

Good afternoon and welcome to the World Apostolate of Fatima First Saturday devotions.

The elements of First Saturday are, for five consecutive months:

1. To go to Confession
2. To pray 5 decades of the Rosary
3. To meditate on the Mysteries of the Rosary for 15 minutes
4. To receive Holy Communion
5. And to do all of this with the intention of making reparation for blasphemies committed against Our Lady.

Our Lord asked Sister Lucia to spread this devotion when she was a nun in Pontevedra, Spain in December of 1925.

Today is also the feast of St. Athanasius of Alexandria.

Athanasius fought the Arian heresy. An erroneous teaching that Jesus wasn't really God at all. We see this pernicious line of thought in the present-day teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Islam, and other syncretic teachings coming out of the New Age movement.

For his efforts in combatting heresy, Athanasius was exiled five times by various emperors - showing that the worst heresies come when politicians attempt to find some sort of consensus among True Religion and paganism.

In our own time, the biggest heresy could be summed up in one word: "Whatever." Apathy has replaced Faith as the driving force in our culture - even among those who would claim the title of Christian.

It is imperative that we be grounded in the One True Faith, and not let our religion be dictated by the media and various popular political ideologies of our time.

The Mysteries of the Rosary provide a solid basis for understanding the life of Our Lord and Our Lady, as well as the great Mystery of His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

We can never allow apathy to infect our hearts, but rather need to ensure that the Truth of the Gospel is preserved and taught to successive generations.

If we should experience persecution or exile - from our parish churches, from our friends or family members, or even from our coworkers or leaders ... as Jesus tells us at the end of the Beatitudes:

*Rejoice and be glad ...*

Let us, also, persevere in prayer ... praying for ourselves, but also for the conversion of poor sinners. So that “*whatever we ask in [Jesus’] name*” we will receive in abundance.

May we know and experience the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary ... in our own hearts, in our families and homes, in our neighborhoods and parishes, in our diocese, our state, our country, and in the world.

Our Lady of Fatima. Pray for us.

Our Lady of the Rosary. Pray for us.

Our Lady Queen of All Saints. Pray for us.