



# Mother of God

## Mediatrix of All Grace



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## OUR CHILDREN –OUR HERITAGE

- By Annabelle Mendonca , [www.thebatimmessage.com](http://www.thebatimmessage.com)

*"If we work upon marble, it will perish; if on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds and imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellow men, we engrave on these tablets something that will brighten to all eternity". --- Daniel Webster*

Part of our value system, was handed down to us by the people who raised us: our parents, grandparents, even aunts and uncles. These values may include those from the Scriptures or Christian teaching passed down through our families or the church. To pass on values is the noblest of causes.

There is no doubt whatsoever that parents have the interests of their children at heart. In their attitudes, in their conversation, in their conduct and in their demands of life they will do nothing that causes their children to suffer. They will sacrifice their own pleasures for the sake of their children. They will make no decision without taking their welfare into account.

Many parents will spend fabulous sums of money on their child's education. They will even spend a lot of money for their comforts.

But the one thing many parents forget to give their children, the thing on which their real happiness depends is the right scale of values they need, the virtues they need to practice. Some of these are:

- 1. Honesty** – Today there is an alarming amount of dishonesty, which we have learned to live with and which needs to be cured and exposed. A person cannot really be happy unless he/she is fair in his/her dealings with others.
- 2. Charity** -- It is a caring concern, especially towards those who are older and weaker and less privileged. It is at the heart of justice and social responsibility.
- 3. Unselfishness** -- Many people today care only about themselves. They feel no allegiance to anyone or anything but themselves. They are prepared to desert their jobs, friends, families and even their partner in life, in order to grasp the happiness they think they will thus obtain.
- 4. Purity** – The subject of many magazines, books, movies, and TV programs is moral garbage. It pollutes young human minds, which need to be cleaned up.
- 5. Industry** – This means hard work. People today have learnt lazy habits. They find it profitable to just get employed and not to work. Or some desire to earn big salaries without any education.
- 6. Frugality** – Learning to live within our means, we must identify ourselves with the people with whom we live. We cannot be living in luxury while thousands of people are dying of starvation.
- 7. Courtesy** – There is too much rudeness in our society today. It causes labour disputes, tensions in their homes and marriage breakdowns. Young ones show no respect for their peers or elders.
- 8. Fortitude** – Above all our children need to learn to face trials bravely and peaceably. Most of us find it easy to smile and be cheerful while we sit in the lap of comfort and success; but the real test of our personality comes when we are in difficulty.

Raising a child is very much like building a skyscraper. If the first few stories are slightly out of line, no one will notice. But when the building is eighteen or twenty stories high, everyone will see that it tilts. Children are natural mimics – they act like their mothers/fathers in-spite of every attempt to teach them good manners. So who or what could be the cause of our modern generation being what they are?

We believe that each child is the Christ Child born to us again and present in our lives. The call to holiness that God gives a parent is very direct – to love their child and to lay down their lives each day in love for each other and their children. Also we as the church should burn with a passion for the rights of children. The church is pro-life. It defends the right of every baby in the womb; also the right to a decent life for all our children who are born into poverty and who lack the basic needs of nourishment, housing, clothing, and education. What a terrible thing it is for our society and world to see children as victims of war, abuse, drugs, and violence.

Contd on Pg.14

## POPE IDENTIFIES THE 'FALSE GODS' OF THE MODERN WORLD

By John Thavis in Rome

Taken from *The Catholic Herald* Newspaper dated 15/10/2010



Pope Benedict XVI has offered participants an improvised reflection on the threat of "false gods" that beset the modern world.

After leading prayers in the Synod hall on Monday morning, the Pope spoke off-the-cuff for about 20 minutes about the meaning of the psalms that were chanted by the 185 Synod Fathers.

He traced humanity's historical move away from polytheism and focused on the meaning of Christ's entry into human history.

But he said the modern world was still threatened by an array of destructive powers based on "false divinities that must be unmasked".

These include the ideology of terrorism that purports to act in the name of God, drug abuse that devours human lives like a beast, as well as a widespread view of marriage that no longer values the virtue of chastity, he said.

They also include the anonymous economic interests that, instead of belonging to man, enslave and even massacre people, he said.

He said the battle against such forces was part of a constant struggle for the Church and for the faith.

The Book of Revelation, he said, sheds light on this struggle against false gods, particularly in its image of the serpent who creates a river to drown a woman in flight, and of the earth that swallows up the river.

"I think the river is easily interpreted as these currents that dominate everyone and that want to make the Church and the faith disappear", he said.

"And the earth that absorbs these currents is the faith of ordinary people, which doesn't allow itself to be overcome by this river.

"The faith of ordinary people is the true wisdom", he said.

The Pope added that the climate change being experienced by humanity today is another type of threat, one evoked in the language of Psalm 82, which speaks of a time when "all the foundations of the earth are shaken".

"And today we see that with the climate problems, the foundations of the earth are threatened by our behaviour", he said.

"These exterior foundations are shaken because the interior foundations are shaken the interior foundations of morality and religious values, of the right way of living according to the faith", he said.

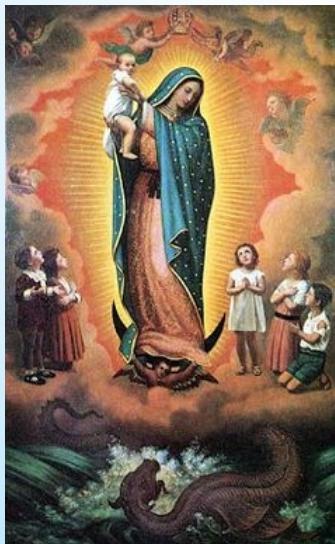
## PRAY FOR THE GIFT OF COURAGE MARY SHOWS US WHY WE NEED IT.

By Barb Ernster.

*The title “woman” is not bestowed upon Mary lightly. It connotes a very important role in salvation history, and one that is not for the faint of heart.*

In his book *Fatima for Today*, Father Andrew Apostoli tells us Mary is the only woman in Scripture whose coming was foretold, “Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Is 7:14). He says, “Mary’s mission is a spiritual warfare in order to help obtain final victory over evil, because God said to the serpent in the Book of Genesis, ‘I will put enmity between you and the woman and between her seed and your seed’” (Gn 3:15).

Father Andrew further explains, “Our Lady’s role is so significant, because God wants to defeat the devil by the same means with which the devil conquered our first parents” — through the woman. And this woman is so perfectly an image of God, St. Louis de Montfort calls her a “masterpiece of grace.”



In the Book of Revelation, the devil, in the form of a huge red dragon, pursues the woman, who is clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and 12 stars above her head. She is with child and the dragon seeks to devour her and the child, but the child is caught up to God and the woman is brought to a place in the desert and protected. So the devil becomes angry and goes off to make war with the rest of her offspring — “those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus” (Rv 12:17).

It takes courage to be the woman who will be the enemy of the devil and do battle with him, but Mary does not shrink away from this role. She embraces it fully when she gives her “yes” to the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation. As one who was “full of grace,” she would have possessed all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, all the virtues and would have borne all the fruits of these gifts. The gift of courage, or fortitude, is likely what emboldens her to go forth in faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the gift of fortitude “ensures

## Mother of God, Mediatrix of All Grace

firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good. It enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one to even renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause.” (CCC 1808)

Fortitude also helps make us docile in readily obeying divine inspirations, and we certainly see this in Mary. Mary is obedient to the right things and that's what makes her the best warrior in the battle against evil. She has fortitude and strength of character to never, ever stray from what God wants of her, yet she is humble enough to keep her sword sheathed until He says, “Go.”

Some of the fruits of this gift are joy, peace and faithfulness, even in the face of the most difficult obstacles and trials. Living out this gift means to be of good cheer because God is at your side and you have overcome the world.

Mary demonstrates courage again at the wedding feast of Cana. It is here that Jesus first refers to her as “woman,” when Mary approaches Him to tell Him that there is no more wine: “Woman, what is that to me? My hour is not yet come” (Jn 2:3-4).

The hour He was referring to was the hour of His Passion and death. And His first public miracle was going to set the stage for His journey to Calvary. Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote of what Jesus was saying to Mary in his book The World’s First Love: “Do you realize that you are asking me to proclaim my Divinity — to appear before the world as the Son of God and to prove my Divinity by my works and miracles? The moment that I do this, I begin the royal road to the cross. When I am no longer known to the world as the son of the carpenter, but as the Son of God, that will be my first step toward Calvary.

“Your role will change too. Once I undertake the salvation of mankind, you will not only be my mother but will also be the mother of everyone whom I redeem. ... You will then be the new Eve as I am the new Adam.

“To indicate the role that you will play in redemption, I bestow on you that title of the universal motherhood. I call you Woman. We are in the work of redemption together. My dear mother, is it your will that I anticipate the cross, that I go to Calvary?”

And Mary readily answers: “Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5).

Mary didn’t hold back in fear of what was to come. She stood firm with the inspirations of the Holy Spirit and was obedient to the right things. She said “yes” to his hour, which had come.

It’s no different than when she said “yes” to the angel Gabriel and allowed God

to become man. She could have shrunk back and said, “No this is too much for me. How is this all going to play out?”

The second time Jesus refers to her as “woman” is at the foot of the cross when she is united with Him in His sufferings and the sword is piercing her heart (cf Jn 19:26). This is the second annunciation, explains Bishop Sheen:

“At the exact time of our redemption, Jesus presents her to us as the universal mother. This is the woman of Genesis, the one whom God said would crush the head of the serpent. The same woman who had sent Him willingly to the cross starting with the wedding at Cana is now here, standing beneath it as a cooperator in His redemption.

“This woman who has remained a virgin according to the flesh, will now bear children according to the spirit, for the sake of the Father.”

Mary shows us the need for the gift of fortitude, so that we can stand firm in the face of difficulties and to be constant in pursuing goodness and truth. We’re living in a post-Christian world that is rapidly sinking into moral depravity. It’s very hard to stand up for truth in the face of so much hatred of it. Persecution of what is righteous, “hating what is good” (cf 2 Tm 3:3), is common in the public square.

Toward the eve of the new millennium, St. John Paul II warned of a crisis that was unfolding in modern culture — a widespread phenomenon of skepticism, a cultural climate, “many of whose most powerful elements doubt the existence of objective, absolute truth.” This skepticism, he said, is particularly acute in the area of morality and reveals itself in the modern individual who desires personal moral autonomy, which goes hand in hand with “a weakening of the sense of the innate dependence of all human existence on the Creator” (Springtime of Evangelization, pp 24-25).

John Paul also warned against polarization and a partisan spirit among Catholics themselves that would cause them to judge the Church in predominantly political terms. The truth given to the Church by Christ, he stated, is neither “liberal” nor “conservative”; it is simply true.

So we desperately need the gift of courage, and we need to be willing to stand up and be counted as disciples of Jesus and followers of truth — even if that means an angry, red dragon will pursue us. Mary shows us the importance of this gift in boldly following Christ all the way to Calvary.

*Taken from The SOUL Magazine Spring 2018, World Apostolate of Fatima, USA (www.wafusa.org) Used with permission*

## THE LAST WORD ON EVIL IS THE MERCY OF GOD

### Taken from L'osservatore Romano dated 30th March 2011

#### The pope to participants in the Course on the Internal Forum organized by the Apostolic Penitentiary

On Friday, 25 March, on the last day of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Course on the Internal Forum, organized by the Apostolic Penitentiary, which began on 21 March, the Holy Father spoke to the participants in the Vatican's Hall of Blessings. Cardinal Fortunato Baldelli, major Penitentiary, who presided at the course, gave a detailed update on the penitential discipline, on the administration of the sacrament of Penance and on the specific functions of the Tribunal. Reports were given, among others, by Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, OFM conv., Regent of the Penitentiary, by Bishop Fuan Ignacia Arrieta Ochoa de Chinchotru and by Fr. Fán Ďačok, SF, respectively canonist and theologian of the Tribunal. The following is a translation of the Pope's Address, which was given in Italian.

Dear Friends,

I am very glad to address to each one of you my most cordial welcome. I greet Cardinal Fortunato Baldelli, Major Penitentiary, and I thank him for his courteous words. I greet Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, Regent of the penitentiary, the personal, the co-workers and all the participants in the Course on the Internal Forum which has now become a traditional appointment and an important occasion for deepening the knowledge of topics linked to the sacrament of Penance. I would like to reflect with you on an aspect not sufficiently highlighted but which is of great spiritual and pastoral importance: the pedagogical value of sacramental Confession.

Although it is true that it is always necessary to safeguard the objectivity of the effects of the sacrament and its correct celebration in accordance with the norms of the Rite of Penance, it is not out of place to reflect on how much it can educate the faith of both the minister and the penitent. This faithful and generous availability of priests to



hear confession - after the example of the great saints of the past from St John Vianney to St John Bosco, from St Josemaria Escrivá to St Pius of Pietrelcina, from St Joseph Cafasso to St Leopold Mandić - shows all of us that the confessional may be a real “place” of sanctification.

How does the sacrament of Penance educate? In what sense does its celebration have pedagogical value, especially for ministers? We may start by recognizing that the mission of priests is a unique and privileged observation point, from which it is daily granted to contemplate the splendour of divine Mercy. How often in celebrating the sacrament of Penance the priest witnesses real miracles of conversion which, in renewing “the encounter with an event, a person” (*Deus Caritas Est*, n. I) reinforces his own faith!

Basically, hearing confession means witnessing as many *professiones fidei* as there are penitents, and contemplating the merciful God's action in history, feeling tangibly the saving effects of the Cross and of the Resurrection of Christ, in every epoch and for every person.

We are often faced with true and proper existential and spiritual dramas that find no answer in human words but are embraced and taken up by divine Love, which pardons and transforms: “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow (Is I:18).

If, on the one hand knowing and, in a certain way, visiting the depths of the human heart, even its darkest aspects, test humanity and the faith of the priest himself, on the other, it fosters within him the certainty that it is God who has the last word over human evil and history, it is his Mercy which can make all things new (cf Rev 2I:5).

Then, how much the priest can learn from exemplary penitents: through their life, the seriousness with which they carry out their examination of conscience, the transparency with which they admit their sins and their docility to the Church's teaching and to the confessor's instructions.

From the administration of the sacrament of Penance we may draw profound lessons of humility and faith! It is a very strong appeal to each priest for knowledge of his own identity. We will never be able to hear the confession of our brothers and sisters solely by virtue of our humanity! If they approach us, it is only because we are priests, configured to Christ the External High Priest, and enabled to act in his Name and in his Person, to make God who forgives, renews and transforms, truly present. The celebration of the sacrament of Penance has a pedagogical value for the priest, as regards his faith, as well as the truth and poverty of his person, and nourishes within him

an awareness of the sacramental identity.

What is the pedagogical value of the sacrament of penance for penitents? We should state beforehand that first and foremost it depends on the action of Grace and on the objective effect on the soul of the member of the faithful. Of course, sacramental Reconciliation is one of the moments in which personal freedom and an awareness of self need to be expressed particularly clearly. It is perhaps also for this reason, in an epoch of relativism and of the consequent attenuated awareness of one's being, that this sacramental practice is also weakened.

Examination of conscience has an important pedagogical value. It teaches us how to look squarely at our life, to compare it with the truth of the Gospel and to evaluate it with parameters that are not only human but also borrowed from divine Revelation Comparison with the Commandments, with the Beatitudes and, especially, with the Precept of love, continues the first great “school of penance”. In our time, marked by noise, distraction and loneliness, the penitent's conversation with the confessor can be one of the few - if not the only - opportunities to be truly heard in depth.

Dear priests, do not neglect to allow enough room for the exercise of the ministry of Penance in the confessional: to be welcomed and heard is also a human sign of God's welcoming kindness to his children.

Moreover the integral confession of sins teaches the penitent humility, recognition of his or her own frailty and, at the same time, an awareness of the need for God's forgiveness and the trust that divine Grace can transform his life. Likewise, listening to the confessor's recommendations and advice is important for judging actions, for the spiritual journey and for the inner healing of the penitent.

Let us not forget how many conversions and how many truly holy lives began in a confessional! The acceptance of the penance and listening to the words “I absolve you from your sins”, are, lastly, a true school of love and hope that guides the person to full trust in the God Love, revealed in Jesus Christ, to responsibility and to the commitment to continuous conversion.

Dear priests, our own prior experience of divine Mercy and of being humble instruments teaches us an ever more faithful celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and profound gratitude to God who “gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor 5:18).

I entrust to the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Mater misericordiae* and *Refugium peccatorum*, the fruits of your Course on the Internal Forum and the ministry of all Confessors, as I bless you all with great affection

## FIRST SATURDAY OF DECEMBER 2018, Batim Goa

Fr Zeferino D'Souza, President Diocesan Society of Education was the main celebrant for the First Saturday Service, Batim which was attended by about 200 of the faithful. Fr Ubaldo Fernandes, Parochial Administrator joined in the concelebration. The celebration of the Eucharist was preceded by the usual Adoration, Divine Mercy Prayers, Holy Rosary with meditations and Stations of the Cross.

The homily was based on the readings of the end of the liturgical year. Fr D'Souza urged the faithful to be prepared in this journey of life for eternal life. We are very much uncertain about tomorrow. "First Truth is that we have to die one day; we need to prepare for death. The second Truth is that we will be before Jesus for Judgement. The more we keep these Truths away, the more we are reminded about them. We must be prepared for this at any time. Many times we fear death, as we are not ready. In the first reading of Revelation, St John describes the end of earthly existence and the glory of everlasting peace".



"Jesus gives us two ways of getting ready: First is to pray constantly and be ready. By prayer, we come closer to God, leave our evil ways and grow in the proper direction. Being ready is like preparing to welcome a guest at our home. We must be alert at all times".

"Wherever Our Lady appeared, She requests for two things: Prayer especially the Rosary and secondly Penance. Penance prepares us to do reparation for evils and sins. She always directs us to follow Jesus as in the Wedding at Cana. Prayer and penance will earn us everlasting peace and the manifestation of God will come alive in us. Then, we will stop offending God and one another. We will start giving glory to God, serving one another thereby establishing the Kingdom of heavenly peace here on earth. Let us pray for this gift for all of us. Let us work in this direction with the intercession of Our Lady by praying constantly and being ready at all times in this journey of life.

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS TESTIFY TO FAITH

By Ron Rolheiser, OMI

If you are like I am then you most likely act out a certain cycle every year. Each Jan. 1, you make New Year's resolutions, keep them for a while, and then, eventually, sometimes by Jan. 2, break them and fall back into old habits.

If you are like I am then you also have a certain sense of why this is going on . . . even as you are seemingly powerless to change things. Old habits, especially bad ones, are hard to break.



Aristotle said that habit is second nature, it replaces instinct. Augustine, who knew more than most about the difficulty in breaking old habits, once put it this way: "I longed to give myself wholly to you, Lord, but I was bound by my own will, as by a chain. Because my will was perverse it changed to lust, and lust yielded to become habit, and habit not resisted

became necessity. These were like links hanging one on to another—which is why I have called it a chain—and their bondage held me bound hand and foot."

In a former time, before we had psychological words such as obsession, dysfunction and neurosis, this was called being possessed by a demon. There was more wisdom and accuracy in that than our age sees fit to acknowledge. In our bad habits we are indeed possessed!

Given all of that, it is no big wonder that we so easily break new resolutions. The wonder is that we continue to make them, knowing our own histories. Why do we? Why do we continue to want to make new resolutions when we know that, barring miracles, we will not, in the end, succeed in keeping them?

Robert Frost says that there is something inside of us that hates a wall, that wants it down. That is also true for the wall of bad habit and the part that wants it down is the best part of us. Stated positively, there is something inside us that hates our own moral fat, that refuses death, even in this sense.

There is something inside of us that is driven to the higher, that refuses to settle for second best, that wants to sing the new song that the psalmist speaks of, that believes in the possibility of resurrection. There is something inside of us that needs to keep on keeping on.

Thus it is a sign of health that we keep making new resolutions, despite a life-

long history of failure. Why? Because in striving to renew ourselves in the face of our own falling we are making an important act of faith:

First of all, in making new resolutions we are saying: “I believe in a God who continues to love me, even when I can’t live up to it.” Every time I pick myself off the floor after a fall and begin again with some hope in my heart looking for a new start, I am saying the creed in a way that is considerably more radical, in terms of expressing actual belief in God, than is my too-easy Sunday recital of it.

To make a new resolution is to believe in God.

But it is more. To make new resolutions is to express faith in the God of the resurrection. To try for new life, for a fresh start, precisely when bad habit has kept me so long in a certain helplessness, is to say: “I believe in the resurrection and the life!”

Why do I say this?

Martin Luther once put it this way: “Just as God in the beginning of creation made the world out of nothing, so his manner of working continues unchanged.” For anything to really change, including our capacity to live beyond our own wounds and selfishness, God still had to defy the impossible.

Our inner world, akin to the physical world, is, to all outward appearance and to our own feeling of it, a closed system, determined entirely by history, by cause and effect. Within it, certain things are possible and certain things are impossible. What has been will continue to be.

There is, it seems, and so says Qoheleth, nothing new under the sun. The case for the impossible is pretty strong, especially when the judge knows the history of failed resolutions.

That is where faith and the resurrection enter in. As the angel Gabriel tells Mary: “For with God nothing is impossible.” Somewhere, deep inside of us, in that place where we want to make New Year’s resolutions, we still carry that faith. In that place we still say the creed and still believe in the resurrection. Because of that belief, because of new year’s resolutions, God can still make something out of nothing!

*Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio Texas. He can be contacted through his website, [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

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## THE FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION PRECEDED FATIMA

By Catherine Moran, Ph.D

*The request of Our Lady for the First Saturdays was not a new devotion. Its practice began 25 years earlier and continued to develop until Our Lady and Our Lord defined its purpose at Fatima.*

In 1892, Pope Leo XIII granted to all the faithful a plenary indulgence to those who devoted 15 consecutive Saturdays in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary. Later, St. Pius X granted a plenary indulgence to all who would perform the 12 First Saturdays in honor of Our Lady. Then, on June 13, 1912, St. Pius X granted new indulgences to the faithful who performed the devotion of reparation to Our Lady on the first Saturdays of the month. Five years later to the day — June 13, 1917 — Our Lady showed the three children her Immaculate Heart, “surrounded by thorns that seemed to pierce it,” which not only gave us the reason for this reparation, but demanded it. In July, she explained further how this devotion could prevent wars and save souls.

When our heavenly Mother requested the First Saturday Communions of Reparation on Dec. 10, 1925, she took a traditional devotion, simplified it and gave it greater efficacy. She said to Lucia, then an 18-year-old postulant in Pontevedra, Spain:

*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 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, pray the Rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart.*

When later the Child Jesus appeared to Sister Lucia asking if she had spread this devotion to His most holy Mother throughout the world, Sister Lucia said:

*But my confessor said in the letter that this devotion was not lacking in the world, because there are many souls who receive You on the first*



**Saturday in honor of Our Lady and of the 15 mysteries of the Rosary.**

Our Lord replied:

*It is true, My daughter, that many souls begin them, but few finish them, and those who do finish them, do so to receive the graces that are promised. It would please me more if they did five with fervor and with the intention of making reparation to the Heart of their heavenly Mother, than if they did fifteen in a tepid and indifferent matter.*

Later, Our Lord made known to Sister Lucia the five blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart, which further focused this devotion for the Church:

*There, My daughter, is the reason why the Immaculate Heart of Mary asked Me to request this small act of reparation, and in consideration of it, to move My mercy to forgive souls who have had the misfortune to offend her. As for you, seek unceasingly, through your prayers and sacrifices, to move My mercy with regard to these poor souls.*

Finally, regarding this devotion, on May 13, 1962, Cardinal Larrona, the papal legate for St. John XXIII, said at Fatima:

*It is urgent for us to establish devotion in the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. God wishes it! Our Lady told us! Our efforts must therefore multiply — we must be assiduous in practicing the five First Saturdays of reparation, not once, but continually, for those who do not or will heed Our Lady's plea!*

Taken from *The SOUL Magazine Fall 2017, World Apostolate of Fatima, USA (www.wafusa.org)* Used with permission

Contd from Pg.2

Often it so happens that even though the parents take extreme care to bring up their children the right way, by inculcating right values and virtues through their own example and teaching, the children tend to learn bad things or to be wayward through their friends and companions at school/college, or through other influences/sources like TV, magazines, books, etc. Dorothy Parker's advice is: "The best way to keep children home is to make the home atmosphere pleasant – and to let the air out of the tires."

Sometimes parents are prone to give their children everything except the one thing they need most, and which cannot be bought. That is time; time for listening, time for understanding, time for helping, and time for guiding. It sounds simple, but in reality it is the most difficult and the most sacrificial task of parenthood. So let us be good parents to our children and work hard towards being good models for them to imitate willingly and lovingly. As we usher in the new year 2019 may we strive to make our homes more homely and holy like the blessed home of Nazareth. May Mary, the Mother of God and our dearest mother protect and bless each one of us and our homes always.

**Happy New Year!!!**

## THE FATIMA PRAYERS

**PARDON PRAYER:** My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.

**ANGEL'S PRAYER:** O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. 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 by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.

**EUCARISTIC PRAYER:** Most Holy Trinity, I adore Thee! My God, my God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

**SACRIFICE PRAYER:** O Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**DECADE PRAYER:** O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.



**'God wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. If what I say is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.'**

### How Do I Start the First Saturdays?

On July 13, 1917, Our Lady appeared for the third time to the three children of Fatima and showed them the vision of hell. In this vision Our Lady said that '*God wishes to establish in the world devotion*' to Her Immaculate Heart and that She would come to *ask for the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays* . . .

### What Do I Have to Do?

The devotion of First Saturdays, as requested by Our Lady of Fatima, carries with it the assurance of salvation. However, to derive profit from such a great promise of Our Lady, the devotion must be properly understood and duly performed. The requirements as stipulated by Our Lady are as follows:

(1) **Confession**, (2) **Communion**, (3) **Five decades of the Rosary**, (4) **Meditation on one or more of the Rosary Mysteries for fifteen minutes**, (5) **To do all these things in the spirit of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, and (6) **To observe all these practices on the First Saturday of five consecutive months**.

The idea of the Five First Saturdays is obviously to make us persevere in the devotional acts for these Saturdays and overcome initial difficulties. Once this is done, Our Lady knows that the person would become devoted to Her Immaculate Heart and persist in practicing such devotion on all First Saturdays, working thereby for personal self-reform and for the salvation of others. Our Lady has assured us that She will obtain salvation for all those who observe the First Saturdays for five consecutive months in accordance with Her conditions.

**For more details please email: [ourladybatim@gmail.com](mailto:ourladybatim@gmail.com)**

## Dates to Remember - January 2019

1st: Mary, Mother of God, Solemnity  
5th: First Saturday, Service at Batim  
6th: The Epiphany of the Lord  
13th: The Baptism of The Lord

24th: St. Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor  
25th: The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle  
28th: St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor  
31th: St John Bosco, Priest

### PRAYER PETITIONS, TESTIMONIES & RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

- + Your prayer petitions may be submitted online at: [thebatimmessage.com](http://thebatimmessage.com) These prayer requests will be placed at the feet of Our Lady of Fatima in the the Church of Sts Simon & Jude and offered during the First Saturday Mass at Batim.
- + Your testimonies may be submitted online at: [ourladybatim5thdogma.com](http://ourladybatim5thdogma.com) or emailed to: [ourladybatim@gmail.com](mailto:ourladybatim@gmail.com)
- + Mediatrix of all Grace Medals, Scapulars and the Messages of Our Lady printed in a book are now available at: Star of David Tours, Ground floor, Gomes Classic Bldg, GS 7 Behind Rebello Hospital, Madel, Margao, Goa Ph: 9309778931

### FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION IN HONOUR OF AND IN REPARATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Church of St Simon and St Jude, Batim,  
Tiswadi, Goa Velha, Goa 403 108 India.

- 1.00 pm:** +Stations of the Cross  
**2.00 pm:** +Holy Rosary, +Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, +Divine Mercy Prayers, +Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, +Confessions.  
**3.30pm:** +Holy Mass.

Services are held in Konkani and English

### CONTACT DETAILS FOR TRANSPORT BY BUS:

**Margao:** Petrol pump closest to Main Post Office 11am, Mob: 9420712310

**Panaji:** Caranzalem near Post Office at 11.45 am, near Don Bosco at 12pm, Tel: 08322456306

**Mapusa:** From St Joseph's Chapel, Near Police Station at 11.45 am, Mob: 9822167665

**Calangute:** From Calangute Church at 11.30 am, Mob: 9421241248

*In conformity with the directives of Pope Urban VIII, we have no intention of anticipating the judgement of the Holy Apostolic See and of the Church on Apparitions, reported by us, but not yet recognized; indeed, we submit to, and accept; her final decision without reservation.*

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An archive of previous issues is available on the website: [www.thebatimmessage.com](http://www.thebatimmessage.com)  
Your prayerful support and donations - however small - is greatly appreciated!

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