

# **FIESTA SEÑOR 2020**

## **SANTO NIÑO LEICESTER**

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Theme:

## **SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO: CAUSE OF OUR UNITY AND CHARITY**

**9-Days Novena to Señor Santo Niño de Cebu with Readings and  
Reflections**

**10th to 18th of January 2020**

prepared by  
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Main Theme:

## **SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO: CAUSE OF OUR UNITY AND CHARITY**

[T]o create a [community of love] is to create “a family”. “It is to learn to feel connected to others by more than merely utilitarian and practical bonds, to be united in such a way as to feel that our life is a bit more human. To create a [community of love] is to let prophecy take flesh and make our hours and days less cold, less indifferent and anonymous. It is to create bonds by simple, everyday acts that all of us can perform. A [community of love], as we all know, demands that everyone work together. No one can be indifferent or stand apart, since each is a stone needed to build the [community]. This also involves asking the Lord to grant us the grace to learn how to be patient, to forgive one another, to start over each day. How many times should I forgive and start over? Seventy times seven times, as many times as necessary. To create strong bonds requires confidence and trust nurtured daily by patience and forgiveness. And that is how the miracle takes place: we feel that here we are reborn, here we are all reborn, because we feel God’s caress that enables us to dream of a more human world, and therefore of a world more divine”.

*(Christus Vivit, 217)*

At times, seeing a world so full of violence and selfishness, [we] can be tempted to withdraw into small groups, shunning the challenges and issues posed by life in society and in the larger world. [We] may feel that [we] are experiencing fraternity and love, but [our] small group may in fact become nothing other than an extension of [our] own ego. This is even more serious if [we] think of the lay vocation simply as a form of service inside the Church: serving as lectors, acolytes, catechists, and so forth. [We] forget that the lay vocation is directed above all to charity within the family and to social and political charity. It is a concrete and faith-based commitment to the building of a new society. It involves living in the midst of society and the world in order to bring the Gospel everywhere, to work for the growth of peace, harmony, justice, human rights and mercy, and thus for the extension of God’s kingdom in this world.

*(Christus Vivit, 168)*

## **VIVA PIT SEÑOR!**

The novena texts are all taken from the "Novena to the Holy Child Jesus of Cebu " prepared by the Augustinian Fathers of Cebu (1979).

SING: *(Standing)*

### **HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE THY NAME**

Holy God, we praise Thy Name.  
Lord of all! we bow before Thee;  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in heaven above adore Thee;  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! the loud celestial hymn,  
Angels' choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and Seraphim  
In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heavens with sweet accord,  
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord!

In the name of the Father....

### **ACT OF CONTRITION**

Oh, my Dear Jesus! You are our King and our God, because of Your love for us You came down from heaven born of the Virgin Mary. My heart weeps, for in spite of Your goodness we have committed many sins. Forgive us, O Jesus, for our sin of ingratitude in return for Your goodness, Strengthen our will to resist temptation and sin. With your Grace we will be able to fulfil our promises and share with Your glory in heaven.  
Oh, Holy Child Jesus, who is ever good and loving, we kneel before You our true God. With humility we implore You to give us Your mercy and grant us all the favors we ask of You in this NOVENA, so that we will enjoy the blessings of heaven. AMEN.

### **READINGS AND REFLECTIONS**

*(select from pages 6–14 for the proper of the day)*

**PETITION** *(select from pages 6–14 for the proper of the day)*

- Pray three OUR FATHERS, three HAIL MARYS, and GLORY BE...
- Now ask SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO to hear your prayers during this NOVENA (Pause for a moment)

### **SUPPLICATIONS TO SANTO NINO**

Lord, *have mercy on us.*  
Christ, *have mercy on us.*  
Lord, *have mercy on us.*  
Jesus, *hear us.*  
Jesus, *graciously hear us.*

In every need let us come to you with humble trust.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In our doubts, perplexities and temptations,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In the failure of our plans and hopes.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

In disappointments, troubles and sorrows,

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When others fail us, and Your Grace alone can assist us.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we throw ourselves on your tender love as our only refuge.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When our heart is cast down by failure.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we are ill and our head and hands cannot work and we are lonely.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

When we feel impatient and our cross irritates us.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

Always, always, in spite of weakness, failings and shortcomings of every kind.

*Santo Nino, help us.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world:

*Spare us, O Jesus.*

Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world:

*Graciously hear us, O Jesus*

Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world:

*Have mercy upon us, O Jesus.*

Jesus, hear us.

*Jesus, Graciously hear us.*

Praise be the name of the Lord.

*Now and forever*

### **LET US PRAY**

Oh, sweet and merciful Jesus! Señor Santo Niño, the source of all goodness, we kneel before Your sacred Image, imploring Your Divine aid for universal peace and brotherhood among all men, enlighten the unbelievers and the heathens so that they will believe you as their true God. Restore the faith of those who have wandered away from you, bring them back to Your fold with repentance in their hearts.

Grant also to faithful departed in Purgatory the remission of all their sins so that they will rest in peace forever. Finally, nourish and strengthen our faith in You so that we will serve You faithfully on earth. AMEN.

SING *(Standing)*

**SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO HYMN**

*(E. Perez, S. Ezcurra)*

1. One day in these Islands as gift and in pledge  
God sent You to us, O Beloved Child.  
And always You have been the light of our souls,  
The guide of our people, the flame in our hearts.

*Ref:* Señor Santo Niño,  
With Your scepter guide our people  
Who hail You king forever,  
Filipinas is your kingdom.  
Señor Santo Niño,  
In Your hands the world finds its rest;  
Proclaim Your truth and justice,  
Bring to men Your peace and love.

2. *[this is actually verse 5 originally]*  
Now one as a nation we pay You respect;  
Our people did pledge a long time ago.  
We ask You to hear the prayers of all:  
The sad and forsaken, the poor and the sick.  
*(repeat refrain)*

**1st Day – Unity in charity: our faith-made-flesh**  
10th January 2020 (Friday)

**Reading: From the 1st Letter of St John (5:9–11 NRSV)**

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God[c] have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

111. Putting all else aside, I now wish to speak to young people about what is essential, the one thing we should never keep quiet about. It is a message containing three great truths that all of us need constantly to keep hearing.

112. The very first truth I would tell each of you is this: “God loves you”. It makes no difference whether you have already heard it or not. I want to remind you of it. God loves you. Never doubt this, whatever may happen to you in life. At every moment, you are infinitely loved.

118. The second great truth is that Christ, out of love, sacrificed himself completely in order to save you. His outstretched arms on the cross are the most telling sign that he is a friend who is willing to stop at nothing: “Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end” (Jn 13:1).

124. Finally, there is a third truth, inseparable from the second: Christ is alive! We need to keep reminding ourselves of this, because we can risk seeing Jesus Christ simply as a fine model from the distant past, as a memory, as someone who saved us two thousand years ago. But that would be of no use to us: it would leave us unchanged, it would not set us free. The one who fills us with his grace, the one who liberates us, transforms us, heals and consoles us is someone fully alive. He is the Christ, risen from the dead, filled with supernatural life and energy, and robed in boundless light. That is why Saint Paul could say: “If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile” (1 Cor 15:7).

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (1st Day) – Faith**

Oh, ever-wise Jesus, who in your wisdom, has sent zealous missionaries to our humble shores to preach the Gospel to our forefathers so that they would see the LIGHT and embrace the CATHOLIC FAITH, we humbly ask you to give us a living Faith so that we may always please you in all that we do. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

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**2nd Day – Unity in charity: loving God and one another**  
11th January 2020 (Saturday)

**Reading: From the 1st letter of St John (5:14–20 NRSV)**

And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him. If you see your brother or sister committing what is not a mortal sin, you will ask, and God will give life to such a one—to those whose sin is not mortal. [...] All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that is not mortal. We know that those who are born of God do not sin, but the one who was born of God protects them, and the evil one does not touch them. We know that we are God’s children, and that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

164. When an encounter with God is called an “ecstasy”, it is because it takes us out of ourselves, lifts us up and overwhelms us with God’s love and beauty. Yet we can also experience ecstasy when we recognize in others their hidden beauty, their dignity and their grandeur as images of God and children of the Father. The Holy Spirit wants to make us come out of ourselves, to embrace others with love and to seek their good. That is why it is always better to live the faith together and to show our love by living in community and sharing with other young people our affection, our time, our faith and our troubles. The Church offers many different possibilities for living our faith in community, for everything is easier when we do it together.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (2nd Day) – Love**

Oh, most-loving Jesus, who has shown your love to us by dying for us on the Cross and by giving yourself to us in the Holy Eucharist, we beseech you to share with us Your love so that we may always love You with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength, and also so that we may always love our neighbors as ourselves. This we ask you in Your holy name. Amen.

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**3rd Day – Unity in charity: humbly serving one another**  
12th January 2020 (Sunday)

**Reading: From the book of the prophet Isaiah (42:1-4 NRSV)**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

41. Although many young people are happy to see a Church that is humble yet confident in her gifts and capable of offering fair and fraternal criticism, others want a Church that listens more, that does more than simply condemn the world. They do not want to see a Church that is silent and afraid to speak, but neither one that is always battling obsessively over two or three issues. To be credible to young people, there are times when she needs to regain her humility and simply listen, recognizing that what others have to say can provide some light to help her better understand the Gospel. A Church always on the defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum. How, then, will she be able to respond to the dreams of young people? Even if she possesses the truth of the Gospel, this does not mean that she has completely understood it; rather, she is called to keep growing in her grasp of that inexhaustible treasure.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (3rd Day) – Humility**

Oh, Jesus, who said, "Learn from me because I am meek and humble of heart", grant us the virtues of meekness and humility so that we may progress in our spiritual life, and so that our neighbour may see your Image in us. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

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4th Day – **Unity in charity: fruit of our contrite and resolute hearts**

13th January 2020 (Monday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:14-20 NRSV)**

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

120. “We are saved by Jesus because he loves us and cannot go against his nature. We can do any number of things against him, yet he loves us and he saves us. For only what is loved can be saved. Only what is embraced can be transformed. The Lord’s love is greater than all our problems, frailties and flaws. Yet it is precisely through our problems, frailties and flaws that he wants to write this love story. He embraced the prodigal son, he embraced Peter after his denials, and he always, always, always embraces us after every fall, helping us to rise and get back on our feet. Because the worst fall, and pay attention to this, the worst fall, the one that can ruin our lives, is when we stay down and do not allow ourselves to be helped up”.

121. His forgiveness and salvation are not something we can buy, or that we have to acquire by our own works or efforts. He forgives us and sets us free without cost. His self-sacrifice on the cross is so great that we can never repay it, but only receive it with immense gratitude and with the joy of being more greatly loved than we could ever imagine: “He loved us first” (1 Jn 4:19).

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (5th Day) – Repentance** *[we swap 4th & 5th day petitions to be thematic with the readings]*

Oh merciful Jesus! You have said that “there will be more rejoicing in heaven for one sinner who repents than over ninety nine just who don’t need repentance”; we beseech you to grant us the grace of repentance so that we may repent of our sins and live for you alone. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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5th Day – **Unity in charity: forgiving one another**  
14th January 2020 (Tuesday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:21–22 NRSV)**

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

165. Hurts you have experienced might tempt you to withdraw from others, to turn in on yourself and to nurse feelings of anger, but never stop listening to God's call to forgiveness. The Bishops of Rwanda put it well: "In order to reconcile with another person, you must first of all be able to see the goodness in that person, the goodness God created him with... This requires great effort to distinguish the offence from the offender; it means you hate the offence the person has committed, but you love the person despite his weakness, because in him you see the image of God".

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (4th Day) – Forgiveness** *[we swap 4th & 5th day petitions to be thematic with the readings]*

Oh, Merciful Jesus, You had forgiven those who crucified you; we implore you to give us a forgiving heart so that we may always pardon those who will hurt us in word or in deed. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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6th Day – **Unity in charity: respecting the human body**

15th January 2020 (Wednesday)

**Reading: From the book of Psalms (40:4, 6–8 NRSV)**

Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods. Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, “Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

212. As for growth, I would make one important point. In some places, it happens that young people are helped to have a powerful experience of God, an encounter with Jesus that touched their hearts. But the only follow-up to this is a series of “formation” meetings featuring talks about doctrinal and moral issues, the evils of today’s world, the Church, her social doctrine, chastity, marriage, birth control and so on. As a result, many young people get bored, they lose the fire of their encounter with Christ and the joy of following him; many give up and others become downcast or negative. Rather than being too concerned with communicating a great deal of doctrine, let us first try to awaken and consolidate the great experiences that sustain the Christian life. In the words of Romano Guardini, “when we experience a great love... everything else becomes part of it”.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (6th Day) – Chastity**

Oh, most-loving Jesus! You gave us an example of a chaste life while you were on earth; we implore you to grant us the virtue of chastity so that we may always live a chaste life in whatever state of life we have chosen. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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**7th Day – Unity in charity: following God’s plan**  
16th January 2020 (Thursday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:40-41 NRSV)**

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you choose, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, Jesus[r] stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “I do choose. Be made clean!”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

44. “We are always struck by the strength of the young Mary’s ‘yes’, the strength in those words, ‘be it done’, that she spoke to the angel. This was no merely passive or resigned acceptance, or a faint ‘yes’, as if to say, ‘Well, let’s give it a try and see what happens’. Mary did not know the words, ‘Let’s see what happens’. She was determined; she knew what was at stake and she said ‘yes’ without thinking twice. Hers was the ‘yes’ of someone prepared to be committed, someone willing to take a risk, ready to stake everything she had, with no more security than the certainty of knowing that she was the bearer of a promise. So I ask each one of you: do you see yourselves as the bearers of a promise? What promise is present in my heart that I can take up? Mary’s mission would undoubtedly be difficult, but the challenges that lay ahead were no reason to say ‘no’. Things would get complicated, of course, but not in the same way as happens when cowardice paralyzes us because things are not clear or sure in advance. Mary did not take out an insurance policy! She took the risk, and for this reason she is strong, she is an ‘influencer’, the ‘influencer’ of God. Her ‘yes and her desire to serve were stronger than any doubts or difficulties”.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (7th Day) – Docility**

Oh, most merciful Jesus! You had been always obedient to your heavenly Father even unto death; we beseech you to grant us the grace of being always docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit so that we will always glorify your Father in heaven. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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8th Day – **Unity in charity: journeying together towards fullness of life**

17th January 2020 (Friday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (2:3, 5, 11-12 NRSV)**

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,

“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

174. I want to encourage all of you in this effort, because I know that “your young hearts want to build a better world. I have been following news reports of the many young people throughout the world who have taken to the streets to express the desire for a more just and fraternal society. Young people taking to the streets! The young want to be protagonists of change. Please, do not leave it to others to be protagonists of change. You are the ones who hold the future! Through you, the future enters into the world. I ask you also to be protagonists of this transformation. You are the ones who hold the key to the future! Continue to fight apathy and to offer a Christian response to the social and political troubles emerging in different parts of the world. I ask you to build the future, to work for a better world. Dear young people, please, do not be bystanders in life. Get involved! Jesus was not a bystander. He got involved. Don’t stand aloof, but immerse yourselves in the reality of life, as Jesus did”. Above all, in one way or another, fight for the common good, serve the poor, be protagonists of the revolution of charity and service, capable of resisting the pathologies of consumerism and superficial individualism.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (8th Day) – Eternal Life**

Oh, merciful Jesus! You opened the gates of heaven for us through your death and resurrection; we implore you to grant us eternal life after our sojourn here on earth. We ask you this in your holy name. Amen.

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9th Day – **Unity in charity: in pursuit for everlasting happiness**

18th January 2020 (Saturday)

**Reading: From the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (2:16-17 NRSV)**

When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

*(short pause)*

**Reflections: from *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God**

162. But I would also remind you that you won’t become holy and find fulfilment by copying others. Imitating the Saints does not mean copying their lifestyle and their way of living holiness: “There are some testimonies that may prove helpful and inspiring, but that we are not meant to copy, for that could even lead us astray from the one specific path that the Lord has in mind for us”. You have to discover who you are and develop your own way of being holy, whatever others may say or think. Becoming a saint means becoming more fully yourself, becoming what the Lord wished to dream and create, and not a photocopy. Your life ought to be a prophetic stimulus to others and leave a mark on this world, the unique mark that only you can leave. Whereas if you simply copy someone else, you will deprive this earth, and heaven too, of something that no one else can offer. I think of Saint John of the Cross, who wrote in his *Spiritual Canticle* that everyone should benefit from his spiritual advice “in his or her own way”, for the one God wishes to manifest his grace “to some in one way and to others in another”.

*(let us pause for a few moments for silent reflection)*

**PETITION (9th Day) – Hope of Heaven**

Oh, merciful Jesus! You said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”; We beseech you to guide us in our way to heaven so that we may be able to surmount all the difficulties and obstacles we will encounter in this deceptive world.

Grant us also the virtue of hope so that we will always thirst for the heavenly things and for your glory. This we ask you in your holy name. Amen.

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## Acknowledgement & References

We would like to acknowledge the following references whose materials we use for this novena prayer pamphlet.

The Readings are from:

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Retrieved from: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-NRSV-Bible/#booklist> (24 November 2019).

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'*Christus Vivit*', Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God. Retrieved from:

[http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20190325\\_christus-vivit.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20190325_christus-vivit.html) (24 November 2019).



**Becoming a community of devotees to Santo Niño de Cebu that journeys together towards fullness of life committed to proclaim the Word of God with our lives and to spread the devotion to Christ; hereby, giving our contribution to the building up of the Kingdom of God.**

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