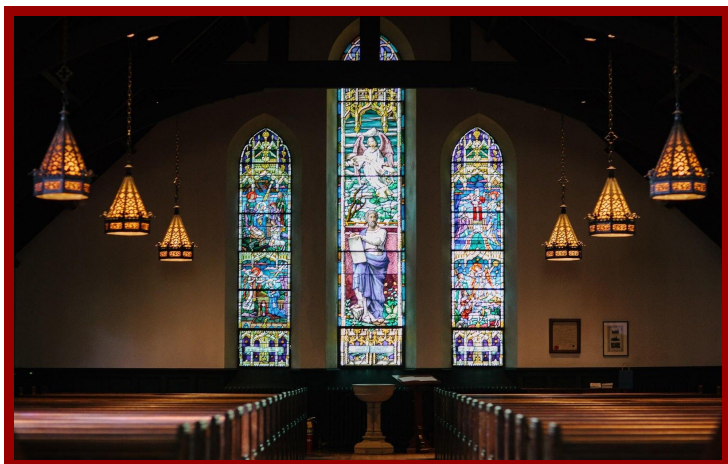


# The First Saturday Devotions - Why Five Months?

By: Daniel P. McGivern



The Virgin Mary promised Sister Lucia to “assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months confess, receive Holy Communion, pray a Rosary and keep me company for a quarter of an hour meditating on the fifteen mysteries with the intention of offering me reparation.”

Completing the Five First Saturdays leads a soul to Heaven. The question some people have is why does it have to be five consecutive months? Why not 3 or 6 or another number?

Our Lord Jesus Christ explained to Sister Lucia on May 29, 1930. There are five kinds of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Blessed Virgin Mary:

1. **Offenses committed against the Immaculate Conception.** Mary was immaculately conceived in her mother’s womb. She was born without original sin by a special grace of God. How could the Father allow a sin-stained vessel to become the mother of Our Lord and Savior? Logic alone convinces us this could not happen. Church teaching holds that her immaculate conception meant that Mary had no original sin, a unique privilege granted by God. In all of us, it is there and removed by Baptism.
2. **Offenses against the perpetual virginity of Our Lady.** It is clear in the Bible, if you think hard about it. A Baptist pastor of a church and school asked me, how can you say the Virgin Mary did not have other children? I said, I’ll tell you but first let me ask you something. Do you believe that these so-called sisters and brothers of Jesus were bums? He asked what do you mean? I said that I mean were they, all no-good bums? He paused momentarily and said no, of course not. Then I said, then why did Jesus, dying on the cross, have to give His mother to John to take care of? The gospels are very clear on that. This time the Baptist pastor paused longer. And then he said he may be the first Baptist pastor to write a book on the Blessed Virgin Mary. We should also realize that we, too, are

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brothers and sisters of the Lord, just as some are called that in the New Testament. Furthermore, Our Lady of Guadalupe 500 years ago appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico. The Virgin Mary said that she is the “perpetual, ever Virgin Mary.” Case closed by Mary herself!

3. **Offenses against the Divine maternity, refusing to also accept Mary as the Mother of mankind.** Another pastor and founder of a Christian school once asked me, how can you Catholics say Mary is the Mother of God? I said, let me ask you two questions. Was Jesus truly man? He said yes. Second, is Jesus Christ truly God? He said yes again. I said, then Mary is the Mother of God. He quickly said, is it that simple? Yes, I replied, it is. The Catholic Church celebrates the feast of Mary, Mother of God on January 1st each year.
  4. **Offenses committed by people trying to instill indifference, scorn and even hatred for the Virgin Mary in the hearts of children.** Whoever leads children astray from the Lord would be better off if a millstone was tied around their necks and be thrown into the sea, according to Jesus in the Gospels. This applies for offenses against His Mother as well. How can one be close to Jesus and still try to lead children away from the very woman He chose as His mother on earth? Jesus, we must remember is the Word made flesh. The Father, Holy Spirit, and Jesus chose her.
  5. **Offenses committed by those who insult her directly in her statues and paintings.** Two things can explain this offense. In the Bible, in Exodus 20:4-6 and Deuteronomy 5:8-9, you will find that the admonition against statues and images is for those who worship them as gods and hate God, the only true God of all mankind. Those who pray before statues of Mary and other saints, know they are only clay or wood, certainly not a god. Such images help one to visualize, like paintings, Mary and other saints to whom Catholics and the Orthodox pray. There is not hatred of God or worshipping a false god here. But there are religious on the earth who believe in many gods. The commandment definitely applies to them, and is not an admonishment of those who love, honor and pray to the one true God--The Father, Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Secondly, as told in the book of “Miracles of Our Lady”, three soldiers had some free time and decided they needed target practice. They spotted a statue of the
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Blessed Virgin Mary and decided to shoot it. The first soldier fired and hit the statue in the head, the second hit it in the heart, and the third, having some reservations about doing this, shot purposely to hit the statue in the knee, bringing laughter from the other two soldiers and comments on what a poor shot he was. Then, back in combat, the first soldier was shot in the head and killed, the second was shot in the heart and died, and the third soldier was shot in the knee--and lived through the war to tell the story of what they all did and what happened to them.

If you haven't already made your five consecutive First Saturdays of the month, for five months, as specified in the beginning of this article, do so soon--either by yourself or joining a group that adheres to every part of Our Lady's requests, and her promise to then assist at the hour of death.

**What a promise!!!**

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