ON THE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

By: Prof. Américo Pablo López Ortiz

International President of the World Apostolate of Fatima

The Child Jesus showing His Sacred Heart requested at Pontevedra, Spain, as part of the Message of Fatima, reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of His Mother, Mary. All sins are committed against God himself, but the Immaculate Heart of Mary is so united with her Divine Son, that the two hearts of Jesus and Mary palpitate in unison in such a way that they are One (See the reverse of the Miraculous Medal, a wonderful catechesis in itself.). Then, the Holy Mother is associated with her Divine Son and Redeemer in such a way that she certainly is co-redemptrix, for her association with Christ is that of a kind that her Heart is pierced by the sins of mankind who has offended so much her Divine Son, Jesus Christ.

The great sins of our modern societies that cause the damnation of so many unfortunate people are of five kinds:

- 1. Blasphemies against her Immaculate Conception;
- 2. Blasphemies against her virginity;
- 3. Blasphemies against her Divine Motherhood, rejecting her also as mother of mankind;
- 4. Those who publicly try to infuse in the hearts of children, indifference, rejection and hatred to this Immaculate Mother;
- 5. Those who outrage her in her sacred statues and images.

Through this act of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Jesus Christ's mercy will forgive those souls who offend her, saving them from damnation. This is why Five First Saturdays of Reparation are addressed to the five kinds of sins committed against God offending the Immaculate Heart of His Mother. A good son always takes care of his mother.

The Great Promise of the Immaculate Heart of Mary promises all graces needed at the hour of death for those who receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession), receive Holy Communion, meditate the Holy Rosary and make her company for fifteen minutes, consoling her heart with the intention of reparation, on five consecutive First Saturdays of the month. But this individual promise, so magnificent, carries a social promise too: Peace to the world, Unity and Strength for the Universal Church against inner dissentions and rebellion against the Magisterium. This is why the Message of Fatima is so united with the Popes and their petrine ministry. Blessed Jacinta Marto had some individual revelations in this respect.

By practicing this devotion of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we are introduced into a school of holiness, the spiritual motherhood of Mary over humanity. The Heart of Mary opens and reveals her secrets of inner life, the light coming from her Heart is God himself, her beatific vision that is shared in some way with her beloved children when they too contemplate the mystery of God and they experience God's love, although in an imperfect way. This is the most important religious experience offered by the spirituality of Fatima, a marvelous treasure of individual and collective salvation for her children!

The World Apostolate of Fatima is asking some diocesan bishops who do have the Communion of Reparation of the Five First Consecutive Saturdays of the Month implemented in their dioceses, to write to the Holy Father witnessing the great benefits received by the faithful by the practice of this devotion and to ask the Pope an apostolic exhortation to the Universal Church in this respect. You can approach your diocesan bishop in this respect.

Our Lady of Fatima requested this devotion to obtain from heaven the graces of peace and unity for the Church and the world. In the past, Pope Paul VI wrote the apostolic exhortation "SIGNUM MAGNUM" on the true devotion of the Immaculate Heart of Mary that helped so much to spread its authentic devotion through the Universal Church. Now, in our days, we

would like to see the Immaculate Heart of Mary's petition of reparation on the First Saturdays practiced along with the reparation of the Nine First Fridays of the Month devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In this way, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be jointly honored by the Church, as the reverse of the Miraculous Medal requests at the Apparition of Mary Immaculate at Paris.