

History of this Devotion

In the year of Our Lord, 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared six different times to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal with a most important message to the world concerning the salvation of souls and world peace. In her appearance on July 13th of that year she showed the children a vision of hell and said:

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... I shall come to ask for... the Communion of reparation on the first Saturdays....

Eight years later, on December 10, 1925, the Blessed Virgin fulfilled her promise. On that day Our Lady appeared with the Child Jesus to Lucy — now Sister Lucy, and the sole surviving seer of the 1917 apparitions — in her convent in Pontevedra, Spain. She placed one hand on Sr. Lucy's shoulder and in the other hand she showed her a Heart surrounded by thorns. The Child Jesus said to her:

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.

After this, the Blessed 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 moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months

shall receive the sacrament of Confession, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart.

Here it is important to consider that reparation is to be made to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Naturally, all reparation for sin is directed to God the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Ghost, but the Blessed Virgin's unique role in the salvation of mankind makes sin especially hurtful to her Heart. And, making *reparation* means to make amends for this harm that has been done to her.

Requirements

On the 1st Saturdays of 5 consecutive months:

1. **Make a good Confession** (This can be made within 8 days before or after the first Saturday).
2. **Receive Holy Communion** (Regarding the difficulty that some could meet in fulfilling this requirement on Saturday, Our Lord told Sr. Lucy: *"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"*).
3. **Pray 5 decades the Holy Rosary.**
4. **Keep Our Lady company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Holy Rosary.** This is to be done separately from the Rosary using one, several or all of the mysteries.
5. The above 4 requirements must **all be done with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.** Thus our purpose is to console and compassionate the

Immaculate Heart for the offenses she receives by those who ungratefully reject her maternal intervention and despise her prerogatives.

The Promises

1. The Virgin Mary's assistance at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation.
2. Establishing devotion to the Immaculate Heart will result in the salvation of souls and peace.

Why Five Saturdays?

First of all, Saturday has traditionally been set aside as a day to honor Mary. For, on the first Holy Saturday — between the day of Jesus' Crucifixion and that of his Resurrection — she alone remained steadfast in her Faith that Jesus would rise again as He said. Beyond this, Sr. Lucy relates the reason for *five*:

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 this question, 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 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) *The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference to, or scorn or even hatred of this Immaculate Mother.*

(5) *The offenses of those who outrage her directly in her holy images.*"

Correlation with the Five Joyful Mysteries

While any five of the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary may be used, it is interesting to note the correlation that the five Joyful Mysteries have with the five types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. **The Annunciation:** In this mystery the Angel Gabriel greets Mary, calling her: "*Full of Grace*" (Lk. 1:28). This particular title (chosen by God) has been used by the Church to help demonstrate that Mary was Immaculately conceived — for if she is *full* of grace, there can be no room for any sin in her whatsoever. She is the Immaculate Conception. Thus, in honoring this mystery we make **reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception.**

2. **The Visitation:** In this mystery St. Elizabeth greets Our Lady exclaiming: "*...blessed art thou that hast believed, because those things shall be accomplished that were spoken to thee by the Lord*" (Lk. 1:45). And what was it that Mary believed? She believed that though she was *vowed to God as a virgin* — "*I know not man*" (Lk. 1:34) — She would nevertheless "*conceive*" and "*bring forth a son*" (Lk. 1:31). Thus, in honoring this mystery we make **reparation for the blasphemies against Mary's perpetual virginity.**

3. **The Holy Nativity:** In this mystery Mary gives birth to Jesus Christ the Eternal Son of God. By becoming man He became the brother

of all men. One cannot have Jesus for his brother who has not Mary for his mother. Thus, in honoring this mystery we make **reparation for the blasphemies against Mary's divine maternity and for those who refuse to recognize her as the Mother of men.**

4. **The Presentation:** In this mystery Mary brings her Divine Son in her maternal arms into the Temple. There she selflessly offers Him to his Eternal Father. If the Eternal Father has such confidence in Mary as to entrust his Divine Son with his mission to save man to her maternal care, have his creatures anything to fear in entrusting their children to her? Thus, in honoring this mystery we make **reparation for the blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference to, or scorn or even hatred of this Immaculate Mother.**

5. **The Finding in the Temple:** In this mystery Mary's sole purpose for entering the Temple in Jerusalem is to find Jesus. Likewise, by being present through her images in our Catholic temples today she helps us to find, know and love her Jesus. Thus, in honoring this mystery we make **reparation for the offenses of those who outrage her directly in her holy images.**

For a complete account of the message and the events surrounding Fatima, visit: fatima.org.

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How to Make...

The Five First Saturdays

As Requested by OUR LADY OF FATIMA



"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."

~ The Child Jesus to Sr. Lucy, Dec. 10, 1925