

A Rosary Confraternity Publication

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The 80th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima

The visions at Fatima ☩ The miracle at Fatima ☩ The messages of Our Lady at Fatima ☩

Have you cared enough to learn about what happened? Have you thought about the state of the world today and Our Lady of Fatima's plan for peace in your family and the world? Have you loved the Good God enough to put Our Lady's words into practice? Have you changed your life as she instructed? If NOT - then don't complain about the evils that threaten every facet of your life!

History has recorded as having taken place, many of the terrible disasters predicted by the Mother of God in 1917. These things cannot be undone. But we still have our futures ahead of us. They can be happy futures, filled with peace, if we live our lives according to Our Lady's requests.

These requests: 1) penance and reparation; 2) the daily recitation of the Rosary; 3) the five First Saturdays; and 4) consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

PENANCE AND REPARATION - By penance, Our Lady explained that men must amend their lives: give up their easy lives of sin, ask pardon for their sins, and make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary so grievously offended by the sins of men.

By reparation, Our Lady means:

- 1) offering sacrifice to atone for our sins;
- 2) fulfilling our daily duties to the best of our abilities;
- 3) accepting the responsibilities of our state in life;
- 4) obeying the Commandments of God.

The sacrifice Our Lord requires of each of us is that sacrifice necessary to avoid sin and the occasion of sin and to accept with submission all the suffering sent to us. We should make everything we do a sacrifice, and in offering it to God should say this prayer: *"O my Jesus, I offer this for love of Thee, for the conversion of poor sinners, and in reparation for all the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."*

THE DAILY ROSARY - Our Lady pleaded and insisted that men must say the daily Rosary. Reparation holds back the hand of God from striking the world in just punishment for its many crimes. The Rosary is like a sword or weapon the Mother of God can use to cut down heresy and the forces of evil. It is most powerful, and many times has saved the world from situations as bad, if not worse than, the one facing us today.

A few centuries ago, the Turks were overrunning all Europe, and seemed on the verge of wiping out Christianity. When all seemed lost, Pope Pius V organized a Rosary Crusade. The Christian soldiers literally went into battle with swords in one hand and rosaries in the other. At Lepanto one of the greatest military upsets in all history took place. The little Christian fleet, very greatly outnumbered, defeated the mighty Turkish Armada and Christianity was saved - all through the power of the Rosary.

Today, we are threatened on all sides by Communism. But the Blessed Virgin Mary can overcome these forces of evil overnight if enough people will say the daily Rosary. Particularly is the Family Rosary recommended, for *"the family that prays together, stays together,"* and today our families are threatened with breakup on all sides. After each decade remember to recite, as Our Lady instructed, *"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy."*

THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS - This devotion consists in 1) going to Confession; 2) receiving Holy Communion; 3) reciting 5 decades of the Rosary; and 4) spending 15 minutes with Our Lady meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary - all with the intention of making reparation.

The Mediatrix of All Graces has promised all graces necessary for salvation to those who faithfully practice this devotion for the First Saturday of any 5 consecutive months. (NOTE: *The Confession may be made under the usual condition of 8 days before or after the Holy Communion, provided the person is not in the state of mortal sin when he receives Holy Communion.*)

The first Friday, first Saturday, and the first Sunday of the month normally come together in the same week. The Confession good for one is good for the others. It is recommended that people receive Holy Communion in reparation on all three days, giving Our Lady a little more than she asks - and helping to make up for those who refuse to give her anything at all.

In addition to assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, receiving Holy Communion is the most perfect form of reparation that can be offered.

CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY - This consecration is the least understood, but one of the most important parts of the message of Fatima. Our Lady is looking for people willing to become cells of prayer and sacrifice through consecration to her. This means giving to Mary all our thoughts, words, actions, sufferings, possessions, and the merits from our good works, that she may use them as she sees fit in reparation for sins, for the conversion of sinners, and for the greater love and honor and glory of God.

One of the best forms of consecration for the average layman is to wear the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. A person who wears this Scapular declares that he or she belongs to Mary. In return, the Mother of God has promised eternal life to those who die wearing the scapular. When she gave it to St. Simon Stock and the world in 1251, the Queen of Heaven stated: "*Whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire.*" Wearing the Scapular serves as a constant reminder of one's personal consecration to Mary, and of the necessity of imitating her virtues and heeding her requests.

NOTE: The Scapular Medal may be substituted when it is impossible or impractical to wear the cloth Scapular. However, to be worn validly, the person wearing the medal must first have been enrolled in the cloth Scapular, and the medal must be blessed by a priest. It is not necessary to have the cloth Scapulars blessed.

Probably the most exalted form of personal consecration is for a person to renounce the world and enter the direct service of God under Mary by becoming a priest, or nun, or brother. This form of consecration has varying degrees, depending upon one's choice of a secular, religious, or contemplative community.

TRUE DEVOTION IS ONE OF THE MOST PERFECT FORMS OF CONSECRATION

Another excellent but more difficult form of consecration is the practice of True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as preached by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. This consists in giving one's self as a slave and servant to the Blessed Mother, so he or she can be used as an instrument of God's mercy in drawing the souls of poor sinners to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. St. Louis de Montfort says that as Christ came to us through Mary, He desires we come to Him through her. The Saint states that by consecrating ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we consecrate ourselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the two are one. All we do for Mary, we do for Jesus; all we ask of her we ask of Him, and Our Lord cannot refuse if His Blessed Mother intercedes for us.

In a word, to know and find Mary is to know and find Jesus - and eternal happiness.

Since she desires and requests it, can we choose a more perfect form of consecration to Jesus, than through the Immaculate Heart of His Holy Mother? (Taken from Our Lady of Fatima's "Peace Plan From Heaven")

Anyone wishing more information on St. Louis de Montfort's True Devotion and Consecration to Jesus through Mary, please send us your name and address in the enclosed envelope .

Prayers to be Recited When Visiting a Christmas Crib

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

(Recite 1 Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be)

V. And the Word was made flesh

R. And dwelt among us.

O Divine Redeemer Jesus Christ, prostrate before Thy crib, I believe that Thou art the God of infinite majesty, even though I see Thee as a helpless babe. Humbly I adore and thank Thee for having so humbled Thyself for my salvation as to will to be born in a stable. I thank Thee for all Thou didst wish to suffer for me in Bethlehem, for Thy poverty and humility, for Thy nakedness, tears, cold, and sufferings.

Would that I could show Thee that tenderness which Thy Virgin Mother had toward Thee, and love Thee as she loved Thee. Would that I could praise Thee with the joy of the angels; that I could kneel before Thee with the faith of Saint Joseph; the simplicity of the shepherds. Uniting myself with these first worshiper at the crib, I offer Thee the homage of my heart and I beg that Thou wouldst be born spiritually in my soul. Give me, I pray Thee, the virtues of Thy blessed Nativity. Fill me with that spirit of renunciation, of poverty, of humility, which prompted Thee to assume the weakness of our nature, and to be born amid destitution and suffering. Grant that from this day forward I may in all things seek Thy greater glory, and may enjoy that peace promised to men of good will. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

Prayer to the Holy Infant Jesus in the Crib

All Hail! *Most lovely, Most Holy, most amiable, and loving Infant Jesus. King of my soul. Ah! Blessed by the hour in which Thy Holy Mother will give Thee to me as my ransom. O, most beautiful above the children of men! Give me grace to prepare to receive Thee worthily on the glorious Feast of Thy Nativity. Give me a heart all glowing with Holy desires, love, gratitude, and ardent zeal to correspond with the designs which bring Thee on earth. Give me the true spirit of Thy Holy Nativity, a spirit of humility, silence, detachment, docility, meekness, and true and ardent charity. Give me grace daily to advance in devotions to Thy Blessed Infancy, and faithfully to persevere in the discharge of all my duties in spite of the allurements of Satan, or the scoffing of the world.*

PRAYER TO THE INFANT JESUS

Come to me, O Divine Savior, vouchsafe to be born in my heart. Grant that, taught by Thine example, and assisted by Thy grace, I may be poor in spirit and humble of heart. Keep me chaste and obedient. I wish to live but for Thee, and to do all things purely for love of Thee. O Mary, my Advocate and Mother, obtain by thy prayers forgiveness of my past offences and holy perseverance unto death. St. Joseph, do thou also pray for me, that I may become daily more pleasing to Jesus. Amen.

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