

REPARATION OFFERED TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



1. THE GREAT PROMISE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA.

On July 13th 1917, in Fatima, Our Lady 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 consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated. In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph."

Seven years after the revelations of Fatima, Our Lady allowed Sister Lucy to disclose the content of the second part of the secrets of Fatima. Its subject was the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. On December 10th She appeared to Sister Lucy, with the Infant Jesus, and showed her heart, encircled by thorns.

The Infant said, "Have compassion for the Heart of Your Holy Mother, encircled by thorns, with which ungrateful mankind constantly pierce it. Yet there is no-one who would, through reparation, remove these thorns."

Mary said, "Look, my daughter, at my heart, surrounded by thorns with which the ungrateful pierce it constantly by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, 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 me."

2. WHY HAS IT TO BE "FIVE SATURDAYS" OF REPARATION, AS OPPOSED TO NINE, OR SEVEN, IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS?

Sister Lucy says : Remaining in the chapel, for part of the night from 29th to 30th May 1930, and speaking with Our Lord about the fourth and fifth question, I suddenly felt more intensely overcome by His presence. Unless I am mistaken, the following was revealed to me: "Daughter, the reason is straightforward. There are five kinds of offences and blasphemies directed at the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Blasphemies against Her Immaculate Conception,
2. against Her Virginity,
3. against Her Divine Maternity, where there is the belief that she is merely the Mother of a man,
4. Offences of those who try to instill in the hearts of children indifference, contempt and even hate against the Immaculate Mother,
5. of those who offend Her directly in Her sacred images.

There, my dear daughter, is the reason which directs the Immaculate Heart of Mary to ask me for this small act of reparation. Apart from considerations of Her, I wished to move my mercy to forgive those souls who have had the misfortune to offend Her. As for you, through your prayers and sacrifice constantly strive to move me to show mercy to these poor souls."

Jesus said to Sister Lucy, "It's true, my daughter, that many souls start, but few finish, and those who finish, aim to receive the promised grace. However, I prefer those who complete the first five Saturdays with a view to reparation to the Immaculate Heart of your Mother, than those who complete fifteen, unfeelingly and indifferently."

3. CONDITIONS OF THE DEVOTIONS OF THE FIRST SATURDAYS – WHAT IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO GAIN THE PRIVILEGES OF THIS DEVOTION.

FIRST CONDITION

CONFESSION ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

Sister Lucy presented to Jesus the case that some faithful have difficulties with Saturday confession, and asked if the confession could remain valid for eight days. Jesus answered: "It can be valid for even longer on condition that one is in the state of grace when receiving Communion, and has the intention of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

Confession may, e.g. be on a First Friday, but one has to remember the intention of reparations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

What is important, is that, confession has to be made with the intention of redress to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This intention can be consciously made either during preparations for confession, or during absolution.

Appropriate prayers may be said during preparations for confession, as well as an Act of Contrition during Absolution.

SECOND CONDITION

COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

After receiving Communion, one should consciously make the intention of reparation. Appropriate prayers may be said.

THIRD CONDITION

FIVE DECADES OF THE ROSARY ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

Before starting to say the Rosary, one must consciously make the intention of reparation and tell Our Lady that we shall be praying to save sinners and to give Her proof of our love.

If we are praying on our own, we can use our own words to do this, but if we are praying together in a group. There may be an appropriate prayer for the group to use.

After each Mystery, we should say the Prayer of the Angel of Fatima:

"O my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need."

FOURTH CONDITION

MEDITATION FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES ON THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

We undertake a fifteen minute meditation on subjects strictly defined by heaven: we have to bow in contemplation of one, or several, mysteries of the Rosary. We can meditate on any mystery we wish, including the new mysteries, the Luminous Mysteries.

We have to consciously make the intention of reparation for the sinners who do not want to listen to Our Lady, nor to be her children, who are indifferent to her, or even hate her and do much to reduce her glory.

Q&A

4. IF SOMEONE IS UNABLE TO FULFILL THE CONDITIONS OF FIRST SATURDAYS, CAN HE FULFILL THEM ON A SUNDAY?

Sister Lucy answers: "The practice of this devotion will be equally acceptable on the Sunday after the Saturday, if my priests allow the people to do so".

5. BENEFITS. WHAT GRACE HAS BEEN PROMISED TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE DEVOTIONS AT LEAST ONCE?

Our Lady says: To those souls who offer reparation to me in this way, I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation."

6. THE INTENTION OF REPARATION.

Jesus himself reminds us of the importance of the intention of reparation. He told Sister Lucy, that the value of the devotion is dependent on whether people have the intention to offer redress to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is why Sister Lucy begins her notes with: "Do not forget about the intention of reparation, which is a very important element of the first Saturdays"

7. CONDITIONS WHICH ARE INDEED STRAIGHTFORWARD, BUT ARE THEY ACHIEVABLE?

"If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved, there will be peace. War will end." says Mary. Therefore we have to fulfill the requests of Heaven. Mary's plea relates to four conditions, therefore, we have to fulfill all four, not just those we choose ourselves to do. If the intention of reparation is mentioned, then this has to be our intention during the devotions of the first Saturdays. Our Lady asks, that we accompany Her for fifteen minutes, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary. Therefore let us not forget about the meditation, where the subject is strictly defined, and where we have no other choice. Moreover, Mary asks not only for the Rosary, but also for meditation, therefore we must pay attention not to identify our thoughts during the saying of the Rosary with the separate meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary. Let us remember, the meditation, independent of our prayers of the Rosary, is extremely important, and we cannot omit it.

8. IS THE DEVOTION OF THE FIRST SATURDAYS STILL RELEVANT?

The Holy Father, Benedict XVI answers: "We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's mission is complete (...) In this sense the mission is not complete although both great dictatorships have disappeared. The Church continues to suffer, the danger to mankind continues, yet at the same time the search for answers continues; this is why Mary's directions are relevant also in today's troubles, when the force of evil, in so many guises, threatens to stamp out the faith. Today also, it is necessary for us to hear the answers which Our Lady gave to the children. "

The words of Sister Lucy are still relevant today: The Virgin Mary promised to lay aside the scourge of war till later, if this devotion is propagated and practiced. We notice, that She removes this punishment relative to the efforts undertaken in its propagation. Nevertheless, I am concerned that we could do more than we are doing and that God, less than pleased, may remove the arm of his Mercy, and allow the world to be laid waste through this cleansing. ...and never has it been so frightening, frightening... The devotion of the first Saturdays of the month remains a challenge for the Church and for each of us; we can still assert that we could have done more in order that it be known and practiced.

However, the question arises: what need do we have today, of this devotion? Let us not however, forget, that it is God, who wishes to establish this devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Therefore, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, Himself, extends a helping hand to humankind, through Mary, and this throws a totally different light on the situation. With great humility, Sister Lucy teaches all those who doubt the sense of this devotion, that, God is the Father, and understands, more than we do, the needs of his children, and desires to ease our access to Him.

The reminder of this devotion, during the Great Novena of Fatima, is of particular significance, since it is the essence of the message of Our Lady, and is a challenge directed to each of us. If we speak of the devotion of Fatima, we cannot just associate it with the 13th of the month from May to October. Fatima calls for the devotion of the first Saturdays of the month. We will not fulfill the message of Fatima if we do not make reparation to the Heart of Mary on the first Saturdays.



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