

30 FAVORITE NOVENAS

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Contents

Introduction	5
To the Holy Spirit	6
Novena of Confidence to the Sacred Heart.	7
Novena in Urgent Need to the Infant Jesus of Prague	8
To Our Lady of Perpetual Help	9
In Honor of the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10
To Our Lady of Lourdes	11
Novena to St. Joseph	12
To St. Joseph, Patron of Workers	13
Prayer to One's Patron or Any Saint	14
To St. Michael the Archangel.	14
To St. Raphael the Archangel	15
To the Holy Angels	16
To Good St. Anne	17
To St Anthony, the Wonder-Worker In Any Need	18
To Find a Lost Article	19

To St. Anthony Mary Claret.	20
To St. Benedict	20
The St. Benedict Medal.	22
To St. Dymphna, for the Mentally Afflicted.	23
To St. Jude the Apostle	23
Novena of Grace in Honor of St. Francis Xavier	24
To St. Gerard For an Expectant Mother	25
For Motherhood or Other Special Favor.	26
To St. Lucy.	27
To St. Maria Goretti.	27
To St. Peregrine, the Cancer Saint	28
Prayer to St. Pius X	29
Novena to St. Rita, Helper of the Hopeless	30
To St. Therese of the Child Jesus, The Little Flower.	31
To the Holy Souls in Purgatory.	31

Introduction

OVER AND OVER again in the pages of the Gospels, we see Our Lord at prayer, teaching the value of prayer, or telling His disciples to pray. After His ascension, His Mother and His followers participated in the great novena that culminated in the coming of the Holy Spirit or Pentecost.

To be a Christian is to be a prayerful person, for by prayer we go to the Father with the Son in the Spirit. Through prayer we open our minds and our hearts to His will. We acknowledge our dependence on God, our loving Father. In prayer we bring our daily needs to Him—ours and the needs of those we love, in fact, the needs of the whole family of mankind. Nothing that we need is too insignificant to pray for. Nor is anything too great that God cannot or will not grant it if we ask.

In praying we participate in God's unfolding will for the world. It is part of His creative plan that we pray for each

other, the living and the dead, asking Him for gifts and blessings. According to St. Paul, by the reverence of His prayers and His sufferings, Christ brought about the salvation of the world. As His followers this is our vocation too: to pray to God and to live our lives in conformity with our prayers, so that we may draw down His blessings upon ourselves and the whole world.

To the Holy Spirit

O HOLY SPIRIT, You are the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity! You are the Spirit of truth, love and holiness, proceeding from the Father and the Son, and equal to Them in all things! I adore You and love you with all my heart. Teach me to know and to seek God, by whom and for whom I was created. Fill my heart with a holy fear and a great love for Him. Give me compunction and patience, and do not let me fall into sin.

Increase faith, hope and charity in me and bring forth in me all the virtues proper to my state of life. Help me to grow in the

four cardinal virtues, Your seven gifts and Your twelve fruits.

Make me a faithful follower of Jesus, an obedient child of the Church and a help to my neighbor. Give me the grace to keep the commandments and to receive the sacraments worthily. Raise me to holiness in the state of life to which You have called me, and lead me through a happy death to everlasting life. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Grant me also, O Holy Spirit, Giver of all good gifts, the special favor for which I ask (name it), if it be for Your honor and glory and for my well-being.

Glory be to the Father . . .

Novena of Confidence to The Sacred Heart

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, to Your most Sacred Heart I confide this intention (your request). Only look upon me, then do what Your love inspires. Let Your Sacred Heart decide . . . I count on You . . . I trust in You . . . I throw myself on Your mercy. Lord Jesus, You will not fail me.