



MISSION **IMPACT.**

Divine Word Missionaries. In Action.

NOVENA FOR THE **GLOBAL CHURCH.**

Day 1.



For the Work of Evangelists and Catechists Around the World

Each and every Christian is called to the work of evangelization and catechesis. The transforming power of the Gospel message is meant to be shared with the world. Today, we pray in a special way for the men and women around the world who serve as evangelists and catechists.

Day's Reflection

“The proclamation of the Gospel remains the primary service that the Church owes to humanity, to offer the salvation of Christ to the man of our time, who is in many ways humiliated and oppressed, and to orientate in a Christian way cultural, social, and ethical transformations that are unfolding in the world.”

(Pope Benedict XVI, Speech in Vatican City)

“Since catechesis is a moment or aspect of evangelization, its content cannot be anything else but the content of evangelization as a whole. The one message—the Good News of salvation—that has been heard once or hundreds of times and has been accepted with the heart, is in catechesis probed unceasingly by reflection and systematic study, by awareness of its repercussions on one’s personal life—an awareness calling for ever greater commitment—and by inserting it into an organic and harmonious whole, namely, Christian living in society and the world.”

(Pope John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation on Catechesis in Our Time)

Day 1.



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

“**Father of peace and love**, we give thanks for the work and life of evangelists and catechists who labor for You **around the world**.

Moved by Your Spirit, these men and women work to fulfill the command to make **disciples of all nations**. They work in **parishes, communities, families and churches** around the world, spreading the Good News and **nurturing the faithful** and those drawn to the faith. Pour down Your Spirit on Your faithful catechists and evangelists, and help their words and teaching flow forth from the **Divine Word** that gives life. **Encourage them, nourish them** and make their service bear fruit for the glory of Your Name. **Amen.**”

Day 2.



For the Spiritual Renewal of All Catholics and Christians

Without the life and movement of the Holy Spirit, our life in the faith is cramped and shallow. Today, we earnestly pray for the breath of the Holy Spirit to reanimate the hearts of all Christians and Catholics, renewing the Church on earth.

Day's Reflection

"[In] the ordinary conditions of society, Christians, as witnesses to man's authentic dignity, by their obedience to the Holy Spirit contribute to the manifold 'renewal of the face of the earth,' working together with their brothers and sisters in order to achieve and put to good use everything that is good, noble and beautiful in the modern progress of civilization, culture, science, technology and the other areas of thought and human activity. They do this as disciples of Christ, who, as the Council writes, 'appointed Lord by his Resurrection ... is now at work in the hearts of men through the power of his Spirit. He arouses not only a desire for the age to come but by that very fact, he animates, purifies and strengthens those noble longings too by which the human family strives to make its life more humane and to render the earth submissive to this goal.' Thus they affirm still more strongly the greatness of man, made in the image and likeness of God, a greatness shown by the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God, who 'in the fullness of time,' by the power of the Holy Spirit, entered into history and manifested himself as true man, he who was begotten before every creature, 'through whom are all things and through whom we exist.'"

(Pope John Paul II, *On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World*)



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

“Come, Holy Spirit, like a mighty wind and fall upon us with tongues of fire, to **renew us** in the fullness of the Christ-life.

Blow down the walls that keep us imprisoned in our own selfish concerns. Let us come to know ourselves as You know us, so that we follow Your **mighty impulse** and be wide open to the love that filled the **Heart of Jesus** and drove Him incessantly to **give Himself to others** and **sacrifice Himself** for them; for You alone can accomplish this in us, O Spirit of God, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Son **forever and ever.** Amen.”

Day 3.



For Church Leaders

Today, we entrust our Church leaders to the loving and just hands of the Father, asking him to strengthen them, guide them, correct them and make them more and more like him each day.

Day's Reflection

“Servants of a sublime cause, the fate of the Church largely depends on you in the sectors entrusted to your pastoral care. That makes it necessary for you to be deeply aware of the greatness of the mission you have received and of the necessity of better and better adapting yourselves to it.

This high and exacting service cannot be carried out without a clear and deep-rooted conviction of your identity as priests of Christ, depositaries and administrators of God’s mysteries, instruments of salvation for men, witnesses of a kingdom which begins in this world but is completed in the next...

To preserve or strengthen this firm and persevering conviction, look at the model, Christ; renew the supernatural values in your existence, ask for strength from above, in the assiduous and trusting conversation of prayer. It is indispensable for you, today as yesterday. And also be faithful to frequent practice of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to daily meditation, to devotion to the Virgin by means of the recitation of the Rosary. In a word, cultivate union with God by means of a deep inner life. Let this be your first commitment. Do not be afraid that the time dedicated to the Lord will take anything away from your apostolate. On the contrary, it will be the source of fruitfulness in the ministry.”

(Pope John Paul II, Address to Diocesan Priests and Religious of Mexico)



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

“Merciful and ever-loving Father, we entrust to You today the **leaders of our Church.** You have called them to a life of sacrifice, mission and ministry and made them responsible for **shepherding the souls** of Your faithful people. This is a grave responsibility. Today, we pray that Your Holy Spirit will **move powerfully** through the leaders of the Church, chastising those who have neglected their responsibilities and encouraging and strengthening those who have faithfully and lovingly fulfilled their calling. Grant our Church leaders **wisdom, strength and courage** in the face of evil and corruption. Amen.”

Day 4.



For Christian Unity

“That all may be one.” This was Christ’s great prayer for those that believe in him. Today, we pray for greater unity among Christians so that all who profess the name of Jesus may be united in their genuine and fervent love for each other and for souls.

Day’s Reflection

“There can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart. For it is from renewal of the inner life of our minds, from self-denial and an unstinted love that desires of unity take their rise and develop in a mature way. We should therefore pray to the Holy Spirit for the grace to be genuinely self-denying, humble, gentle in the service of others and to have an attitude of brotherly generosity towards them. St. Paul says: ‘I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.’ This exhortation is directed especially to those raised to sacred Orders precisely that the work of Christ may be continued. He came among us ‘not to be served but to serve.’

The words of St. John hold good about sins against unity: ‘If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.’ So we humbly beg pardon of God and of our separated brethren, just as we forgive them that trespass against us.

All the faithful should remember that the more effort they make to live holier lives according to the Gospel, the better will they further Christian unity and put it into practice. For the closer their union with the Father, the Word and the Spirit, the more deeply and easily will they be able to grow in mutual brotherly love.

This change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement and merits the name ‘spiritual ecumenism.’”

(Vatican II, Decree on Ecumenism, 7-8)



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

“Lord Jesus Christ, before Your **Passion** You prayed to Your heavenly Father that all who believe in You might be one as You are one with the Father. **Look with favor** on the prayer that, following Your divine example, we offer for the **restoration of unity** among all who confess Your holy name. Grant, O Lord, that with **one voice and one heart** we may glorify and praise Your glorious name, as well as the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**”

(This prayer from the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom was recommended by St. Arnold Janssen to Catholics and Protestants as a common prayer for unity)

Day 5.



For the Impoverished

Today, we hold in our hearts and raise up in prayer all those who live in poverty. The horrors of poverty affect the whole human person, mentally, physically and spiritually, and more than three billion people around the world live in poverty.

Day's Reflection

“Our age, regrettably, is particularly susceptible to the temptation toward selfishness which always lurks within the human heart. In society generally, and in the media, people are bombarded by messages which more or less openly exalt the ephemeral and the hedonistic. Concern for others is certainly shown whenever natural disasters, war and other emergencies strike, but in general it is difficult to build a culture of solidarity. The spirit of the world affects our inner propensity to give ourselves unselfishly to others and drives us to satisfy our own particular interests. The desire to possess ever more is encouraged. Surely it is natural and right that people, by using their own gifts and by their own labor, should work to obtain what they need to live, but an excessive desire for possessions prevents human beings from being open to their Creator and to their brothers and sisters. The words of Paul to Timothy remain relevant in every age: “The love of money is the root of all evils; it is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced their hearts with many pangs’ (1 Tim 6:10).

Exploitation of others, indifference towards the suffering of our brothers and sisters, and the violation of basic rules of morality are just a few fruits of the thirst for gain. Faced with the tragic situation of persistent poverty which afflicts so many people in our world, how can we fail to see that the quest for profit at any cost and the lack of effective, responsible concern for the common good have concentrated immense resources in the hands of a few while the rest of humanity suffers in poverty and neglect?

Appealing to believers and to all people of good will, I would like to reaffirm a principle which is self-evident yet often ignored: Our goal should not be the benefit of a privileged few, but rather the improvement of the living conditions of all. Only on this foundation can we build that international order truly marked by justice and solidarity which is the hope of everyone.”

(Pope John Paul II, Message for Lent 2003)

Day 5.



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

“Jesus of Nazareth, You lived out a model of **prophetic dialogue** with the poor. Pour down on our communities Your **Spirit of solidarity and liberation,** so that we might see and transform all that keeps us distant from the poor, caused by the way we think and act, in the ways that we **connect with them and through our style of life.** Grant us a heart that is **free and generous,** so that we might be, in both society and the Church, prophetic communities open to the **embracing love of God for all.** Through the intercession of Sts. Arnold and Joseph may we continue **building bridges** of solidarity with the poor that **make possible a different world** where we can share together with the whole human race the **Bread and the Word** at the common table of life. Amen.”

Day 6.



For Refugees and Migrants

Can we imagine what it is like to be forced to leave family, home and country to flee from violence, tyranny or lack of economic opportunity? Today, we lift up in prayer all refugees and migrants around the world who are suffering greatly and searching for a new life.

Day's Reflection

“Let us remember Paul VI’s words: ‘For the Catholic Church, no one is a stranger, no one is excluded, no one is far away’ (Homily for the closing of the Second Vatican Council, December 8, 1965). Indeed, we are a single human family that is journeying on toward unity, making the most of solidarity and dialogue among peoples in the multiplicity of differences.

The Church is mother and her motherly attention is expressed with special tenderness and closeness to those who are obliged to flee their own country and exist between rootlessness and integration. This tension destroys people. Christian compassion—this ‘suffering with’ compassion—is expressed first of all in the commitment to obtain knowledge of the events that force people to leave their homeland and, where necessary, to give voice to those who cannot manage to make their cry of distress and oppression heard. By doing this you also carry out an important task in sensitising Christian communities to the multitudes of their brethren scarred by wounds that mark their existence: violence, abuse, the distance from family love, traumatic events, flight from home, uncertainty about the future in refugee camps. These are all dehumanizing elements and must spur every Christian and the whole community to practical concern.

(Pope Francis, Address to the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People)



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

“Heavenly Father, stir up in our hearts a **fervent desire to serve**, pray for and accompany all those who are living as refugees or migrants, **fleeing violence or oppression** and facing tremendous loneliness, difficulty and uncertainty as they struggle for a better life. Help us to see in the faces of all migrants and refugees the faces of the Holy Family: **Mary, Jesus and Joseph**, as they fled into Egypt to escape persecution. Give us a greater sense of charity toward our rootless brothers and sisters around the earth, and sustain all refugees and migrants with the **promise of Your hope** even in the midst of their suffering. Amen.”

Day 7.



For Peace and Social Justice in Our Communities

This is a time of great division, hostility and discord in our culture and around the world. Today, we pray for greater peace, respect and justice in our communities, in our churches and in our countries.

Day's Reflection

“To you, Creator of nature and humanity, of truth and beauty, I pray: Hear my voice, for it is the voice of the victims of all wars and violence among individuals and nations. Hear my voice, for it is the voice of all children who suffer and who will suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war. Hear my voice when I beg you to instill into the hearts of all the vision of peace, the strength of justice and the joy of fellowship. Hear my voice, for I speak for the multitudes in every country and in every period of history who do not want war and are ready to walk the road of peace. Hear my voice and grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, to war with peace. O God, hear my voice, and grant to the world your everlasting peace. Amen.”

(Pope John Paul II at Hiroshima, Japan, 1981)

Day 7.



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

“Ever-living, ever-loving God, Source of Light, Womb of Wisdom,

touch our eyes and whisper in our hearts, that we may see more

clearly and **listen more deeply to Your truth** even in the most

unexpected of places and in the most surprising of people. Take

away our short-sightedness and lead us to **greater insight.** Give

us the courage to witness to the truth in love and the humility

to learn from others. May ever more people across religious and

cultural divides embrace each other with **respect, dignity and**

understanding. May the darkness of prejudice vanish before the

Light of Your Grace. This we ask in the name of the Word made

flesh, Your Son and our Brother, in whose creative Spirit we live and

move and have our being. Amen.”



Day 8.

For the Integrity and Care of All Creation

We are a part of God's created order, and we have a special position of stewardship and responsibility over the world he created. Today, we pray for the integrity and care of all creation.

Day's Reflection

"Disregard for the duty to cultivate and maintain a proper relationship with my neighbor, for whose care and custody I am responsible, ruins my relationship with my own self, with others, with God and with the earth. When all these relationships are neglected, when justice no longer dwells in the land, the Bible tells us that life itself is endangered. We see this in the story of Noah, where God threatens to do away with humanity because of its constant failure to fulfil the requirements of justice and peace: 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them' (Gen 6:13). These ancient stories, full of symbolism, bear witness to a conviction which we today share, that everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others."

(Pope Francis, On Care for Our Common Home)

Day 8.



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

“Lord of Life, **You created the heavens** and the earth, the sea and the dry land, the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. You created **all the joys, beauties and riches** of this earthly realm. In You all creatures live and move and have their being. Since we are Your earthly stewards, grant us the wisdom and dedication **to care lovingly and prudently** for the resources and creatures of this earth. Help us to see with clarity our dependence on and interconnectedness with the things of the earth around us as well as on our brothers and sisters of **all faiths and races**. Through our love and care for the earth, help us to **draw closer to one another** with increased **faith, fraternity and justice**. Amen.”

Day 9.



For the Work of Missions and Missionaries Around the World

Christ commanded his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. Today, we pray for the men and women around the world who are answering this call and shining the light and love of Christ into the darkest corners of the world.

Day's Reflection

“Sent by Christ to reveal and to communicate the love of God to all people and nations, the Church is aware that there still remains a gigantic missionary task for her to accomplish. For the Gospel message has not yet been heard, or scarcely so, by two billion human beings. And their number is increasing daily. These are formed into large and distinct groups by permanent cultural ties, by ancient religious traditions, and by firm bonds of social necessity. The Church must be present in these groups of people, through those of her children, who dwell among them or are sent to them. For wherever they live, all Christians are bound to show forth, by the example of their lives and by the witness of their speech, that new self, which they put on in baptism, and that power of the Holy Spirit by whom they were strengthened in confirmation. Thus, others, observing their good works, can glorify the Father (Mt 5:16), and can better perceive the real meaning of human life and the bond which ties the whole community of humankind together.”

(Vatican II, Decree on the Mission Activity on the Church, 10-11)



PRAYER FOR THE DAY.

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son, the **Divine Word**, into the world as a missionary to **save every person**. He became one of us by being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He was born, lived among us, taught us by **word and example**. He suffered and died on the cross to save us and was **raised again to life**. Before He ascended into heaven, He commissioned His Church in the persons of the Apostles to go out and **share the Good News with every person**. Bless those men and women, who have received and answered the call to be missionaries. Grant them the **light, strength and courage** of the Holy Spirit in a special way to win as many people as possible for Christ. We ask You this, Father, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.