

Novena to the Holy Spirit
for
Vocations
to
Priesthood and
Religious Life

Office of Vocations
www.caedm.ca



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton



Prayer for Vocations to Diocesan Priesthood

Heavenly Father,

Bless your Church in the Archdiocese of Edmonton with an abundance of holy & zealous priests, deacons, religious and seminarians.

Give those You have called to the married state and those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require.

Form us all in the likeness of Your Son so that in Him, with Him, and through Him we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere.

With the virgin mother Mary we ask this through Christ your Son.

Amen.

✠ Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

Please remember to pray continuously for those who are called by Jesus to “Come, Follow Me” in a vocation to the priesthood and the religious life in our diocese.

The people of the diocese are encouraged to pray this novena at any time during the year using the readings of the day or other readings.



Call to Prayer

The following nine day Novena to the Holy Spirit has been developed for the prayerful use of the people praying for religious vocations.

By meditating on the daily readings from the Acts of the Apostles and by praying for an outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit on those God is calling to priesthood and religious life, it is our fervent prayer that those whom God is calling will have the wisdom, understanding, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and courage to make the right judgement in following that call.

Throughout these nine days we read about Saint Paul, who was filled with the Holy Spirit as he fulfilled his call to bring the “Good News” to the Gentile world.

May many hear God speaking to them in their hearts calling them to “Come, Follow Me”.



1st Day

Prayer for an Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Acts 18: 9-18

At Corinth one night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people." He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal. They said, "This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law." Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy, I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews; but since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I do not wish to be a judge of these matters." And he dismissed them from the tribunal. Then all of them seized Sosthenes, the official of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things.

After staying there for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow.

Mary,

our Mother and Model of Vocations, through your intercession may our diocese be filled with these precious Gifts and by following your example, may they bear fruit. May those whom your Son is calling to be priests and sisters in our diocese be filled with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and find in these gifts the grace to be faithful to their calling.

Amen.



Prayer for Vocations

(Most Rev. Richard W. Smith) - inside front cover

Prayer for Openness to God's Call

(Pope John Paul II)

Enkindle in our communities a vocational zeal. Send, Lord, workers into Your fields and do not let mankind be lost because of a lack of pastors, religious, and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church, Model of Vocations, help us say "Yes" to the Lord who calls us to collaborate in the divine design of salvation.

Amen.

Our Father . . .

Hail Mary (5) . . .

Glory Be . . .

9th Day

Prayer to Mary, Cherished Spouse of the Holy Spirit

Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31

Since Paul had appealed to the emperor, Festus sent Paul to Rome. When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. Three days later he called together the local leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. When they had examined me, the Romans wanted to release me, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to the emperor--even though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is for the sake of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

Mary,

in your love for your Son's disciples, you were present when the promised Holy Spirit descended upon them. Intercede for our diocese as we pray for all those who are called to follow your Son in priesthood or religious life. By your intercession may all people of our diocese be filled with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and have the grace to respond faithfully to them.

Holy Spirit,

I come before You as I begin this novena and I ask You for an outpouring of Your graces on me and on our diocese. As You strengthened Your servant St. Paul by his conversion, I come before You seeking forgiveness for having failed to live under Your grace.

Holy Spirit,

I ask that through the outpouring of Your grace that You grant me forgiveness for all my sins and strengthen me so that all that I do may be pleasing to You.

In turning to You I ask also for an outpouring of Your grace on our diocese so that those whom You are calling to a religious vocation will be guided by You in their call as You guided St. Paul in his ministry. Amen.

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(Most Rev. Richard W. Smith) - inside front cover

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Amen.

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Glory Be . . .

2nd Day

Prayer for the Gift of Fear of the Lord

Acts 18: 23-28

After spending some time at Antioch Paul departed and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.



Holy Spirit,

through the wonderful Gift of Wisdom, You guide Your people in seeking their true call that will bring them to life with Jesus in the Kingdom. We place ourselves before You and ask that You grant Your Wisdom to all those who are discerning Your call in their lives. Enlightened by Your divine light, grant them the insight needed to discern Your will and to turn their heart to You.

Mary,

Seat of Wisdom, intercede for us as we seek this priceless Gift of Wisdom which will guide our Diocesan family in following your Son, Jesus the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

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Amen.

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Glory Be . . .

Prayer For the Gift of Wisdom

Acts 24: 27; 25: 13-21

The Tribune who had arrested Paul sent him to Caesarea to be tried by Felix the governor. After two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and since he wanted to grant the Jews a favor, Felix left Paul in prison. After several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to welcome Festus. Since they were staying there several days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man here who was left in prison by Felix. When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me about him and asked for a sentence against him. I told them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had met the accusers face to face and had been given an opportunity to make a defence against the charge. So when they met here, I lost no time, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. When the accusers stood up, they did not charge him with any of the crimes that I was expecting. Instead they had certain points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, but whom Paul asserted to be alive. Since I was at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wished to go to Jerusalem and be tried there on these charges. But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of his Imperial Majesty, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to the emperor."

Holy Spirit,

I ask You to please grant me holy fear, which will give a profound awareness of how great Your love is for me. I ask that Your holy fear guide me for the rest of my life so that I may be free of sin and walk on the path of fullness of life. May I have a deep love for God and may those Jesus is inviting to "Come, Follow Me" always have a deep desire for service in Your church and seek to follow You out of their love for You.

Amen.

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(Most Rev. Richard W. Smith) - inside front cover

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(Pope John Paul II)

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Amen.

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Glory Be . . .

Prayer to Obtain the Gift of Piety

Acts 1: 1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Holy Spirit,

Your delight is in making Your light shine upon those who are humble, upright and pure. We do not deserve Your light but we ask that Your light will shine brightly throughout our Diocese as we come before You. It is only by Your light that we will come to the true understanding of our call to build Your Kingdom in our vocation as married, religious and single people.

Amen.

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Amen.

Our Father . . .
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Glory Be . . .

Prayer for the Gift of Understanding

Acts 21: 30, 23: 6-11

A number of days after Paul had arrived in Jerusalem, some Jews from Asia stirred up the crowd against Paul as he was leaving the temple. While they were trying to kill Paul, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Immediately he took some soldiers and arrested Paul. Since he wanted to find out what Paul was being accused of by the Jews, the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and the entire council to meet. He brought Paul down and had him stand before them. When Paul noticed that some were Sadducees and others were Pharisees, he called out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. I am on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dissension began between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, or angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge all three.) Then a great clamor arose, and certain scribes of the Pharisees' group stood up and contended, "We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" When the dissension became violent, the tribune, fearing that they would tear Paul to pieces, ordered the soldiers to go down, take him by force, and bring him into the barracks. That night the Lord stood near him and said, "Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome."

Holy Spirit,

I ask that you soften my hardened heart and all hearts, especially those You are calling to service in Your church. Remove any mistrust of God and any fears that take us away from following You. Remove all opposition to the love that must be present in us as children of God. Only then, Holy Spirit, will our service of God and neighbour bring great joy to your people and be filled with Your blessing. Then may we walk in the way of Your love for You will have opened our hearts to Your gifts.

Amen.

Prayer for Vocations

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(Pope John Paul II)

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Amen.

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4th Day

Prayer for the Gift of Knowledge

Acts 19: 1-8

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied-- altogether there were about twelve of them.

He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God.



Holy Spirit,

as You counselled Paul in his call to bring the "Good News" to the Gentiles, I ask You to guide us on our life's journey so that we may come to dwell in Your presence in the Father's Kingdom. I praise You and thank You for the loving Counsel You have given me and the people of our Diocese. Help us always to rely on this gift so that we will never fail in our love or be led away from the true path that leads to Your peace.

Amen.

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Amen.

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Glory Be . . .

Prayer for the Gift of Counsel

Acts 20: 28-38

At Ephesus, Paul sent for the elders, and when they came to him he made his farewell. "Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

Holy Spirit,

through the 'laying on of hands' the power of Your love and grace continues to flow into Your followers so that they may be given a mind to know You and have a heart to love You. I thank You for all Your gifts, especially for the gift of Knowledge. Through this gift may many throughout our diocese be led to understand Your call to follow a religious vocation. It is only through Your power that we can find true happiness and peace.

Amen.

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Prayer for the Gift of Fortitude

Acts 20: 17-27

Paul, having traveled throughout Greece, was eager to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. When they came to him, he said to them:

"You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God's grace.

And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God".

Holy Spirit,

mighty God, You wonderfully transformed the Apostles. Weak and timid as they were, You made them so strong that no power on earth could ever shake their faith. You fortified Paul and the holy martyrs in their trials, and have helped many people in their time of need. Look down upon the people of the diocese, who in recognising their weakness, humbly come before You. As we turn to You in our hour of need seeking Your gifts, we ask for Your Gift of Fortitude so that we will no longer rely on our own strength but will rejoice in the strength of Your grace.

Amen.

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