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St. Louis Mary Grignion De Montfort

ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT

THE STORY OF OUR LADY'S SLAVE,
ST. LOUIS MARY GRIGNION DE MONTFORT

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For
His Excellency
the Most Reverend
Joseph E. Ritter, S.T.D.,
Archbishop of St. Louis,
who as seminarian and later as Archbishop
made pilgrimages
to the shrine of Our Lady
on the hill
where this book was written.

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ST. LOUIS
DE MONTFORT

CHAPTER 1

A FOOL OR A SAINT?

THE Bishop of Poitiers peered through his study window at the shabbily dressed young priest striding briskly toward the front gate in the pale sunlight of the late November afternoon. Then, shivering at the whistle of the chill wind through the leafless trees, he turned, and, leaning heavily on a cane, moved toward the open hearth where a fire was burning.

“Father Louis Mary Grignion,” he muttered wearily, shaking his head as he warmed himself over the leaping flames. “That young man is either a fool or a saint.”

For several minutes the Bishop gazed moodily into the fire, heedless of the fact that there had been a knock at the door and that now his secretary stood waiting in respectful silence on the threshold. Then slowly he came to himself.

“Yes, Monsignor? What is it?”

The newcomer, a tall, severe-looking man in his middle forties, bowed stiffly. “I brought the papers, Your Lordship. The ones you wanted about Father Grignion. But shall we go over them now? After all, it’s nearly supper time. . . .”

The Bishop hesitated, then hobbled painfully across the room to his desk. “Of course we’ll go over them now. Father Grignion’s case is most important. Besides, it’ll take only a few minutes.”

The Monsignor bowed again, then placed a sheaf of papers before his superior.

“Very well, Your Lordship. But I’m afraid you’ll find everything as it was last month. For instance, on this first page is the personal information about Father Grignon. Birth: January 31, 1673, at Montfort-la-Cane, in Brittany, the second of eighteen children of John Baptist Grignon and Joan Robert. Education: seven years at the Jesuit college in Rennes, seven years with the Sulpicians in Paris. Ordination to the holy priesthood last year on June 5, 1700, aged twenty-seven. After that, a few retreats and missions under Father Lévêque at Nantes. . . .”

The Bishop listened in moody silence. Then suddenly he shifted impatiently. “Yes, yes, Monsignor. I know all this. But the letters from his former superiors in Paris. Surely there are some new ones by now? What have they to say? That’s what I want to hear.”

The Monsignor smiled wryly. “There’s been nothing new, Your Lordship.”

“Not even from Father Leschassier? Or Father Brenier? Or Father de la Chétardie?”

“No, Your Lordship. None of these men will recommend Father Grignon for any work—let alone what you’ve just given him to do here in Poitiers at the poorhouse.”

A hard light shone in the Bishop’s eyes. “But what have they got against the boy?” he demanded sharply. “Hasn’t he always been at the top of his classes in the Seminary? Hasn’t he even had to do outside work to pay his tuition? Hasn’t he been prayerful, mortified, obedient, all through his student years?”

“Yes, Your Lordship.”

“Well, go on. What is it, then?”

“His . . . his professors say he’s too different, Your Lordship.”

“Different! How different?”

“Well, for one thing, his clothes. He just doesn’t seem to care what they look like, Your Lordship. Why, he won’t even wear a hat!”

The Bishop shrugged. “A hat! What has wearing a hat got to do with being a good priest?”

“Nothing, Your Lordship. But still, when all other priests wear hats. . . .”

“Go on. What else is wrong with Father Grignion?”

The Monsignor hesitated. He had no wish to become involved in an argument with the Bishop. But he could not help feeling slightly suspicious of the young priest (at present a missionary in Nantes), who only a few minutes before had been in this very room. Not only had his clothes been disgracefully shabby; he had not even seemed to care that they were. Nor had he been a bit impressed with all the elegance around him—the rich carpets, the hangings, the furniture. The approaching interview with the Bishop seemed to have produced in him none of the anxiety which the Monsignor ordinarily observed in other visitors.

Even more. When the time came, he had found Father Louis Mary Grignion, not sitting timidly in a chair, or pacing nervously about the waiting room, but on his knees in prayer. And here he had received the Monsignor’s announcement that the Bishop awaited him quite simply, without apology or sign of embarrassment.

“Well, Monsignor? As you were saying. . . ?”

The latter swallowed hard. “Really, Your Lordship, I haven’t a thing against Father Grignion. I’m sure that he’s very holy. And that he’ll do good work at the poorhouse.”

Gradually the Bishop’s eyes softened. “I’m glad to hear you say that. The place is in a dreadful state.” Then, after a moment: “But you really don’t think he’ll stay, do you?”

“Frankly, no, Your Lordship.”

“Why not?”



The Monsignor felt slightly suspicious.

With a gesture of despair, the Monsignor threw caution to the winds. "Because he's not prudent! He's bound to make enemies among the staff! Mark my words, this very night he'll be preaching a sermon on the Blessed Virgin and trying to get members for that society of his!"

"Society?"

"Yes, the one that's mentioned here in these papers. He began it when he was only a student at the Seminary. And what an unfortunate title he chose—"The Slaves of Mary!"

"The Slaves of Jesus *in* Mary," corrected the Bishop.

"Very well. Even so, the word 'slaves' is repulsive, Your Lordship. It has nothing to do with holiness. Why, such a group could do real harm to the Church!"

The Bishop nodded thoughtfully. "Yes, if it were misunderstood. But let's hope that doesn't happen here in Poitiers, Monsignor. In fact, let's pray that Father Grignon's work at the poorhouse will be blessed with real success."

Quickly remorseful over his outburst, the Monsignor smiled awkwardly. "Well, of course that would be the charitable thing to do. But on the other hand. . . ."

"Good. After all, who knows? Perhaps someday our only claim to God's mercy will be that we helped one of His chosen workers through a difficult time. Now," with a gesture toward the papers scattered on his desk, "since it's after five o'clock. . . ."

With a feeling of genuine relief the Monsignor hastily collected the papers, then helped the Bishop to his feet. What a difficult afternoon this had been! And what a blessing that it was almost time for supper!

Saint Louis *de* Montfort

Student Workbook

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Saint Louis *de* Montfort

Student Workbook

a comprehensive companion to the book by
Mary Fabyan Windeatt



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Key Terms

These are important people, places, and things you should remember from these chapters.

Louis Mary Grignon A young priest just out of the seminary who was considered very odd to most due to his poor appearance and his claim to be the *Slave of Jesus, in Mary*.

Sylvia Father Louis Grignon's sister who was at the Benedictine convent of Fontevault.

Seminary of St. Sulpice The seminary Father Louis Grignon attended in Paris.

Vocabulary

*Read the sentences below, and note the use of the word in **bold**. Write a definition or synonym for this word by considering its context.*

1. For several minutes, the bishop gazed **moodily** into the fire, heedless of the fact that there had been a knock at the door.
2. The Monsignor bowed again and then placed a **sheaf** of papers before his superior.
3. Because of the shabby cloak that **enveloped** him, few at the poorhouse had taken him to be a priest.
4. Scores of people, formerly indifferent to the **plight** of the poor, began to see what they could do to help.
5. The smile and words were so unexpected that for a moment the matron—a **shrewd** woman—was taken off guard.

Comprehension Questions

To better understand these chapters, ask yourself these questions and write down your answers using complete sentences.

1. What concerns did the Monsignor voice to the bishop, and what did he keep to himself about Father Louis Grignon?

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.....

2. What society did Father Grignon start while he was a student at the Seminary?

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3. How was Father Grignon greeted at the poorhouse?

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.....
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4. What kind of changes did Father Grignon begin to make at the poorhouse?

.....
.....
.....

5. Why were there concerns about Father Grignon's improvements?

.....
.....
.....

Saint Louis *de* Montfort

Teacher's Manual

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Saint Louis *de* Montfort

Teacher's Manual

a comprehensive companion to the book by
Mary Fabyan Windeatt



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Dear Parents,

Mary Fabyan Windeatt was known as “the storyteller of the saints.” In the 1950s and 60s, she wrote more than twenty historical fiction novels on the saints, bringing to life these holy men and women for young readers across the world. Her unparalleled work strengthened the Catholic Church during and after her own life and will continue to do so in succeeding generations.



TAN Books now offers these companion workbooks meant to test your students’ reading comprehension, instruct them on matters of the Catholic Faith, and bring them closer to each of these great saints. Through engaging and fun activities like crossword puzzles and word searches, as well as through essays and challenging multiple choice questions, they will come to better know the content and sanctity found in each story.

Following this letter, you will find information to help guide you through the steps of introducing this workbook to your students. It is our hope and prayer that these books and workbooks will nourish both the minds and the souls of your children.

In Christ,

TAN Books

Contents and Suggested Schedule

Chapter Reviews: The workbook is composed of a quick review following each chapter intended to help the student comprehend the text (shorter chapters will be bunched together). Within this review are key terms to know, vocabulary and comprehension questions, and an *optional* activity. It is recommended that the student pause after each chapter (or group of chapters) and complete the review. While the chapter reviews are not meant to be graded, **most of the quiz questions will come directly from these reviews.**

**Not all chapters will contain an activity. Most activities will not be covered in the Teacher’s Manual because they often do not require a concrete answer (i.e., writing a prayer, saying the Rosary, etc.)*

Quizzes: There will be three quizzes that break up the lesson reviews following each third of the book. The student should pause to take the assigned quiz for the specified chapters.

**Point scale is provided on each individual quiz (100 Point Total). Points assigned to vocabulary, multiple choice, matching, and narration exercises will vary based on how many there are in each quiz.*

***Students will be allowed to look back through their chapter reviews for the Vocabulary section of the quiz to assist them in completing the crossword puzzle. This is the only section of the quiz they will be allowed to do this for.*

Essay: At the completion of the novel and all the quizzes, each student should write a final essay detailing the virtues the saint displayed and how they might emulate those virtues in their own lives.

**Essay is in the student workbook and should be graded at the parent’s discretion.*

Vocabulary

Your student should have defined the word in **bold** in a similar way to the italicized definition.

1. For several minutes the bishop gazed **moodily** into the fire, heedless of the fact that there had been a knock at the door.

In a gloomy or absent-minded manner

2. The Monsignor bowed again and then placed a **sheaf** of papers before his superior.

Bundle

3. Because of the shabby cloak that **enveloped** him, few at the poorhouse had taken him to be a priest.

Surrounded

4. Scores of people, formerly indifferent to the **plight** of the poor, began to see what they could do to help.

Distressing condition

5. The smile and words were so unexpected that for a moment the matron—a **shrewd** woman—was taken off guard.

Clever or perceptive



Comprehension Questions

Note the suggested response and ensure your student's answer either matches exactly or closely resembles it.

1. What concerns did the Monsignor voice to the bishop, and what did he keep to himself about Father Louis Grignon?

He told the bishop that Father Grignon's clothes were embarrassingly shabby. To himself, he thought of the lack of observance Father Grignon had of nice things and the way he would kneel in prayer on any occasion.

2. What society did Father Grignon start while he was a student at the Seminary?

He founded the Slaves of Jesus, in Mary. He offered himself, body and soul, to the Blessed Virgin for her to do with as she would.

3. How was Father Grignon greeted at the poorhouse?

Everyone was very happy to see him. He had stayed there himself a few months before, so the poor were overjoyed to see him again, and the staff were pleased to have him back to help.

4. What kind of changes did Father Grignon begin to make at the poorhouse?

He began to improve everything about the structure, meals, and cleanliness to make it more fit for people to live.

5. Why were there concerns about Father Grignon's improvements?

The maids, handymen, and other staff felt they had too much work to do. They were beginning to feel like slaves to the poor and did not like feeling belittled.