



Five First Saturdays
In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
By Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

'War is your fault'

My fellow Marian Fr. Seraphim Michalenko sometimes tells a story that a priest ministering in Japan shared with him in Rome. This priest was at an international gathering of Christians from across the world, attended by foreign dignitaries. The ambassador from Japan approached the priest, verified that the priest served in Japan and was a Catholic priest, and then said, "War is your fault."

The priest was surprised and asked what the ambassador meant. The ambassador said, "You Catholics, all of you – we do not have peace in the world. It is your fault."

The priest said, "Ambassador, why do you blame us?"

The ambassador said, "I've read about this. The Lady came to you at Fatima, right? That's what you believe? She told you what to do to secure peace in the world. Well, there's no peace in the world, so obviously you Catholics haven't done it."

The priest had to acknowledge that the ambassador was correct, but still tried to protest, saying, "Isn't peace everyone's responsibility?"

The ambassador was vehement. "No, she came to you Catholics. Not to Buddhists. Not to Hindus. She came to you, and it is your responsibility."

That ambassador had more faith than a lot of Catholics! But he's right - Our Lady came and asked for specific things at Fatima. If we listened to her and did what she asked, there would be peace in the world. Among her requests:

- ◆ Pray the rosary every day for peace in the world
- ◆ The consecration of Russia and each of us individually to Mary's Immaculate Heart
- ◆ Do our daily duties out of love dedicating everything to God and make reparation for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary by observing the Five First Saturdays of Reparation

What are the Five First Saturdays?

Our Lady explained those Five First Saturdays to Sr. Lucia dos Santos, one of the Fatima visionaries, on Dec. 10, 1925, in the following way:

See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the ... mysteries of the Rosary.

Why *five* First Saturdays in particular?

Jesus explained this to Sr. Lucia on May 29-30, 1930, saying:

Daughter, the motive is simple: There are five kinds of offenses and blasphemies spoken against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

First: blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception

Second: against her Virginity

Third: against the Divine Maternity, refusing, at the same time, to receive her as the Mother of mankind

Fourth: those who seek publicly to implant, in the hearts of children, indifference, disrespect, and even hate for this Immaculate Mother

Fifth: those who revile her directly in her sacred images

Here, dear daughter, is the motive that led the Immaculate Heart of Mary to petition Me to ask for this small act of reparation. And, out of regard for her, to move My mercy to pardon those souls who have had the misfortune to offend her. As for you, seek endlessly, with your prayers and sacrifices, to move Me to mercy in regard to these poor souls.

Do they still matter?

Now, a lot of people have forgotten about the Five First Saturdays devotion, but it's still relevant today - wars are still going on! We still haven't seen the fulfillment of Our Lady's promise that "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world." According to Sr. Lucia, St. John Paul II consecrated Russia to Mary's Immaculate Heart on March 25, 1984. The USSR fell shortly afterwards. And yet there's still not peace in the world. Why? Ask yourself: Have most of us been faithful to her requests, especially the First Saturdays of Reparation?

So I call on everyone who loves Mary to start making the Five First Saturdays a regular part of their prayer life.

First Saturdays in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary include the following elements, performed with the intention of reparation for blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart, for at least five consecutive months:

- ◆ Confession (shortly before or after the First Saturday – so long as the person receives Holy Communion in a state of grace);
- ◆ Holy Communion received on the First Saturday of each month;
- ◆ the Holy Rosary, five decades recited sometime during the day; and
- ◆ meditating for 15 minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary (one or more).

With Ecclesiastical Approval

© 2016 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.

FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS AT ST. GIANNA PARISH

In order to encourage devotion to the "missing ingredient" of Our Lady of Fatima's request, St. Gianna's will be offering the necessary elements:

8:00 a.m.: Recitation of the Rosary

8:30 a.m.: Mass

9:05 – 9:20 a.m.: Meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary

3:00 p.m.: Confessions

Each month we will dedicate our prayers to reparation of a particular blasphemy against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

July 2nd, August 6th, September 3rd, October 1st, and November 5th

Please put these dates on your calendar and join us!

Any questions, feel free to email cw.gianna@comcast.net