

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **The Communal First Saturdays Responds to Pandemic, Offering Hope to Faithful Separated from Sacraments, Liturgy**

THE WOODLANDS, Texas - Apr. 22, 2020 - In response to the current pandemic situation preventing most of us from going to our church buildings, The Communal First Saturdays Apostolate (CFSA) has developed an online version of the Fatima First Saturdays devotion. The online version can be found [here](#) this Saturday, May 2nd at 11am ET.

“Many people don’t know that the Child Jesus also appeared to Sr. Lucia asking for the First Saturdays devotion to be spread throughout the world. May is the month of Mary; this is something we can do to honor her even though we’re stuck at home,” says Bill McLaughlin, an apostolate member located in Calgary, Canada.

The CFSA began in 2008 in The Woodlands, Texas and has spread throughout the world. The mission of the apostolate is to promote the First Saturdays devotion requested by Our Lady of Fatima. Its program is based on the book *The Communal First Saturdays (with imprimatur)*. The devotion in this book is the first canonically approved public First Saturdays devotion accompanying the Liturgy.

At Fatima, on July 13, 1917, Our Lady promised a period of peace and the salvation of many souls if enough people fulfill the First Saturdays devotion. Our Lady also promised to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation (Pontevedra, December 10, 1925).

Katrina Leyden, President and Co-founder of the CFSA, emphasizes the importance of praying in community and likens it to the three children of Fatima who prayed the daily Rosary together. She often refers to Pope St. John XXIII when he said, “Clearly the most efficacious kind of prayer for gaining the divine protection is prayer that is offered publicly by the whole community; for Our Redeemer said: “Where two or three are gathered...”

Normally the faithful make the Communal First Saturdays devotion together at their home parishes. With the current situation of the pandemic, the CFSA created an online version that can be done by anyone from home.

To fulfill the First Saturdays devotion, each of the following needs to be done in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

- 1) Confession
- 2) Pray the Rosary
- 3) Receive Holy Communion
- 4) Fulfill a separate 15-minute Meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary in Our Lady’s Company

The online video can help you do all of this though you would still need to make the intention to physically go to Confession and Mass as soon as possible.

The online program gives important information for those who cannot currently go to Confession. It continues with the Communal Order of Devotion, which includes Introductory Prayers, the Rosary, opportunity to make a Spiritual Communion in reparation to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and a 15-minute communal Meditation in Our Lady’s company in the form of *lectio divina* specifically for the month of May. The program concludes with the Pilgrim Virgin Statue and Brown Scapular Reception.

The video will be accessible all day; however, to unite your prayer with others who are praying at the same time, tune in [here](#) this Saturday, May 2nd at 11am ET.

For more information, please go to [The Communal First Saturdays](#) website.

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