

Good afternoon, and welcome to the June First Saturday sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima. Just so that you know, in the same way that the Blue Army's events in May and October have continued for several years at St. Stanislaus and St. Hyacinth churches; the First Saturdays will continue monthly here at Holy Family in Saginaw.

The purpose of these events is to allow you to show your devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by following her request to Sister Lucia that people be encouraged to make Five First Saturdays. Of course, in our culture of minimalism, I suppose we could have done this five times in a row, and been done with it. But that's hardly appropriate. This is our twentieth First Saturday here at Holy Family, and I ask you to make this recurring event known to other people who may be interested in it ... or other people who may not know the message of Fatima - who would benefit from learning of it.

The Five First Saturdays come from a request made to Sister Lucia for people to make five Saturdays of reparation for our own sins and the sins of the world. The request was to go to confession, receive Holy Communion, pray the Rosary, meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary for 15 minutes, and to do all of this in a spirit of reparation for the sins and outrages committed against Our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

All of the external elements are provided monthly at this event. You need to provide the internal elements of reparation, conversion, devotion, and love.

The month of June is customarily dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

This year, because of the late date of Easter, the feast of the Sacred Heart falls on Friday, June 27.

Perhaps because its fallen out of fashion, you may not realize that the Saturday after the Feast of the Sacred Heart is the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In her book titled, *Calls From the Message of Fatima*, Sister Lucia enumerates additional aspects of the message of Fatima so that these

may be clearer for those who with the devotion to Our Lady and her message.

The thirteenth chapter is titled, *The Call to Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*. In this chapter, Sister Lucia encourages the consecration to the Immaculate Heart.

While there are many methods for doing this consecration named after various Saints: St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximillian Kolbe, Pope St. John Paul II ... and these methods are wonderful tools for preparation for consecration to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

I would like to point out that consecration comes from two Latin root words meaning "*to make holy*" and "*together.*"

Consecration is an act of the will. When we consecrate ourselves in any of these methods, we are asking Our Lady to bring us to Jesus. We are asking to be made saints with her intercession. That is the bottom line of consecration: to be made holy ... to be made a saint ... with the help of God's grace and the intercession of the saints ... and Our Lady, who is Queen of All Saints, and Mother of the Church.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for the graces of conversion that we need ... so that we might make an act of the will ... asking Our Lady ... and all the saints ... to intercede for us ... that we might desire above all things to become the saints we are called to be ... through Holy Baptism.

And may we know and see the Triumph of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart ... in our hearts, in our families, in our parishes, and in our world.

Our Lady of Fatima: Pray for us.

Immaculate Heart of Mary: Pray for us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus: Have mercy on us.