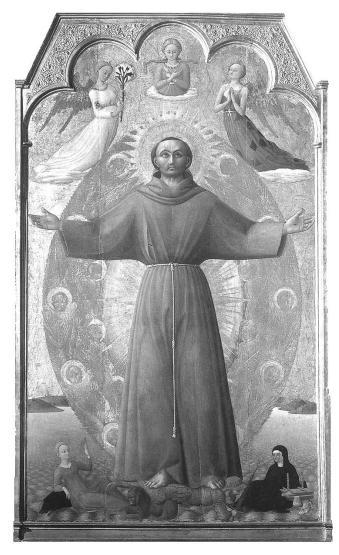
NOVENA

to ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI



St Francis of Assisi, born 1182 - died October 3, 1226.

All stand for the duration of the Novena.

	5
Priest: Deus in adjutorium meum intende.	Priest: God, come to my aid.
R. Domine ad adjuvandum me fes-	R. Lord make haste to help me.
tina. Priest: <i>[All bow]</i> Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto.	Priest: [All bow] Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
R. Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen. Alleluia.	R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

EXHORTATION

Let us turn to our blessed father Francis, imploring his merciful intercession for the intentions now asked of you...



All: Amen.

All: Amen.

Priest: Dominus vobiscum. R. Et cum spiritu tuo. V. Benedicamus Domino. R. Deo gratias. Priest: The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit. V. Let us bless the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Francis, thou wast lonely plying

- 1. Francis, thou wast lonely plying For thy bread from door to door, Till God heard thy bitter sighing For His wounds and for His poor;
- Till He bade thee all things leaving Love the Lady Poverty, Whom in joyfulness receiving Thou didst wed as poor as thee.
- 3. Blind to earthen pomp and glory Thou didst see the Crucified, When the scars, that tell Love's story, Smote thee, hands and feet and side.
- 4. And His eyes upon the mountain Left each burning wound with thee, As they looked upon the fountain Of thy soul in ecstasy.
- 5. Now thy feet like ensigns glowing March above the starry plain, And thy hands are rich bestowing Love for all thy children's pain.

[All bow during this verse]

6. To the Father glory giving And the wondrous-wounded Son, Let us glorify the living Spirit, Ever Three in One.

by Shane Leslie

DAY FIVE

Præsta quæsumus, omnipotens Deus: ut, sicut beatus Franciscus, verbi tui præco, ita fecit et docuit, ut magnus esse meruerit in regno cælorum, nos quoque, ejus precibus et imitatione tibi jugiter verbis et operibus placers studeamus. Per Dominum.

DAY SIX

Populum tuum, quæsumus, Domine, contuna pietate custodi: et, beati Francisci Confessoris tui suffragantibus meritis, ab omni fac animæ et corporis contagione securum. Per Dominum.

DAY SEVEN

Gratias agentes quæsumus Domine; ut, intercedente beato Patre nostro Francisco; cujus gaudemus triumphis, spiritualibus profiamus auxiliis. Per Dominum.

DAY EIGHT

Deus, qui famulo tuo Francisco ejusque filiis in beatissima Virgine Maria singulare præsidium contulisti: da nobis; ut, Matre eadem nostra, et Regina protegente, majestati tuæ fideliter servire, et nominis tui gloriam verbo et exemplo diffundere valeamus. Per Dominum.

DAY NINE

Domine Jesu Christe, qui frigescente mundo, ad inflammandum corda nostra tui amoris igne, in carne beatissimi Patris nostri Francisci passionis tuæ sacra Stigmata renovasti: concede propitius; ut ejus meritis et precibus, crucem jugiter feramus, et dignos fructus pæntitentiæ faciamus. Qui vivas et regnas. Grant, we pray you, almighty God, that as blessed Francis, in preaching Your word, so acted and taught that he deserved to be great in the kingdom of heaven, we also through his prayers and example may ever strive to please You in word and deed. Through our Lord.

Protect Your people, Lord, with Your neverfailing mercy, we implore You; and through the merits of blessed Francis, Your confessor, keep them safe from all contagion of soul and body. Through our Lord.

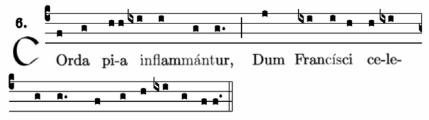
We implore you Lord, that by the intercession of our blessed father Francis, in whose triumph we rejoice, we may advance in spiritual grace. Through our Lord.

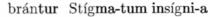
God, You granted Your servant Francis and his sons the especial patronage of the blessed Virgin Mary; grant us, by the protection of our Mother and our Queen, the strength faithfully to serve Your majesty and by word and example to propagate the glory of Your Name. Through our Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, when the world was growing cold, in order that our hearts might burn anew with the fire of Your love, You renewed in the flesh of the most blessed Francis, our father, the sacred marks of Your Passion; mercifully grant that, by his merits and prayers, we may ever carry our cross, and bring forth fruits worthy of penance. You Who are God, living and reigning.

HYMN: Corda pia

During the hymn, the celebrant incenses the icon, relic and altar. The Choir sings the verses and all join in the refrain: Corda pia.





Corda pia inflammantur, Dum Francisci celebrantur Stigmatum insignia.

- 1. Absit nobis gloriari, Nisi in Cruce salutari Francisci vestigio. *Corda pia*...
- 2. Nam in monte vir devotus, Vigil, nudes, ardens totus Crebra dat suspiria.. *Corda pia*...
- 3. Soles ergo clausus orans, super gestis Crucis plorans, moerore conficitur. *Corda pia...*
- 4. Ad quem venit Rex e cælo, affixusque Crucis telo aspectu pacifico. *Corda pia...*
- 5. Cernit serves Redemptorem, sæculorum Imperatorem, passum impassibilem. *Corda pia...*
- 6. Cor Francisci transformatur, corpus vero mox ornatur mirandis stigmatibus. *Corda pia...*
- 7. Crucifixi ergo Christi mors et vita fuit isti jugis meditatio. *Corda pia...*
- 8. Cujus cordis vim ferv6ris ostendit per membra foris Stigmatum impressio. *Corda pia...*
- 9. Crucifixe, singulari modo Cruci conformari mente fac et habitu. *Corda pia...*
- 10. Fac ut nos in regno lucis perfruamur fructu Crucis, quo lætemur cælitus. *Corda pia...*
- 11.Collaudetur Crucifixus, Franciscus prorsus innixus super mundi foedera. Corda pia.

Gentle hearts are set on fire in the telling of Francis' Stigmata.

- 1. Let us not glory, but in the healing Cross, and tread the path of Francis. *Corda pia...*
- 2. On the mountain, he keeps watch: devout, stripped bare, yearning, sighing. *Corda pia...*
- 3. Alone, heart-sore with sorrow, he weeps and prays the Way of the Cross. *Corda pia....*
- 4. The King of Heaven comes to him, nailed to the Cross, radiant with peace. *Corda pia....*
- 5. The servant sees his Redeemer, the Ruler of Ages: beyond death, yet dying. *Corda pia....*
- 6. The heart of Francis fills with compassion; the wondrous Stigmata will adorn his body. *Corda pia....*
- 7. Ever before him is Christ, Crucified: His life and death. *Corda pia....*
- 8. His heart's passion forges its way through his body to mark hands and feet with the Stigmata. *Corda pia...*.
- 9. O Crucified One, mould our thoughts and works to the Way of the Cross. *Corda pia....*
- 10. May we enjoy the fruits of the Cross and rejoice in the heavenly splendour of your Kingdom. *Corda pia....*
- 11. Let us praise the Crucified One, with Francis, who now rests beyond the weary cares of the world. *Corda pia...*

MEDITATION

[All recite]

DAY ONE

Blessed Francis, you were born to rank and wealth and yet left the world behind. Help us to seek and find that treasure which lies beyond the allurements of this earthly life.

DAY TWO

Blessed Francis, you heard God's voice speak through the Crucifix at San Damiano and you obeyed. Inspired by your example, may we follow the Master when He calls.

DAY THREE

Blessed Francis, you joyfully embraced austerity, making sackcloth your wedding garment and ashes your riches. Graciously assist us to live a life of sacrifice and penance.

DAY FOUR

Blessed Francis, you founded the great Order of the Friars Minor to renew the vigour of the Christian message when it had dimmed. Stir up in our hearts lively sentiments of faith and hope, so that Christ will find a warm welcome there.

DAY FIVE

Blessed Francis, God told you to Build my Church, a church of living stones. With your help may we increase the Body of Christ by right example, fidelity and perseverance.

DAY SIX

Blessed Francis, you loved purity and hated vice. Mercifully pray for us, that we may overcome the temptations of the flesh and become modest in thought, word and deed.

DAY SEVEN

Blessed Francis, you loved all creation as a matchless example of God's goodness. Following your example, may we become worthy stewards of the earth and all its bounty.

DAY EIGHT

Blessed Francis, you were a knightly champion of Our Lady's honour and virtue. May we love her as you did, calling her Mother and flying to her protection in all our needs.

DAY NINE

Blessed Francis, you were favoured by the impression of the Stigmata, sharing our Lord's bitter sufferings. May we too be united with the Passion, remembering ourselves to be the cause of those dreadful torments.

4.

VERSICLE AND RESPONSORY

- V. Signasti, Domine, servum tuum V. Thou didst sign Thy servant Francis, Franciscum: Lord: R. Signis Redemptionis nostræ. R. With the signs of our redemption.

COLLECT

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

V. Dominus vobiscum. R. Et cum spiritu tuo. Oremus.

DAY ONE

Deus, qui ad sectandas Unigeniti tui vias beatum Franciscum ducem ac præceptorem nobis tribuere dignatus es: concede propitius; ut, cujus hodie memoriam colimus, ejus in cælis gloriæ participes effici mereamur. Per eumdem Dominum.

DAY TWO

Deus, qui mira Crucis mysteria in beato Patre nostro Francisco Confessore tuo multiformiter demonstrasti: da nobis, quæsumus; devotionis suæ exempla sectari, et assidua ejusdem Crucis meditatione muniri. Per Dominum.

DAY THREE

Deus qui sanctum Franciscum Confessorem tuum, humilitatis studio et paupertatis amore, tibi uni adhærare fecisti: da nobis, ejus suffragantibus meritis; terrena cuncta despicere, et cælestia semper inquirere. Per Dominum.

DAY FOUR

Deus, qui Ecclesiam tuam, beati Patris nostri Francisci meritis foetu novæ prolis amplificas: tribue nobis; ex ejus imitatione, terrena despicere, et cælestium donorum semper participatione gaudere. Per Dominum.

O God, to make us follow in the steps of your only-begotten Son, You were pleased to give us as guide and master, blessed Francis; mercifully grant that, as today we commemorate him so we may be worthy to be made sharers of his glory in heaven. Through the same Lord.

God, in many ways You showed our father blessed Francis, Your confessor, the wonderful mysteries of the Cross; grant, we pray You, that we may ever follow the example of his devotion, and be strengthened by constant meditation on that same Cross. Through our Lord.

O God, in the heart of your saint Francis, Your confessor, You placed that zeal for humility and love of poverty to bind him to you alone, grant us through his interceding merits to despise the things of this world and ever to strive after those of heaven. Through our Lord.

God, through the merits our blessed father Francis, You enriched Your Church with new religious families; grant that by imitating him we may despise the things of this world and ever rejoice in the partaking of Your heavenly gifts. Through our Lord.