

FOREWORD

ANOVENA means nine days of public or private prayer for some special occasion or intention. Its origin goes back to the nine days that the disciples and Mary spent together in prayer between Ascension and Pentecost Sunday. Over the centuries many novenas have been highly indulged by the Church.

To make a novena means to persevere in prayer asking for some favor over a period of nine days in succession or nine weeks. It means fulfilling our Lord's teaching that we must continue praying and never lose confidence. This confidence is based on our Lord's words:

“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For whoever asks receives; whoever seeks finds; whoever knocks is admitted” (Lk 11:9-10).

Many devout Catholics make novenas to God, Our Lady, and the Saints. This

book is published to accommodate those who would like to make various novenas and who would like to have them in a single volume. A brief instruction (or meditation) precedes each of these most popular novenas.

The purpose of this collection of novenas is not only to provide prayers to obtain favors from God but also to encourage people to pray frequently because prayer, after the Sacraments, is the richest source of God's grace.

The Liturgy of the Church aids us in our prayer-life. We can keep in touch with the Liturgy by making a novena of prayer at various periods of the Liturgical Year. The Contents are arranged clearly to help in the selection of appropriate prayers for the various Seasons and Feasts of the Church Year.

Try to talk with God during your novena. Absolute sincerity is most important. And as you grow in daily reflection and prayer, you will find yourself talking to

God with much the same ease as you would converse with a close friend.

Use your own words in this simple, intimate chat with God, and they will gradually become your own personal, individual way of prayer. You will find that the Holy Spirit is enlightening your mind and strengthening your will to do God's Will.

Father Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.

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—JUNE—

24. SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA
(June 13)

The Wonderworker

MEDITATION

ANTHONY'S parents were rich and wanted him to be a great nobleman. But he wanted to be poor for the sake of Christ, so he became a Franciscan.

Anthony was a great preacher. He was sent out as a missionary and preached in many cities in Italy and France. He brought many sinners back to God, mostly by his good example.

It is said that when Anthony was praying in his room, the Infant Jesus appeared to him, put His little arms around his neck, and kissed him. This wonderful favor was given to Anthony because he kept his soul free from even the smallest sin and because he loved Jesus very much.

When Anthony became ill he went to a monastery outside of Padua, where he died at the age of only thirty-six on June 13, 1231. Thirty-two years after his death his remains were brought to Padua. All the flesh except the tongue had been consumed by corruption. Many miracles took place after his death. Even today he is called the "Wonderworker." His feast is celebrated on June 13.

Saint Anthony is one of the most popular of Saints. He is called the "Saint of the Whole World" because the faithful of the whole world love him. During the past seven hundred years, millions have been attracted to this great Franciscan Wonderworker.

Another Franciscan, Saint Bonaventure, says, "Ask the Wonderworker with confidence, and he will obtain what you seek."

THE WORD OF GOD

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me. He has anointed Me to bring the Good News to the poor."
—Lk 4:18

"I proclaim Your righteousness in the great assembly. . . . I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation."
—Ps 40:10-11

"The tongue of the righteous is like choice silver. . . . The lips of the righteous nourish a multitude."
—Prov 10:20-21

NOVENA PRAYERS

Novena Prayer

SAIN**T** Anthony, glorious for the fame of your miracles, obtain for me from God's mercy this favor that I desire: (*Mention your request*).

Since you were so gracious to poor sinners, do not regard my lack of virtue but consider the glory of God which will be exalted once more through you by the granting of the petition that I now earnestly present to you.

Glorious Wonderworker, Saint Anthony, father of the poor and comforter of the afflicted, I ask for your help. You have come to my aid with such loving care and have comforted me so generously. I offer you my heartfelt thanks.

Accept this offering of my devotion and love and with it my earnest promise which I now renew, to live always in the love of God and my neighbor. Continue to shield me graciously with your protection, and obtain for me the grace of being able one day to

enter the Kingdom of heaven, there to praise with you the everlasting mercies of God. Amen.

Litany of Saint Anthony

(For Private Devotion)

<p>LORD, have mercy. <i>Christ, have mercy.</i> Lord, have mercy. Christ, hear us. <i>Christ, graciously hear us.</i> Holy Mary, pray for us. Saint Francis,* Saint Anthony of Padua, Glory of the Order of Friars Minor, Martyr in desiring to die for Christ, Pillar of the Church, Worthy priest of God, Apostolic preacher, Teacher of truth,</p>	<p>Conqueror of heretics, Terror of evil spirits, Comforter of the afflicted, Helper in necessities, Guide of the erring, Restorer of lost things, Chosen intercessor, Continuous worker of miracles, Be merciful to us, <i>spare us, O Lord.</i> Be merciful to us, <i>hear us, O Lord.</i> From all evil, <i>deliver us, O Lord.</i> From all sin,** From all dangers of body and soul,</p>
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* *Pray for us* is repeated after each invocation down to *Be merciful to us*.

** *Deliver us, O Lord* is repeated after each invocation down to *In the day of judgment*.

From the snares of the
 devil,
 From pestilence, fam-
 ine, and war,
 From eternal death,
 Through the merits of
 Saint Anthony,
 Through his zeal for
 the conversion of
 sinners,
 Through his desire for
 the crown of mar-
 tyrdom,
 Through his fatigues
 and labors,
 Through his preach-
 ing and teaching,
 Through his peniten-
 tial tears,
 Through his patience
 and humility,
 Through his glorious
 death,
 Through the number
 of his prodigies,
 In the day of judg-
 ment,

We sinners, we be-
 seech You, hear us,
 That You would bring
 us to true pen-
 ance,**
 That You would grant
 us patience in our
 trials,
 That You would assist
 us in our necessi-
 ties,
 That You would hear
 our prayers and
 petitions,
 That You would kindle
 the fires of Divine
 love within us,
 That You would grant
 us the protection
 and intercession of
 Saint Anthony,
 Son of God,
 Lamb of God, You
 take away the sins
 of the world; spare
 us, O Lord.

*** *We beseech you, hear us*, is repeated after each invocation down to *Son of God*.

Lamb of God, You
take away the sins
of the world; *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, You
take away the sins
of the world; *have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

℣. Pray for us, O blessed Saint Anthony.

℞. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Prayer

LET us pray. Almighty and eternal God, You glorified Your faithful confessor Anthony with the perpetual gift of working miracles. Grant that what we confidently seek through his merits we may surely receive by his intercession. We ask this in the Name of Jesus the Lord. *℞. Amen.*
