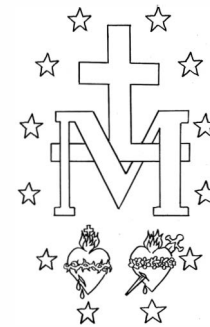


NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Say the following prayer for 9 days
starting on November 29 and ending on December 7,
the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

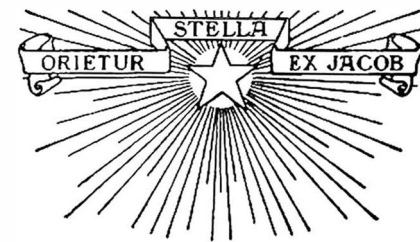


At length, on the distant horizon, rises, with a soft and radiant light, the aurora of the Sun which has been so long desired. The happy Mother of the Messiah was to be born before the Messiah himself; and this is the day of the Conception of Mary. The earth already possesses a first pledge of the divine mercy; the Son of Man is near at hand. Two true Israelites, Joachim and Anne, noble branches of the family of David, find their union, after a long barrenness, made fruitful by the divine omnipotence. Glory be to God, who has been mindful of his promises, and who deigns to announce, from the high heavens, the end of the deluge of iniquity, by sending upon the earth the sweet white Dove that bears the tidings of peace!

-Rev. Dom Prosper Guéranger

PRAYER

Immaculate Virgin! Mary, conceived without sin! Remember, thou wert miraculously preserved from even the shadow of sin, because thou wert destined to become not only the Mother of God, but also the mother, the refuge, and the advocate of man; penetrated therefore, with the most lively confidence in thy never-failing intercession, we most humbly implore thee to look with favor upon the intentions of this novena, and to obtain for us the graces and the favors we request. Thou knowest, O Mary, how often our hearts are the sanctuaries of God, Who abhors iniquity. Obtain for us, then, than angelic purity which was thy favorite virtue, that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone, and that purity of intention which will consecrate every thought, word, and action to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a constant spirit of prayer and self-denial, that we many recover by penance that innocence which we have lost by sin, and at length attain safety to that blessed abode of the saints, where nothing defiled can enter.



491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

-Catechism of the Catholic Church

PRAYER

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

V. Thou art all fair, O Mary.

R. Thou art all fair, O Mary.

V. And the original stain is not in thee.

R. And the original stain is not in thee.

V. Thou art the glory of Jerusalem.

R. Thou art the joy of Israel

V. Thou art the honor of our people.

R. Thou art the advocate of sinners.

V. O Mary.

R. O Mary.

V. Virgin, most prudent.

R. Mother, most tender.

V. Pray for us.

R. Intercede for us with Jesus our Lord.

V. In thy conception, Holy Virgin, thou wast immaculate.

R. Pray for us to the Father Whose Son thou didst bring forth.

V. O Lady! aid my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto thee.



Potuit, deuit, ergo fecit!

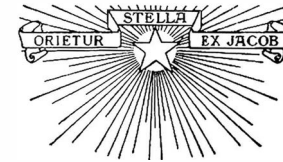
“He could; it was fitting; therefore, He did it!”

*-Saint Eadmer of Canterbury
in defense of the Immaculate Conception*

PRAYER

Let us pray

Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and mistress of the world, who forsakest no one, and despisest no one, look upon me, O Lady! with an eye of pity, and entreat for me of thy beloved Son the forgiveness of all my sins; that, as I now celebrate, with devout affection, thy holy and immaculate conception, so, hereafter I may receive the prize of eternal blessedness, by the grace of Him whom thou, in virginity, didst bring forth, Jesus Christ Our Lord: Who, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth, in perfect Trinity, God, world without end. Amen.



She is ever Virgin and yet Mother of God, she is also the incorruptible Ark of the Covenant present in the Holy of Holies of Heaven that St. John saw; 'Heaven opened up, I saw the Ark of the Covenant.' It's our Lady, it's her body. As the house of gold, she is the Immaculate Conception; completely free of all sin, stain or blemish on the inside or on the out. As the seat of Wisdom and mercy, God, comes down into His Ark such that all light and grace flow from her as it did from the Ark so long ago.

*-From the mission "Coming out of Egypt"
Missionaries of St. John the Baptist*