

# May 2018 Format

## Schedule of Activities:

### 9:00-9:15 *Registration and Breakfast*

Women sign in and fill out name tags and, if desired, bless themselves with Holy Water. They also pick up the brochure for this event and any other flyers that are on the resource table. They may also place prayer intentions in the intention basket if one is provided.

Suggested breakfast items: Coffee, tea, water, muffins, bagels, fruit

### 9:15-9:30 *Opening Song/Welcome/Theme/Grace/Opening Prayer*

a) **Song:** Ask the women to refer to the brochures for the lyrics to **Bring Flowers of the Rarest as the Blessed Virgin Mary is crowned.**

b) **Welcome:**

1) Welcome the women and thank them for taking the time out of their busy schedule to come and join in the sacred sisterhood during this Morning of Grace

2) Instructions: **“Before we begin our program we have a few housekeeping details...”**

Give location of the bathrooms, silence all cell phones and, **“please remain seated during presentations to minimize distractions for those around you and for the speaker.”**

Note to Facilitators: You might like to use this technique to quiet the room. It is a good idea to practice this at the beginning of the morning.

**“I will raise my hand when silence is needed. When you see me raise my hand, please be silent and raise your hand too so that the room will become quiet very quickly.”**

c) **Theme:** The many titles of Mary help us to know her as Spiritual Mother.

d) **Grace:** I pray for the grace to experience Mary’s maternal beatitude for me through her various titles.

If you choose, you can share with the ladies that grace is the **“free and undeserved help that God gives us”** out of His abundant love. (Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1996-2000)

e) *Opening Prayer*

**“Let us ponder...Mary our Blessed Mother, invites me, her spiritual daughter, to mystically enter her Immaculate Heart. As I sit with her, I adore with her the Trinitarian Life of Whom she is the tabernacle, and allow the Triune God to love me through her.”**

All pray the **5th Glorious** Mystery while listening to: *Praying the Rosary with St. Therese of Lisieux* CD. (This CD is recommended as there is a meditation before each Hail Mary that will allow the women to be receptive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.)

### **9:30-10:00 DVD Viewing**

a) Watch DVD entitled: Fatima and the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart. 5th Episode of 5, #10273 -10277  
[http://www.womenofgrace.com/en-us/media/tv/default.aspx#s\\_173\\_1](http://www.womenofgrace.com/en-us/media/tv/default.aspx#s_173_1).

### **10:00-10:15 Testimony**

a) Introduce speaker- give brief biography

**“Please refer to your brochure for the prayer for ourselves and our speaker.”**

b) **“Let us welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts and into the heart of our guest speaker as we pray...”**

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created and Thou shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.*

c) Testimony

d) **“Ladies, after hearing this beautiful testimony we encourage you to prayerfully consider sharing your testimony in the near future.”**

### **10:15-10:20 Reflection Time**

a) **“Now please refer to the questions in your brochure for reflection. I will read them aloud as you read them to yourselves.**

**1) Our Lady tells the children, “I am the Lady of the Rosary. People must say the Rosary. If people do as I ask, many souls will be converted and there will be peace.” To what extent do I pray the Rosary - Seldom? Occasionally? Regularly? Daily? As Mary’s, spiritual daughter, do I honor Mary through the devotion of the First Saturdays? If not, what resolution am I willing to make in light of Our Lady’s words?**

**2) Our Lady said to the children, “I come from Heaven. I have come to warn the faithful to amend their lives and to ask pardon from their sins.” Where does my life still need to be amended? For which sin do I still need to seek pardon and repentance? How seriously have I considered Our Lady’s message to the children of Fatima?**

**Take a few minutes to reflect on these questions and ‘incline the ear of your heart’ (Proverbs 4:20). You are welcome to close your eyes as the music plays if you wish.”**

b) *Ave Maria* – violin and piano instrumental (Schubert) or a **CD of the song.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IuFZhn8tlQ>

### **10:20-10:45 Group Sharing**

**Instructions: “Before we break into small groups, remember just as in the foundational study discussion time the discussion is confidential. Please use the questions from the brochure. Share whatever you feel comfortable sharing and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. After the group comes together, please appoint a woman to facilitate the questions, guide the sharing time, stay on task and give the 5**

**minute warning before the discussion ends. To remember your group number, please write down your number on your brochure.”**

Note to facilitators: Sharing time is 20 minutes. An easy method of helping the ladies to get to know each other is to limit the sharing groups to 4 ladies and to count off from 1-5 or another number so that there will be no more than 4 in a group. **In order for the women to remember their number, have them write it on their brochure.** It is **imperative** that the facilitators participate in the small group sharing. Please allow time in your small group for everyone to have an opportunity to share. **Be aware of the 5 minute warning before sharing time ends.**

### **10:45-10:55 Women of Grace Updates**

- a) Tell the women to refer to page 3 of the brochure as you share the Women of Grace Updates
- b) Announce date of the next Morning of Grace, upcoming online and local studies, conference and retreats. Women of Grace Exclusive, Amazon Smile opportunity, Facebook and Twitter information.

**“We would like you to take a pamphlet of the Five First Saturdays before you leave today.”** (Show the pamphlet to the women as you share information.)

**“Our Lady explained the Five First Saturdays to Sr. Lucia, one of the Fatima visionaries, on December 10, 1925, in the following way: ‘See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, mediating on the...mysteries of the Rosary. Daughter, the motive is simple: There are five kinds of offenses and blasphemy spoken against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”**

### **10:55-11:00 Closing Song/Closing Prayer**

- a) *Hail Holy Queen*
- b) *Litany of Loreto* (attachment)

### **Suggestions for Facilitators:**

Please pray about developing a core group of 4-6 women, “Mary’s Handmaids,” to help with the duties for the monthly Mornings of Grace. This is an essential piece for the ongoing success of Mornings of Grace in your area. “...the harvest is abundant but the laborers are few...” Matthew 9:37

**Carefully review each monthly format thoroughly as there will be additions or changes depending on the theme and grace.**

**To prepare for this month’s Morning of Grace, purchase the Five First Saturdays’ Pamphlets, In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.**

Reviewing the “8 B’s of a Facilitator” on page 26-27 in the *Full of Grace Women and the Abundant Life* Facilitator Guide is helpful. It is particularly important to begin and end on time. You might consider, after the program has ended, for the women to have continued conversation during clean up time. This typically is a ½ hour time period.

### **Suggestions for Supplies:**

It is suggested that there is no charge for this morning of grace so to offset expenses, a pot luck breakfast could be provided by several of the ladies. Many times, ladies are very willing to contribute specific items when they are asked. A donation jar can be placed on the resource table for monetary donations to offset expenses.

**A nice suggestion is to have a May crowning to honor The Blessed Mother. Go to your local florist to have a crown of baby breath made to fit the head of the Statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The guest speaker will have the honor to crown Mary as the song, Bring Flowers of the Rarest, is played.**

Items that will provide a warm, welcoming setting include: Sign in Sheet, Name tags, Event brochures, Flyers (Young Women of Grace and Women of Grace), Prayer Intention Basket with small slips of paper and pencils, Holy Water, Statue of Blessed Virgin, **the Five First Saturdays' Pamphlets, In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, open Bible, and Catechism of the Catholic Church. If you have a flower arrangement on the table, this could be presented to the speaker as a gift after the testimony.

### **Suggestions for Speaker:**

**Have the speaker give a 5-7 minute testimony.** Have the speaker write out the testimony as this will assist in staying within the time period. Suggest that the speaker follow the format given in the Women of Grace foundational study that is "I was, Jesus did, I am," **or a personal witness on the theme or topic of the morning of grace.** Speakers may be chosen from testimonies given during the foundational study sessions or Morning of Grace sharing times. Encourage the women to share their testimonies of spiritual, emotional or physical healing as everyone has a story to tell and this can provide an opportunity to show how God has blessed them.

**Have the speaker email the facilitator of the Morning of Grace a brief bio, a paragraph, to introduce her.**

In appreciation for the speaker's fiat, send a personal note or phone call to let her know that her sacred sisters are holding her in prayer. Share with her this Scripture passage, to reflect upon, as she prepares her testimony.

*Jeremiah 1:5-9 -Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "Ah, Lord God!" I said, I know not how to speak; I am too young." But the Lord answered me, Say not, "I am too young." To whomever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord. Then the Lord extended his hand and touched my mouth, saying See I place my words in your mouth!*

### **Resources:**

Email Invitation: (sample attached) Send 2 weeks before the gathering and a reminder email sent again two days before the event

Brochure: (sample attached) It is a landscape page layout, vertically folded brochure

**Bring Flowers of the Rarest** song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTWWa4J700> or a CD of the song.

**Praying the Rosary with St. Therese of Lisieux** CD- available for purchase from <http://shop.womenofgrace.com>

**Women of Grace Journal for Daily Prayer and Reflection, Issue 09;** entitled: *Women of Grace Journal - Her Glorious Titles*

[http://www.womenofgrace.com/App\\_Uploads\\_Docs/Journals/women\\_of\\_grace\\_journal\\_issue\\_9.pdf](http://www.womenofgrace.com/App_Uploads_Docs/Journals/women_of_grace_journal_issue_9.pdf)

DVD series entitled: Fatima and the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart. 5th Episode of 5, #10273 - 10277 [http://www.womenofgrace.com/en-us/media/tv/default.aspx#s\\_173\\_1](http://www.womenofgrace.com/en-us/media/tv/default.aspx#s_173_1) available free as an exclusive member or for purchase from <http://shop.womenofgrace.com> or by phone 1-800-558-5452. **Please allow a minimum of two weeks for delivery.**

*Catholic Bible*, Revised Standard Version

*First Five Saturdays' In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary pamphlets* <https://www.shopmercy.org>  
#FDPF .16 cents each.

*Hail Holy Queen* <https://youtu.be/VTeWWa4J700> or a CD of the song.

*Litany of Loreto (attachment)*

