



# OFS: *Secular Franciscan Order (& YouFra)*

*The Third Order of St. Francis in Ireland.*

## **National Newsletter May 2026**

“To follow Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis”

Website: [ofsireland.org](http://ofsireland.org)



**800 years  
1226-2026**



### **Naaman and the First Saturday Devotions to Our Lady**

**Naaman was the commander** of the army of Aram (modern-day Syria) and was held in great esteem by the King, because he led the army to many victories. **However, he was a leper.** His wife’s servant-girl , who had been brought from Israel, encouraged Naaman to seek a cure from the prophet Elisha. Naaman laden with gold and many valuable gifts made his way to Elisha’s house. However, Elisha did not come out and instead sent his servant to tell Naaman **to bathe seven times in the river Jordan.** When he heard this Naaman got angry, and fumed at such a trivial request. However, his servants gently said that if the Prophet Elisha had asked him to do something very difficult, he would have done it. Naaman then **carried out this simple request** and after **bathing seven times in the Jordan**, the leprosy was healed. (cf. **2 Kings 5:1-19**)

**Our Blessed Mother came to Fatima with a very simple request in order to bring peace to the world.** The First Saturdays Devotion, also known as the “**Five First Saturdays**” is a special request by Our Lord and Our Lady to make reparation for all the sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our Lady promised personal salvation if we fulfill the five consecutive First Saturdays. However, we should continue to fulfill them every month to console the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and make reparation for the sins of others. The continued practice of the First Saturdays **will help bring about a period of peace** and the salvation of many souls as Our Lady promised (Fatima, July 13, 1917).

The four practices that must be fulfilled on the First Saturday, each with the intention *of making reparation* to the Immaculate Heart of Mary are the following:

- (1) Confession ; (2) Receive Holy Communion ; (3) Pray the Rosary**
- (4) Keep her company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary**

Our Lord gave the following message to Sr Lucia to explain the reason for five Saturdays:

*My daughter the motive is simple: there are 5 ways in which people offend and blaspheme against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:*

1. The blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception.
2. Against her Virginity.
3. Against the Divine Maternity, refusing at the same time to accept her as the Mother of all mankind.
4. Those who publicly seek to instill in the children’s hearts, indifference, contempt, and even hatred against the Immaculate Mother.
5. Those who offend her directly in her Sacred Images.

**The request to us is very simple, like the request made to Naaman.** (ref. [Home - The Communal First Saturdays](#))

### **Reminder: National Elective Chapter August 8<sup>th</sup> in Merchants Quay**

Please support this important event for the future of OFS Ireland

#### **Every Fraternity is requested to:**

- Complete and return the Nomination Forms
- Be represented at the Elective Chapter
- Pray for its success

Dina Shabalina will travel from OFS Ukraine to oversee the elections

### **Franciscan Day in Knock 2026**

The Annual Franciscan pilgrimage to Knock will be held on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of June.** Fraternities are asked to encourage members to attend, and if possible arrange transport. Please consider taking part to honour Our Lady, and to join with our Franciscan sisters and brothers at our National Eucharistic and Marian Shrine.



**Thanks to all contributors.** Items ideally 50 to 100 words. Feedback welcome. Send items to [irelandofs@gmail.com](mailto:irelandofs@gmail.com)