

What Are the Five First Saturdays

Our Lady's Message is simple. This little introduction to the Five First Saturdays is mostly explained in Her own words. Treasure them, love them, adhere to them.

Compiled by The Fatima Crusader

On July 13, 1917, Our Lady promised at Fatima, "I shall come to ask for ... the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays."

Lucia asked, "What does Your Grace want of me?"

"I want you to come here on the 13th of next month and to continue praying the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, because only She can help you."

Here Our Lady referred to Herself in the third person. Lucia asked Her to tell them who She was, and to work a miracle so that everyone would believe that She was appearing to them.

"Continue to come here every month.

"In October I will tell you who I am and what I want

and I will perform a miracle for all to see and believe."

Lucia made some requests to which Our Lady replied that it was necessary to pray the Rosary in order to obtain these graces throughout the year. And She continued:

"Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say many times, especially when you make some sacrifice: O my Jesus, it is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

As Our Lady spoke these words, She opened Her hands once more, as She had done during the two previous months.

This time the light did not fall on the children but on the ground between them and Our Lady. In this light the children could see below the face of the earth. They saw



This is the chapel where Sister Lucy of Fatima received the visit of the Child Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 10, 1925. It used to be her room, but in honor of this apparition requesting the Five First Saturdays of Reparation it has been made into a chapel. This painting on the wall is how Our Lady and Our Lord appeared. It was here that the great promise of salvation for the Five First Saturdays was made.

the fires of hell.

“That vision lasted only a moment, thanks to our Good Mother of Heaven, Who, at the first apparition, promised to bring us to Heaven. Without that, I think we would have died of terror and fear.

“Terrified and as if to plead for succor, we looked up at Our Lady, Who said to us, so kindly and so sadly”:

“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.

“The war is going to end; but if people do not cease offending God, a worse one will break out during the reign of Pius XI.

“When you see a night illumined by an unknown light, know that this is the great sign given you by God that He is about to punish the world for its crimes, by means of war, famine, persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father.

“To prevent this, I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to My Immac-

ulate Heart, and the *Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays.*”

This last promise was fulfilled in December 1925, when Sister Lucia was a Dorothean Sister in the convent at Pontevedra.

Speaking of herself in the third person, Lucia narrated what happened:

Mary's Holy Heart Encircled with Thorns

“On December 10, 1925, the Most Holy Virgin appeared to her (Lucia), and by Her (Our Lady's) side, elevated on a luminous cloud, was the Child Jesus. The Most Holy Virgin rested Her hand on her (Lucia's) shoulder, and as She did so, She showed her a heart encircled by thorns, which She was holding in Her other hand. At the same time, the Child said:

‘Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce It at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them.’

“Then the Most Holy Virgin said:

‘Look, My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men

pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console Me, and announce in My Name that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with all graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months, confess, receive Holy Communion, recite the Rosary and keep Me company for fifteen minutes meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to Me.”

Lucia informed her Mother Superior and her confessor about this apparition immediately. Despite Lucia’s efforts, not much progress was made in convincing her superiors of the need for propagation of the devotion.

Our Lord obviously foresaw this difficulty, and sometime in the Fall of 1925, Lucia had an unusual encounter with a young boy, who came into the convent courtyard while Sister Lucia was putting out the garbage. She relates it as follows:

“I had encountered a child, whom I asked if he knew the Hail Mary. He had answered ‘Yes’, and I had asked him to say it with me, to hear him say it. At the end of three Hail

Mary’s, I asked him to say it alone. Since he kept silence and seemed unable to say it alone, I asked him if he knew the church of Saint Mary. He said ‘yes’. Then I told him to go there every day and say this prayer: ‘O my Heavenly Mother, give me Your Child Jesus!’ I taught him this prayer, and he went away.”

Lucia goes on to explain that the child returned a few months later:

“So, on February 15, coming back as usual (to empty a garbage can outside the garden), I found a child there who seemed to be the same one as before, and I asked him: ‘Did you ask our Heavenly Mother for the Child Jesus?’ The child turned to me and said: ‘*And you, have you revealed to the world what the Heavenly Mother asked you?*’ And, having said that, he turned into a resplendent Child.

“Then recognizing that it was Jesus, I said to Him:

“My Jesus! You know what my confessor said to me in the letter I read You. He said that this vision had to be repeated; there had to be facts permitting us to believe it, and that the Mother Superior alone could not spread this devotion.’

“It is true that the Mother Superior alone can do nothing, but with My grace, she can do everything. It is enough that your confessor gives you permission, and that your superior announce this for it to be believed by the people, even if they do not know to whom it was revealed.’

“But my confessor said in his letter that this devotion already exists in the world, because many souls receive You every first Saturday of the month in honor of Our Lady and recite the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary.’

“It is true, My daughter, that many souls begin, but few persevere to the very end, and those who persevere do it to receive the graces promised. The souls who make the Five First Saturdays with fervor and to make Reparation to the Heart of your Heavenly Mother, please Me more than those who make fifteen, but are lukewarm and indifferent.’

“My Jesus! Many souls find it difficult to confess on Saturday. Will You allow a confession within eight days to be valid?’

“Yes. It can even be made later on, provided that the souls are in the state of grace

when they receive Me on the first Saturday, and that they have the intention of making Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.’

“My Jesus! And those who forget to form this intention?’

“They can form it at the next confession, taking advantage of their first opportunity to go to confession.’

“Right after that He disappeared, without me finding out anything more about Heaven’s desires, up to the present.”

The Reason for the FIVE First Saturdays

Later, when Lucia had been transferred to the convent at Tuy, about 60 miles from Pontevedra, her confessor, Father Jose Bernardo Goncalves, S.J., wrote Lucia asking her to explain the reason for five First Saturdays of devotion. Why not nine First Saturdays or fifteen, as these devotions already existed? After completing a holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament one Thursday evening, Lucia wrote him back:

“When I was in the chapel with Our Lord part of the night of May 29-30, 1930, and I spoke to Our Lord about questions four and five, I suddenly felt myself more

intimately possessed by the Divine Presence and, if I am not mistaken, this is what was revealed to me:

“My daughter, the reason (for the Five First Saturdays) 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 the Immaculate Mother.
5. The 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 ... and in consideration of it, to move My mercy to pardon souls who have had the misfortune of offending Her. As for you, always seek by your prayers and sacrifices

to move My mercy to pity for these poor souls.”

The Five First Saturdays is a Devotion For Our Time

Clearly, the Five First Saturdays of Reparation is a devotion for our time, and is needed now more than ever, especially since Lucia herself reminds us that without reparation, many souls will be lost.

This solemn fact was emphasized by Sister Lucia in March of 1929 when Lucia wrote to Father Aparicio:

“Your Reverence cannot imagine how great is my joy in thinking of the consolation which the Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary will receive through this lovable devotion and the great number of souls who will be saved through this lovable devotion.

“I say ‘who will be saved,’ because not long ago, Our Good Lord in His infinite mercy asked me to seek to make reparation through my prayers and sacrifices, and preferably to perform reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and implore pardon and mercy in favor of souls who blaspheme against Her, because the Divine Mercy does not pardon these souls without reparation.” 