live from her Heart**. As this identity matures, the missionary increasingly reflects the ideal proposed by our Founder and enshrined in the Constitutions: "*A Son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a man on fire with love, who spreads its flames wherever he goes. He desires mightily and strives by every means possible to set everyone on fire with God's love. Nothing daunts him. He delights in privations, welcomes hard work, embraces sacrifices, smiles at slander, rejoices in torments and sorrows, and glories in the Cross of Jesus Christ. His only concern is how he may follow Christ and imitate Him in working, suffering, and striving constantly and solely for the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls.*" (CC 9)

May every Claretian continually return to the **Forge of the Heart of Mary**, allowing the Holy Spirit to fashion his heart after the Heart of Christ. Then our Marian identity will become more than a title—it will become a living witness. Formed by Mary, configured to Christ, and inflamed with apostolic charity, we shall truly become **Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, joyfully proclaiming the Gospel and making God's saving love known to the ends of the earth.

Further Reading

A. Sacred Scripture

- Lk 1–2
- Jn 2:1–11
- Jn 19:25–27

- Acts 1:12–14
- Rev 12

B. Magisterial Documents

- *Lumen Gentium*, nn. 52–69
- Marialis Cultus
- Redemptoris Mater
- Evangelii Gaudium (especially 284–288)

C. Books

- Balthasar, H. U. von. (1980). *Mary for today*. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press.
- Cantalamessa, R. (1992). *Mary: Mirror of the Church*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press.
- Liguori, A. (1977). *The glories of Mary* (E. Grimm, Trans.). Rockford, IL: TAN Books. (Original work published 1750)
- Montfort, L.-M. G. de. (1995). *True devotion to Mary* (F. W. Faber, Trans.). Bay Shore, NY: Montfort Publications. (Original work published 1712)
- de la Potterie, I. (1992). *Mary in the mystery of the covenant*. New York, NY: Alba House.