



PERSONAL CONSECRATION
to the
Immaculate Heart of Mary

— Including a Preparatory Novena —

BY FATHER KARL STEHLIN

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Modern times are dominated by satan and will be more so in the future. The conflict with hell cannot be engaged by men, even the most clever. The Immaculata alone has from God the promise of victory over satan. However, assumed into Heaven, the Mother of God now requires our cooperation. She seeks souls who will consecrate themselves entirely to Her, who will become in Her hands effective instruments for the defeat of satan and the spreading of God's kingdom upon earth.

ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

Foreword

from The Fatima Center

How to Make Your Personal Consecration

Step 1: Read the author's **Preface** (p. 6), which provides a basic understanding of what is meant by – and sought through – a personal consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Step 2: A faithful devotee of Our Lady honors Her request to pray five decades of the **Rosary every day**. This is an essential and indispensable spiritual practice for all those who choose to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Step 3: It is customary to select a major **Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary** on which to make – following the Preparatory Novena – and annually renew one's act of consecration. For example, to make one's consecration on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (August 22), the novena would begin on August 13 and extend through August 21.

Step 4: Pray the **Preparatory Novena** (p. 9). It includes general prayers for each day and a brief reading specific to each of the nine days. The readings are intended to deepen one's understanding of the Message of Fatima and one's devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Be sure to pray the Rosary on each of these nine days.

Step 5: Following the Novena, pray the **Solemn Act of Consecration** on page 26.

Sacramental Preparation for the Consecration

One should strive to abide always in the state of grace through frequent Confession. Holy Mother Church strongly recommends sacramental Confession prior to any important life decision. A good Confession should be made in the days immediately preceding one's personal consecration. Though not mandated (and sometimes not possible), an ideal way to solemnize one's

personal consecration is to assist at Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion. One could also choose to devoutly offer such a Holy Communion as an act of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Daily Living One's Consecration to the Immaculate Heart

The **Appendix** (p. 28) offers a set of prayers and considerations which assist the reader in living out this personal consecration in everyday life. As a child, slave, and warrior dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, it is fitting to frequently honor this Heart, having constant recourse to It, understanding the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the seat of mercy, of goodness, and of pardon, and the certain door by which we are to enter Heaven.

Frequent Reaffirmations of One's Personal Consecration

It is a most fitting practice to frequently bring to mind and reiterate the dispositions professed in the personal consecration. This can be done many times throughout the day or at least in one's morning prayers.

Sister Lucia's practice was to daily recite this prayer which she herself composed:

Entrusting myself to the protection of Thy Immaculate Heart, Oh Virgin and Mother, to Thee I consecrate myself, and through Thee, to the Lord, with the same words as Thine own: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to Thy word," Thy wishes, and Thy glory!

Other suitable prayers for this end include the following:

I am all Thine and all I have is Thine, O most loving Jesus, through Mary, Thy holy Mother. My Queen! My Mother, I give myself entirely to Thee and to show my devotion to Thee, I consecrate to Thee this day, my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being, without reserve. Wherefore, good Mother, as I am Thine Own, keep me, guard me, as Thy property and possession. Amen.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, be our salvation!

Preface

by Fr. Karl Stehlin

“God gives us His graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and people should ask for them through this Heart. The Heart of Jesus wishes the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated together with His Divine Heart.” (St. Jacinta of Fatima)

Our Lady of Fatima said to Lucia, one of the three shepherd children, on the 13th of June 1917:

“Jesus wishes to make use of you to make Me known and loved. He wills to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. To whoever embraces this devotion I promise salvation; these souls shall be dear to God, as flowers placed by Me to adorn His throne.”

In an increasingly godless world, where it is becoming more and more difficult to preserve the Faith and save one’s soul, let us take refuge in the Immaculate Heart of our Mother, which, according to the Revelation of Fatima, is the last means of salvation for our times alongside the prayer of the Holy Rosary.

That same 13th of June, the Holy Virgin went on to say, ***“My Immaculate Heart shall be your refuge and the way that shall lead you to God.”***

These words also apply themselves to us when we surrender and entrust ourselves to Her Immaculate Heart by a solemn consecration. Pope Pius XII first consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the 31st of October 1942. Six years later he expressed his desire that everyone consecrate themselves to Her Heart:

“And even as our predecessor of immortal memory, Leo XIII, at the dawn of the twentieth century saw fit to consecrate the whole human race to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, so We have likewise, in the guise of representative of the whole human family which He redeemed, desired to dedicate it in turn to the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary. It is our wish, consequently, that wherever the opportunity suggests itself, this consecration be made in the various dioceses as well as in each of the parishes and families. And We are confident that abundant blessings and favors from Heaven will surge forth from this private and public consecration.”

(Pius XII in *Auspicia Quædam*, on the 1st of May 1948)

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the most ardent desire of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Himself. These Two Hearts are mystically one. When we honor the Immaculate Heart and consecrate ourselves to It, we honor Jesus Christ Himself and He will abundantly bestow upon us His graces through His Mother.

“It is My most ardent desire that the veneration and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary be propagated, because this Heart is the magnet which draws souls to Me, the furnace of fire which radiates on the earth the rays of My light and of My love, and the inexhaustible well which causes the outpouring of the living waters of My Mercy to flow down upon the earth.”

(Letter from Sr. Lucia of Fatima that reports to us the confidence of Our Lord Himself.)

The aim of this novena is to prepare for a consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by better understanding the following three points:

- What is the meaning of the Immaculate Heart of Mary?
- What did Our Lady reveal about Her Immaculate Heart?
- What is the meaning of the consecration?

In addition to a short daily reading, the most important thing is the veneration of the Immaculate Heart through prayers. For our Heavenly Mother Mary will give far deeper insight to those who venerate Her and ask Her through prayers, than to those who only read about Her.

May this booklet help as many parishes, families and souls as possible to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of our Heavenly Mother, as we approach the 100th anniversary of Our Lady’s request for the Consecration of Russia, thus hastening Her victory over the evil She foretold at Fatima:

***“In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph...
and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”***

(Our Lady of Fatima, on the 13th of July 1917)

Warsaw, on the Feast of the Annunciation,
on the 25th of March 2022
Father Karl Stehlin





GENERAL NOVENA PRAYERS

Fatima Prayers Revealed by Heaven

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love Thee. I ask pardon of Thee for all those who do not believe in Thee, do not adore Thee, do not hope in Thee, and do not love Thee.

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I adore Thee profoundly, and I offer Thee the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the Tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners.

O Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee; My God, My God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

By Thy pure and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, obtain for me the conversion of Russia, Spain, Portugal, Europe, (*your nation[s]*) and the whole world

Prayer for Divine Assistance

Almighty and everlasting God, Who in the Heart of the blessed Virgin Mary didst prepare a dwelling-place worthy of the Holy Ghost; grant in Thy mercy, that we who with devout minds will to consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart, may be enabled to live according to Thine own Heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the same Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Read the Reflection Specific to the Day
See pages 10-23.

THE NOVENA



DAY 1

The Revelation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

On the 13th of June 1917 Our Lady of Fatima appears for the second time to the three shepherd children Jacinta, Francisco, and Lucia in Fatima, Portugal.

Our Lady: *“Jesus wishes to make use of you to make Me known and loved. He wills to establish in the world devotion to My Immaculate Heart. To whoever embraces this devotion I promise salvation; these souls shall be dear to God, as flowers placed by Me to adorn His throne.”*

Lucia: “While Our Lady spoke these last words, She opened Her hands and for the second time She conveyed to us the rays of this infinite light. We saw ourselves in the light, immersed in God, so to speak... **In front of the right palm of Our Lady appeared a Heart surrounded by thorns that pierced It.** We understood that It was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, offended by the sins of humanity and demanding reparation.”

This 13th of June 1917 must be understood as a great day in world history when Almighty God allowed Our Lady to reveal to the world Her greatest and innermost mystery. This is the infinite treasure She received from the Most Holy Trinity, the innermost value of Her personality and the source of Her whole being: Her Immaculate Heart!

We can dare to make the following summary: **Fatima is the revelation of the Immaculate Heart to the world!** Likewise, the entire heavenly explanation of the meaning, purpose, and necessity of the Immaculate Heart for everyone. It is, after all, Our Lady’s admonition to all of us, as She desires our response to this revelation.

In short: Fatima shows who Our Lady really is to us and how we should respond to the clear will of God, and the key words that reveal His will to us are “Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Pray the Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on page 24.



DAY 2

The Great Promise for Eternity

The promises of Our Lady of Fatima concern first of all our future and eternity: ***“To whoever embraces this devotion I promise salvation.”***

Only He Who can grant us salvation can promise eternal salvation. Nevertheless, Our Lady clearly emphasizes here: “I promise salvation.” In fact, the mystery of the Immaculate Heart is the mystery of God Himself, Who chooses It from amongst all of His creatures as His dwelling and the place of His presence: It is so full of God and His grace that through It, whatever It says and does, God speaks and works. In other words, when She says “I promise salvation,” She is an echo or a herald of God, Who promises us the greatest of all graces.

Furthermore, the content of the promise is explained in more detail with three requirements, each of which must be understood as a complement to the others.

First of all, “redemption” is the reason for the Savior’s coming. Eternal salvation is the “one and all” for every human life: either salvation or hell, either eternal bliss or eternal damnation. This promise is so infinitely valuable because the whole world has fallen into sin and consequently everyone is in grave danger of losing their soul forever.

Our Heavenly Mother knows that it will be very difficult for Her children to be saved in these current times. That’s why She comes and “promises salvation.” To understand these words, one must understand the mystery of God: It is the overwhelming reality of the absolute and lasting victory over satan, evil, and hell; it is the eternal triumph of God’s love, of light, of joy, of mercy, of the abundance of graces and riches, of the good in us.

The second word that Our Lady uses – “dear” – is amazing: “These souls will be dear to God.” Basically, when we think about salvation, we have in mind the effects it has on ourselves, the ultimate cleansing from our sins, and the eternal reward in Heaven. But there is something even higher to consider: The final triumph of God in our souls touches His Heart, so that He pours Himself out over our insignificance and we become “precious to God.”

What is it actually that is “so dear to God” that it moves Him to shower our souls with His gifts? It is our devotion and filial love for the Immaculate Heart. Our Lord appreciates it so much when His Mother is revered and when we obey and follow Her.

In this statement we also find another reference to the relationship of the Most Holy Trinity and the Immaculate Heart. If devotion to Her is so dear to God that it moves His Heart to bestow abundant graces on even the weakest sinner, how dear must She Herself be to Him?

The most awesome part of the promise, however, is the third and final part.

Our Lady uses the image of flowers here: flowers bring light, beauty, and joy into the house. Flowers are meant to “decorate,” to show the meaning and extraordinary value of what surrounds them.

When we contemplate this promise, we naturally think of the flowers at the altar that are so close to the tabernacle and the greatest sacrifice. They are privileged to almost touch the Body and Blood of Our Lord and to express the highest virtues and the love of creatures for their Creator and Redeemer. When the Sacred Scriptures, the Fathers of the Church and the Doctors of the Church write about the bliss in Heaven, the eternal happiness and the joy of the saints, they must use comparisons and images (feasts, weddings, unity of spouses, ...) to express what can never be expressed in our poor human language.

So what does the image that Our Lady uses mean when She says that the souls consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart will be “as flowers placed by Me to adorn His throne”? Our Faith teaches us that there will be different levels in Heaven: the closer a saint will be to God, the more he will share in His infinite holiness and savor His infinite love. Consequently, Our Lady in Heaven is closest to the Most Holy Trinity, followed by the greatest saints. This means that the veneration of the Immaculate Heart not only promises us salvation and makes us pleasant to God, but also promises us outstanding holiness, transforms our souls to become like “flowers before God” that bloom ever in His life-giving presence. This devotion will lead to a deeper intimacy with God, to a more perfect access to His “majestic throne.”

How pleased must God be in this devotion since He makes promises such as He has scarcely ever given before in all of history?

Pray the Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on page 24.



DAY 3

The Promise for the Present

The promises mentioned above are certainly the most important, as they concern “the hour of our death” and eternity: “What good is it for man to gain the whole world if he loses his soul in the process...?” But the second important moment of our lives is the “now,” because only the present moment is in our hands.

Now I can please God or sin; now we are in the middle of war; now we are being attacked by the devil; now we are on a pilgrimage to the eternal summits. Our Lady knows this; She knows that our lives are a long suffering.

And again, She gives us an amazing promise:

“Do not lose heart. I will never forsake you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.”

We must understand the great value of this statement. We see a poor sinner who is too weak to rise from the spiritual mud: “I will not leave you; as long as you live, I will stand by your side and offer you My immaculate hands and ask you to give Me yours.”

We see another poor sinner who fights, but almost every time loses the fight and falls into the pit of sin: “I will not leave you; Do not give up! Whenever you fall, give Me your hand and get up again. Do not stop trying over and over again!”

We see a deeply religious soul who does not seem to be making any progress in religious life, going through trials, tribulations, dark nights, temptations and discouragement: “I will not leave you; I carry all your sufferings in My Heart, and at every moment I send you a special grace from My Heart.”

There are two essential movements in our spiritual life: the negative one, which concerns our attitude towards evil, temptation, sin, attacks by the devil, etc., and the positive one, which concerns our spiritual

advance and disposition toward God. The first is marked by struggle, hardship and danger, the second by virtue, godliness and active charity.

In each of them we encounter many difficulties: In the first we face dangerous enemies, constantly fighting almost alone against millions. From a human point of view, we are lost: everything around us wants to make us give up, inwardly we are sluggish, weak, fearful, and corrupt. And the moment the enemy sets out to beat us for good, this great promise comes: *“My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge.”*

The small huts in the high mountains are called *Refugio* because they are the only prospect of getting to safety in a storm. In war, soldiers choose a hiding place they call “Refuge,” a place where they are safe and cannot be discovered by the enemy. This is exactly what the Immaculate Heart will be for us in the fog of our spiritual struggle. “When you are tired of fighting, when you are wounded to death, when you are discouraged and getting weaker and weaker, when the darkness frightens you and you are pushed everywhere to sin, Come to My Heart and find protection and new strength. Here’s the only place where no one can harm you!”

And in the second movement of our lives – towards God – there is a great danger of losing the right path, of hesitating about which direction to take, of making mistakes in important decisions, of making great efforts for nothing because we are far from the right path, or building our house on sand.

“My Immaculate Heart will be the way that leads you to God! With Me there are no mistakes as far as the direction is concerned! With Me there is never exhaustion and all efforts are rewarded. There is always light in My Heart and you will never lose your way. And the more you are in My Heart, the easier and faster you will find God! Not only at the end of the long road, but already here and now, because My name is: *‘Dominus tecum* – The Lord is with you!’ and My Heart is the sanctuary of the Holy Ghost.”



Pray the Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on page 24.



DAY 4

The Essence of the Immaculate Heart

Up to this point, Our Lady has spoken about the mystery of Her Immaculate Heart. Now She goes one step further:

“As Our Lady spoke these last words, She opened Her hands and for the second time She communicated to us the rays of that immense light. We saw ourselves in this light, as it were, immersed in God. [...] In front of the palm of Our Lady’s right hand was a Heart encircled by thorns which pierced It.”

The divine light is given to us through the Immaculate Heart. This mysterious, infinite light, in which the children are bathed, as it were, is a profound expression of the nature of God, Who is the light. The ultimate goal of this vision is the light of God, the source and channel of this light is Their Hearts.

We all know the symbol of the heart; it is the depth of our being, the seat of all that is precious in us; but above all, it is the origin of our love. We only open our hearts to our closest friends and only to our loved ones do we say, “You are in my heart! My heart beats for you! I give you my heart etc.”

In this vision, Our Lady shows us Her Heart and allows us to take a look into the deepest mystery of Her being. In addition, it leads us into Her own Heart, which is supposed to be our home, our refuge, and our way. Consequently, She treats us like Her most beloved, who are worthy of receiving such immeasurable love. If we think just a little about who we are – miserable sinners, bad children, and unworthy nothings – we cannot think through to the end without being amazed at such condescension.



DAY 5

This Veneration Is Her Son's Most Ardent Wish

The greatness, grandeur and importance of Her Heart, which is shown to us poor children of Eve, are explained by Our Lord Himself by Him saying to Sister Lucia:

“It is My most fervent desire that devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary be spread, because this Heart is the magnet that draws souls to Me, the furnace of fire that sends out the rays of My light and love throughout the earth, and the inexhaustible well that brings down the living waters of My mercy to the earth.”

Perhaps these words are the deepest and greatest of all that has ever been said about Our Lady, and we should look at them very often. First of all, the immeasurable desire of Our Lord Himself to reveal to the whole world Who it really is, to the immeasurable, to the depth of its innermost essence. These words make us realize God's incredible love for us, as He wants to go to the extreme limits to save us poor sinners. But if the Lord has such a desire, how can we be so sluggish, indifferent and unmoved that there are so many people who have no idea of the mystery of the Immaculate Heart?!

Our Lord also makes an important clarification: He desires both “worship” and “devotion.” Devotion is our personal relationship with Our Lady, our heart in Her Heart, so to speak. It is the disposition of a loving child who is always ready to give all honor and praise, all attention and time to such a loving Mother. The veneration is the public manifestation and recognition of God's Masterpiece, expressed through public ceremonies of reverence and consecration. Finally, Our Lord uses three images to accurately show the role of the Immaculate Heart:

A **magnet** of attraction to Him, a **furnace of fire** from which the whole world receives His light and love, and the **inexhaustible well** of His infinite mercy. This means that if we look at Her Heart with devotion, we will be more and more drawn to God. We are permeated by His light to know Him more and more and by His love, to love Him more and more for it, and in Him also to love all creatures; and we will continue to drink from the source of His grace, in order that we, dirty nothings, be transformed into the children of God.

Pray the Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on page 24.



DAY 6

A Heart Surrounded by Thorns

The Immaculate Heart reveals Itself to us in Fatima not as before with a wreath of roses, but surrounded by the Crown of Thorns of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as a suffering Heart, just as Our Lord Himself had previously shown His Most Holy Heart. The same Crown of Thorns that pierced the holy Head of Our Lord during His suffering and His holiest Heart “because of the indifference, carelessness, and infidelity of so many souls” also pierces the Heart of Our Lady and wounds It indescribably.

Lucia writes: **“We understood that It was the Immaculate Heart of Mary, offended by the sins of humanity and asking for reparation.”**

With these words we receive the most important reason why Our Lady wanted to show us Her Heart: She wanted to inspire us to be touched, seized by such love, and also by such suffering for us ungrateful sinners. She “demands reparation” because She wants to transform our heart of stone into a heart full of loving compassion. When a child loves his mother and sees how she suffers, the child wants to comfort her, wants to make amends for the suffering that he himself and others have inflicted on her.

Contemplating these thorns teaches us what sin really is and what its consequences are. Above all, sin is the worst insult and denial of God’s nature – His generosity, mercy, and love. If possible, sin would destroy His royal dignity. Sin is the most terrible form of neglect and ingratitude that creatures can commit against their Creator. If we were to receive a most valuable gift from a benefactor, it would be unthinkable that we would be indifferent and ungrateful. But it is even less conceivable that in response to a precious gift, we would insult the benefactor, spit in his face, drive him out of our home, or even kill him. But that’s exactly what we do when we sin: at every moment God gives us everything we are and have, and not only are we often indifferent to His incredible love, but we spit in His face and cast Him out of our souls, which are His property.

May the sight of the thorns piercing the Immaculate Heart lead us to the same determination that inspired the three shepherd children of Fatima: “We should never commit a sin again.”

Pray the Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on page 24.



DAY 7

The “Soul” of the Devotion to the Immaculate Heart

It was on the evening of the 10th of December 1925, that Lucia, the only living seer of Fatima, who had meanwhile entered the convent of the Dorothean Sisters in Pontevedra, had another apparition: The most Holy Virgin appeared to her and at Her side was the Child Jesus on a bright cloud. Our Lady placed Her hand on Lucia’s shoulder and when She did so, She revealed Her Heart surrounded by thorns, which She held in Her other hand.

At the same time, the Child Jesus said:

“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.”

The Most Holy Virgin said,

“Look My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you at least try to console Me ...”

Consolation – Compassion – Reparation

The key element or “soul” of devotion to the Immaculate Heart is the loving effort to feel sorry for Its pains, to comfort It with acts of indemnity and atonement. It is interesting that the three expressions – compassion, consolation, and atonement – are summed up as a single inner approach of this devotion in every way.

The desire to comfort God is placed herein as a central importance: Although we can comfort each other among our peers by sharing each other’s pain and suffering, we cannot, strictly speaking, compare this to Our Lord and Our Lady, because Their suffering is infinite and we as limited creatures objectively cannot do anything to diminish or facilitate it. Compassionate love is the only thing we have left.

If a mother who loves her child above all else has to see him in terrible pain, she would rather take all the pain from her child and carry it herself. Her pain is divided into two parts: first, watching her child be tormented, and second, that she can do nothing to alleviate the torment. But despite all the helplessness of his mother, the child knows about her incredible love and the desire and her decision to do everything in her power for him. This compassionate love is, in a way, greater than some other forms of love. If someone has an active love for the beloved, he can at least feel the satisfaction that he has done something, and there is a danger of hidden complacency in himself. But when he can't do anything, he feels very hungry, humiliated to the depths of his helplessness.

Well, the more love starves, the more humble it is. It is precisely this form of love, in its own helplessness, in its inability to do anything other than empathize and suffer in one's own heart, that participates in what the beloved suffers physically, corporally and this is the greatest consolation that can be given to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; it is the most effective way of making reparation, for nothing can atone for the sin of pride better than humble love.

In fact, this is an amazing secret: The compassion and helpless contemplation of our Mother's painful Heart possesses the tremendous power of reparation. To the extent that I love, I participate in the work of reparation!

Veneration of the Immaculate Heart activates all the potential that God has placed in our hearts, but all too often we refuse to use these powers. The sight of a heart wrapped in thorns breaks our stony hearts and leads us to perform acts of mercy, regret, comfort, and compassion for HER. In this way we achieve the highest quality of love, which unites us completely with the beloved.

Pray the Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on page 24.





DAY 8

The External Exercises of the Devotion to the Immaculate Heart

Our Lady went on to say to Lucia:

“Announce in My name that I promise to assist at the moment of death, with all 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.”

As early as 1917, Our Lady had pointed out in the main apparitions: *“To whoever embraces this devotion I promise salvation.”* This promise seems all the more valuable to us when we consider that at Fatima She also warns us of hell, so that St. Jacinta said after the vision of hell: “So many are going there! So many!” This devotion teaches us to fight fire with fire: the fire of hell with the fire of love for God and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Save Souls!

As children of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we cannot be satisfied with just taking care of ourselves and practicing the First Saturdays reparation only five times. Our Lady of Fatima Herself said that with this devotion we can prevent “war, famine, persecution of the Church and of the Holy Father” and She called us to:

“Pray, pray very much and make sacrifices for sinners: for many souls go to hell because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them.”

In 1929 She declared in Tuy to Sr. Lucia: “So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for sins committed against Me, that I come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray.”

For Sr. Lucia, the reparatory First Saturdays were of the greatest importance and she practiced them every month. She explains: “The Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary love and desire this devotion, because They use it to draw souls to Themselves, and this is what Their desires are aimed at: to save souls, many souls, all souls!”

And further: “The souls who blaspheme the Blessed Virgin are not forgiven by Divine Mercy without atonement.” Let us therefore imitate Sr. Lucia by appreciating the reparatory First Saturdays and practicing them whenever possible!

The Rosary

Our Lady of Fatima, Queen of the Rosary, urged us to pray the Rosary daily. According to Sr. Lucia, the Rosary, together with the devotion to the Immaculate Heart, as an external expression and concrete exercise of this devotion, is the last means of salvation for us. The Rosary helps us to keep the faith and connects us day after day with the Immaculate Heart of our Mother.

“Look, Father, the Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Holy Rosary. She has given this efficacy to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all, spiritual, ... that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary, we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves. We will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls.”

(Sr. Lucia to Fr. Fuentes)

Pray the Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on page 24.





DAY 9

Taking Refuge in the Last Means of Rescue

In 1957, Sr. Lucia of Fatima met with Fr. Augustin Fuentes, a Mexican priest who had been appointed postulator for the cause of the beatification of her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto, the other two seers of Fatima.

She told him,

“[Our Lady] told me that the devil is in the mood for engaging in a decisive battle against the Virgin. And a decisive battle is the final battle where one side will be victorious and the other side will suffer defeat. Also from now on we must choose sides. Either we are for God or we are for the devil. There is no other possibility.”

She continued:

“God is giving two last remedies to the world. These are the Holy Rosary and Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These are the last two remedies, which means there will be no others.”

“In the plans of Divine Providence, God always before He is about to chastise the world, exhausts all other remedies. Now, when He sees that the world pays no attention whatsoever, then, as we say in our imperfect manner of speaking, He offers us with ‘certain fear’ the last means of salvation, His Most Holy Mother.”

By consecrating ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we consciously choose to be on the side of God, knowing that there is no middle ground, that we must renounce all lazy compromises, especially attachment to sin and voluntary opportunities for sin. Consecration also means striving to fulfill all that Our Lady asked for in Fatima and trying to get others to heed Her requests.

Through consecration, we surrender to the Immaculate Heart and consciously say to Our Most Blessed Mother: “Please be my refuge and my way that leads me to God! I cannot do it alone!”

This good Mother will not be asked twice and will feel all the more obliged to care for us and lead us to Heaven. Let us give Her a lifetime of thanks by comforting Her and helping Her save souls. To live this consecration means to become an Apostle of Mary, to strive to imitate Her virtues and to put in Her hands the flowers of the little atonements for the salvation of souls, thus to hasten the day of the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.

Pray the Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on page 24.





Litany to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Lord, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

God the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Ghost, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, favorite Daughter of
God the Father, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of God the Son, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Spouse of the Holy
Ghost, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, redeemed in a sublime
manner by the merits of Thy Son, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother and Model of
the Church, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, excellent exemplar in
faith and charity, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Who conceived the
Word of God in Thy Heart before Thou didst in
Thy womb, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Who gave precious
Blood to the Son of God in His human nature, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, conceived free of
Original Sin, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Who embraced God's
saving will with a full heart, impeded by no sin, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Whose sweet soul a
sword pierced beneath the Cross, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, given to us as Mother
by Jesus as He hung dying on the Cross, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Who accepted us as
sons as Thou didst stand beneath the Cross, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, all pure and holy, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, exalted by Divine
grace above all angels and men, *pray for us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mediatrix of grace, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the
world, *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the
world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the
world, *have mercy on us.*

V. Pray for us, O Most Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O Immaculate Heart of Mary, burning with love for all
Thy children upon earth, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.
Show to Our Heavenly Father the Wound in the Heart of Thy Son and
at the same time offer again the sword that pierced Thy Sorrowful
and Immaculate Heart as Thou didst suffer by compassion with Thy
Divine Son for the redemption of the world. By Thy intercession,
through the merits of Jesus Christ, bring us to salvation. AMEN.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Be Our Salvation!

A Solemn Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Most Holy Virgin Mary, tender Mother of men, to fulfill the desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I, [N.], consecrate myself [*and my family*] to Thy Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and I recommend to Thee, all the people of my country and all the world.

Please accept my consecration, dearest Mother, and use me as Thou wishest to accomplish Thy designs in the world.

O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and Queen of the World, rule over all, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, Our King. Save us all from the spreading flood of modern paganism; kindle in our hearts and homes the love of purity, the practice of a virtuous life, an ardent zeal for souls, and a desire to pray the Rosary even more faithfully.

I come with confidence to Thee, O Throne of Grace and Mother of Fair Love. In flame me with the same Divine Fire which has inflamed Thine own Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. Make my heart and home Thy shrine, and through those souls consecrated to Thee, make the Heart of Jesus, together with Thy rule, triumph in every heart and home. AMEN.

(Originally composed by Pope Pius XII)



APPENDIX

Three means that help us live out the consecration in our daily life:

1. Faithful prayer of the Holy Rosary *every day*.

This was the strong desire and wish of the Queen of the Holy Rosary in all Her apparitions in Fatima.

2. Wearing the Brown Scapular from Mount Carmel *faithfully*.

(If a priest is present at the moment of the consecration to Mary, the enrollment in the Brown Scapular can be well combined with it.)

At the last apparition in Fatima, on the 13th of October 1917, Our Lady appeared to the three children as Our Lady of Mount Carmel with the Brown Scapular in Her hand. When asked why Our Lady held it in Her hand, Sr. Lucia replied: “Because She wants everyone to wear the Scapular... because it is our sign of being consecrated to Her Immaculate Heart.”

Pope Pius XII confirmed this: “Let the Scapular be your sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which we strongly recommend in these dangerous times.”

3. Practice the First Saturday Devotion *each month*.

Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is not only integral to our personal sanctification, but God has also linked peace in the world to It. As early as on the 13th of July 1917, She said:

“To prevent this [the punishments of God], I will come to ask for the Consecration of Russia to My Immaculate Heart and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays. If My requests are heeded, Russia will be converted and there will be peace...”

Sister Lucia wrote:

“Whether the world has war or peace depends on the practice of this devotion, along with the Consecration [of Russia] to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Act of Consecration of the Family to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of the Heart of Jesus, Mother and Queen of our household, that we may fulfill Thy ardent desire, we consecrate ourselves to Thee, and we beseech Thee to reign over our family. Reign over each one of us, and teach us how to make the Sacred Heart of Thy Divine Son reign and triumph in us and about us, as He has reigned and triumphed in Thee.

Reign over us, O Beloved Mother, so that we may be Thine both in prosperity and in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, in life and in death. O most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over our souls and our hearts and preserve them from the flood of pride, impurity, and paganism of which Thou hast complained so bitterly. We desire to do reparation for the numerous crimes committed against Jesus and Thee. We call upon our home, upon the homes of this country and upon those of the entire world, the peace of Christ in justice and charity.

Wherefore we promise to imitate Thy virtues, by a practical Christian life, and by frequent and fervent Holy Communion, regardless of human respect. We come with confidence to Thee, O Throne of Grace and Mother of Fair Love; inflame us with the same divine fire which has inflamed Thine own Immaculate Heart. Kindle in our hearts and homes, the love of purity, an ardent zeal for souls, and desire for the holiness of family life. We accept now, all the sacrifices that the Christian life will impose on us and we offer them to the Heart of Jesus, by Thy Immaculate Heart, in a spirit of reparation and of penance. To the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary be love, honor, and glory forever and ever! AMEN.

Additional Prayers from the *Raccolta*

O Heart most pure of the Blessed Virgin Mary, obtain for me from Jesus a pure and humble heart.

May the Divine Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary be known, praised, blessed, loved, worshipped, and glorified always and in all places! AMEN.

Heart of Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, Heart most amiable, on which the Adorable Trinity ever looks with complacency, worthy of all the veneration and tenderness of angels and of men; Heart most like the Heart of Jesus, Whose most perfect image Thou art; Heart full of goodness, ever compassionate towards our miseries, vouchsafe to thaw our icy hearts, that they may be changed entirely to the likeness of the Heart of Jesus. Infuse into them the love of Thy virtues, inflame them with that blessed fire with which Thou dost ever burn. In Thee let the Holy Church find safe shelter; protect it, and be its sweet asylum, its tower of strength, impregnable against every inroad of its enemies. Be Thou the road leading to Jesus; be Thou the channel whereby we receive all graces needful for our salvation.

Be Thou our help in need, our comfort in trouble, our strength in temptation, our refuge in persecution, our aid in all dangers; but especially in the last struggle of our life, at the moment of our death, when all hell will be unchained against us to snatch away our souls. In that dread moment, that hour so terrible, whereon our eternity depends, most tender Virgin, do Thou then make us feel how great is the sweetness of Thy motherly Heart, and the strength of Thy power with the Heart of Jesus, by opening for us a safe refuge in the very fount of mercy itself, whereby we too may one day join with Thee in Paradise in praising that same Heart of Jesus for ever and for ever. AMEN.



Immaculate Virgin, Who being conceived without sin, didst direct every movement of Thy most pure Heart towards God and wast always submissive to His divine will; obtain for me the grace to hate sin with all my heart and to learn from Thee to live in perfect resignation to the will of God. AMEN.

O Mary, I wonder at that profound humility, which troubled Thy blessed Heart at the message of the angel Gabriel, that Thou hadst been chosen to be the Mother of the Son of the most high God, the while Thou didst profess Thyself His lovely handmaiden; ashamed at the sight of my own pride, I beg of Thee the grace of a contrite and humble heart, so that, acknowledging my misery, I may come to attain the glory promised to those who are truly humble of heart. AMEN.

Blessed Virgin, Who didst keep in Thy Heart the precious treasure of the words of Jesus Thy Son and, pondering over the sublime mysteries therein contained, couldst live only for God, how I am confounded by the coldness of my heart! Ah, dear Mother, obtain for me the grace of meditating always on the holy law of God, and of seeking to follow Thine example in the fervent practice of all the Christian virtues. AMEN.

O glorious Queen of Martyrs, Whose Immaculate Heart, in the Passion of Thy Son, was cruelly pierced by the sword foretold by the holy and aged Simeon; obtain for my heart true courage and holy patience to bear well the tribulations and trials of this wretched life; may I show myself to be Thy true child by crucifying my flesh and all its desires in following the mortifications of the Cross. AMEN.

O Mary, Mystic Rose, Whose lovable Heart, burning with the living fire of love, adopted us as Thy children at the foot of the Cross, becoming thus our most tender Mother, make me experience the sweetness of Thy motherly Heart and the power of Thine intercession with Jesus, in all the dangers that beset me during life, and especially at the dread hour of my death; in such wise may my heart be ever united to Thine, and love Jesus both now and through endless ages. AMEN.

