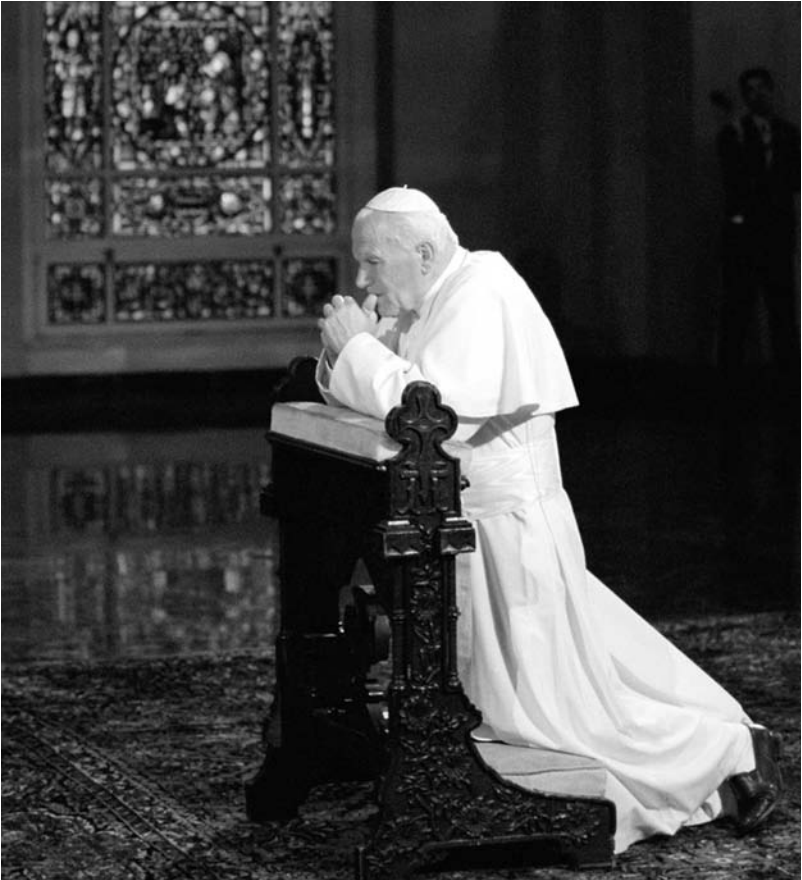


FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL
of
POPE JOHN PAUL II



A Novena of Prayer

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“After the death of the Roman Pontiff, the Cardinals will celebrate the funeral rites for the repose of his soul for nine consecutive days. . . .”

—Pope John Paul II,
Apostolic Constitution *Universi Dominici Gregis*
(*On the Vacancy of the Apostolic See and the
Election of the Roman Pontiff*), no. 27¹

The entire Church mourns the death of our Holy Father. The cardinals will soon gather with the faithful in their cathedrals and the great basilicas of Rome to beg God’s mercy on Pope John Paul II. In parish churches, the Holy Eucharist will be offered for the repose of his soul, while individuals, at home and in shrines, will ask God to bestow his infinite mercy on the man who taught us the way of mercy.

This novena has been prepared to help you to pray for the Holy Father during the nine days of mourning that will soon be announced by the College of Cardinals. The novena consists of a reading from Scripture and some brief prayers.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for the Liturgy offers this novena of prayers so that the faithful may join in the prayers of the College of Cardinals for the repose of the Holy Father’s soul.

Monsignor James P. Moroney
Executive Director
Secretariat for the Liturgy
United States Conference of
Catholic Bishops

1 Available at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_constitutions/documents/hf_jp-ii_apc_22021996_universi-dominici-gregis_en.html.

FIRST DAY
"You Are Peter"

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
 Amen.

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
 (16:13-19)*

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Pause for silent prayer for our Holy Father.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

God our Father,
 you reward all who believe in you.
 May your servant, John Paul our Pope, vicar of Peter,
 and shepherd of your Church,
 who faithfully administered the mysteries of your
 forgiveness and love on earth,
 rejoice with you for ever in heaven.
 Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.²

2 *Roman Missal, Various Prayers for the Dead, For a Pope, A.*

SECOND DAY
"Feed My Sheep"

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
(21:15-17)*

[Jesus] said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Father,
eternal shepherd,
hear the prayers of your people
for your servant Pope John Paul
who governed your Church with love.
In your mercy bring him with the flock entrusted to his care
to the reward you have promised your faithful servants.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.³

THIRD DAY

There Is But One Church in Peter

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A reading from a sermon by St. Leo the Great, pope⁴

Out of the whole world one man, Peter, is chosen to preside at the calling of all nations, and to be set over all the apostles and all the fathers of the Church. Though there are in God's people many bishops and many shepherds, Peter is thus appointed to rule in his own person those whom Christ also rules as the original ruler. Beloved, how great and wonderful is this sharing in his power that God in his goodness has given to this man. Whatever Christ has willed to be shared in common by Peter and the other leaders of the Church, it is only through Peter that he has given to others what he has not refused to bestow on them.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

God our Father
may your servant Pope John Paul,
rejoice in the fellowship of the successors of Peter
whose office he shared in this life.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.⁵

4 *The Divine Office*, Proper of Saints, February 22—Chair of Peter, apostle.

5 Cf. *Roman Missal*, Various Prayers for the Dead, For a Bishop.

Authentic Teacher of the Faith

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A reading from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 2034)

The Roman Pontiff and the bishops are “authentic teachers, that is, teachers endowed with the authority of Christ, who preach the faith to the people entrusted to them, the faith to be believed and put into practice” (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 25). The *ordinary* and universal *Magisterium* of the Pope and the bishops in communion with him teach the faithful the truth to believe, the charity to practice, the beatitude to hope for.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Father,
in your wise and loving care
you made your servant, John Paul, Pope and teacher of
all your Church.

He did the work of Christ on earth.

May your Son welcome him to eternal glory,
where he lives and reigns with your for ever and ever. Amen.⁶

6 *Roman Missal*, Various Prayers for the Dead, For a Pope, B.

FIFTH DAY

“Strengthen Your Brothers”

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (22:31-34)

[Jesus said,] “Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers.” He said to him, “Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you.” But he replied, “I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me.”

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Lord,

you gave Pope John Paul, your servant and priest
the privilege of a holy ministry in this world.

May he rejoice for ever in the glory of your kingdom,
where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.⁷

⁷ Cf. *Roman Missal*, Various Prayers for the Dead, For a Priest, A.

The Petrine Ministry of Mercy

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*A reading from the Encyclical Letter Ut Unum Sint (That All
May Be One) (nos. 92-93) of Pope John Paul II⁸*

As the heir to the mission of Peter in the Church, which has been made fruitful by the blood of the Princes of the Apostles, the Bishop of Rome exercises a ministry originating in the manifold mercy of God. . . . The authority proper to this ministry is completely at the service of God's merciful plan and it must always be seen in this perspective. Its power is explained from this perspective. Associating himself with Peter's threefold profession of love, which corresponds to the earlier threefold denial, his Successor knows that he must be a sign of mercy. His is a ministry of mercy, born of an act of Christ's own mercy. . . . The Church of God is called by Christ to manifest to a world ensnared by its sins and evil designs that, despite everything, God in his mercy can convert hearts to unity and enable them to enter into communion with him.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

All-powerful God,

you made Pope John Paul, your servant,
the guide of your family.

May he enjoy the reward of all his work
and share the eternal joy of his Lord,

who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.⁹

8 Available at http://www.vatican.va/edocs/eng0221/_index.htm.

9 *Roman Missal*, Various Prayers for the Dead, For a Bishop, A.

SEVENTH DAY

Peter: The First of the Apostles

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (10:1-4)

Jesus summoned his Twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

O God,
from whom the just receive an unfailing reward,
grant that your servant John Paul, our Pope,
whom you made vicar of Peter and shepherd of your Church,
may rejoice for ever in the vision of your glory,
for he was a faithful steward here on earth
of the mysteries of your forgiveness and grace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.¹⁰

Union of Pope and Bishops

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*A Reading from the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church
Lumen Gentium (no. 23), as promulgated by the Fathers of the
Second Vatican Council*¹¹

This collegial union [of bishops] is apparent also in the mutual relations of the individual bishops with particular churches and with the universal Church. The Roman Pontiff, as the successor of Peter, is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity of the bishops and of the multitude of the faithful. The individual bishop, however, is the visible principle and foundation of unity in his particular church, fashioned after the model of the universal Church. In and from such individual churches there comes into being the one and only Catholic Church. For this reason each individual bishop represents his own church, but all of them together in union with the Pope represent the entire Church joined in the bond of peace, love, and unity.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Almighty and merciful God,
eternal Shepherd of your people,
listen to our prayers
and grant that your servant, John Paul, our pope,
to whom you entrusted the care of your Church,
may enter the joy of his eternal Master,
there to receive the rich reward of his labors.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.¹²

11 Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church)*, no. 23, in *The Documents of Vatican II*, ed. Walter M. Abbott (New York: Guild Press, 1966).

12 *Order of Christian Funerals*, no. 398, 15.

Successor to the Apostle Peter

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*A reading from the treatise On the Prescription of Heretics by
Tertullian, priest*¹³

Every family has to be traced back to its origins. That is why we can say that all these great churches constitute that one original Church of the apostles; for it is from them that they all come. They are all primitive, all apostolic, because they are all one. They bear witness to this unity by the peace in which they all live, the brotherhood which is their name, the fellowship to which they are pledged. The principle on which these associations are based is common tradition by which they share the same sacramental bond. The only way in which we can prove what the apostles taught—that is to say, what Christ revealed to them—is through those same churches. They were founded by the apostles themselves, who first preached to them by what is called the living voice and later by means of letters.

Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him.

Lord,

hear the prayers we offer for John Paul, your servant and priest.

He faithfully fulfilled his ministry in your name.

May he rejoice for ever in the fellowship of your saints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.¹⁴

13 *The Divine Office*, Proper of Saints, May 3—Philip and James, apostles.

14 *Roman Missal*, Various Prayers for the Dead, For a Priest, B.

“From the Pauline Chapel of the Apostolic Palace, where they will assemble at a suitable hour in the afternoon, the Cardinal electors, in choir dress, and invoking the assistance of the Holy Spirit with the chant of the Veni Creator, will solemnly process to the Sistine Chapel of the Apostolic Palace, where the election will be held.”

—Pope John Paul II
Apostolic Constitution
Universi Dominici Gregis, no. 50¹⁵

Veni Creator (Come Holy Spirit)

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator, come
From thy bright heavenly throne,
Come, take possession of our souls,
and make them all thy own!

Thou who are called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love!

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,
Finger of God’s right hand,
His promise, teaching little ones
To speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blest light,
With love our hearts inflame;
and with thy strength which ne’er decays
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
True peace unto us bring;
And from all perils lead us safe
Beneath thy sacred wing.

15 Available at http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_constitutions/documents/hf_jp-ii_apc_22021996_universi-dominici-gregis_en.html.

12 Through thee may we the Father know,
Through thee, th'eternal Son,
and thee the Spirit of them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
with his co-equal Son;
The same to thee, great Paraclete,
While endless ages run. Amen.¹⁶

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.
R. And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,
by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.¹⁷

Lord God,
you are our eternal shepherd and guide.
In your mercy grant your Church a shepherd
who will walk in your ways
and whose watchful care will bring us your blessing.

We ask this through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.¹⁸

*I will raise up for myself a faithful priest; he will do
what is in my heart and in my mind, says the Lord.*

—1 Sm 2:35

16 *Liturgy of the Hours*, Solemnity of Pentecost, Evening Prayer I, hymn.

17 "Pentecost Prayers," in *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers* (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1988), 157.

18 *Roman Missal*, Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, For the Election of a Pope or Bishop.