

First Five Saturdays Devotion

Many of us are familiar with the first Friday devotion and tradition of going to Mass on the first Friday of the month. But have you heard of the First Five Saturdays devotion? What is this devotion and where did it come from? This all stems from the appearances of Our Lady to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. The three children were Lucia dos Santos, and Francisco and Jacinta Marto. They were all cousins, ages ten, nine and seven years old when Our Lady began to appear to them. On July 13th, 1917, Our Lady announced that she would return to ask for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart and for the Communion of Reparation of the five First Saturdays. She asked for the devotion of the five First Saturdays on December 10th, 1925, in which she said to Lucia:

See my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least make sure to console me and say that all those who for five months, on the first Saturday, 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 with the purpose of making reparations to me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls.

In May 1930, Lucia was speaking to Our Lord and it was revealed by Him why five first Fridays? Her confessor had previously asked her why there are Five First Saturdays? Why not 7 or 10 first Saturdays? While spending time with our Lord in the chapel afterwards, He revealed to her the following: Jesus explained to Sr. Lucia simply by 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: blasphemies against her virginity

- Third: blasphemies 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.

This revelation was put in a letter to her confessor on June 12, 1930 to answer her confessor's question.

Jesus goes on to say: 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 those poor souls.

In short, the Communion of Reparation on the Five First Saturdays, as Our Lady asked Sister Lucia, is a devotion filled with the spirit of reparation; love of the Eucharist and of the Sacrament of Confession; love of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; and love of the Rosary and of meditation.

As for the consecration of Russia, our Lady as promised in 1929 returned to ask for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart. This is important because at this time, communism had already consolidated its power in Russia and Russia was spreading it all over the world. This was after WWI and Pius XI was Pope at that time. He was the one to do the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and he was supposed to do it right away when he was informed of Our Lady's wishes. But even though he believed in the authenticity of the apparitions and was a devotee of Our Lady of Fatima, the consecration was not made. Our Lady said that if the Pope, in union with all of the bishops of the world, would consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart, that Russia would be converted and saved. Russia would not spread her errors to the world. But she also said that if the consecration did not happen, there would not be peace and a worse war will begin during the reign of Pius XI.

We see this theme of repentance several times in the Bible. In the instance of St. Peter, when Jesus is at trial before his crucifixion, Peter denies Jesus three times to avoid the suffering that Jesus was undergoing. But after the Resurrection, Jesus reinstated Peter asking him three times if he loved Him (Jesus)? After Peter affirms each time that yes he loves Jesus, our Lord reinstated Peter and gave him a mission to feed his sheep.

In the case of Jonah the prophet, he ran away from his mission to preach to the people of Nineveh. After being swallowed by the great fish, Jonah repented and preached to the people of Nineveh as God asked him. The people repented of their wicked ways and were saved from destruction.

A common theme in all of these cases is the call to repent. And just as in the cases mentioned in the Bible, the people involved had a choice. And if they chose to obey the will of God, then good things resulted. But when they don't fulfill their mission, there are consequences they must face. In the case of Fatima, Our Lady requested that the Pope and Bishops together consecrate Russia to Her Immaculate Heart to stop the spread of communism. It was done by Pope Pius XII on July 7th, 1952, but it was late and Russia had already begun spreading her errors by then. One of the biggest errors that Our Lady was referring to happened when the Bolsheviks took control of Russia in 1920. Under Vladimir Lenin, Russia became the first country in the modern era to allow abortions in all circumstances. Abortion laws changed again from 1936 to 1955 when there was a ban on unconditional abortions in Russia. But, after that it became legal again until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990. It is estimated that there were over 260 million abortions in Russia during this period. The other part of Fatima that our Lady asked for is the devotion of the first five Saturdays in reparation for the blasphemies against Her Immaculate Heart. All people are called to this devotion. Have we done our part? Just as in the Bible, we have a choice today. And our willingness to do our part can go a long way to stop offending Our Lady, bring reparations to Her and bring peace to the world. Will you do your part?

References:

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