

Novena in Honor of the Holy Spirit

Confirmation 2008

(Begin on Tuesday, March 18th)

FOREWORD

The novena in honor of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian.

Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit - To be recited daily during the Novena

On my knees I before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds, and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord for Your servant heareth." Amen.

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit - To be recited daily during the Novena

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit on Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

FIRST DAY
(Tuesday, March 18th)

Holy Spirit! Lord of Light! From Your clear celestial height, Your pure beaming radiance give!

The Holy Spirit

Only one thing is important -- eternal salvation. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared--sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Light, of Strength, and of Love. With His sevenfold gifts He enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. To ensure our salvation we ought to invoke the Divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helpeth our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asketh for us."

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, Who hast vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and hast given us forgiveness all sins, vouchsafe to send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.

Pray the *Our Father & Hail Mary*
ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration
&
Prayer for the Seven Gifts
ONCE each.

SECOND DAY
(Wednesday, March 19th)

Come. Father of the poor. Come, treasures which endure; Come, Light of all that live!

The Gift of Fear

The gift of Fear (Wonder & Awe) fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from sentiments of reverence and filial submission to our heavenly Father. It is the fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls."

Prayer

Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear, penetrate my inmost heart, that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face forever, help me to shun all things that can offend You, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of Your Divine Majesty in heaven, where You live and reign in the unity of the ever Blessed Trinity, God world without end. Amen.

Pray the *Our Father & Hail Mary*
ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration
&
Prayer for the Seven Gifts
ONCE each.

THIRD DAY
(Thursday, March 20th)

Thou, of all consolers best, Visiting the
troubled breast, Dost refreshing peace
bestow.

The Gift of Piety

The gift of Piety (Reverence) begets in
our hearts a filial affection for God as
our most loving Father. It inspires us to
love and respect for His sake persons
and things consecrated to Him, as well
as those who are vested with His
authority, His Blessed Mother and the
Saints, the Church and its visible Head,
our parents and superiors, our country
and its rulers. He who is filled with the
gift of Piety finds the practice of his
religion, not a burdensome duty, but a
delightful service. Where there is love,
there is no labor.

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess
my heart. Enkindle therein such a love
for God, that I may find satisfaction only
in His service, and for His sake lovingly
submit to all legitimate authority.
Amen.

Pray the *Our Father & Hail Mary*
ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration

&

Prayer for the Seven Gifts

ONCE each.

FOURTH DAY
(Friday, March 21st)

Thou in toil art comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat, solace
in the midst of woe.

The Gift of Fortitude

By the gift of Fortitude (Courage) the
soul is strengthened against natural
fear, and supported to the end in the
performance of duty. Fortitude
imparts to the will an impulse and
energy which move it to under take
without hesitancy the most arduous
tasks, to face dangers, to trample
under foot human respect, and to
endure without complaint the slow
martyrdom of even lifelong
tribulation. "He that shall persevere
unto the end, he shall be saved."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Fortitude,
uphold my soul in time of trouble and
adversity, sustain my efforts after
holiness, strengthen my weakness, give
me courage against all the assaults of
my enemies, that I may never be
overcome and separated from Thee, my
God and greatest Good. Amen.

Pray the *Our Father & Hail Mary*
ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration

&

Prayer for the Seven Gifts

ONCE each.

FIFTH DAY
(Saturday, March 22nd)

Light immortal! Light Divine! Visit Thou
these hearts of Thine, And our inmost
being fill!

The Gift of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge enables the soul
to evaluate created things at their true
worth--in their relation to God.

Knowledge unmaskes the pretense of
creatures, reveals their emptiness, and
points out their only true purpose as
instruments in the service of God. It
shows us the loving care of God even in
adversity, and directs us to glorify Him
in every circumstance of life. Guided by
its light, we put first things first, and
prize the friendship of God beyond all
else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to
him that possesseth it."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge,
and grant that I may perceive the will of
the Father; show me the nothingness of
earthly things, that I may realize their
vanity and use them only for Thy glory
and my own salvation, looking ever
beyond them to Thee, and Thy eternal
rewards. Amen.

Pray the *Our Father & Hail Mary*
ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration
&
Prayer for the Seven Gifts
ONCE each.

SIXTH DAY
(Sunday, March 23rd)

If Thou take Thy grace away, nothing
pure in man will stay, All his good is
turn'd to ill.

The Gift of Understanding

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy
Spirit, helps us to grasp the meaning
of the truths of our holy religion BY
faith we know them, but by
Understanding we learn to appreciate
and relish them. It enables us to
penetrate the inner meaning of
revealed truths and through them to
be quickened to newness of life. Our
faith ceases to be sterile and
inactive, but inspires a mode of life
that bears eloquent testimony to the
faith that is in us; we begin to "walk
worthy of God in all things pleasing,
and increasing in the knowledge of
God."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, and
enlighten our minds, that we may
know and believe all the mysteries of
salvation; and may merit at last to
see the eternal light in Thy Light; and
in the light of glory to have a clear
vision of Thee and the Father and the
Son. Amen.

Pray the *Our Father & Hail Mary*
ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration
&
Prayer for the Seven Gifts
ONCE each.

SEVENTH DAY
(Monday, March 24th)

Heal our wounds--our strength renews;
On our dryness pour Thy dew, Wash the
stains of guilt away.

The Gift of Counsel

The gift of Counsel (Right Judgment) endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by Knowledge and Understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duty as parents, teachers, public servants, and Christian citizens. Counsel is supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure in the quest of salvation. "Above all these things, pray to the Most High, that He may direct thy way in truth."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways, that I may always do Thy holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil, and direct me by the straight path of Thy commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long.

Pray the *Our Father & Hail Mary*
ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration
&
Prayer for the Seven Gifts
ONCE each.

EIGHTH DAY
(Tuesday, March 25th)

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

The Gift of Wisdom

Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of wisdom it is written "all good things came to me with her, and innumerable riches through her hands." It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens our faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity, and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savor, whilst the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Saviour: "Take up thy cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden light."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things, their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them for ever. Amen.

Pray the *Our Father & Hail Mary*
ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration
&
Prayer for the Seven Gifts
ONCE each.

NINTH DAY
(Wednesday, March 26th)

Thou, on those who evermore Thee confess and Thee Adore, in Thy sevenfold gift,
Descend; Give Them Comfort when they die; Give them Life with Thee on high; Give
them joys which never end. Amen

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous, the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God, to serve Whom is to reign.

Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Thy heavenly fruits, Thy charity, joy, peace, patience, benignity, goodness, faith, mildness, and temperance, that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Thy inspiration may merit to be united eternally with Thee in the love of the Father and the Son.
Amen.

Pray the *Our Father* & *Hail Mary* ONCE each.

The *Glory Be to the Father* SEVEN TIMES.

Act of Consecration & *Prayer for the Seven Gifts* ONCE each.

