

NOVENA NO. 3

“...humility of the heart and of the intellect is that virtue which the Sacred Heart of Jesus cannot resist.”
(MD Letter 83)

OUTLINE FOR THE NOVENA

- *Choose the time in which it is possible for the community to gather together in peace and serenity;*
- *invoke the Holy Spirit;*
- *read the letter, previously meditated personally;*
- *spend some time of silence and then, each one will share her reflection on what struck her or what she desires to put into practice, or her experience of the teaching of the Foundress (speak always in the first person singular, for example: “my experience...”). The sharing is to last for a maximum of 30 to 40 minutes (it is the duration of the community formation gathering);*
- *sing a song of the Foundress;*
- *go to the chapel and remain there in adoration for 10 minutes, praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit;*
- *pray together with the words of the Blessed Mother (see prayer of the Foundress);*
- *continue with the Vespers (make a brief pause after the short reading which always refers to the Holy Spirit); sing the Magnificat (Mary expresses in this hymn the humility of her heart).*

PRAYER OF THE FOUNDRESS

O my God, Grant me, I beseech you, through the passion of Jesus, a perfect sorrow, a profound humility and an ardent love.

In this very moment I renew at your feet the offering of my whole self and I resolve in the future, with your help, to observe rigorously those virtues that are so pleasing to you and that you ask of me.

Grant me, most loving and good Jesus, an authentic spirit of mortification, humility, gentleness and a zeal for your glory, a resignation to adversity and a love of suffering and holy perseverance.

(Spiritual Writings, no. 2, p. 286)

13 May (1st day)

Humility is to live according to the Spirit – Letter no. 14

Let us pray for *faithfulness*, the fruit of the Holy Spirit:

Strengthen in me, O Holy Spirit, the virtue of faithfulness: faithfulness to God, to the Church, to my Congregation, to women and men of my time. Grant that I may constantly be united to Christ, my Spouse, and never cease to fight interiorly against everything that keeps me away from Him and from love towards others.

14 May (2nd day)

To be conformed to Christ, meek and humble of heart – Letter no. 85

Let us pray for *gentleness*, the fruit of Holy Spirit:

O Holy Spirit, give me the virtue of Gentleness: self-control in my words and exterior and interior attitudes. Make me ready to forgive, attentive to respect always the freedom of others, and not to be concerned of making good impression but to seek always and in everything the glory of God.

15 May (3rd day)

Humility of heart is the foundation of true piety – Letter no. 74

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of *piety*:

Give me the gift of Piety, O Holy Spirit: heal my life and all my unhealthy relationships and the wounds caused by them.

Grant me to experience more deeply that I am a daughter of God and that I am truly such. Grant that my life may be centered in prayer, in my intimate relationship with you.

16 May (4th day)

The exercise of patience requires humility - Letter no. 28

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of *fortitude*:

Give me the gift of Fortitude, O Holy Spirit, so that I may choose and walk with the strength of God for short or long stretches, and to be faithful, always, to what God asks of me.

17 May (5th day)

Humility is putting on the mind of Christ - Letter no. 16

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of *wisdom*:

Give me the gift of Wisdom, O Holy Spirit, grant that I may delight in God and in everything that comes from Him, even amidst the aridity of the trials and difficulties.

Give me the desire of God above every other desire and let me act on every choice, small or big, ordinary or extraordinary, based on this desire.

18 May (6th day)

Humility is knowing and accepting of oneself - Letter no. 75

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of **knowledge**:

Give me the gift of Knowledge, O Holy Spirit; illumine and inflame my life. Make me know your ways and grant that my heart remain focused in them. Show me the lordship of Christ in my life story and the history of the entire world.

Give Light to every darkness.

19 May (7th day)

Harmony and peace are the fruits of humility – Letter no. 83

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of **intellect**:

Give me the gift of Intellect, O Holy Spirit; allow me to enter into the core of God's Word, in the Tradition, in the Magisterium of the Church. Allow me to give reason for the Hope that you placed in my heart. Free my mind and loosen my tongue.

20 May (8th day)

Humility is truth – Letter no. 67

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of **counsel**:

Give me the gift of Counsel, O Holy Spirit, that I may know what is pleasing to God and not dwell on the choices that life places before me.

May I know how to seize every challenge that comes my way everyday in the clarity of this gift and only to please Him in every step I make.

Whatever it may be, small or great.

21 May (9th day)

Charity and union of hearts are fruits of humility – Letter no. 84

Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of the **fear of God**:

Grant me, O Holy Spirit, the gift of the Fear of God. Set in order – in my heart, in my mind and in my life – whatever hinders me from recognizing God as the God of my life story and the history of the whole world.

22 May

Reading of the Spiritual Testament of the Blessed Mother Foundress (Writings, pp. 125-129)

***“May the most holy Mother of Jesus
and our most loving Mother bless,
protect and console you.”***
(Blessed Maria Domenica)

**PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MARIA
DOMENICA BRUN BARBANTINI**

God, Father of mercy,
we praise You for awakening in the heart
of Blessed Maria Domenica Brun Barbantini
through Your Holy Spirit, a compassionate love
for the sick and suffering.

We thank You for her extraordinary
spiritual journey, as wife, mother, widow,
consecrated woman and foundress.

We pray to You, Father:
grant that Blessed Maria Domenica
may soon be proclaimed a saint,
so that all may be inspired by her journey
of holiness in the following of Jesus
the Good Samaritan

and enjoy her intercession (ask for the grace...)
We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Our Father..., Hail Mary..., Glory be...

Blessed Maria Domenica, Pray for us