

Sow in the Hearts of Children A Love for Our Lady

What follows is a beautiful “letter to children” that can be read by parents, grandparents and others to children. The aim is to sow in the hearts of children a love of Our Lady, and to urge those who have already made their First Communion to practice the Five First Saturdays of Reparation.

by Susan Vennari

Dear Young Friend of Our Lady,

After Francisco and Jacinta had died, Lucy entered the convent. There she tried with all her heart to think about God and Our Lady, and to love Them with Her whole heart and soul. Living the simple life of the holy sisters, she sometimes received visits from Jesus or Mary, with whom she would talk about the revelations of Fatima.

One such visit, that Our Lady had actually promised to make in 1917, was the request for the Five First Saturdays of Reparation. She asks us to make reparation to Her Immaculate Heart by doing the following on the first Saturday of five consecutive months: 1) Go to Confession; 2) Receive Holy Communion; 3) Recite five decades of the

Rosary; and 4) Comply with Her when She said: “keep Me company”, by spending 15 minutes meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Rosary.

Some time later, when Sister Lucy was making a holy hour, she asked Our Lord why He specified ‘five first Saturdays’.

Heaven gave the answer:

“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 Perpetual Virginity; 3) blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, in refusing at the same time to recognize Her as the Mother of men; 4)

The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference or scorn, or even hatred of this Immaculate Mother. 5) The offenses of those who outrage Her directly in Her holy images."

Then Our Lord added tenderly, "Here, My daughter, is the reason why the Immaculate Heart of Mary inspired Me to ask for this little act of Reparation"

Isn't it beautiful how Our Lord calls Sister Lucy "My daughter"? Don't you think it is remarkable how Our Lord keeps referring to Our Lady as "the Immaculate Heart of Mary," instead of, perhaps, 'My Mother'? It is as if He was trying to show Sister Lucy that He loves her a great deal *AND* holds her with the highest regard.

Mary Consoled Jesus

Of course, Jesus would have a natural love for His own Mother. But Mary is also the only human being who cooperated perfectly with God's Will for Her while She was on earth. How much She consoled Him, and does even now, uniting Her will to His Will, loving Him with Her most pure, most chaste,

most loving heart. She is supernaturally beautiful, because of all the graces that were granted to Her.

When Jesus was on earth, Our Lady tried to repair for other people's unkindnesses. She would make acts of reparation and love to Our Lord. She would speak to Him kindly to console Him.

The Prophecy of Simeon

Do you remember the story of the saintly old man Simeon, who had prayed to see the Messiah before he died? When Joseph and Mary brought Baby Jesus up to the temple for the presentation, the Holy Ghost led Simeon to the Holy Family. Simeon greeted them with joy, praising and thanking God. But then he turned to Mary and prophesied, "And thy own soul a sword shall pierce ..." (*Luke 2:35*) We know that Our Lady suffered interiorly all that Her Son endured during His Passion. But Her suffering has not ceased.

Here is a horrible fact: In modern times, many people like to wound the Heart of Mary. Sometimes they do not understand how dreadful their actions are, but other times they do it on purpose!



St. Simeon greeted the Holy Family with joy and thanksgiving for the answer to his prayer to see the Messiah before he died. At this time, he prophesied to Mary, "And Thy own soul a sword shall pierce ..."

They pierce Her Immaculate Heart with unkind words, they mock Her with scornful actions; they scourge Her with gross images. Some speak against Her Immaculate Purity; some mock that She is Our Mother, as well as Jesus' Mother; some scoff at statues of Her. There are those, too, who would turn children away from Mary, so they become like spiritual orphans, never knowing their own most loving and regal

Mother.

How all these things pierce Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. Yet She prays for us still.

Make Reparation to the Immaculate Heart

No wonder Jesus has come to ask His children to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of His exquisite Mother.

Jesus has always known how people who have hated Him would then turn upon

His Mother, trying to wound Her Heart. Don't you hate to see your mother suffer? How much more the Sacred Heart hates to see the injuries to His dear Mother's Immaculate Heart. He begs us to console Her, the way She consoles Him.

Jesus and Mary especially love the hearts of children like you. (Remember how He told the disciples, *"Let the little children come unto me"*? Another time, He began an instruction to His listeners, *"Unless you become as little children ..."*.)

Jesus and Mary love the loving hearts of children because they are uncluttered; that is, they are ardent, they love to console Our Lady with all their hearts. Our dear Lord wants our little hearts to burn with love for Our Mother. But He also knows that we are weak, and lose enthusiasm easily. That is why He asks for only five months of perseverance. But each of these five months heals a different wound by which Our Lady has been offended.

Keep Our Lady Company

Jesus wants us to keep Her company for a little

while, with prayer and Holy Communion and the Rosary and Confession – in this way, we imitate Her; we show Her that we want to be like Her in Her love for Almighty God. Each monthly visiting time consoles Her suffering Heart. Each First Saturday in the five months is as if we have climbed onto Her lap, so that we can put our arms around Her and tell Her that we love Her.

Use your checklist (see [page 25](#)) to help you give a complete account to Our Lady. Each time you look at it, you will be filled with joy to consider that you are doing something to please Our Lord and Our Lady.

Our Mother will be filled with joy, too, for She knows that when we unite our hearts with Hers, we are also uniting our hearts with Her Son's; that is what She really wants. The more we love Our Lady, the more She takes us to Her Son. **FC**

Please contact us if you need the Five First Saturday Checklists for your children (see [page 25](#)) and write to us to let us know you and your children are practicing the Five First Saturdays.