



THE
NINE
FIRST
FRIDAYS
OF
REPARATION
TO
THE
SACRED
HEART
OF
JESUS

*"Behold This Heart that has
loved mankind so much".*



THE
FIVE
FIRST
SATURDAYS
OF
REPARATION
TO
THE
IMMACULATE
HEART
OF
MARY

*"My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge
and the way that will lead you to God"*

THE NINE FIRST FRIDAYS

The devotion of the Nine First Fridays owes its origin to one of the Messages and Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus given to the Church on 5th May, 1688 through St. Margaret Mary, a nun of the Visitation Convent at Paray-le-Monial in France. Jesus said to her, "I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that its all powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on Nine First Fridays of the month consecutively, the grace of Final Repentance; they will not die under my displeasure or without receiving the Sacraments, My Divine Heart making Itself their assured refuge at the last moment". Fr. Croiset, St. Margaret Mary's spiritual director, makes it clear that the Promise does not mean that those acting upon it will all receive before death the Sacrament of the Sick, Confession and Holy Communion, but that they will die in the state of grace. Again, the Promise does not absolve one from keeping the Commandments, from one's duties in life, prayer and the Sacraments; the Promise is simply of one blessing beyond compare, a death in the state of grace, in God's friendship. The conditions for that great blessing do not include Holy Mass; Holy Communion can be received by those in hospital or confined to their homes. Confession is necessary only for those in mortal sin.

So just Two Conditions are necessary:
 A worthy Holy Communion on Nine consecutive First Fridays
 The intention to Honour and make Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

What an immense influence for good the Nine First Fridays have been in Ireland! How many have gone on to frequent, even daily Mass and

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Holy Communion and frequent Confession because of it! How many lives have been sanctified by it! How many homes are happy because of it! What a consolation it is to today's parents to be able to do the Nine First Fridays (or Five First Saturdays) with their children after First Holy Communion or Confirmation, thus securing the salvation of the whole family. The Promise of salvation is a great incentive for us, but even more, it is the measure of how much Our Divine Lord is pleased by, and how much He will do for those who do a little extra out of love and make Reparation for those who have rejected the love of His Sacred Heart.

THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS THE PROMISE

Our Lady promised "to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation" those who make the Five First Saturdays of Reparation to Her Immaculate Heart.

The Conditions

On the First Saturday of Five consecutive months and in a spirit of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

- Go to Confession
- Receive Holy Communion
- Say five decades of the Rosary
- Keep Our Lady company while meditating for fifteen minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary.

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The origin of this Devotion

"The very core of the message of Fatima is the manifestation of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary in the world of today, in order to save it". (Cardinal Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon). In her apparition of 13th June, 1917, Our Lady said that Lucia would "stay on earth to establish devotion to her Immaculate Heart". She added "I promise salvation to those who practise it. Their souls will be beloved by God, they will be as flowers arranged by me to adorn His throne".

On the 13th July Our Lady revealed much to the children that they were not allowed to divulge yet. She told Lucia that she would come again with special requests. In 1925 she came at Pontevedra with the great gift of the Five First Saturdays devotion, which Sr. Lucia was to make known at once, requesting all to practise it. Our Lady spoke in these moving and consoling words, "My daughter, look at my heart surrounded with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment 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 all the graces necessary for salvation all those who, on the First Saturday of Five consecutive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary and keep me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, **with the intention of making Reparation to me**".

Sr. Lucia tells us that Our Blessed Lord Himself said to her that He wanted devotion to the Immaculate Heart of His Mother to be "extended and placed beside devotion to My Divine Heart."

Footnotes

Consecutive: Remember the First Saturdays must be Five in a row.

Why Five? Our Lady revealed to Sr. Lucia that there are five types of blasphemy against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception

Blasphemies against Mary's Virginity

Blasphemies against her Divine Maternity

Blasphemies that seek to implant in the hearts of children indifference, contempt and even hatred for their Immaculate Mother

Blasphemies insulting her in her sacred images

The Holy Communion: For this purpose Saturday includes the Vigil Mass of Sunday.

Also, Sr. Lucia tell us that the Child Jesus Himself granted the following concession, that "for justifying reasons, approved by a priest, one may receive on the Sunday following the First Saturday."

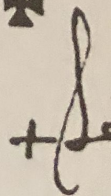
The Confession: Sr. Lucia asked Our Blessed Lord if Confession within eight days (before or after the First Saturday) would be valid. Jesus replied, "Yes, even more time still, provided they receive Me in the state of grace ..."

The Meditation: It may be on one or more of the mysteries. It may be divided into parts before each decade of the Rosary. A priest or someone other than a priest may conduct the meditation or give a talk on the mystery or mysteries for fifteen minutes.

Priests! All over the world vast numbers are at Mass, receive Holy Communion, go to Confession frequently and say the Rosary daily. Will you tell them that as well as the intention of making Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary they need only add a fifteen minute Meditation on a Mystery or mysteries of the Rosary on the First Saturdays to complete this devotion.

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All Catholics! "There stood by the cross of Jesus His Mother". The Blessed Virgin Mary could not have been more willingly and more closely associated with the life and death of our Divine Saviour. Whether or not we do the First Saturdays Jesus Himself wants us to live in the spirit of reparation not only to His Sacred Heart, but also to the Immaculate Heart of His and our Mother.

Fr. Seán M. Cunningham O.P.
Holy Cross, Sligo.

Imprimatur



+ *Seamus Hegarty*
Bishop of Raphae