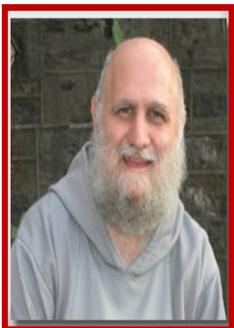


devoted to God in prayer not only does not detract from effective and loving service to our neighbor but is in fact the inexhaustible source of that service.



Fr. Andrew Apostoli

+

The “quick novena” is an expression that Mother Teresa used to refer to a devotion that she practiced whenever she needed a special favor. She told Franciscan Friar of the Renewal Fr. Andrew Apostoli that in 1983, when a sister had taken ill in Eastern Berlin and needed to be replaced with another who could deal with the Communist government there, the sisters encountered a big problem: the sister’s replacement needed a visa.

Mother gathered the sisters to do the “quick novena,”

which consisted of praying the *Memorare* nine times in a row. When the sisters had prayed the eighth *Memorare*, the phone rang. It was a Communist official informing Mother that it would take at least six months for the needed visa to be granted.

Undeterred, the sisters completed the novena, after which Mother instructed them to offer a second “quick novena” in thanksgiving, which they did. When they reached the eighth *Memorare* this time, the phone rang again. This time, it was a Communist official telling Mother that the visa would be granted immediately.

Mother Teresa died September 5, 1997, at the age of 87. Her funeral was televised to a worldwide audience, as people of all faiths considered her a living saint throughout her lifetime. Pope John Paul II beatified her on October 19, 2003. +



Pope John Paul II

and

Mother Teresa

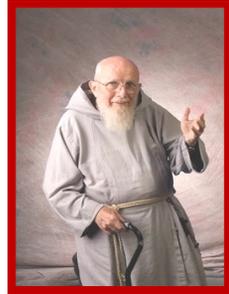
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NOVENA TO MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA (SHORT NOVENA)



**MEMORIAL — SEPTEMBER 5TH
1910—1997**

HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION



Fr. Benedict Groeschel

Modern people expect quick results and may have little patience in practicing the traditional novena prayer form. So when it was made known about Mother Teresa's "quick novena" - the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal were urging people to pray it after a terrible accident had brought Father Benedict Groeschel, to the threshold of death.

What was this "quick novena"? Why haven't we heard of it before?

Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxhiu was born on August 27, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, the youngest of three children. As a young woman, she became involved with a Sodality of Mary in her parish church, led by a Jesuit priest, who fueled in the young Agnes the desire to do missionary work. When she was seventeen, she applied for admission into the Irish Sisters of Loretto and was accepted. After doing formation work in Dublin, Sister Teresa (named after St. Thérèse of Lisieux) was sent to Calcutta, India, to teach at St. Mary's School. During her time in teaching, she contracted tuberculosis and was sent to Darjeeling to recuperate. It was while on a train there that she had an experience where she felt directed to leave the convent and to dedicate her life to the poor.

In 1950, she received permission to begin a new community whose mission it was to care for Christ in his many guises (See Mt. 25: 31-40). The Missionaries of Charity would bring Christ not to foreign lands, but to those who were outcasts — in the language of the Parable of the Rich Man, to the "Lazarus at the door." In 1965, Pope Paul VI gave permission for the order to expand beyond India, and today it exists worldwide.

Mother Teresa was tireless in her efforts to minister to Christ in the poor and sick. While her fame made her a celebrity, she never stopped loving the poor and forgotten, sometimes forgoing an audience with the powerful to minister to the weak. Pope Benedict XVI, in his Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, wrote: In the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta we have a clear illustration of the fact that time

MOTHER TERESA'S QUICK NOVENA

Say the following prayer, the Memorare, nine times in a row:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone
who fled to your protection, implored your help,
or sought your intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you,
O virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,

(mention your request here)

but in your mercy hear and answer me.
Amen.

Prayer to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

(this prayer may also be used along with the above as a quick novena)

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta,
you allowed the thirsting love of Jesus on the Cross
to become a living flame within you,
and so you became the light of His love to all.
Obtain from the Heart of Jesus

(mention your request here).

Teach me to allow Jesus to penetrate and possess
my whole being so completely that my life,
too, may radiate His light and love to others.
Amen.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Cause of Our Joy, pray for me.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, pray for me.