

## **Novena in Honor of God the Holy Spirit**

Prayers and Daily Meditations from:

### **The Paraclete: A Manual of Instruction and Devotion**

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### **Ninth day of the novena**

#### 1. *"Give thou virtue its reward."*

Virtues are but as a means to the end. It is by the practice of virtue, that you become virtuous, are made fruitful in every good work and pleasing in God's sight, and merit for yourself an increase of grace on earth and of glory in heaven.

Virtues are therefore, the seeds; good works, deserving of everlasting life, the fruits thereof. But it is not the Holy Ghost who implants every virtue in your soul, and renders its practice, sweet and easy? And if thus the Holy Ghost is the primary author of virtue, then the fruit of virtue must, likewise, be ascribed to him.

He it is, therefore, who makes you good and virtuous, and renders you fruitful in every good work and pleasing in God's sight. He it is that rewards your soul now already with an increase of holiness and perfection and an assurance of an eternal recompense in heaven. Thus the reward of virtue is, likewise, a special gift of the Holy Ghost. Let this consideration, be another motive of returning sincere thanks to the Divine Spirit for all He is doing for you. Let it also be another motive of keeping you in true humility. For even if you reached the very pinnacle of sanctity, and we were favored like St. Paul, to be rapt up into the third heaven, and to see and hear things it is not given to men to see and hear, it would be sinful for you to glory and such thing as though it was your own work entirely, but you should be truthful in saying with the same Saint: "For myself, I will glory in nothing but in my infirmities."

Then humbly acknowledge all this and say with all sincerity: O Divine Spirit of Holiness and perfection, who has been pleased to be beautify my soul with the gift of every virtue and hast rendered its practice, sweet and easy, I humbly beseech Thee: Do Thou, likewise, complete the work Thou has wrought in me, and bestow upon me the sweet reward of virtue in time and in eternity.

#### 2. *"Grant a happy end."*

To begin well is good; to continue in well-being, is better: but to persevere in grace and virtue to the end, is best. Hence the Divine Spirit Himself declares: "He that shall persevere to the end, the same shall be saved;" and again: "To him that persevereth I will give the crown of life." A happy end and a holy death is, therefore, the most important thing. Yes, "precious in the sight of God is the death of His saints."

But who will enable you to persevere unto the end and to die a good and happy death? None other but the Divine Spirit. Final perseverance is, indeed, one of the special graces of the Holy Ghost, and of all graces, the most important and essential in your regard. If, therefore, you earnestly desire to secure a happy end, you must, once more, have recourse to prayer. And you may rest assured that if you persevere and daily praying for the grace of a happy death, you will infallibly persevere in all good to the end, and die a good and happy death.

Then say to the Holy Ghost with all fervor and earnestness: Never depart from me, O Divine Spirit, but stay with me all the days of my life. Be thou with me, especially at the moment of my death. Oh! Grant onto me the grace of perseverance to the end that I may live and die in Thy grace and friendship and remain forever united to Thee in Thy heavenly glory.

#### 3. *"Grant eternal happiness."*

If, by the grace of the Holy Ghost, you persevere unto the end, and die a good and happy death, you will undoubtedly enter into eternal happiness. Your soul may be detained for a while in Purgatory, to be thoroughly

cleansed from every stain of sin and rendered fit to appear in God's most holy sight. But when the debt due to Divine Justice has been fully paid, your soul will at once be admitted into the everlasting joys of heaven. And this will be the crowning gift of the Holy Ghost.

Through Him, you are now helped and assisted in every possible way to lead a good life, and die a holy death. Through Him, therefore, the joys and glory of heaven will, likewise, be communicated to you. He is the Light, in which, and through which, you shall see the Uncreated, Eternal Light, God Himself, face-to-face.

He is the Link that will then unite you forever to God, so as never to be separated from Him. In Him, you will then wholly be made one with God so as to partake of God's own Life, Glory, and Happiness forevermore. For He who is the Love of the Father and of the Son, will then fully communicate Himself to you, so that the Uncreated Love of the Godhead will permeate every nerve and fiber of your entire being.

Being plunged in that infinite ocean of God's Eternal Love, you will then fully realize God's infinite Love in your regard, and then will you, too, fully love God with all the energy of your whole being. Then will you, moreover, meet in loving embrace and fond intercourse with the countless choirs of bright, angelic Spirits, and the vast array of the Saints and Blessed of God, and with those who were near and dear, to you on earth and from whom you were parted for a time, and the Holy Ghost Himself will be that boundless Ocean of Infinite Love, uniting all to God, and God to all, and each to each other, and everlasting bliss and glory, causing each soul to thrill through and through with ecstasies of joy and happiness unutterable.

Poor, indeed, is all human language to convey even the least idea of the glory and happiness of heaven. For "eye have not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive what God has prepared for them that love Him."

But one of your body? Is it to be overlooked? It is not your body part of yourself, taking now its own share in the burdensome toils of this mortal life? Has not your body, likewise been sanctified? Is it not the living temple of the Holy Ghost? And shall that living temple of His be a prey to death forever? Certainly not. True, it must die and return to the eEarth in which it came. For "dust thou art, and unto dust thou shall return." Such is the just sentence of God upon all mankind on account of sin. But your body shall not remain in the tomb forever; it shall rise again, and "in this very flesh you shall see your Savior," and be united to God forever.

And the resurrection of your body at the last day is, likewise, the special work of the Holy Ghost, the Life-giver. At that day, the Spirit of God will breathe upon the face of the earth: and, in the twinkling of an eye, the bodies of the dead will be quickened into life again, and endowed with perpetual youth and immortality.

Then, if you are of the number of the elect, your body will not only be raised to life again, but will also be glorified, and made altogether alike to the risen body of Christ. Your body will then shine more brilliantly than the sun, move from place to place more swiftly than the flash of lightning, be able to pass through massive rocks, more easily than the light entering through glass, and be adorned with beauty and immortality forever. Then will your body, too, have a share in the pleasures and the delights of the heavenly Paradise. Thus you will then live forever in the sunshine of God's own Love for all ages to come.

If now sometimes this exile here below appears too long and wearisome, if now sometimes the miseries of this life seemed to press too heavily upon you, then lift up your head and catch a glimpse of that eternal glory and happiness, which awaits you on high, prepared for you already by the Divine Spirit of Love. It will cheer you, buoy you up with hope, and enable you to bear the ills of this life patiently, till the Spirit shall release you from this exile and conduct you to your Father's home.

Yet pray. Pray most earnestly. Pray without ceasing.

Come, O Divine Spirit! Come, and abide in me. Take up Thy abode in my soul in body, so that, in soul and body, I shall ever be united to Thee and in Thee, to God, my first beginning, and my last end, so that when I die I may die in union with Thee and be crowned by Thee with eternal happiness.

Yea, O most loving spirit! Love of the Father and of the Son, grant onto me, Thy most unworthy servant, when life is over, eternal happiness in heaven. Amen. So be it. Hallelujah. Praise be God forever more.