

NOVENA IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Instructions for pilgrims: begin praying Novena on Friday, September 18th.

Novena will be prayed by all on September 25 and 26 in the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

LEADER (L): Almighty Father, we offer this Novena to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. She occupies a place in the Church which is highest after Christ and yet very close to us, for you chose her to give to the world that very Life which renews all things, Jesus Christ You Son and Our Lord.

And so we praise you, Mary, virgin and mother. After the Savior Himself, you alone are all holy, free from all stain of sin, gifted by God from the first instant of your conception with a unique holiness.

RESPONSE (R): We praise and honor you.

L: Mary, free from all sin and led by the Holy spirit, you embraced God's saving will with a full heart, and devoted yourself totally as a handmaid of the Lord to the fulfillment of His will in your life, and to the mystery of man's redemption.

R: We thank you and love you.

L: Mary, your privileged and grace-filled origin is the Father's final step in preparing humanity to receive its Redeemer in human form. Your fullness of grace is the Father's sign of His favor to the Church and also His promise to the Church of its perfection as the Bride of Christ, radiant in beauty. Your holiness in the beginning of your life is the foreshadowing of that all embracing holiness with which the Father will surround His people when His Son comes at the end of time to greet us.

R: We bless you among all women.

ALL: *Mary, we return with confidence to you who are always ready to listen with a mother's affection and powerful assistance. Consoler of the Afflicted, Health of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, grant us comfort in tribulation, relief in sickness, and liberating strength in our weakness.*

You who are free from sin, lead us to combat sin. Obtain for us the victory of hope over anguish, of

fellowship over alienation, of peace over anxiety, of joy and beauty over boredom and disgust, of eternal visions over temporal ones, of life over death. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. [Here mention your petitions.]

L: Let us pray.

God Our Father, we make these petitions through Mary. We pray most especially for the coming of Your Kingdom. May You, together with Your Son and Holy Spirit, be known, loved and glorified and Your law of love faithfully followed. We pray in faith through Jesus Christ, Your Son and Our Lord, in whom all fullness dwells, now and forever.

R: Amen.

AN ACT OF CONSECRATION

Most Holy Trinity: Our Father in Heaven, who chose Mary as the fairest of your daughters; Holy Spirit, who chose Mary as your spouse; God the Son, who chose Mary as your Mother, in union with Mary, we adore your majesty and acknowledge your supreme, eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom which has been its heritage. Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our President and on all the officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity. Have mercy on capital and industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the innocence of our children. Grant the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners- -on all who are in need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, Our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise you and honor you and give ourselves to you. Protect us from every harm. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the Will of your Divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God.

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