



FORMATION PROGRAM #10
The Five First Saturday Devotion of Reparation

LUCIA SPEAKS:

[On December 10, 1925, the Most Holy Virgin appeared to her, and by her side, elevated on a luminous cloud, was a Child. The Most Holy Virgin rested Her hand on her shoulder, and as She did so, She showed her a Heart encircled by thorns, which She was holding in Her other hand.]

[Jesus]: "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."

[Our Lady]: "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 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.

[On February 15, 1926, the Infant Jesus appeared to her again. He asked her if she had already spread the devotion to His Most Holy Mother. She told Him of the confessor's difficulties, and said that Mother Superior was prepared to propagate it, but that the confessor had said that she, alone, could do nothing.]

[Jesus]: "It is true that your Superior alone can do nothing, but with my grace, she can do all."

Accompanying Commentary:

See how very close and personal Our Lady is in resting her hand on Lucia's shoulder. Jesus and Mary aren't distanced and detached from us as we so often imagine. As Our Lady is close to our sorrows and as She makes it Her mission to console and relieve us in the difficult calling of carrying our cross, so here She draws close to us, as a friend would, and shows Her own Heart encircled with the thorns of pain that are directly aimed at Her as a person.

In the preceding messages, we see that the Heart of our holy Mother is preoccupied with, and pained deeply by, the sins of humanity against Her Beloved Son. It is in these visions Our Lord, with the pleading of a Child, calls us to consider that which preoccupies Him and wounds Him deeply.

Ingratitude? In what way are we ungrateful? Pierced at every moment? How? By blasphemies too? What can this mean? Let us look at any human mother and we can begin to make some sense of the ingratitude Our Lady speaks of. One of the most, if not **the most**, thankless jobs there is, is to be a mother. Begin to consider this; then consider the sacrifices that Our Lady makes and suffers for us, Her children, in doing all She does, at every moment, to get us to heaven. Remember, the Holy Spirit works through Her in granting and working the graces we receive in our souls. Think of how She is often forgotten or ignored-- no credit is given where credit is due. No thought, nor thanks. There is nothing so painful as to untiringly and selflessly give ourselves in the service of another and have them totally ignore you or never offer a word of thanks—worse yet, to be treated badly, to be taken for granted, used, or even spoken ill of.

Blasphemies are offenses against God Himself. How is it that they can be referenced in any way to Mary? Our Lady's privileges are the work of God Himself, His personal acts, which He wrought in Mary alone, in a miraculous way. Because of Mary's intimate relationship with God, these five attacks against Our Lady have been referred by Our Lord to Sr. Lucia as:

1. Blasphemies against Her Immaculate Conception.
2. Blasphemies against Her Perpetual Virginity.
3. Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity and as the Mother of mankind.
4. Efforts made to implant in children indifference, contempt, & even hatred toward Our Lady.
5. Direct insults hurled at Her sacred images.

She asks for consolation from you who DO love Her. She makes a great promise to those who practice this devotion. They will receive help from Her at the most critical moment of their entire life: At the brink of entering into eternity.

She is very specific in what She asks for as a remedy:

1. Confession (may be done 8 days before or after)
 2. Holy Communion
 3. Recitation of the Holy Rosary
 4. Additional 15 minute meditation on one or more of the Mysteries...
- all with the intention of making reparation to Her Immaculate Heart.

This form of reparation involves you by participation in Mary's partnership with Christ in the plan of salvation. Think of Her sorrows in the love She bears for Jesus and you.

February 15, 1926

The Child Jesus is persistent, as we should be, in carrying out a mission to its completion. Though, as God, He already knows the answer which He asks of Lucia, Jesus speaks to her (as He does with us) on a human level of partnership in communication and to move her not to give up.

Though we deal with Our Lord in prayer on a human level, our action and persistence must move us forward in faith, remembering that His partnership with us is on a divine level. There

are **NO** obstacles except the ones we accept in our mind. We must remember these obstacles are only mirages. Practice prayer and perseverance.

[Sr. Lucia placed before Jesus the difficulty that some people had about confessing on Saturday, and asked that it might be valid to go to Confession within eight days.]

[Jesus]: Yes, and it could be longer still, provided that, when they receive Me, they are in the state of grace and have the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

[Lucia]: My Jesus, what about those who forget to make his intention?

[Jesus]: They can do so at their next Confession, taking advantage of the first opportunity to go to Confession.

Jesus removes all obstacles. He makes it so easy; there is no reason why we cannot console His good Mother and ours. The intention is primary to Him, along with the necessity of being in the state of grace.

May 29-30, 1930

It is the pure intention of the soul which Our Lord seeks.

[Our Lord]: "The practice of this devotion will be equally accepted on the Sunday following the first Saturday, when, for just motives, my priests will allow it."

"Because I want My whole Church to acknowledge that consecration as a triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that it may extend its cult later on, and put the devotion to this Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart."

Jesus now *personally* reveals His purpose and desire in sending Our Lady to us, confirming Her words Himself.

NOTE: Though they are not recorded in LUCIA SPEAKS, there were other important messages revealed in reference to the First Saturdays. They are given below without comment for your own reflection. One can see just how seriously important these devotions are to Our Lord (emphasis added):

Sr. Lucia wrote: "God promises to put an end to the persecution in Russia, if Your Holiness is pleased to make, and instructs all the Bishops of the Catholic world to also make a solemn and public act of reparation and consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and approves and recommends the devotion of reparation." ⁷ [NOTE: This Consecration was done March 25, 1984]

To Sr. Lucia, in March of 1939, Jesus said: "**Ask, ask again insistently for the promulgation of the Communion of Reparation in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the First Saturdays. The time is coming when the rigor of My Justice will punish the crimes of diverse nations. Some of them will be annihilated. At last the severity of My Justice will fall severely on those who want to destroy My Reign in souls.**" (Documentos, pg. 465) ⁸

Sr. Lucia: "Our Lady promised to put off the scourge of war if this devotion was **propagated** and **practiced**. We see that **She will obtain REMISSION of this chastisement to the extent that efforts are made to propagate this devotion...**" [June 20, 1939]

REFLECTION & RESOLUTION: By the practice of the First Saturdays, we learn not to take anyone for granted, least of all Our Lady. We learn to appreciate and acknowledge the gifts everyone gives to us: God, Our Lady, parents...everyone around us. As you fulfill the First Saturday requests, see this as an opportunity to renew your commitment to begin again to follow in the way the Blessed Mother has taught us at Fatima. See in it an occasion to go to everyone you can, those whom you may have forgotten during your life, or those whom you have not shown gratitude to. Return and give thanks. Be generous; not only to them, but also to those whom you feel have done you harm. Forgive them as an act of reparation. Give a gift of kindness to them too, remembering what Jesus and Mary have done for you.

[Brief period of silent reflection]

Discussion Examination of last month's resolutions

Apostolic resolution

Resolution in brief: **Fulfill the request of Jesus and Mary for First Saturdays in reparation for the sins which wound Their Hearts. Extend a spirit of gratitude to Them and others.**

Act of Consecration

⁷ Her Own Words by Fr. Joaquin Alonso, CMF, pg. 17

⁸ God's Final Effort by John Haffert, pg.41