

## Five First Saturdays

Taken from "Our Lady of Fatima Pilgrim Statue Devotional Book" by the SSPX pp. 32 – 35

### Five Parts of the Request

#### 1. Spirit of reparation

The spirit of reparation is a loving desire to make reparation to and console the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Our Mother. It considers the offenses which the Immaculate Heart of Mary now receives from those who reject her maternal intervention and despise her prerogatives. One should make this intention before carrying out our Lady's requests. A renewal of the actual intention at the time is best.

#### 2. Confession in the Spirit of Reparation

If one cannot go to confession the first Saturday of the month, one can go within eight days. Even one's monthly confession would be sufficient, which would need the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

#### 3. Reparatory Communion

This is the essential act of this devotion. If a just reason prevents the Communion on a First Saturday, with the priest's permission it may be received the following Sunday.

#### 4. Recitation of the Rosary

The rosary is a vocal prayer said while meditating upon the mysteries of our Lord's and our Lady's lives. To comply with the request of our Blessed Mother, it must be offered in reparation for the offenses committed against her Immaculate Heart and said properly while meditating.

#### 5. 15-minute meditation

Also offered in reparation, the meditation may embrace one or more mysteries; it may include all, taken together or separately. This meditation should be the richest of any meditation, because our Lady promised to be present when she said "...those who keep me company..."

### Five Types of Offenses

One could wonder: why five Saturdays? Our Lord answered that question when He appeared to Sr. Lucy May 29, 1930. "My daughter, the reason is simple. There are five types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception;
2. Blasphemies against her virginity;
3. Blasphemies against her divine maternity, in refusing at the same time to recognize her as the Mother of men;
4. Blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children, indifference or scorn or even hatred of this Immaculate Mother;
5. Offenses of those who outrage her directly in her holy images. "Here, my daughter, is the reason why the Immaculate Heart of Mary inspired Me to ask for this little act of reparation..."

### Three Fruits of This Devotion

To those who faithfully follow our Lady's requests, she has made this wonderful promise to "assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation." This means that our Blessed Mother will be present at the hour of death with the actual grace of final perseverance.

This devotion obtains the conversion of sinners. "So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for sins committed against me that I come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray." (our Lady to Sr. Lucy at Tuy, June 13, 1929.) As Lucy put it: "In consideration of this little devotion, They (Jesus and Mary) wish to give the grace of pardon to souls who have had the misfortune of offending the Immaculate Heart of Mary." (Letter of May, 1930)

In His Providence, God decided that the peace in the world will depend on this devotion. "Whether the world has war or peace depends on the practice of this devotion, along with the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is why I desire its propagation so ardently, especially because this is also the will of our dear Mother in Heaven." (Sr. Lucy: March 19, 1939)

After completing the five first Saturdays, one may continue the devotion simply to console the Immaculate Heart of our Lady. A tender love of our Blessed Mother will lead one to do all he can to make reparation for the sins which pierce her Immaculate Heart. Let us remember, too, that although our Lady made this promise to those who would observe five consecutive first Saturdays, in her July apparition she asked simply that Communions of reparation be made on every first Saturday to atone for the sins of the world.

## FAQ about the Five First Saturdays

1. Would an extra rosary of about fifteen minutes fulfill the request of the fifteen minutes of meditation in company with our Lady?

It would seem, if fruitfully meditated, that it would. Or the time could be spent reading meditatively on one of the fifteen mysteries, which is a form of mental prayer that involves reading with frequent pauses to reflect on the matter read.

2. When or where the rosary should be said?

The five decades of the rosary may be recited at any time or place; yet, since one will be attending Mass in order to receive Holy Communion, a very desirable time and place would be before, after or even during Mass in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Meditation on the mysteries according to one's capacity is an essential condition for praying the rosary. Yet, involuntary distractions do not rob the rosary of fruit if one is doing the best he can.

3. What happens if one forgets to form the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary when making the confession?

Should one forget to form the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, it may be formed at the next Confession, occasion to go to Confession being taken at the first opportunity.

4. Should the meditation embrace one or more mysteries?

The meditation embraces one or more mysteries; it may even include all, taken together or separately, according to individual attraction or devotion; one can meditate on one mystery each month.

5. Is assisting at Mass a requirement of the five first Saturdays?

No, and this is very consoling for the sick; this devotion can be completed from their home. With the permission of the priest visiting them, the communion could even be made another day!

6. Are the five Saturdays consecutive ones?

Yes, it must be five consecutive first Saturdays. The idea of the five first Saturdays is obviously to make us persevere in these devotional acts for this period of time, and to overcome the initial obstacles. Once this is done, our Lady knows that the person will, if he faithfully cooperates with her grace, become attracted to her pure and Immaculate Heart, and persevere in practicing such devotion on all first Saturdays, laboring thereby at his own personal sanctification, and for the salvation of others.

7. Can this devotion of the first Saturdays be made on Sunday?

Regarding the difficulty of fulfilling the reparatory Communion on Saturday, our Lord answered Sr. Lucy on May 29, 1930: "The practice of this devotion will be equally acceptable on the Sunday following the first Saturday when my priests, for a just cause, allow the faithful." This way, not only the communion, but also the recitation of the rosary and the meditation on the mysteries can be made on Sunday, and for just reasons (work, school, sickness, distance or other...) which can be judged by the priest.

8. Can one make the fifteen minutes of meditation during Mass?

The bishop of Leiria answered this question as Lucy wrote in 1939. "As Holy Mother the Church allows various obligatory prayers, such as one's penance for Confession, etc., to be recited during Mass and the precept is fulfilled, so it is in this case."