



## **NOVENA FOR THE NEXT CONCLAVE**

**By Bishop Emeritus Joseph Strickland**

### **Prayers for the Election of a Holy and Faithful Pope**

Introduction: In times of great need and spiritual battle, the Church turns to prayer. As we look upon this solemn moment, in which the Chair of Peter stands vacant once more, we place our trust in God's providence and pray fervently for the election of a pope who is holy, courageous, and faithful to the unchanging teachings of Christ and His Church.

This novena is offered in anticipation of the next papal conclave. Each day includes a reflection and prayer intention, asking the Holy Ghost to guide the cardinals and raise up a shepherd after the Heart of Christ.

### **DAY 1: THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH**

Scripture: "And you shall know the truth: and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

Meditation: Pray for a pope who will uphold the fullness of truth without compromise, in charity and courage.

Prayer: Come, Holy Ghost, Spirit of Truth, enlighten the minds and hearts of the cardinal electors. Raise up a shepherd after Thine own Heart, who will lead the Church with clarity, courage, and fidelity.

### **Closing Prayer**

O Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for the cardinals entrusted with the election of the next pope. Obtain for us a Holy Father who will be a light in darkness, a voice of truth in confusion, and a shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep. Through thy maternal heart, may the Church once again shine with the splendor of holiness, truth, and charity. Amen.

St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, pray for us.  
St. Joseph, Protector of the Church, pray for us.  
All ye holy popes and confessors, pray for us.

### **DAY 2: DEFENDER OF THE FAITH**

Scripture: "Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." (Jude 1:3)

Meditation: Reflect on the need for a pope who will boldly defend the perennial teachings of the Church.

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, grant us a pope who will preserve sacred tradition and guard the flock from error. May he restore reverence to the liturgy and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

### **Closing Prayer**

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### **DAY 3: HUMBLE SERVANT**

Scripture: "Whosoever will be the greater among you, let him be your minister." (Matthew 20:26)

Meditation: Consider the model of humility in leadership, rooted in the imitation of Christ.

Prayer: O Lord, raise up a successor to St. Peter who is meek and humble of heart, yet firm in his resolve to uphold Thy holy law.

### **Closing Prayer**

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#### **DAY 4: ZEAL FOR SOULS**

Scripture: "The fruit he that bringeth forth in patience." (Luke 8:15)

Meditation: A pope must be consumed with love for souls, desiring their salvation above all else.

Prayer: O Lord of the harvest, grant us a Holy Father who will preach with fire and conviction, laboring tirelessly to bring lost souls into Thy fold.

#### **Closing Prayer**

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#### **DAY 5: FIDELITY TO TRADITION**

Scripture: "Therefore, brethren, stand fast: and hold the traditions which you have learned." (II Thessalonians 2:14)

Meditation: Pray for a pope who treasures the sacred traditions of the Church and hands them on whole and unaltered.

Prayer: Eternal Father, preserve Thy Church from novelty and confusion. Raise up a pontiff who will cherish and restore the beauty of the ancient liturgy and the doctrine that has sanctified the ages.

#### **Closing Prayer**

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#### **DAY 6: COURAGE AMID PERSECUTION**

Scripture: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, do manfully, and be strengthened." (I Corinthians 16:13)

Meditation: In times of moral decay and hostility to the truth, a pope must be courageous, even unto martyrdom.

Prayer: O Christ, the Lion of Judah, strengthen the heart of the man You have chosen. Let him fear no power on earth and remain unmoved by the winds of the world.

#### **Closing Prayer**

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#### **DAY 7: LOVE FOR OUR LADY**

Scripture: "Behold thy mother." (John 19:27)

Meditation: A true pope is a devoted son of the Blessed Virgin Mary and entrusts the Church entirely to her maternal care.

Prayer: O Immaculate Heart of Mary, inspire the cardinals to choose a pope who will consecrate his pontificate to thee, and who will call the world to repentance and conversion through thee.

#### **Closing Prayer**

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### **DAY 8: UNITY IN TRUTH**

Scripture: "That they all may be one, as thou, Father, in me, and I in thee." (John 17:21)

Meditation: Unity cannot be built on compromise, but only on the fullness of revealed truth.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant us a pontiff who unites the flock not through ambiguity, but through truth and charity. Let him be a father to all who seek the fullness of the Catholic faith.

#### **Closing Prayer**

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### **DAY 9: RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS IN CHRIST**

Scripture: "To re-establish all things in Christ." (Ephesians 1:10)

Meditation: The Church must be restored to her former splendor and mission – to bring all things under Christ the King.

Prayer: O Divine Majesty, send us a Vicar of Christ who will restore reverence, rebuild the ruins, and proclaim Thy kingship over nations. May his heart burn with love for Thy glory and the salvation of souls.

#### **Closing Prayer**

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