

FIESTA SEÑOR 2023

SANTO NIÑO LEICESTER

www.stoninoleics.com || [@stoninoleics](https://www.instagram.com/stoninoleics)

Blessed Sacrament Church,
Gooding Avenue, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 1JS

Theme:

STO. NIÑO: OUR SOURCE OF PEACE IN THE WALK OF FAITH

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

6th to 14th of January 2023

prepared by
Santo Niño Leicester
www.stoninoleics.com

Main Theme:

STO. NIÑO: OUR SOURCE OF PEACE IN THE WALK OF FAITH

"God gathered together as one all those who in faith look upon Jesus as the author of salvation and the source of unity and peace, and established them as the Church that for each and all it may be the visible sacrament of this saving unity. While it transcends all limits of time and confines of race, the Church is destined to extend to all regions of the earth and so enters into the history of mankind. Moving forward through trial and tribulation, the Church is strengthened by the power of God's grace, which was promised to her by the Lord, so that in the weakness of the flesh she may not waver from perfect fidelity, but remain a bride worthy of her Lord, and moved by the Holy Spirit may never cease to renew herself, until through the Cross she arrives at the light which knows no setting." (Lumen Gentium 9)

May Señor Santo Niño, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, reinvigorate us in our life of communion, participation and mission. And we pray: "Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right."

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 – **Our journey of handing-over our faith**
6th January 2023 (Friday)

Reading

From the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew (2:9–12)

And there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

(short pause)

Reflections: (from the 2nd Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on the Church **LUMEN GENTIUM**)

2. The eternal Father, by a free and hidden plan of His own wisdom and goodness, created the whole world. His plan was to raise men to a participation of the divine life. Fallen in Adam, God the Father did not leave men to themselves, but ceaselessly offered helps to salvation, in view of Christ, the Redeemer "who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature" [Col. 1:15]. All the elect, before time began, the Father "foreknew and pre-destined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that he should be the firstborn among many brethren" [Rom. 8:29]. He planned to assemble in the holy Church all those who would believe in Christ. [...]

3. The Son, therefore, came, sent by the Father. It was in Him, before the foundation of the world, that the Father chose us and predestined us to become adopted sons, for in Him it pleased the Father to re-establish all things [cf. Eph. 1:4-5, 10]. To carry out the will of the Father, Christ inaugurated the Kingdom of heaven on earth and revealed to us the mystery of that kingdom. By His obedience He brought about redemption. The Church, or, in other words, the kingdom of Christ now present in mystery, grows visibly through the power of God in the world. [...] All men are called to this union with Christ, who is the light of the world, from whom we go forth, through whom we live, and toward whom our whole life strains.

4. When the work which the Father gave the Son to do on earth [cf. Jn. 17:4] was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost in order that He might continually sanctify the Church, and thus, all those who believe would have access through Christ in one Spirit to the Father [cf. Eph. 1:18]. [...] The Church, which the Spirit guides in way of all truth [cf. Jn. 16:13] and which He unified in communion and in works of ministry, He both equips and directs with hierarchical and charismatic gifts and adorns with His fruits [cf. Eph. 1:11-12; 1 Cor. 12:4; Gal. 5:22]. [...]

Thus, the Church has been seen as "a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

(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.

2nd Day – **Our journey of loving God and one another**
7th January 2023 (Saturday)

Reading

From the 1st letter of St John (5:18–20)

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 the 2nd Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *LUMEN GENTIUM*)

42. "God is love, and he who abides in love, abides in God and God in Him" [1 Jn. 4:16]. But, God pours out his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us [cf. Rom. 5:5]; thus the first and most necessary gift is love, by which we love God above all things and our neighbor because of God. Indeed, in order that love, as good seed may grow and bring forth fruit in the soul, each one of the faithful must willingly hear the Word of God and accept His Will, and must complete what God has begun by their own actions with the help of God's grace. These actions consist in the use of the sacraments and in a special way the Eucharist, frequent participation in the sacred action of the Liturgy, application of oneself to prayer, self-abnegation, lively fraternal service and the constant exercise of all the virtues. For charity, as the bond of perfection and the fullness of the law [cf. Col. 3:14; Rom. 13:10], rules over all the means of attaining holiness and gives life to these same means. It is charity which guides us to our final end. It is the love of God and the love of one's neighbor which points out the true disciple of Christ.

Since Jesus, the Son of God, manifested His charity by laying down His life for us, so too no one has greater love than he who lays down his life for Christ and His brothers [cf. 1 Jn. 3:16; Jn. 15:13]. From the earliest times, then, some Christians have been called upon—and some will always be called upon—to give the supreme testimony of this love to all men, but especially to persecutors. The Church, then, considers martyrdom as an exceptional gift and as the fullest proof of love. By martyrdom a disciple is transformed into an image of his Master by freely accepting death for the salvation of the world—as well as his conformity to Christ in the shedding of his blood. Though few are presented such an opportunity, nevertheless all must be prepared to confess Christ before men. They must be prepared to make this profession of faith even in the midst of persecutions, which will never be lacking to the Church, in following the way of the cross.

(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.

3rd Day – **Our journey of serving one another**
8th January 2023 (Sunday)

Reading

From the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew (3:13-17)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

(short pause)

Reflections: (from the 2nd Vatican Council Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

GAUDIUM ET SPES

24. God, Who has fatherly concern for everyone, has willed that all men should constitute one family and treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood. For having been created in the image of God, Who "from one man has created the whole human race and made them live all over the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26), all men are called to one and the same goal, namely God Himself. [...]

26. Every day human interdependence grows more tightly drawn and spreads by degrees over the whole world. As a result the common good, that is, the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment, today takes on an increasingly universal complexion and consequently involves rights and duties with respect to the whole human race. Every social group must take account of the needs and legitimate aspirations of other groups, and even of the general welfare of the entire human family.

At the same time, however, there is a growing awareness of the exalted dignity proper to the human person, since he stands above all things, and his rights and duties are universal and inviolable. Therefore, there must be made available to all men everything necessary for leading a life truly human, such as food, clothing, and shelter; the right to choose a state of life freely and to found a family, the right to education, to employment, to a good reputation, to respect, to appropriate information, to activity in accord with the upright norm of one's own conscience, to protection of privacy and rightful freedom even in matters religious.

Hence, the social order and its development must invariably work to the benefit of the human person if the disposition of affairs is to be subordinate to the personal realm and not contrariwise, as the Lord indicated when He said that the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. *[cf. Mk 2:27]*

(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 you holy name. Amen.

4th Day – Our journey of constant renewal and reparation

9th January 2023 (Monday)

Reading

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:14–15)

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 the 2nd Vatican Council Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy **SACROSANCTUM CONCILIIUM**)

5. God who "wills that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4), "who in many and various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets" (Heb. 1:1), when the fullness of time had come sent His Son, the Word made flesh, anointed by the Holy Spirit, to preach the the gospel to the poor, to heal the contrite of heart [cf. Is. 61:1; Luke 4:18], to be a "bodily and spiritual medicine", the Mediator between God and man [cf. 1 Tim. 2:5]. For His humanity, united with the person of the Word, was the instrument of our salvation. Therefore in Christ "the perfect achievement of our reconciliation came forth, and the fullness of divine worship was given to us".

The wonderful works of God among the people of the Old Testament were but a prelude to the work of Christ the Lord in redeeming mankind and giving perfect glory to God. He achieved His task principally by the paschal mystery of His blessed passion, resurrection from the dead, and the glorious ascension, whereby "dying, he destroyed our death and, rising, he restored our life". For it was from the side of Christ as He slept the sleep of death upon the cross that there came forth "the wondrous sacrament of the whole Church".

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

PETITION (5th Day) – Repentance

(We swap the novena 4th day petition with the 5th day petition to match with the Liturgical reading of the day.)

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.

5th Day – **Our journey of forgiving one another**
10th January 2023 (Tuesday)

Reading

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

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 the 2nd Vatican Council Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

GAUDIUM ET SPES)

78. [...] That earthly peace which arises from love of neighbor symbolizes and results from the peace of Christ which radiates from God the Father. For by the cross the incarnate Son, the prince of peace reconciled all men with God. By thus restoring all men to the unity of one people and one body, He slew hatred in His own flesh; and, after being lifted on high by His resurrection, He poured forth the spirit of love into the hearts of men. For this reason, all Christians are urgently summoned to do in love what the truth requires, and to join with all true peacemakers in pleading for peace and bringing it about.

Motivated by this same spirit, we cannot fail to praise those who renounce the use of violence in the vindication of their rights and who resort to methods of defense which are otherwise available to weaker parties too, provided this can be done without injury to the rights and duties of others or of the community itself.

Insofar as men are sinful, the threat of war hangs over them, and hang over them it will until the return of Christ. But insofar as men vanquish sin by a union of love, they will vanquish violence as well and make these words come true: "They shall turn their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into sickles. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4).

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

PETITION (4th Day) – Forgiveness

(We swap the novena 5th day petition with the 4th day petition to match with the Liturgical reading of the day.)

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.

6th Day – Our journey as a family of families
11th January 2023 (Wednesday)

Reading

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:32–34)

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

(short pause)

**Reflections: (from the 2nd Vatican Council Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World
GAUDIUM ET SPES)**

48. The intimate partnership of married life and love has been established by the Creator and qualified by His laws, and is rooted in the conjugal covenant of irrevocable personal consent. Hence by that human act whereby spouses mutually bestow and accept each other a relationship arises which by divine will and in the eyes of society too is a lasting one. For the good of the spouses and their off-springs as well as of society, the existence of the sacred bond no longer depends on human decisions alone. For, God Himself is the author of matrimony, endowed as it is with various benefits and purposes. [...]

49. [...] This love is uniquely expressed and perfected through the appropriate enterprise of matrimony. The actions within marriage by which the couple are united intimately and chastely are noble and worthy ones. Expressed in a manner which is truly human, these actions promote that mutual self-giving by which spouses enrich each other with a joyful and a ready will. Sealed by mutual faithfulness and hallowed above all by Christ's sacrament, this love remains steadfastly true in body and in mind, in bright days or dark. It will never be profaned by adultery or divorce. Firmly established by the Lord, the unity of marriage will radiate from the equal personal dignity of wife and husband, a dignity acknowledged by mutual and total love. The constant fulfillment of the duties of this Christian vocation demands notable virtue. For this reason, strengthened by grace for holiness of life, the couple will painstakingly cultivate and pray for steadiness of love, large heartedness and the spirit of sacrifice.

52. [...] let the spouses themselves, made to the image of the living God and enjoying the authentic dignity of persons, be joined to one another in equal affection, harmony of mind and the work of mutual sanctification. Thus, following Christ who is the principle of life, [cf. Rom. 5:15 and 18; 6:5-11; Gal. 2:20] by the sacrifices and joys of their vocation and through their faithful love, married people can become witnesses of the mystery of love which the Lord revealed to the world by His dying and His rising up to life again. [cf. Eph. 5:25-27]

(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.

7th Day – **Our journey of following God's plan**
12th January 2023 (Thursday)

Reading

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (1:43–45)

After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

(short pause)

Reflections: (from the 2nd Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation *DEI VERBUM*)

5. "The obedience of faith" [Rom. 13:26; see 1:5; 2 Cor 10:5-6] "is to be given to God who reveals, an obedience by which man commits his whole self freely to God, offering the full submission of intellect and will to God who reveals," and freely assenting to the truth revealed by Him. To make this act of faith, the grace of God and the interior help of the Holy Spirit must precede and assist, moving the heart and turning it to God, opening the eyes of the mind and giving "joy and ease to everyone in assenting to the truth and believing it." To bring about an ever deeper understanding of revelation the same Holy Spirit constantly brings faith to completion by His gifts.

6. Through divine revelation, God chose to show forth and communicate Himself and the eternal decisions of His will regarding the salvation of men. That is to say, He chose to share with them those divine treasures which totally transcend the understanding of the human mind.

As a sacred synod has affirmed, God, the beginning and end of all things, can be known with certainty from created reality by the light of human reason [see Rom. 1:20]; but teaches that it is through His revelation that those religious truths which are by their nature accessible to human reason can be known by all men with ease, with solid certitude and with no trace of error, even in this present state of the human race.

(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.

8th Day – Our journey together towards fullness of life

13th January 2023 (Friday)

Reading

From the Holy Gospel according to St Mark (2:3–5)

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralysed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'

(short pause)

Reflections: (from the 2nd Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on the Church **LUMEN GENTIUM**)

48. [...] Joined with Christ in the Church and signed with the Holy Spirit "who is the pledge of our inheritance", [Eph. 1:14] truly we are called and we are sons of God [cf. 1 Jn. 3:1] but we have not yet appeared with Christ in glory, [cf. Col. 3:4] in which we shall be like to God, since we shall see Him as He is. [cf. 1 Jn. 3:2] And therefore "while we are in the body, we are exiled from the Lord [2 Cor. 5:6] and having the first-fruits of the Spirit we groan within ourselves [cf. Rom. 8:23] and we desire to be with Christ" [cf. Phil. 1:23] By that same charity however, we are urged to live more for Him, who died for us and rose again. [cf. 2 Cor 5:15] We strive therefore to please God in all things [cf. 2 Cor. 5:9] and we put on the armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil and resist in the evil day. [cf. Eph. 6:11-13] Since however we know not the day nor the hour, on Our Lord's advice we must be constantly vigilant so that, having finished the course of our earthly life, [cf. Heb 9:27] we may merit to enter into the marriage feast with Him and to be numbered among the blessed [cf. Mt. 25:31-46] and that we may not be ordered to go into eternal fire [cf. Mt. 25:41] like the wicked and slothful servant, [cf. Mt. 25:26] into the exterior darkness where "there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth". [Mt. 22:13 and 25:30] For before we reign with Christ in glory, all of us will be made manifest "before the tribunal of Christ, so that each one may receive what he has won through the body, according to his works, whether good or evil" [2 Cor. 5:10] and at the end of the world "they who have done good shall come forth unto resurrection of life; but those who have done evil unto resurrection of judgment". [Jn. 5:29; Cf. Mt. 25:46] Reckoning therefore that "the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come that will be revealed in us", [Rom. 8:18; cf. 2 Tim. 2:11-12] strong in faith we look for the "blessed hope and the glorious coming of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ" [Tit. 2:13] "who will refashion the body of our lowliness, conforming it to the body of His glory [Phil. 3:21], and who will come "to be glorified in His saints and to be marveled at in all those who have believed" [2 Thess. 1:10].

(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.

9th Day – **Our journey of hope**
14th January 2023 (Saturday)

Reading

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

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 the 2nd Vatican Council Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

GAUDIUM ET SPES

93. Mindful of the Lord's saying: "by this will all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35), Christians cannot yearn for anything more ardently than to serve the men of the modern world with mounting generosity and success. Therefore, by holding faithfully to the Gospel and benefiting from its resources, by joining with every man who loves and practices justice, Christians have shouldered a gigantic task for fulfillment in this world, a task concerning which they must give a reckoning to Him who will judge every man on the last of days.

Not everyone who cries, "Lord, Lord," will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but those who do the Father's will by taking a strong grip on the work at hand. Now, the Father wills that in all men we recognize Christ our brother and love Him effectively, in word and in deed. By thus giving witness to the truth, we will share with others the mystery of the heavenly Father's love. As a consequence, men throughout the world will be aroused to a lively hope—the gift of the Holy Spirit—that some day at last they will be caught up in peace and utter happiness in that fatherland radiant with the glory of the Lord.

Now to Him who is able to accomplish all things in a measure far beyond what we ask or conceive, in keeping with the power that is at work in us—to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus, down through all the ages of time without end. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21).

(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.

Acknowledgement & References

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

The Readings are from:

New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicised Catholic Edition, copyright © 1989, 1993, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-Revised-Standard-Version-Anglicised-Catholic-Edition-NRSVACE-Bible/#booklist>

The Reflections are excerpts from the Documents of the II Vatican Council:

- ***Dei Verbum***:
https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html
- ***Lumen Gentium***:
https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html
- ***Sacrosanctum Concilium***:
https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html
- ***Gaudium et Spes***:
https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html



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.