

I want to share with you for a moment why this feast day is so important to me.

My husband Eric and I responded to God's call 18 years ago when we moved from Chicago to Fishers Indiana.

Like many of you, St Louis de Montfort became our home away from home and our friends became our family.

I am always amazed at God's perfect timing especially when I look back upon a situation that was once difficult and years later can see all the graces from

God's work.

7 years ago, I was studying for my masters degree in pastoral theology, it was about the same time my mom was robbed, beaten and strangled by an intruder in her home and I was being treated for an illness at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

It was an incredibly painful time in my life physically, emotionally and spiritually. I prayed that God would give me a sign.

The next thing I knew the doctors told me that my surgery would be on April 28.....the feast day of sldm.

That was my first sign from God!

Someone told me to ask the surgeon if he would pray with me before my surgery and the last thing I remember was praying a Hail Mary.

When I woke up, by the grace of God, my husband Eric and our 2 young children were surrounding me. Of course I was like: am I all better? What did the doctors say? Eric didn't know the answer so he responded by showing me a text on my phone.

"the sldm staff prayed the rosary today for your

healing." That was another sign!

God gave me all the signs that I needed to see! And, there was no doubt in my mind that God was calling me to a deeper relationship with Him through the intercession of St. Louis de Montfort.

Throughout the healing process, I started to read the writings of St. Louis de Montfort, most notably his book on consecration to Mary. I learned sldm was born in 1673 and died at the age of 43 and he was a Priest for 16 impactful yrs. TODAY sldm is known as

THE pioneer of Mariology, the study of Mary the Mother of God. Mariology is actually a degree that is offered at catholic universities throughout the world. (Fr Leo studied Mariology in Rome under JP II).

St. Louis de Montfort is one of the earliest and greatest promoters of the rosary and his writing influenced Saint John Paul II so much that the pope dedicated his entire pontificate and his papal motto to Mary, citing the words of sldm. Pope JP II credited sldm in his encyclical on the rosary saying that the writing of

sldm marked a turning point in his life.

I believe that signs are everywhere but we have to BE still to recognize them. When I picked up National Geographic in the grocery store check out line today, I saw MARY on the cover as a sign that our world is desperately in need of messengers to pray the rosary. I know first hand what an incredible feeling it is to be on the receiving end.

My hope and my prayer is that you will recognize a saint working in your life like Saint Louis de Montfort did in mine. Thank you.

