

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

O God, eternal shepherd,
who govern your flock with unfailing care,
grant in your boundless fatherly love
a pastor for your Church
who will please you by his holiness
and to us show watchful care.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.



Smoke Signal at the Vatican when a New Pope has been elected

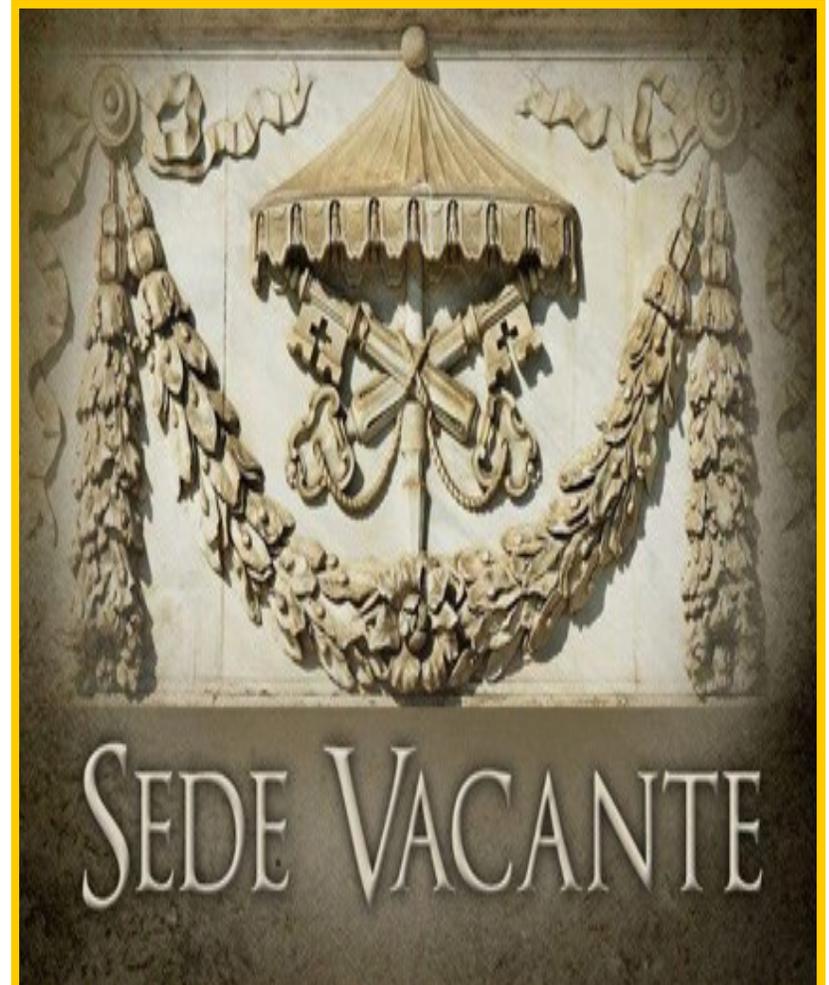
The word Novena derives its name from the Latin word “novem” meaning “nine.” A novena can be either a private or public devotion in the Catholic Church to obtain special graces.

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PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A NEW POPE

An expression used in Canon law of the Catholic Church, that refers to the vacancy of the episcopal see of a particular church.

It is Latin for “the seat being vacant.”



NOVENA FOR THE ELECTION OF A NEW POPE

A NOVENA OF PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

FIRST DAY

"You Are Peter"

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (16: 13-19)

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that no tempests may disturb us, for you have set us fast on the rock of the Apostle Peter's confession of faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A NEW POPE

"From the Pauline Chapel of the Apostolic Palace, where they will assemble at a suitable hour in the afternoon, the Cardinal electors, in choir dress, and invoking the assistance of the Holy Spirit with the chant of the Veni Creator, will solemnly process to the Sistine Chapel of the Apostolic Palace, where the election will be held." Apostolic Constitution, Universi Dominici Gregis (no. 50)

COME, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
and in our souls take up Thy rest;
come with Thy grace and heavenly aid
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O comforter, to Thee we cry,
O heavenly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
and sweet anointing from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known;
Thou, finger of God's hand we own;
Thou, promise of the Father, Thou
Who dost the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our sense from above,
and make our hearts o'erflow with love;
with patience firm and virtue high
the weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
and grant us Thy peace instead;
so shall we not, with Thee for guide,
turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
the Father and the Son to know;
and Thee, through endless times confessed,
of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
with Thou, O Holy Comforter,
henceforth by all in earth and heaven.

Amen.

NINTH DAY

“Successor to the Apostle Peter”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Reading from the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, Lumen Gentium as promulgated by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council (no. 23)

This collegial union is apparent also in the mutual relations of the individual bishops with particular churches and with the universal Church. The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful. The individual bishops, however, are the visible principle and foundation of unity in their particular churches, fashioned after the model of the universal Church, in and from which churches comes into being the one and only Catholic Church. For this reason the individual bishops represent each his own church, but all of them together and with the Pope represent the entire Church in the bond of peace, love and unity.

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

O God, who gave the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven to your blessed Apostle Peter and handed over to him the pontifical office of binding and loosing, grant, we pray, that through the help of his intercession we may always hold fast to your Son, who alone has the words of life, so that, as faithful sheep of your flock, we may be led to eternal pastures. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

SECOND DAY

“Feed My Sheep”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (21: 15-17)

Feed my lambs, feed my sheep. After Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples and eaten breakfast with them, he said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” He then said to Simon Peter a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Simon Peter answered him, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” [Jesus] said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

O God, light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who set Pastors in the Church to feed your sheep by their words and form them by their examples, grant that through their intercession we may keep the faith taught by their words and follow the way they showed by their example. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

THIRD DAY

“There is But One Church in Peter”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Reading from a sermon by Saint Leo the great, Pope.

Out of the whole world, Peter is chosen to preside at the calling of all nations, and to be set over all the apostles and all the Fathers of the Church. Though there are in God’s people many bishops and many shepherds, Peter is thus appointed to rule in his own person those whom Christ also rules as the original ruler. Beloved, how great and wonderful is this sharing in his power that God in his goodness has given to man. Whatever Christ has willed to be shared in common with Peter and the other leaders of the Church, it is only through Peter that he has given to others what he has not refused to bestow on them.

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

O God, who in your wonderful providence decreed that Christ’s Kingdom should be extended throughout the earth and that all should become partakers of his saving redemption, grant, we pray, that your Church may be the universal sacrament of salvation and that Christ may be revealed to all as the hope of the nations and their savior. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever.

Amen.

EIGHTH DAY

“Union of Pope and Bishops”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Reading from the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, Lumen Gentium as promulgated by the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council (no. 23)

This collegial union is apparent also in the mutual relations of the individual bishops with particular churches and with the universal Church. The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible principle and foundation of unity of both the bishops and of the faithful. The individual bishops, however, are the visible principle and foundation of unity in their particular churches, fashioned after the model of the universal Church, in and from which churches comes into being the one and only Catholic Church. For this reason the individual bishops represent each his own church, but all of them together and with the Pope represent the entire Church in the bond of peace, love and unity.

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

O God, who in each pilgrim Church throughout the world make visible the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, graciously grant that your faithful may be united to their shepherd and gathered together in the Holy Spirit through the Gospel and the Eucharist, as to worthily embody the universality of your people and become a sign and instrument in the world of the presence of Christ. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

faithful to the mission entrusted to her, may continually go forward with the human family and always be the leaven and the soul of humanity, to renew in Christ and transform it into the family of God. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

SEVENTH DAY

“Peter: The First of the Apostles”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (10: 1-4)

Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Jesus summoned his Twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the Twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus.

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we may be sustained by the intercession of the blessed Apostle Peter, that as through him you gave your Church the foundation of her heavenly office, so through him you may help her to eternal salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

FOURTH DAY

“Authentic Teacher of the Faith”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Reading from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 2034)

The Roman Pontiff and the bishops are “authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach the faith to the people entrusted to them, the faith to be believed and put into practice” (Lumen Gentium, no. 25). The ordinary and the universal Magisterium of the Pope and the bishops in communion with him teach the faithful the truth to believe, the charity to practice, the beatitude to hope for.

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Almighty and eternal God, you gave the Blessed Virgin Mary, glorious Mother of your Son, as a pillar of strength to all who call upon her aid; grant that through her intercession that we may be strong in faith unwavering in hope, and steadfast in love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIFTH DAY

“Strengthen Your Brothers”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (21: 31-34)

Before the cock crows you will deny me. [Jesus said] “Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.” He said to him, “Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you.” But he replied, “I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me.”

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Almighty ever-living God, who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of your people, that the Holy Church, spread throughout the whole world, may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

SIXTH DAY

“The Pope and the Mission of the Church Today”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Reading from a talk given by Pope Benedict XVI meeting with Lay Catholics engaged in the Church and Society

Blessed Mother Teresa was once asked what in her opinion was the first thing that would have to change in the Church. Her answer was: you and I.

Two things are clear from this brief story. On the one hand Mother Teresa wants to tell her interviewer: the Church is not just other people, not just the hierarchy, the Pope and the bishops: we are all the Church, we the baptized. And on the other hand her starting-point is this: yes, there are grounds for change. There is a need for change. Every Christian and the community of the faithful are constantly called to change.

The Church, in other words, must constantly rededicate herself to her mission. The three Synoptic Gospels highlight various aspects of the missionary task. The mission is built upon personal experience: “You are witnesses” (Lk 24:48); it finds expression in relationships: “Make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19); and it spreads a universal message: “Preach the Gospel to the whole creation” (Mk 16:15).

Pause for silent prayer and reflection on the Gospel Reading.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

O God, in the covenant of your Christ, you never cease to gather to yourself from all nations a people growing together in unity through the Spirit; grant, we pray, that your Church,