

It's Not Too Late to Make the Best New Year's Resolution for 2025:

the Five First Saturdays Devotion

BY REX TEODOSIO

What if there was a New Year's Resolution that could help solve humanity's problems? Do you want world peace? Do you want to lessen crimes everywhere? Do you want a solution to illegal immigration? Do you want to eradicate drug abuse and abortion?

If you desire these things, then you must have recourse to a solution that can address the moral crisis in society. No amount of legislation or regulation can restore moral values. Human efforts are not sufficient. Then, the solution needs to be supernatural.

Our Lady at Fatima proposed such a solution in 1917. She appeared six times, promising that if the faithful did as she requested, she would bring the conversion of many sinners and peace in the world as a reward. During her sixth apparition, on October 13, she per-



Interior view of the Cathedral of Toledo, Spain, © taewook. This image is licensed under Adobe Stock.

formed a miracle in which the sun seemed to dance in the sky, which was witnessed by over 70,000 people near the area of her apparition.

One of the requests that has been neglected is the Five First Saturdays Devotion. This commitment can be a New Year's resolution that can make a real difference if done

properly. Best of all, it is not too late to make the resolution now since it can be done on any five consecutive first Saturdays during the year.

The Devotion and the Promises

What is this devotion?



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It is a simple devotion that consists of doing the following on the first Saturday of five consecutive months:

1. Go to confession
2. Receive Holy Communion with the intention of offering reparation for the sins and blasphemies against Mary's Immaculate Heart.
3. Pray five decades of the Holy Rosary.
4. Keep Mary company for 15 minutes, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.

What is the promise?

Our Lady promises to be with the person at the time of his death, bringing the necessary graces for salvation.

Secondly, if this devotion is spread worldwide, then it is the second condition that will lead to the conversion of Russia, the conversion of many sinners, peace in the world, and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

A Covenant With the Mother of God

This spiritual exercise summarizes the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It calls attention to her suffering. It brings consolation to her heart. It does reparation for the injuries committed by ungrateful men. It is pleasing to her Divine Son.

Covenants are contracts established between God and His people, which are found in the Old Testament. God requests a symbolic gesture in exchange for a promise. For Abraham, the gestures requested were the change of name and circumcision. God promised to bless him with a multitude of descendants, more numerous than

the stars in the sky, who were to become God's chosen people.

The Five First Saturdays devotion is a devotion that is like a covenant with Our Lady. We console and have pity on the Immaculate Mother, who is "being pierced with thorns by ungrateful men." In exchange, Our Lady of Fatima promises that "humanity will convert, and a period of peace will be given to humanity."

The Reward for this Covenant

This peace will not be like the past "peace" after the two world wars. Those periods of peace were tenuous and led to yet more war. The triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary will characterize the peace guaranteed with this devotion.

Catholic thinker and man of action Prof. Plinio Correa de Oliveira talked about this era in glowing terms.

Fatima not only announces great tragedies but prophesies the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. That would be enough to rule out an imminent end of the world. In fact, how could the end of history coincide with the historic triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

"The end of the world will not come now because it is clear from the Fatima context that the world will continue with a triumph of her Immaculate Heart. She did not say, 'My Immaculate Heart will win,' but employed an expression with very sharp and distinct hues. There is a difference between a victory and a triumph: a triumph is an outstanding victory, a great victory, not an ordinary victory. Our Lady announces her triumph, that is, a victory with glory in which she will completely master the situation.

Therefore, we will have the Reign of Mary, for one does not understand that she would win without being Queen."

Prof. de Oliveira insists that a triumph is not merely a victory but one clothed in glory and splendour: "A triumph of Our Lady cannot fail to be splendid; for all that God does for Mary and on her behalf is a masterpiece. He reserved for Our Lady all His greatness. Her personal triumph has to be the most marvelous one in history."

The Best New Year's Resolution

There are many resolutions you can make to help the world. Why not add this devotion? It is simple and straightforward. The promised results are world-changing. It is by far the best New Year's Resolution for 2025.

This is the only resolution with a divine stamp of approval, encouragement, and a promise of moral conversion. Do it now. It is not too late. Then, keep doing it.

<https://www.tfp.org/its-not-too-late-to-make-the-best-new-years-resolution-for-2024-the-five-first-saturdays-devotion/>



Seeking the True Joy of Christmas

BY PLINIO CORRÊA DE OLIVEIRA

The state of world events is so uncertain that it is impossible to know the conditions in which we will celebrate Christmas or what the New Year will bring. This is a Christmas in which we are filled with uncertainty, trials, and insecurity.

One could rightly ask, “Is it proper to have these concerns during Christmastime? Shouldn’t we have only consolations, joys, and satisfactions during this season?”

To answer this question, we should consider the first Christmas night. Saint Joseph and, above all, Our Lady were filled with inexpressible joy in the grotto in Bethlehem.

However, before the Child Jesus was born, they suffered affliction. They had spent the night seeking a dignified place for Our Lord’s birth. Saint Joseph was humiliated seeing that his spouse would have to deliver the Christ Child in a stable where animals ate. While there could not have been a more stupendous event that evening, neither could there have been humbler surroundings.

The manger was all Saint Joseph and Our Lady had to offer the Child Jesus. Thus, the evening was filled with unfathomable joys but also had its sufferings.

Although the Christ Child knew that Providence had dictated the conditions of His birth, Our Lady and Saint Joseph may not have. They could have been filled with doubts concerning the reasons for their poor surroundings, perhaps even attributing them to a wrongdoing of their own. Though faultless, Saint Joseph, who was most responsible for providing for the Holy Family, probably asked Our Lord’s pardon for the lowly accommodations he had furnished for His delivery.



Nevertheless, the evening’s joys overcame all its sadnesses to such an extent that the latter were completely forgotten.

We should celebrate Christmas in the same manner, though we are concerned with the crisis in the Church and the breakdown of society and aware of our insufficiency to face these calamities.

Realizing that we are chosen to follow Our Lady during these troubling times should fill us with joy and overcome the sadness we endure for our personal failings and the godlessness that surrounds us.

At the feet of the newborn Christ Child, we should thank Him for having called us to this struggle and these times. We should realize that we are only capable of resisting through His Redemption, for which His birth was a necessary condition. We ought to express this gratitude through the intercession of Our Lady, the Universal Mediatrix, and Saint Joseph.

We should ask Saint Joseph, Our Lady and the Christ Child for a soul continually mindful of Our Lady’s words at Fatima: “Finally, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!” Thus, we will be able to overcome all sadness and advance joyfully in the fight, seeking heroism and even sacrifice.

Thus, we pray that Our Lady grant you this indomitable joy for Christmas and bring you ever closer to her and her Divine Son!

This article is taken from a 1980 Christmas greeting of Prof. Plinio Corrêa de Oliveira to The American TFP. It has been translated and adapted for publication without his revision. — Ed.

Canada Needs Our Lady is a special campaign of the Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization to win the hearts and minds of Canadians for Mary.

The Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization was incorporated on June 25, 2013 as a federal nonprofit organization “to advance religion by the promotion of the religious teachings, tenets, doctrines, morals, and observances of the Roman Catholic faith and their application to individuals, families, and society in Christian culture and civilization.”

From our main office in Saint Hubert, QC, Society members and volunteers reach out to concerned Christian families and individuals across Canada. We promote and defend the principles and values of Christian civilization and spread the Gospel message far and wide.

Our charity number is
807291737RR0001.

Our Tax Receipt Policy:

We issue official Tax Receipts at the end of January to all donors whose total donations (received) during the preceding calendar year come to \$30 or more.

The Future Depends on YOU

Please consider making a charitable bequest to Canada Needs Our Lady when you write or amend your will.

You will be deeply satisfied to know that your generosity will help future generations to know, love and practice a message of such importance, that God sent His Holy Mother to deliver it personally to us at Fatima in 1917.

Pass on Devotion to the Next Generation

To pass on devotion to Our Lady to the next generation, please ask your attorney to include in your will one of the two phrases below:

OPTION 1

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$_____ dollars to be used for the general purposes of Canada Needs Our Lady, a special campaign of the Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization, of P.O. Box 36040, Greenfield Park, QC J4V 3N7, whose registered charity number is 807291737RR0001."

OPTION 2

"I give, devise and bequeath to Canada Needs Our Lady, a special campaign of Canadian Society for the Defence of Christian Civilization, of P.O. Box 36040, Greenfield Park, QC J4V 3N7, whose registered charity number is 807291737RR0001, for its general purposes all (or state fraction or percent) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, whether real or personal."

Fatima's Echo's to the Next Generation

Your bequest will help future generations live Our Lady's Fatima message and you will also receive many spiritual benefits. We pray daily for our benefactors, both the living and the faithfully departed. Fr. Kevin J. Beaton says Mass on Saturdays for the intentions of Canada Needs Our Lady members. Your generosity is not only appreciated by us, but, much more importantly, our Blessed Mother and Her Divine Son. They are more interested than anyone in the restoration of society and the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Your kind help will make such apostolate possible:

- † Home-visitations with a Pilgrim Virgin statue of Our Lady of Fatima;
- † Protests and acts of reparation nationwide to stop blasphemous attacks against the Sacred Persons of Jesus and Mary;
- † FREE religious literature, books, medals, and rosaries;
- † Public Square Rosary Rally Crusade, coast to coast, with hundreds of thousands every October reading our banners' prayer: "Praying the Rosary for Canada. Please join us! As human efforts fail to solve Canada's key problems, we turn to God, through His Holy Mother, asking His urgent help."

St. Louis de Montfort says that Mary, being the most gracious and giving of all pure creatures, never lets herself be outdone in love and liberality. As this holy man said of her, for an egg she gives an ox; that is to say, for a little that is given her, she returns a hundred fold. St. Bernard says that "when you want to offer anything to God, take care to offer it by the most agreeable and worthy hands of Mary, unless it be rejected."

