

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS

Ave Maria

1° January 2026 – Mary Most Holy Mother of God

"Jubilee of Pontevedra"

Dear members of the Marian Movement of Priests,

With the Holy Year 2025, the year of grace called the Jubilee of Hope, just ended, the Church offers another gift: a new Jubilee Year with regard to the Sanctuary of Pontevedra, in Spain, where Sister Lucia received apparitions of Jesus and of Our Lady and the request of the practice of the Five First Saturdays. In fact, the centenary of these apparitions that complete the message of Fatima fell on the 10 December 2025; rightly defined by some as "a silent jubilee" (very few have commemorated this centenary), the Church is offering until December 10, 2026, a Jubilee grace precisely in that shrine, to invite the faithful from all over the world to live this call from Heaven: to honour and console the Immaculate Heart to make reparation for so many sins that are committed today, especially against the Immaculate Heart itself, and to obtain graces of conversion for those who do not love the Lord.

In the Marian Movement of Priests we have learned to live what was asked at Fatima (and in Pontevedra): it should, therefore, be normal for us to dedicate every First Saturday of the month to the Immaculate Heart; we priests explicitly promise this in our act of consecration. The reparation that Our Lady and the Lord asked for in Pontevedra, we can live with love every First Saturday of the month, and also renew it whenever we want it in each of our cenacles.

Our Lady has frequently explained to us the meaning of these Five First Saturdays, and in general of Saturday as "Her" day. It does us great good to read calmly the messages of August 4, 1979 (No. 180), "The Five First Saturdays," and April 2, 1988 (No. 379), "Into the Sorrow of My Desolation."

I think it might be useful to elaborate on some elements of this request.

➤ **What is behind the request for the Five First Saturdays of the month...**

On June 13, 1917, there is an intense dialogue between Our Lady and little Lucia: "*I will take Jacinta and Francisco soon. But you are to stay down here longer. Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. To those who embrace it, I promise salvation, and these souls will be loved by God like flowers placed by Me to adorn His throne.*" Lucia is disturbed and asks: "*Will I stay here alone?*" and Our Lady replies: "*No, my daughter. Do you suffer a lot? Don't be discouraged. I will never leave you. My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.*"

The following month, July 13, 1917, Our Lady confirms that the devotion to the Immaculate Heart is in God's plan and explains the reason for it: at the start of the revelation of the three secrets she shows the little shepherds Hell where "*the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If you do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.*"

It is good to stress four points:

- June 13: Jesus wishes to establish devotion to the Immaculate heart in the world. July 13: God wishes to save souls from the terrible danger of being lost and in this Time of Tribulation he sends His greatest help: the Immaculate Heart, which accompanies us, instructs us and wishes to make us in turn instruments of salvation. It is God's initiative and He asks us to entrust ourselves completely to the maternal action of the Immaculate Heart.

- "poor sinners", the Mother's love is for all souls, she wants to teach us to love as her Immaculate Heart loves, that is, as the Divine Heart of Jesus itself loves.
- "If you do what I tell you": in the confusion of the present moment, it is necessary to listen to her.
- It is also good to note Lucia's fear of being alone... those who live and promote the cenacles can also happen to feel in some way "alone" because of little understanding or little response, or even because of the greatness of this mission. In fact, Lucia's mission also becomes ours: to bring others to life in the Immaculate Heart, to live the Gospel in littleness (in humility) and to be faithful to God in the Church; Our Lady accompanies and sustains us even in these pains and difficulties, against all discouragement, helping us to carry out this mission for love of her and of the Lord.

Let's hear what Our Lady tells us in the Book "To the Priests, Our Lady's Beloved Sons".

January 1, 1985 (302n-o): "You must be my powerful help, which I wish to offer today to all humanity in order to lead it to return along the road of goodness and of love. [...] I desire that, through you, all my lost children may be able to come back to the Lord, who awaits them with the anxiety and the joy of a Father who loves them and wants to save them. Thus you become also instruments of Divine Mercy, in these times in which the greatest triumph of the merciful love of my Son, Jesus is in preparation".

June 30, 1994 (523e.g): "Go and preach the necessity of penance and conversion, of return to the Lord along the way of prayer and repentance, of renunciation of Satan and all his wiles, of evil and the tyranny of the passions. [...] It is you who must be the instruments of this general return. It is you who must be the apostles of this second evangelization, so strongly requested by my Pope." Important: the new evangelisation is not based on new techniques of proclamation or of social life, but only on the return from sin to the life of grace.

June, 30 1994 (523o): "Thus you become instruments of salvation for all, in these last times, when everything which I foretold to you must be accomplished. In this way, by means of you, my Immaculate Heart will, in the end, triumph".

➤ Why do we need it?

Sister Lucia writes: on December 10, 1925 in Pontevedra "the Blessed Virgin appeared and, at Her side, suspended in a luminous cloud, a Child. The Blessed Virgin, putting her hand on his shoulder, at the same time showed him a heart crowned with thorns which she held in her other hand. At the same time the Child said: - *Have compassion on the Immaculate Heart of your Most Holy Mother, which is covered with thorns that ungrateful men at all times drive into it, without anyone making an act of reparation to pull them out.* Afterwards the Blessed Virgin said: "Look, my daughter, at My Heart crowned with thorns that ungrateful men thrust into Me at every moment, with blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me, and say that all those who for five months, on the first Saturday, will go to confession then receive Holy Communion, will say a rosary, and keep me 15 minutes in company meditating on the 15 mysteries of the rosary, with the intention of giving me relief, I promise to assist them, at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for the salvation of these souls."

I think it is moving to see how it is Jesus who first makes us look at the pain of the Immaculate Heart of Mary: He wants it to be ours too and that we console her (because the pain of the Immaculate Heart is a reflection of the pain of the Sacred Heart abandoned and denied by souls), so that with the act of reparation we intercede for the salvation of those who are not in God's Grace. Again on February 15, 1926, the Child Jesus appeared to Sister Lucia to urge the spread of the practice of the First Saturdays, with the intention of making reparation for five blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart: * blasphemies against her Immaculate Conception, * against her Virginity, * against her divine Motherhood and the refusal to recognize her as the Mother of men, * contempt and even hatred towards her images, * the work of those who instill indifference to her in the hearts of the little ones. These are five spiritual wounds that prevent the action of God's Grace in souls, to the point of distancing them from Him and putting them in a position of being eternally lost.

It is very important to remember that the practice of First Saturdays is not the personal initiative of Sister Lucia, but of Jesus himself. With the *due distinction* between public Revelation and what is transmitted by private revelations such as this, we can understand that the First Saturdays are part of the plans of the *will of God*.

This act of reparation by means of the meditated Rosary, confession and reparatory Communion becomes a powerful weapon against the progressive loss of faith in the people of God, pastors and faithful.

December 8, 1988 (394d-e): "My Adversary has succeeded in making everything ugly, through the stain of sin and of impurity. [...] Man is being crushed under the weight of a civilization without God, which disfigures in him the image of his original dignity. [...] A dense darkness has now descended to obscure everything. And so it is then that the Immaculate Mother, at this time, is presenting herself as the sign of your sure hope. Because it is my motherly duty to bring souls back to grace, hearts back to love, bodies back to purity, people back to the great dignity of children of God, the world back to perfect glorification of the Most Holy Trinity".

February 2, 1993 (487i): "In the hearts of my little children, I take up my dwelling, where I myself find my refuge, to be consoled by your tender filial love and to obtain that great reparation which I have asked of you and of which I have need, in order to shorten the great sufferings of these, your days".

August, 13 1982 (249i): "Today I say: how many souls you can save from the fire of hell and lead to Paradise if, together with me, you pray and sacrifice each day for them!... It is above all in this, my merciful work of salvation and yours, that the triumph of my Heart is being brought about".

September 15, 1989 (411j-k): "So I am asking you today, children consecrated to my Immaculate Heart, that which in this very place in May 1917, I asked of my three little children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco, to whom I appeared: Do you also want to offer yourselves as victims to the Lord, on the altar of my Immaculate Heart, for the salvation of all my poor sinful children? If you accept this request of mine, you must do what I now ask of you".

August 4, 1979 (180b): "These are the hours of battle, and therefore those weapons which I have prepared especially for you must be made use of: - the consecration to my Immaculate Heart; - the frequent recitation of the holy rosary; - the practice of the five first Saturdays of the month in reparation for the offenses committed against my motherly Heart".

➤ What are the effects...

Whoever accepts the calls of the Immaculate Heart grows spiritually in the way that Our Lady described on September 13, 1984 (294g): "In Cenaclo with me, I teach you to look on the evils of today with my motherly and merciful eyes, and I form you, because I wish you yourselves to become the remedy for these evils" and June 13, 1989 (406s): "I bring you to a great love for Jesus -Truth, making you courageous witnesses of the faith; to Jesus-Life, leading you to great holiness; to Jesus-Way, asking you to be in life the Gospel alone, lived out and proclaimed to the letter. Then I lead you to the greatest love for the Church".

Consequently, living in Jesus, in His Grace, means building up the life of the Church in the only possible way: in holiness. Only in this way can society struck by evil, which is no longer able to recover from the consequences of the sin that destroys it, be healed. (cf. December 31, 1996, 586k).

The practice of the First Saturdays is intended to be a path that the Lord offers to each of His children, through the maternal action of Mary, to learn anew to seek holiness by receiving regularly (at least every month) new life with the power of Confession, of Holy Communion and together with the invigorating nourishment of the Holy Rosary. It is a true and proper renewal of the Church's life, a return to a life that - unfortunately - is no longer customary in every part of the world. One can understand why Heaven should show us this latter way.

Besides, we are offered the power of reparation to weaken, curb and render useless the action of the evil one in the Church and in individual souls

All these remedies have a "heavenly power", they attract an intervention of God's Love on the Church and on the world much greater than we can comprehend with our minds.

➤ What are the gifts for ourselves...

Through Our Lady's words at Fatima, especially the Consecration to her Immaculate Heart, reparation and the practice of the Five First Saturdays, we are introduced to the mystery of Jesus' love: to live for the salvation of others, which gives glory to God and exalts His mercy. We can relive the sentiments of the Heart of Jesus through the action of the Immaculate Heart.

- First of all, we receive a gift so great that it can only be fully understood in heaven: we are involved by the Lord – through Mary's maternal action – to collaborate in the work of redemption. In this way we become in some way collaborators in the salvation of our brothers and sisters. Ours is a conscious collaboration, because it is all the more active the deeper and more loving our offer of reparation.
- Moreover, we share in the sentiments of the Heart of Jesus towards His own and our Mother: we are called to console her, knowing that she is consoled when her children return to Jesus. We also share in Jesus' desire that

His Mother not suffer because of us, she who is Immaculate and does not deserve to undergo suffering (a consequence of original sin), but who in her maternal love accepts to suffer in order to help us overcome sin. This too reminds us that Our Lady has a unique role in the history of salvation, and Jesus – asking for devotion to the Immaculate Heart – emphasizes this role and wants us to recognize it.

- By participating – always by gift – in the sentiments of the Heart of Jesus, we also participate in the joy of Paradise for the salvation of many: this is the same joy that lives in the Immaculate Heart, and is communicated to those hearts that consecrate themselves to it and live in it the mission that the Immaculate Heart entrusts in these Last Times.
- All this enriches our soul with merits for salvation, that is, it lives in God so as to attain salvation and avoid perdition (a path that is a very special gift of the Immaculate Heart, which wants everyone in Paradise and traces the surest path for ourselves and to help others).
- We cannot fail to realize – and consequently give thanks – for the spiritual depth to which the Lord and Our Lady want to lead us through the practice of the Five First Saturdays, which is therefore not a simple devotion: If anything it is a gift from Heaven that offers a real privileged way of holiness, of union with the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and that wants to make us collaborators of the only thing that matters, eternal salvation. This is the true goal of the Immaculate Heart and the characteristic of its Triumph.

We can only rejoice, then, in feeling called as Sister Lucia was, and then Fr. Stefano Gobbi, and with them all that host of holy souls who responded to this heavenly call: **"At Fatima I asked that the five first Saturday of the month be offered to me, as a sign of filial and loving reparation. And by means of my Marian Movement of Priests, this request of mine is now being accepted in every part of the world. And this gives great comfort to the sorrow of my Immaculate Heart".** (April 6, 1996, 570d).

December 31, 1996 (586j-u): **"- Make reparation for the sins of this poor humanity, which finds itself completely under the power of my Adversary. See how it has rejected God!! It has built a pagan civilization... [...] As of now this poor humanity has touched the bottom of its misery. It can no longer succeed in recovering if a great act of mercy does not raise it up. Pray that the great miracle of Divine Mercy come upon this world.**

- Make reparation for the infidelities of so many sons of the Church, The lack of faith is spreading among its very shepherds, and the flock is being stricken by the impetuous wind of apostasy. Errors are being spread, taught and followed; the sects are multiplying everywhere. Who will still remain firm in the faith in Jesus and his Church?

- Make reparation for my poor sinful children. I ask of you that which I asked of the three children to whom I appeared at Fatima. Do you wish to offer your life in a spirit of prayer and reparation for the salvation of all sinners, especially those who have most need of divine mercy? So form with me a great network of love and salvation, spread out over the whole world..

This then is the Ark of the New Covenant, the safe and awaited refuge, into which must enter those far away, the atheists, the sinners, the poor, the sick, the despairing, so that they may all enjoy the light, the peace and the joy which only the Immaculate Heart of your heavenly Mother can give you. [...]

- Pray and make reparation, my beloved sons. Your heavenly Mother is causing her bright rays of purity and holiness to come down upon you.

I am preparing you to receive the new days which are awaiting you as gifts of grace and mercy, because, through you, my Immaculate Heart desires to attain its pre-announced triumph".

It is beautiful that many of us live the First Saturday by meeting for a cenacle. I would like to encourage everyone to live every Saturday "with Our Lady", especially by finding a way to live the First Saturday of each month as the Lord and Our Lady asked in Pontevedra, as she explained to Fr Stefano Gobbi and as the Church herself is proposing to us with this "Jubilee of Pontevedra".

Dear brothers in the priesthood and dear brothers and sisters: may the words of our Mother guide us to live as she wants this Time of Grace, in which God has placed us to be the host of the Immaculate Heart.



Fr. Luca Pescatori, responsible-coordinator of the M. M. P.

• Again in 2025 I was able to visit many cenacles in Italy, India (also for the annual retreat of priests and laity), Brazil (also for the annual retreat of the laity and for the Spiritual Exercises of priests) and Mexico (also for the retreat of Central and South American priests) meeting 18 Bishops and 4 Cardinals. In 2025, the International Spiritual Exercises for priests were held as always in Collevalenza at the end of June, with the presence of 150 priests and bishops, as well as some lay people representing their nations.

• If in 2024 we had the joy of seeing the Cause of Beatification of our Fr. Stefano Gobbi begin, on April 14, 2025 Pope Francis proclaimed the martyrdom of Fr. Nazareno Lanciotti, who will therefore be proclaimed Blessed in the coming months. His Cause of Beatification had been strongly encouraged and supported by Fr. Stefano, to whom he had been a friend and who had asked him to be the "responsible priest" of the MMP for Brazil. We will communicate the date of the beatification as soon as we learn about it from the Holy See and the Brazilian diocese of São Luis de Cáceres, where Jauru, the parish of Fr. Nazareno, is located. Besides, on the final day of the Spiritual Exercises for priests in Brazil, the decree of Pope Leo XIV was published proclaiming Venerable the priest Fr. Angelo Angioni, head of the MMP in Brazil before Fr. Nazareno, who will be proclaimed blessed when the Lord grants a miracle through his intercession. These are great graces for the life of the Marian Movement of Priests, which shows the Church confirming that the spirit of the MMP is a path of holiness. We do not count the blessed and saints (or several venerables who also lived the spirit of the MMP) for simple personal joy or – worse – for a sort of presumption, if anything we thank the Lord for having given us the Immaculate Heart of His Mother as a safe refuge and a way that leads us to Him, as Our Lady had said to little Lucia on June 13, 1917, and we are prompted to follow the example of these brothers and sisters of ours whom the Church is thinking of pointing to as examples of holiness. Speaking of saints and martyrdom, let us always pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters, who suffer greatly in many parts of the world under the most disparate pretexts, whether they are religious or political.

• Certainly this year will also be remembered for the change in the Petrine Ministry: last April 21, Easter Monday, Pope Francis concluded his earthly journey, and the following May 8 this ministry was entrusted to Pope Leo XIV. Our Lady always insists on the need to support the Petrine Ministry with our "unity of prayer and love", of which she speaks to us countless times in the messages given to Fr. Stefano Gobbi. It is up to each of us to verify how he has lived this fundamental commitment with regard to Pope Francis, and how he is living it towards Pope Leo XIV.

• In this time of confusion, many sometimes wonder how to understand some Marian titles that Our Lady explains in her messages, titles loved throughout the history of the Church but which for some time have been questioned. If we consider that in the messages that Our Lady gave to Fr. Stefano Gobbi there are no doctrinal errors, anyone can be calm and continue to be nourished by them. Moreover, those who believe that they are truly words of the Immaculate (as our patron St. John Paul II also thought) need not fear finding something doubtful or misleading, if anything they find an incentive to deepen what the mind struggles to enclose within its own human limits of understanding. Every word that Our Lady has left us throughout history leads to salvation.

• It is often thought that only in Holy Years can indulgences be requested, but the Church offers them on many occasions of ordinary Christian life, for example when we pray the meditated Rosary together in a church, as well as pausing in Eucharistic adoration for at least thirty minutes; logically, one needs always to pray for the Pope, to renew the profession of faith and to unite Confession and Communion as soon as possible. Our Lady teaches us a path of grace rich in the gifts of plenary indulgence. Who knows in how many cenacles we can ask for the Indulgence!

• For priests: the next International Spiritual Exercises - which will be held as normal in Collevalenza - this year will be from Sunday 21 June evening to Saturday 27 June morning. We suggest that priests buy plane tickets to Rome early, which are in great demand at that time and are likely to become very expensive soon. We ask the lay faithful to support priests (also economically) and help them to take part. For information, write to Fr. Florio Quercia, querciaflorio@gmail.com, +39.333.6322248.

• For the laity, I continue to encourage that national, or at least regional, retreats be held in every nation, even if of a few people. When the members of the MMP live very far from each other or are unable to hold cenacles in their regions, I encourage them to meet at least on the internet platforms, as has already been happening for some time in some areas of the world: it must not be a substitute for family or parish cenacles, it is one more cenacle that connects us and helps us to walk together in this wonderful way of the Immaculate Heart. In the same way, I encourage priests of every nation (or at least linguistic group) to meet through the Internet every month to pray in Cenacle, to get to know one another and to support one another with friendship and witness. It is already happening in many nations with good spiritual fruits.

• Only humble prayer is effective, only that keeps us on the path of the Immaculate Heart, opens us to discernment, makes us strong witnesses and leaves us confident that the Lord guides the Church in the time of the Great Tribulation according to His sometimes mysterious plans towards the Purification and towards the Eucharistic Kingdom of Jesus, in the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We are asked to walk in the line traced by the Immaculate Heart, living in the greatest fidelity the three commitments that are asked of us (to live the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart, unity of prayer and love for the Pope and the bishops united with him, and to lead others to the Immaculate Heart through the cenacles), in a careful, daily and never superficial manner, confident that Our Lady asks us what is most pleasing to the Most Holy Trinity and what is most effective in opposing and frustrating the action of the Adversary, and in collaborating in the salvation of souls.