

## **“Behold the Heart of Your Mother”**

This is an edited transcript of portions of Father Gruner’s May 5th presentation, “The Five First Saturdays”, given in Rome at *The Fatima Challenge Conference*.

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**O**n June 13, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima spoke about devotion to the Immaculate Heart. She said, “To whom-ever embraces this devotion, I promise salvation.”

Lucy asked Our Lady, “Your Grace, what do You want of me?”

**“I wish you to come here on the 13th of next month, to pray the Rosary every day, and to learn how to read.**

**“Later I will tell you what I want.”**

This time, Lucy asked the Virgin to take her and her companions to Heaven, and she received this reply:

**“I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon, but you, Lucy, are to stay here some time longer. Jesus wishes to make use of you in order to make Me known and loved.**

**He wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. To whoever embraces this devotion, I promise salvation; those souls will be cherished by God, as flowers placed by Me to adorn His Throne.”**

“Am I to stay here alone?”  
Lucy asked painfully.

**“No, My daughter. Are you suffering a great deal? Do not lose heart, I will never forsake you! My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.”**

Lucy, in her Memoir, writes: “It was at the moment when She pronounced those last words that She opened Her hands and communicated to us, for the second time, the reflection of that immense light. In it we saw ourselves as submerged in God.

“Jacinta and Francisco ap-



This beautiful picture in honor of St. Joseph and the Holy Family is located just above the altar dedicated to St. Joseph in the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians in Turin, Italy which St. John Bosco had built. It is painted by Lorenzone in accordance with Don Bosco's directives.

Saint Joseph is dropping onto the sanctuary the roses, handed to him by the Child Jesus. «The flowers represent the graces offered by Jesus to Mary, but Mary makes Saint Joseph their absolute administrator, as Holy Church proclaims: *Constituit eum Dominum domus suae.*» "He made him head of his house."

peared to be in the part of that light which elevated itself to Heaven, and I in the part which spread itself on earth.

“In the palm of the right hand of Our Lady there was a Heart surrounded by thorns which seemed to pierce It. We understood that it was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, outraged by the sins of humanity, which pleaded for reparation.”

The Message of Fatima is first of all a message directed from the Immaculate Heart of Mary to each one of us; to me, to you, personally. We should not lose sight of this.

As Pope John Paul II said when he went to Fatima: Because the Blessed Mother is a mother, everything about our lives is of interest to Her: War and peace, peace in the nation, peace between nations, peace in your home, peace in your heart, and above all your salvation. Every aspect of your life is of maternal interest to Her.

So in June 1917, Our Lady spoke about Her Immaculate Heart. In fact, the Blessed Virgin Mary gave the three Fatima children a special grace which greatly increased their love for Her Immaculate Heart.

It is a grace we should all ask for and ask for every day. We must not forget that, above all, the Catholic religion is a religion of divine love and intimacy. Our Lord wants us to share our love and devotion to His own Sacred Heart with that of His Immaculate Mother’s Heart.

The next month, July 13 1917, Our Lady said, “If what I say to you is done, if My requests are granted, many souls will be saved.” She also said, “I will come to ask for the Communion of Reparation on Five First Saturdays of the month.” So Our Lady promised to come back. Also on July 13, She promised the Miracle of the Sun, and She announced that She would also come back to ask specifically for the Consecration of Russia.

On December 10, 1925, Our Lady fulfilled Her promise to return to Sister Lucy to ask for the Communion of Reparation on Five First Saturdays (see full story on [page 6](#)).

### **Mary Generates Us Into the Life of Grace**

Of special interest is that when Our Lady appeared with the Child Jesus to request the Five First Saturdays,

the Child Jesus spoke first. He said,

**“Behold the Heart of *your* Mother”.**

### **The Blessed Virgin is Our Mother Too**

Now of course, the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus, but He is also proclaiming another dogma, which also must be believed literally: that the Blessed Virgin Mary is our Mother.

This may seem a bit strange. I must say that before I did my licentiate thesis on this, I always thought that it was just a pious term. Yes, it is a pious term to call the Blessed Virgin Mary our Mother. But it is not just a pious term. It is literally true.

How can it be literally true? The Second Vatican Council tells us in Chapter VIII of *Lumen Gentium* that the Blessed Virgin Mary generates us. It is described in various translations differently, but the original Latin text from the Council says *generavit* – She generates us. It is a maternal act of generation.

This is why Our Lord uses the term “born again” when speaking of Baptism: “Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Ghost, he cannot enter the Kingdom

of God.” We are born again by Baptism. We are generated into the life of sanctifying grace. Saint Peter tells us in his first Epistle that we Catholics participate in the divine nature – and this is confirmed dogmatically by the Council of Trent – that sanctifying grace is a created participation of the divine nature. This supernatural life is generated in us by Baptism, through the maternal action of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the same time.

So just as the Blessed Virgin generated the Son of God – a Person Who pre-existed – into the life of nature (that is, giving Jesus a natural body and soul through Her maternal action), so with us She takes pre-existing persons, meaning we who have been created by God but not yet living the life of sanctifying grace, and generates us into the life of sanctifying grace, through Baptism. This harmonizes with what the Church has taught, especially Saint Pius X and Pope Leo XIII, that all graces come to us through the maternal hands of the Blessed Virgin.

This is the reason why Our Lord says, “Behold the Heart of *your* Mother.” It’s impor-

tant to understand He says “*your* Mother,” because He means it literally. This is why He also talks about the ingratitude of men – of us, including myself – who don’t reflect sufficiently upon how much we owe Her, how much She has given to us, how much She loves us.

So Our Lord came to ask us to make reparation – in particular, to make the Five First Saturdays of Reparation – to console Her. If we properly perform the Five First Saturdays of Reparation – Our Lady promises to come at the hour of our own personal death with all the graces necessary for our own personal salvation.

### **Fatima Suffers From Our Pride**

The Message of Fatima “suffers” due to our own intellectual pride. We think that somehow or other, it can’t be this simple. How could fulfilling Our Lady’s requests of daily Rosary, offering sacrifices for sinners, making the Five First Saturdays, and the Pope consecrating Russia, in union with the world’s bishops, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, bring about the conversion of Russia and world peace?

We falsely think that it cannot be this simple. The solution must be more complicated. If we look at how the world seeks the solution, we see a series of failures. We’ve had the First World War, which was to be the “war to end all wars” and the Second World War, which was to “preserve the world for democracy”. Now we have the perpetual “war against terror” that George Bush said would go on for twenty years. Perpetual war for perpetual peace.

Of course, it shows how brainwashed we are to believe that we are going to have war to bring about peace. We’ve had the same people or their predecessors tell us that by doing these things, we are going to have peace. We spend trillions of dollars in various currencies around the world. We shell out our tax money and we do everything to give them our support.

Our Lady of Fatima has given us the means to peace. In fact, it appears that She did this in response to the 1917 request of Pope Benedict XV. On May 5, 1917, Pope Benedict XV noted that diplomacy and all other earthly means were impossible, and

publicly asked Our Lady to show us the way to peace. Our Lady came eight days later and said that the only way to peace is Her Fatima peace plan. The Five First Saturdays is a central part of this simple Peace Plan.

### **The Lesson from Naaman**

It reminds me of the Biblical account of Naaman, who had leprosy. His Jewish servant had told Naaman's wife, "If your master wants to be cured, tell him to go to Israel and ask for the prophet's intercession."

So Naaman went. Now Naaman was an important man. He was a general. He went to the King of Israel and asked for a cure for his leprosy. The king, thinking Naaman was looking for some way to provoke war, tore his garments and said, "Am I God that I can cure leprosy?"

The prophet Eliseus, knowing the king's answer, sent an emissary to the king's court and said if Naaman wishes to be cured, "have him come to me." Naaman then went to the prophet, but the prophet did not go out to see him. Rather, the prophet sent word, "If you want to be cured, go down to the River

Jordon and bathe there seven times."

Now Naaman was angry and tore his garments, because he did not think the cure could be accomplished that easily.

But his counselors – much better than the Pope's counselors today – said to Naaman: "Had the prophet asked you to do something difficult would you not have done it?" Naaman said, "Yes". The counselors said, "Well then, why not just do what the prophet asked and see what happens?"

So Naaman, following the good advice of his counselors, went to the River Jordan and bathed seven times. And as Scripture reports (see 4 Kings 5:1-15, at the end of this article), when Naaman came out the seventh time, his skin was as smooth as that of a newborn child. His leprosy was completely gone.

### **By God's Grace We Will Have World Peace**

God wants it to be seen that it is His work. It is not by our efforts, but it is due to His Mercy and Grace that we will have this most special grace of world peace. He also wants all men to see that it is through the merits and the

intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary that this grace is given to us. God also wants us to make reparation for all our ingratitude, our blasphemies and for not even thinking about how much Our Lady loves us. He wants us to make reparation, and he wants this Five First Saturdays devotion spread throughout the world.

So this simple devotion, although it is very simple, will please the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

### **Spirit of Reparation**

We can understand the spirit of reparation by the following considerations. If someone were to offend you, or slap you, or say some unkind word to you, it would certainly hurt. But if at the same time someone else would come up to you and say, "I'm sorry this happened to you", and give you some little gift, or a rose, or something of that nature, you would understand that this person is trying to console you. You would understand this person is trying to make up to you in some way the pain, the suffering, the trial that you were given by the person who offended you.

Our Lady's Heart is the same way. Our Lady's Heart is hurt by those who are un-

grateful to Her for all Her love and goodness. She is hurt by those who blaspheme Her, by those who refuse to believe the truth about Her Immaculate Conception, Her Perpetual Virginitly. She is deeply pained by all the sins against Her that Jesus told Sister Lucy about – see page 11. Our Lord knows that Her Heart will be consoled by our efforts, as poor as they are, to make some little present, little gift, little act of kindness for Her in a spirit of reparation.

Of course, what She wants most of all is spiritual gifts – the gifts of going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, praying five decades of the Rosary, and keeping Her company for 15 minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, all done in the spirit of reparation to Her Immaculate Heart. These are what She asked for specifically; so if we do these things to the best of our ability, She will know we are trying to console Her.

So let us take these things to heart because ultimately the Message of Fatima is the Message of the heart. It is the Message of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Cardinal Newman – who was beatified



On February 15, 1926, while putting the garbage out in the garden, Sister Lucy met a boy whom she had earlier encouraged to pray. She asked Him, "Did you ask Our Heavenly Mother for the Child Jesus?" He responded, "And you, have you revealed to the world what the Heavenly Mother asked you?" Sister Lucy then realized that He was the Child Jesus. Read about this on [page 9](#).



this Fall by Pope Benedict XVI – had this motto on his coat of arms: “*Cor ad cor loquitur*”; that is, “heart speaks to heart”.

We are called to this heart-to-heart intimacy with Our Lady and Our Lord, especially in our interior life. This

is something that is shown by the simple, yet profound, Message of Fatima.

Let us renew our devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by practicing the Five First Saturdays of Reparation, practicing it with greater fervor than ever before. **FC**

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**Reference: 4 Kings 5:1-15** [1] Naaman, general of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable: for by him the Lord gave deliverance to Syria: and he was a valiant man and rich, but a leper. [2] Now there had gone out robbers from Syria, and had led away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid, and she waited upon Naaman's wife. [3] And she said to her mistress: I wish my master had been with the prophet, that is in Samaria: he would certainly have healed him of the leprosy which he hath. [4] Then Naaman went in to his lord, and told him, saying: Thus and thus said the girl from the land of Israel. [5] And the King of Syria said to him: Go, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. [6] And brought the letter to the king of Israel, in these words: When thou shalt receive this letter, know that I have sent to thee Naaman my servant, that thou mayest heal him of his leprosy. [7] And when the king of Israel had read the letter, he rent his garments, and said: Am I God, to be able to kill and give life, that this man hath sent to me, to heal a man of his leprosy? Mark, and see how he seeketh occasions against me. [8] And when Eliseus the man of God had heard this, to wit, that the king of Israel had rent his garments, he sent to him, saying: Why hast thou rent thy garments? Let him come to me, and let him know that there is a prophet in Israel. [9] So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and stood at the door of the house of Eliseus: [10] And Eliseus sent a messenger to him, saying: Go, and wash seven times in the Jordan, and thy flesh shall recover health, and thou shalt be clean. [11] Naaman was angry and went away, saying: I thought he would have come out to me, and standing would have invoked the name of the Lord his God, and touched with his hand the place of the leprosy, and healed me. [12] Are not the Abana, and the Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel, that I may wash in them, and be made clean? So as he turned, and was going away with indignation, [13] His servants came to him, and said to him: Father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, surely thou shouldst have done it: how much rather what he now hath said to thee: Wash, and thou shalt be clean? [14] Then he went down, and washed in the Jordan seven times: according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored, like the flesh of a little child, and he was made clean. [15] And returning to the man of God with all his train, he came, and stood before him, and said: In truth, I know there is no other God in all the earth, but only in Israel: I beseech thee therefore take a blessing of thy servant.