

Novena



To Blessed
Antonio Rosmini

in the 2024 Year of Prayer



22 - 30 JUNE

NOVENA
TO BLESSED ANTONIO ROSMINI
in the 2024 Year of Prayer
22-30 June

In this year dedicated to Prayer in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year, we propose the Holy Father's catecheses on prayer as a text of spiritual reading, and personal and community reflection. There are three folders which contain all 38 catecheses offered by Pope Francis in 2020 and 2021.

The intention and the theme of each day of the Novena will help us make a journey together: focusing our prayer, and putting into practice the unity so essential to our life. You will find a phrase from the Bible, a phrase from the Pope's catechesis, a prayer intention and a phrase from Father Founder.

The time of prayer, personal or community, could be Eucharistic Adoration, the Holy Rosary, personal meditation or traditional forms of the Novena.

Let's continue with the spiritual reading of the Holy Father's catecheses for the entire Rosminian vocations month of July. To this end, a path of prayer and intercession will be suggested for each day of the vocations month.





Day 1: SATURDAY 22 JUNE

THE HUMILITY OF PRAYER

The Word of God

Son of David, Jesus, have mercy on me. (Mk 10:47)

Pope Francis

Humility is the foundation of prayer. (CCC 2559; catechesis n.1)

Prayer intention

Let us pray for each of us and for our communities of which we are a part, that we will experience the desire for prayer. Let the voice that invokes the example of Mary, the Saints and Blessed Antonio Rosmini, be expressed from the depths of our heart as "mendicants of God". Give us, Lord, the humility that expresses our thirst for You, and the humility that is the foundation of prayer.

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

As Saint Alphonsus says, with prayer we can do everything, with prayer alone, offered in a humble, confident and persevering way. (Letters, I, page 403, n. 210)





Day 2: SUNDAY 23 JUNE XII OF ORDINARY TIME

GOD IS THE ONE WHO MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN IN PRAYER

The Word of God

No one has ever seen God: it is the only begotten Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has revealed him. (Jn 1:18)

Pope Francis

In prayer God manifests himself to us and continually offers us his friendship. (catechesis n. 2)

Prayer intention

We pray for all women and men loved by the Lord, that we may feel a longing for encounter with God and for the prayer that is born of our hearts. We pray too that every believer recognize that God reveals himself as a friend of humanity and that every person can meet themselves in the YOU of God, the most intimate mystery of oneself.

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

... when almost all other things have been banished for your mind, let only God and your soul be again found.

(Fifth maxim, n. 1).





Day 3: MONDAY 24 JUNE
NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GOD IS A RELATIONSHIP OF FRIENDSHIP IN PRAYER

The Word of God

I have called you friends, because everything I have heard from the Father I have made known to you... so that everything you ask the Father in my name, may be granted to you. (Jn 15: 15-16)

Pope Francis

The prayer of a Christian enters into a relationship with God of the most tender face, who does not wish to instill any fear in us. This is the first characteristic of Christian prayer. (Francis, catechesis n. 2)

Prayer intention

Let us pray that we can all experience God as father, and recognize his merciful goodness and Providence in life. May our daily prayer enter into relationship with God, whose face is that of a tender father, so that we may talk to him as we would with a friend.

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

The disciple learns, before all else, that the foundation of his total and unlimited trust is Jesus himself, since it is Jesus who says from the beginning that those to whom he addresses these words are his friends. And by friends we do not mean only the perfect, but all Christians, and among these even sinners. He calls friends those whom he has treated as friends, those to whom he has revealed the Gospel; therefore everyone must be very comforted by thinking that he did not refuse this name of friend even to Judas when he came to him to betray him. (Fourth Maxim, n. 5)





Day 4: TUESDAY 25 JUNE

MAKING A COVENANT WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER

The Word of God

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you.
(Lk 22: 20)

Pope Francis

With that gesture in the Upper Room, Jesus foreshadows the mystery of the Cross. God is a faithful ally: if we cease to love, he nevertheless continues to love, even if love leads him to Calvary. God is always close to our heart's door and he waits for us to open it to him. (Francis, catechesis n.2)

Prayer intention

Let us pray that we will always respond to the God of the Covenant, that we in the Rosminian family will respond to God who knocks at the door of our heart, knocks and waits with the patience of a mother and father together. Let us say to him, from our heart, with Eucharistic wonder: "how can you know only love?"

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

The Word made man, made a voluntary sacrifice of himself on Calvary, so the words "open the doors of justice to me: I want to enter to give thanks to the Lord" correspond to a fuller truth. (...) Enter, therefore, ready for greatness, but humble in your heart, full of gratitude and hope, for the goodness of your God. Enter this type of life in which you propose to simply achieve the right things in the right way, as the author of Wisdom says: "those who observe right things correctly will be justified (Wis 6:10). (Speech II, Justice)





Day 5: WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE
SAN JOSEMARIA ESCRIVÀ DE BALAGUER,
PRIEST

THE WONDER OF PRAYER IN CREATION

The Word of God

When I see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have set firm, what are human creatures that you remember them, the child of Adam, that you care about him? (Ps 8: 4-5)

Pope Francis

The beauty and mystery of Creation generate in the heart the first impulse that evokes prayer (see CCC 2556). (...) Nothing exists by chance: the secret of the universe lies in a benevolent look that someone meets in our eyes. (...) By nature we are almost nothing, small, but by vocation, by calling, we are daughters and sons of the great King! (Francis, catechesis n. 3)

Prayer intention

Let us pray that our prayer opens the door to hope in our lives and around us in society. When life's events risk suffocating the gift of prayer within us, a spark of gratitude is rekindled through the beauty of creation. For our brothers and sisters who find themselves in difficulty at this moment and only see their crosses, we ask for the gift of light and joy in prayer and we say to the Lord: "But, you exist, you made us like this, for you".

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

Meditating on Providence, I admire it: admiring it, I love it; loving it, I celebrate it; celebrating it, I thank it; thanking it, I am filled with joy. And how could I do otherwise, if I know by reason and by faith, and feel with my intimate spirit, that everything that is done, whether wanted or permitted by God, is done by an eternal, by an infinite, by an essential love? Who could be saddened by love? " (Letters, III, p. 508, n. 1124).





Day 6: THURSDAY 27 JUNE – OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

PRAYER IS A REFUGE FROM EVIL

The Word of God

I will take away from you the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh (Ezk 36: 26)

Pope Francis

Prayer, when it is authentic, frees one from the instincts of violence and is a gaze directed to God, that He may return to take care of the heart of humanity. (...) Prayer is always a chain of life: many men and women who pray, sow life. (Francis, catechesis n. 4)

Prayer intention

Let us pray that we might all rediscover prayer as a chain of life, in our communities and in society. May we be sowers of life, asking God to perform his miracles and to transform our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh, into human hearts of love. We also pray to be saved from ourselves saying, “Lord, please save me from myself, from my ambitions, from my passions.”

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

The spirit of evil cannot give us the desire for good; nor do flesh and blood lead us to holiness. The world places greatness in things totally different from justice; the world disdains innocence, considering it insignificant, and mocks the simplicity of the just. God, however, who in his eternal wisdom has placed us firm in the heavens, also wishes his Kingdom down here on earth, his city, to rest on the firm foundation of justice. (...) Justice! O strong mountain, immovable foundation, rock hidden under the ground, which people do not see, because they do not see God. (Speech 1, The example of Jesus)





Day 7: FRIDAY 28 JUNE ST. IRENEO, MARTYR

JESUS MAN OF PRAYER

The Word of God

Now it happened that when all the people had been baptized and while Jesus, after his own baptism, was at prayer, heaven opened. (Lk 3:21)

Pope Francis

Jesus wished to come down to us, sinners, and He prays with us, and when we pray He is with us praying; He is with us because he is in heaven praying for us. Jesus always prays with his people, always prays with us: always. We never pray alone; we always pray with Jesus. (Francis, catechesis n. 12)

Prayer intention

Let us pray that the gift of prayer may be the strength of our Christian communities, of men and women religious. May we pray as Jesus prayed, may we let Jesus pray in us, especially in moments of interior darkness. Let us experience the tenderness of the Father who says to us, as to Jesus from heaven: "You are the beloved of God, you are a son (or a daughter), you are the joy of the Father in heaven". Let us welcome the gift of prayer within us, "like a seed of the Trinity that wants to take root in our heart".

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

What comfort and support can I give you, if not by placing the example of our Lord Jesus Christ at the source of all consolation and all strength? Yes, it is up to us to keep our eyes fixed on him if we want to stand firm; for, when we take our mind's eyes off that divine Master of ours, we immediately fall. (Letters, III, page 206, n. 895)





Day 8: SATURDAY 29 JUNE
SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

JESUS TEACHER OF PRAYER

The Word of God

In the morning he got up while it was still dark and, leaving the house, he withdrew to a deserted place and prayed there.

(Mk 1: 35)

Pope Francis

When Jesus prays, he is already teaching us how to pray (CCC 2607). Therefore, from Jesus' example we can derive some characteristics of Christian prayer. (catechesis n. 13)

Prayer intention

Let us pray, following the example of Jesus our teacher of prayer, that prayer may be the first and persevering desire of the day, carried out in silence and given over to the hands of the Father. Let us pray that we are formed in obedience and, therefore, also to listen, so that even the trials of life can become opportunities to grow in faith and charity. May our prayer open our mind to wide horizons and expand our heart.

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

There are therefore two words which summarize the school of God, the teacher of humankind, Truth and Charity; and these two words mean different things, but each of them includes the other, in each is the whole. (Introduction to Philosophy, The Idea of Wisdom)





Day 9: SUNDAY 30 JUNE XIII OF ORDINARY TIME

PERSEVERANT PRAYER

The Word of God

He will cover you with his feathers, under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and armour. You will not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the plague that wanders in the darkness, or the scourge that wreaks havoc at noon. (Ps 91: 4-6)

Pope Francis

Prayer is like the oxygen of life. (...) The teaching of the Gospel is clear: we need to pray always, even when everything seems in vain, when God appears to be deaf and mute to us and we feel like we are wasting time. Even if the sky darkens, the Christian does not stop praying. Our prayer goes hand in hand with faith. (Francis, catechesis n. 14)

Prayer intention

We ask that our prayer be first and foremost persistent, because God always responds. May our insistence be to nurture desire and expectation within us. May our prayer always be a courageous disposition to call on God, with a great spirit of humility. May we always feel that Jesus welcomes us in his prayer, because we can pray in Him and through Him. In fact, Jesus "prays for us as our priest, prays in us as our head, and is prayed to, by us, as our God. We recognize, therefore, our voice in Him, and his voice in us" (St. Augustine).

Blessed Antonio Rosmini

Christ is the great lover in all of us. He is with us, he is our ability to love. "Not I, but the grace of God with me (1 Cor 15:10)". Love is his own Spirit that spreads in our souls when it finds no obstacles, or when it overcomes them. (Speech IV, Charity).



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Pray always and never tire of thanking God.

Col 4:2

Lord of the Church,
we thank you for your presence
among us and in our hearts.
We thank you for your love,
and your merciful goodness to our family.
We adore you because you are the light
of our journey and our choice to listen to you,
to follow you, and to love you every day of our lives.

Good Shepherd of our communities,
we behold you and pray to you:
you know us and you know we want
to listen to your voice.
Gather together all those whom you have called,
like Blessed Antonio Rosmini,
to live the charism of charity in religious life,
in the priestly ministry and
as young people, as lay people, and in marriage.

Jesus, source of all vocations,
accompany in discernment
all young people and those loved by you,
whom you have chosen to bear much fruit
through Gospel witness to your humanity
and by being missionary disciples, pilgrims of hope.
May each of us say to you:
"Thank you Jesus, because life is more beautiful with you,
in the company of Mary, your and our Mother.
Since I have known you, I have been so happy!"

Jesus, true God and true Man,
may your joy illuminate the Rosminian family
with hope, and guide her brothers and sisters
whom you call today
to the Love of your Heart. Amen.

