

## Cardinal John Henry Newman's Distinction between Faith and Devotion, as Roman Catholics Consider Mary

During our May 22-30, 2018 Novena to Our Lady of Pontmain, here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Residence, Tewksbury, MA, the homilist on May 23, Father Frank Demers, OMI, reminded us of Cardinal Newman's original and most important distinction between faith and devotion. Demers explained that for Newman, faith (dogma) is one, devotion is multiform. Newman wrote "The faith is everywhere one and the same, but a large liberty is accorded to private judgment and inclination as regards matters of devotion."

Newman examines the expressions of lovers, and comments "the speaker would be sorry for strangers to hear." Affections are the heart of devotions; it is the responsibility of faith to correct the inevitable excesses.

He begs Protestant and non-Christian observers of Roman Catholic Marian devotion to realize they are now inside a family, and family affection is not always comprehensible to outsiders.

The two above quotes are taken from Bishop Philip Boyce, Mary, The Virgin Mary in the Life and Writings of John Henry Newman (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001) pp. 200 and 274.