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MESSENGER ITEMS.

In Churches and Oratories in which special exercises of piety are held in honor of the Divine Heart, with the Ordinary's approval, on the morning of the First Friday of each month a Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart may be added, with *Gloria, Credo* and one prayer (Decree March 20, 1890), provided there occurs on that day no Feast of our Lord, nor double of the first class, nor a privileged Feria, Vigil or Octave.

The *unica oratio* of the decree excludes even the *oratio imperata*. The reason is that the *oratio imperata* is to be omitted in solemn Votive Masses celebrated *sub ritu primæ classis*. The Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart here referred to, if not a solemn Votive Mass, is still to be celebrated as if it were.

Questions are asked from time to time with regard to the First Friday Mass, hence we publish the substance of the Papal Rescript and of the Decree given by the Sacred Congregation in relation to the rite of the Mass. Nothing has been determined concerning the "special exer-