



NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE OCCASSION OF ORDINATIONS AND RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS JUNE 7-15, 2018

We propose to unite with the candidates for ordination and those making their religious professions on June 16, 2018 and to pray together a novena to the Holy Spirit. We pray with fervor and love for ourselves and for all the people of God.

A novena consists in reciting a specific prayer, nine days in a row, for a particular purpose, usually by asking for the intercession of the Virgin Mary or of a particular saint.

In the novena, we will ask for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of the Virgin Mary. The prayer begins each day with a widespread invocation of the Spirit in the Byzantine liturgy: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter". Then we will meditate a biblical passage in relation to the particular intention of the day. There will follow invocations to the Spirit that will also accord with the intention of the day. We conclude by praying to Mary, wife of the Holy Spirit, as well as Saint Maurice and his fellow martyrs. In fact, the ordinations and professions will take place on the very site of their martyrdom.

Ideally, the novena should be prayed in a family or community setting.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of truth, Who are everywhere present and Who fills all things, Treasure of good and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You who are Goodness!

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met together, when suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of a violent wind which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and there appeared to them tongues as of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak different languages as the Spirit gave them power to express themselves. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, and each one was bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language.

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**O Mary, wife of the Holy Spirit, pray for us who have recourse to you!
Saint Maurice and you fellow martyrs, pray for us!**

2ND DAY: WE ASK FOR THE CANDIDATES, THOSE MAKING RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE GIFT OF FEAR OF THE LORD!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You Who are everywhere present and who fills all things, Treasure of Goodness and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You Who are Goodness!

The miraculous catch (Gospel of Luke, chapter 5)

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' Simon replied, 'Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled both boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely awestruck at the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will be catching.' Then, bringing their boats back to land they left everything and followed him.

You Who wish to spread to all your children the gift of loving fear before your divine majesty,
You Who wish to rid us of all pride and every kind of presumption,
You Who taught the Hebrew people on Mount Sinai to be afraid of your name, and inspired King David to dance around the ark of God,
You Who drove John the Baptist into the solitude of the desert to seek God,
You Who, in Gethsemane, inspired Jesus to fall face down in front of His Father,
You Whose power changes ordinary bread into the Bread of life, our Eucharistic Lord,
You Who inspire all the saints and angels to fall on their knees before the Father of all mercy,

**O Mary, wife of the Holy Spirit, pray for us who have recourse to you!
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3RD DAY: WE ASK FOR THE CANDIDATES, THOSE MAKING RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE GIFT OF PIETY

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You Who are everywhere present and who fills all things, Treasure of Goodness and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You Who are Goodness!

Anointing in Bethany (Gospel of John, ch. 12)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom he had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there; Martha waited on them and Lazarus was among those at table. Mary brought in a pound of very costly ointment, pure nard, and with it anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair; the house was filled with the scent of the ointment.

You Who wish to grant all your children the gift of piety and filial affection,

You Who wish to suppress in us all egoism and all forms of complaisance towards God and our neighbour,

You Who, on the mountain, inspired Moses to see your glory and gave to him the audacity to pray to You,

You, the Heavenly Anointing, who inspired St. Mary Magdalene to anoint the feet of Jesus with a pure perfume,

You Who enlived the nights that Jesus spent in prayer,

You Who make the descent of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament a perpetual Pentecost,

You Who breathes into the saints the grace and courage to do all in their power for the glory of God and for the salvation of the world,

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4TH DAY: WE ASK FOR THE CANDIDATES, THOSE MAKING RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You Who are everywhere present and who fills all things, Treasure of Goodness and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You Who are Goodness!

St. Peter receives the revelation of what is pure (Acts of the Apostles, ch. 11)

The apostles and the brothers in Judaea heard that gentiles too had accepted the word of God, and when Peter came up to Jerusalem the circumcised believers protested to him and said, 'So you have been visiting the uncircumcised and eating with them!' Peter in reply gave them the details point by point, 'One day, when I was in the town of Jaffa,' he began, 'I fell into a trance as I was praying and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet came right down beside me. I looked carefully into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles, and birds of heaven. Then I heard a voice that said to me, "Now, Peter, kill and eat!" But I answered, "Certainly not, Lord; nothing profane or unclean has ever crossed my lips." And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, "What God has made clean, you have no right to call profane." This was repeated three times, before the whole of it was drawn up to heaven again. 'Just at that moment, three men stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me, and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going back with them. The six brothers here came with me as well, and we entered the man's house. He told us he had seen an angel standing in his house who said, "Send to Jaffa and fetch Simon known as Peter; he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household." 'I had scarcely begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way as it came on us at the beginning, and I remembered that the Lord had said, "John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." 'I realised then that God was giving them the identical gift he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ; and who was I to stand in God's way?' This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, saying, 'God has clearly granted to the gentiles too the repentance that leads to life.'

You Who wish to spread the gift of knowledge to all your children,

You Who want to show us the truth and the end of all things, Who wants to offer us the supernatural light that alone can illuminate our lives, You Who drive out all the darkness,

You the voice that the prophet Elijah was able to discern in the murmur of the light breeze,

You Who taught St. Peter what is truly pure and what is, in truth, unclean,

You Who made known the infinite mercy of Jesus for all sinners when He asked his Father to forgive His tormentors,

You Who give to Your Church for adoration and nourishment the Eucharistic bread and the ability to discern the true Body of Jesus,

You Who cause the saints to be wary of worldly wisdom, in order to receive Your revelation in all things,

**O Mary, wife of the Holy Spirit, pray for us who have recourse to you!
Saint Maurice and you fellow martyrs, pray for us!**

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5TH DAY: WE ASK FOR THE CANDIDATES, THOSE MAKING RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE GIFT OF FORTITUDE!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You Who are everywhere present and who fills all things, Treasure of Goodness and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You Who are Goodness!

St. Paul fights the good fight with the grace of God (2nd Letter of St. Paul to Timothy, ch. 4)

As for me, my life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to depart. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing. (...) The first time I had to present my defence, no one came into court to support me. Every one of them deserted me -- may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed for all the gentiles to hear; and so I was saved from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

You Who wish to give all your children the strength to follow Jesus in love "to the end",

You Who want to eradicate from our hearts all weakness and all fear, to temper and dominate our passions and our self-reliance,

You Who through the mouth of Moses instilled in Joshua's heart strength and courage to accomplish your purposes,

You Who come to strengthen the weak: the apostles and all those who want to follow You,

You Who led Jesus to the summit of Golgotha and to the summit of love,

You Who gave to many saints, for their sole nourishment, the Bread of the strong, the Eucharist,

You Who are the soul of all holiness and all movement towards God,

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6TH DAY : WE ASK FOR THE CANDIDATES, THOSE MAKING RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE GIFT OF COUNSEL!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You Who are everywhere present and who fills all things, Treasure of Goodness and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You Who are Goodness!

Deacon Philip evangelizes the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts of the Apostles, ch. 8)

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, 'Set out at noon and go along the road that leads from Jerusalem down to Gaza, the desert road.' So he set off on his journey. Now an Ethiopian had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem; he was a eunuch and an officer at the court of the kandake, or queen, of Ethiopia; he was her chief treasurer. He was now on his way home; and as he sat in his chariot he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join that chariot.' When Philip ran up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How could I, unless I have someone to guide me?' So he urged Philip to get in and sit by his side. Now the passage of scripture he was reading was this: Like a lamb led to the slaughter-house, like a sheep dumb in front of its shearers, he never opens his mouth. In his humiliation fair judgement was denied him. Who will ever talk about his descendants, since his life on earth has been cut short? The eunuch addressed Philip and said, 'Tell me, is the prophet referring to himself or someone else?' Starting, therefore, with this text of scripture Philip proceeded to explain the good news of Jesus to him. Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look, there is some water; is there anything to prevent my being baptised?' He ordered the chariot to stop, then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water and he baptised him. But after they had come up out of the water again Philip was taken away by the Spirit of the Lord, and the eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Philip appeared in Azotus and continued his journey, proclaiming the good news in every town as far as Caesarea.

You Who wish to give all your children the gift of counsel, to direct their strength and to render their judgment just and right in everything, in your image,
You Who want to suppress in us all judgment according to the spirit of the world as well as all excess, all precipitation, all recklessness in our discernments in our families and communities,
You Who gave King Solomon a wise and intelligent heart, and judgments which even the Gentiles admired,
You Who inspired all the words and actions of Jesus,
You Who piloted the disciples in all their apostolic journeys,
You alone Who can reveal to us "the feelings that are in Christ Jesus" in the Blessed Sacrament,
You Who inspired all the saints with a language and wisdom that no one can resist,

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7TH DAY: WE ASK FOR THE CANDIDATES, THOSE MAKING RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You Who are everywhere present and who fills all things, Treasure of Goodness and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You Who are Goodness!

The disciples of Emmaus receive the gift of intelligence (Gospel according to Luke, ch. 24)

Now that very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. And it happened that as they were talking together and discussing it, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but their eyes were prevented from recognising him. He said to them, 'What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?' They stopped, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' He asked, 'What things?' They answered, 'All about Jesus of Nazareth, who showed himself a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have now gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they could not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.' Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe all that the prophets have said! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself. When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them saying, 'It is nearly evening, and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

You Who wish to give all your children the gift of intelligence,

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND DWELL IN OUR HEARTS!

You Who wish to fully illuminate your children, to show them the beauties and secret harmonies of your plan and the sap of the Gospel,

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND DWELL IN OUR HEARTS!

You Who open the eyes of the prophets on the length, the breadth, the depth of your designs,

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND DWELL IN OUR HEARTS!

You Who gave John the Baptist to discern the Lamb of God,

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND DWELL IN OUR HEARTS!

You Who opened the mind of the disciples of Emmaus and taught them, through the mouth of Jesus, that he must suffer to enter into his glory,

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND DWELL IN OUR HEARTS!

You Who give to your worshipers in spirit and in truth to see all things from the perspective of the altar - where Jesus offers Himself,

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND DWELL IN OUR HEARTS!

You Who has delighted the hearts of all the saints and has given them tears of joy and love,

COME HOLY SPIRIT AND DWELL IN OUR HEARTS!

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Saint Maurice and you fellow martyrs, pray for us!!**

8TH DAY: WE ASK FOR THE CANDIDATES, THOSE MAKING RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE GIFT OF WISDOM!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You Who are everywhere present and who fills all things, Treasure of Goodness and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You Who are Goodness!

The Confession of St. Peter (Gospel according to Matthew, ch. 16)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a blessed man! Because it was no human agency that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my community. And the gates of the underworld can never overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven: whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

You Who desire to give to all your children the gift of wisdom so that they may be united forever to Jesus, Eternal Wisdom,

You Who satisfy those who seek you with the ardour of love and make them resemble Jesus crucified and risen,

You Who gave Moses to be humble, the most humble man the earth had seen,

You Who taught, by the mouth and the life of Jesus, the true wisdom which is the spiritual childhood,

You Who showed the wisdom of God in Jesus, raised on the cross for love of us,

You Who have hidden all the treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge in Jesus-Eucharist,

You Who have given all the saints to despise the spirit of the world and to choose instead your divine wisdom,

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9TH DAY: WE ASK FOR THE CANDIDATES, THOSE MAKING RELIGIOUS PROFESSIONS AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD THE INTERCESSION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, WIFE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You Who are everywhere present and who fills all things, Treasure of Goodness and Giver of life, come and dwell in us, cleanse us from all defilement and save our souls, You Who are Goodness!

The Magnificat of the Virgin Mary (Gospel according to St. Luke, ch. 1)

And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ; Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed; Because He who is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name; And His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear Him. He has shown might with His arm, He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and has exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has given help to Israel, His servant, mindful of His mercy - Even as He spoke to our father - to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

You Who, in your love, gave to your Church a mother, Mary always virgin,

You Who, at the Annunciation, in response to His humility, "came upon her",

You Who, at the Visitation, filled St. Elizabeth and gave her to recognize the mother of her Lord,

You Who, in the Nativity, gave to God a mother and the men a Son,

You Who pierced the soul of the Virgin and made her partake of the sufferings of her divine Son,

You Who inspired Jesus to found the Church by giving the beloved disciple His own mother,

You Who teach us true worship by giving us the example of Mary our Mother,

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