



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER

In preparation for
Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

When it comes to your spiritual life, have you ever thought to yourself “There must be more than this”? If so, you can be assured that the longing for “more” is prompted by the Holy Spirit, who always desires to give more. In the first days after the resurrection of Jesus, it was clear that the expectations of his first followers were very limited. Jesus wanted to give them much more than they expected. So he told them, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:4

They went back to the Upper Room, and they spent nine days praying and preparing for this gift. On the Feast of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to them, and they were never the same. The power of the Holy Spirit that was poured out upon them empowered them to accomplish the mission that Jesus had entrusted to them.

WHAT IS A NOVENA?

That was the very first Novena, which launched the “first evangelization”. (Novena means nine). The practice of the Christian Novena was established by Jesus in preparation for this tremendous grace! We now pray novenas to prepare for solemn feasts, or in

petition for some special grace. Jesus commanded this first novena both as a period of preparation (since the feast of Pentecost was approaching) and also as an act of petition (for the Apostles, together with Mary, were looking forward to the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit).

WHY A NOVENA TO PREPARE FOR PENTECOST?

In 1897, Pope Leo XIII asked the whole church to renew its devotion by praying a Novena to the Holy Spirit in the nine days leading up to Pentecost (Divinum Illud Munus). He asked that this novena be done every year in every parish throughout the world.

In our day, we renew this quest in a special way for the sake of the New Evangelization. The Holy Spirit is “the principle agent of evangelization”. When his power is released in us, our lives are refreshed, our sense of purpose is renewed, our parishes are re-vitalized, and our mission is more effective than ever.

HOW TO PRAY THE NOVENA

Parishes are encouraged to pray the novena each day during Mass, but it can also be done by individuals in their personal prayer.

- 1) Start with the Sign of the Cross.
- 2) Pray the Opening prayer.
- 3) Read the Sequence Verse and Scripture Passage for the day you are on.
- 4) Pray the Closing Prayer

Opening prayer each day:

Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the
fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be
created.
And You shall renew the
face of the earth.
O, God, who by the light of the
Holy Spirit,
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His
consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord,
Amen.

Closing prayer each day:

Come Holy Spirit,
Renew your wonders in this our day,
as by a new Pentecost.
Grant to your Church that,
being of one mind and steadfast in prayer
with Mary,
the Mother of Jesus,
and following the lead of the successors
of Saint Peter and the Apostles, it may
advance the reign of our Divine Savior,
the reign of truth and justice, the reign of
love and peace.
- Amen

Day 1

Come, Holy Spirit, come,
and from your celestial home
shed a ray of light divine.

Joel 3:1-2

It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.

**Increase in us the Spirit of Wisdom, we pray to the Lord.
R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Day 2

Come, Father of the poor,
Come, source of all our store.
Come, within our bosoms shine.

Isaiah 44:3-5

'For I will pour out water on the thirsty land
And streams on the dry ground;
I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring
And My blessing on your descendants;
And they will spring up among the grass
Like poplars by streams of water.'
"This one will say, 'I am the Lord's';
And that one will call on the name of Jacob;
And another will write on his hand, 'Belonging to the Lord,'
And will name Israel's name with honor.

V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in
each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.
Increase in us the Spirit of Understanding, we pray to the
Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Day 3

You, of all comforters best;
You the soul's most
welcome guest.
Sweet refreshment here below.

Ezekiel 11:19-20

And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within
them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and
give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes
and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My
people, and I shall be their God.

V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in
each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.

Increase in us the Spirit of Counsel, we pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Day 4

In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

Ezekiel 36:25-29

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you.

V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in
each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.
Increase in us the Spirit of Fortitude, we pray to the Lord.
R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Day 5

O most Blessed Light Divine,
shine within these
hearts of thine,
and our inmost being fill.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, You know." Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.' Thus says the Lord God to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with

skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord.”

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then He said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.”’” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off.’ Therefore, prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken and done it,” declares the Lord.”

**V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.
Increase in us the Spirit of Knowledge, we pray to the Lord.
R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Day 6

**Where you are not, we have naught.
Nothing good in deed or thought
Nothing free from taint of ill.**

Isaiah 11:1-4

**Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him,**

The spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The spirit of counsel and strength,
The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
And He will delight in the fear of the Lord,
And He will not judge by what His eyes see,
Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;
But with righteousness He will judge the poor
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;

**V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in
each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.**

Increase in us the Spirit of Piety, we pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Day 7

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away.

Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to captives
And freedom to prisoners;
To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord
And the day of vengeance of our God;
To comfort all who mourn,
To grant those who mourn in Zion,
Giving them a garland instead of ashes,
The oil of gladness instead of mourning,
The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting.
So they will be called oaks of righteousness,
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

**V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in
each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.**

Increase in us the Spirit of Fear of the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Day 8

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will.
Melt the frozen, warm the chill.
Guide the steps that go astray.

Romans 8:11-18

If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

**V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in
each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.
Increase in us the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love, we pray
to the Lord.
R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Day 9

On the faithful, who adore.
And confess you, evermore.
In Your sevenfold
gift descend.

Give us virtue's sure reward.
Give us your salvation, Lord.
Give us joys that never end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Acts 2:1-5

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

V: Renew your wonders in the Church of our day and in
each one of us, as by a new Pentecost.
Increase in us the desire to receive all that you desire to
give us, we pray to the Lord.
R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS
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