A Great New Help to Practice the Five First Saturdays

by Father Nicholas Gruner, S.T.L., S.T.D. (Cand.)

Recognizing the importance of the Five First Saturdays devotion, we have produced a unique new card (enclosed is one card – ask us for more) to help you keep track of your own Five First Saturdays. Elsewhere in the magazine, you will find a brief summary of Our Lady's request for the Five First Saturdays, and the importance She places upon them.

The Five First Saturday Checklist card is a beautiful full color card that contains a handy chart by which you can check off each aspect of your Five First Saturdays devotion, and help you track your five consecutive months.

When the card is properly complete, you know you have properly fulfilled Our Lady's request. You can get these cards for family and friends. You can use the attractive card to encourage your children and grandchildren to practice this devotion Our Lady so urgently requested.

Regarding the devotion of the fifteen consecutive Saturdays in honor of Our Lady – a devotion that preceded Our Lady's request for the Five First Saturdays – Our Lord lamented to Sister Lucy that many start this devotion but do not finish. He then gave us the Five First Saturdays as a devotion that is easier to practice, and He enhanced it with even greater efficacy. Our Lady promised to assist at the moment of death with all the graces necessary for salvation those who perform these Five First Saturdays.

Yet how many of us may have to admit that we have perhaps *started* the Five First Saturdays, but never finished it, or did not fulfill all the conditions Our Lady requires.

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Use this New Tool – The Five First Saturday Checklist!

The Five First Saturdays Checklist card helps us to bring Our Lady of Fatima's First Saturdays devotion to its proper completion. I know you will find it useful. It has been enthusiastically received by those who have seen it already.

And there is another aspect to this card. By spreading this card to others – which explains the basic requirements for the Five First Saturdays – you will be an Apostle of Our Lady spreading a devotion She so earnestly desires.

In fact, the Five First Saturdays devotion is so important that it is intimately connected with Our Lady's request for the Pope to consecrate Russia. [Our Lady, on July 13, 1917, said that to prevent these chastisements (war, famine, *persecution* of the Church and the Holy Father) "I shall come to ask for the Communion of Reparation on the Five First Saturdays and the Consecration of Russia."]

In June 1930, Sister Lucy wrote to Father Gonçalves, "If I am not mistaken, our good God promises to end the persecution in Russia, if the Holy Father deigns to make, and also orders the bishops of the Catholic world to make, a solemn and public act of reparation and consecration of Russia to the Most Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary. This persecution having thus ended, His Holiness would then promise to approve and *recommend* the practice of the already mentioned devotion of reparation." [emphasis added]

It is clear from this that Our Lord and Our Lady want this devotion to be promoted worldwide, even by the Pope himself. Thus we embark on a new campaign to further promote this devotion around the world.

We hope the Five First Saturday Checklist card will serve as an impetus and incentive to practice the devotion more faithfully, and to promote this devotion to others.

Once we understand the beauty and urgency of this devotion, we will not practice it only once, but continually – or at least many times – throughout our lives. FC

See Checklist on page 25

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