

Novena to

SAINT JUSTIN
MARIA RUSSOLILLO

Apostle of
Vocations



Every day the novena starts:

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

L. Angels and Saints of God.

All: Intercede for us.

L. Queen of all Saints, mediatrix of all Graces, Mother of the Divine Love.

A. Pray for us.

A. Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, unite us perfectly to your adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and intercession; make of us with you a host of sacrifice to the Trinity and sacrament to the souls.

L. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we praise and thank you for choosing your servant, Saint Justin Maria Ruscolillo, to be an apostle of vocations and promoter of the universal sanctification. You who immensely love us, grant us the grace of imitating him on the path of holiness, by becoming saints and sanctifiers for your kingdom on earth. Grant, of Holy Father, that by celebrating this novena we may grow in faith, hope and charity and that we may work to lead all souls to the divine union with you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A. Amen



1st DAY: Vocation to life

1 Reader. From the Book of Genesis (1:26-28,31)

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

2 Reader: I thank you for making me understand that my creation was the first kiss you gave me and with it, you gave me life, soul, grace. Then, you called me for the first time! You gratuitously called me to life, to cooperation in nature, to friendship and intimacy of the divine Persons. I will rest assured, in peace, laying in the mystery of your love.

(J. Russolillo, Devotional, p. 308-309 – Italian Edition)

L. Father, you who have called in the Church Saint Justin Maria Russolillo and made him Apostle of Vocations, grant that through his intercession every man may welcome the vocation to life and realise it according to the plan of your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

Litany of St Justin Maria Russolillo

Prayer for asking favours

O my God and my All...

2nd DAY: Vocation to Faith

1R. From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (17:5-6)

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

2R. As it is true that without faith it is impossible to please God, so it is also true that with little faith we will please him a little, with a lot of faith, we will please him a lot, with the greatest faith, we will please him the most. Only by growing in faith, we will grow in God’s favour; only by spreading the faith, we will bring souls and the whole world to the kingdom of God.

(J. Russolillo, Ascension, Opere, Vol. I, p. 29, Italian Edition)

L. Father, author of all goods and giver of every gift, we ask, through the intercession of St Justin Maria Russolillo, to increase in us the faith so that we may live in your love and bring all souls to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

Litany of St Justin Maria Russolillo

Prayer for asking favours

O my God and my All...



3rd DAY: Vocation to Holiness

1R. From the first letter of St Peter (1 Pt 1:15-16)

As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

2R. O my God and my All, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I foresee in every soul a particular saint, who gives me an idea of You; a world of beauty that wants to reveal itself in every soul. In every aspect of his physical and moral features, in every attitude of his temperament and character, in every act of his internal and external abilities. In every circumstance of time, place and persons in which he is and lives, in every particular application of the common laws to his individual needs. I see as so many signs of Your Divine Vocation, to Life, to Faith and to Holiness given to him for his glory in life, in faith and holiness; I see as many signs of Your Divine Sanctifying Action. A particular type of saint, of which he is the sole exemplar; You will never renounce him and you will always love with infinite predilection. *(J. Russolillo, Spiritus Orationis, Opere, vol. II, p. 211, Italian Edition)*

L. God our Father, pour out on us your Holy Spirit, so that following the example of St Justin Maria Russolillo, we may be saints and sanctifiers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

Litany of St Justin Maria Russolillo

Prayer for asking favours

O my God and my All...

4th DAY: Vocation to Consecrated Life

1R. From the Holy Gospel according to Mark (Mk 10,21)
Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

2R. The soul then, separating from the world and lifting itself to God, is as if invested and taken by the splendour of his holiness, and the first effect is the desire until torment of prayer and penance. As it progresses it becomes purer of heart and begins seeing God as if to look at Jesus in the face, and then, to feel a principle of the personal love of God-Jesus more alive and is led as if to give itself to him more directly and to lovingly follow him. The religious has found the way of animating all of his occupations of thoughts and the love of Jesus, more than with the intention of his glory, love and will alone; all is for the service and love of God. This personal love of God, directly and intensely cultivated, pushes him to give himself to God always more in all ways, through all titles, with every bond, in a loving torment that makes him tireless of giving and donating himself, to be taken and possessed by God.

(J. Russolillo, Faciamus Hominem, Opere, Vol. IV, p. 322-323 – Italian Edition)

L. Father, through the intercession of St Justin Maria Russolillo, who spent his life for vocations, call many young people to follow you closer and to live fully the baptism in the consecrated life, so that they may be a prophetic sign of the espousal union to which you call all your children. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

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O my God and my All...



5th DAY: Vocation to Priesthood

1R. From the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1Cor 11:23-25) For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

2R. Now, among men, only the priest is assumed to the gift of royal and pontifical dignity, and the office which gives life is entrusted to the priest only, the divine work is only carried out in the action of the priest. He is between Jesus Christ the first priest, because of his divine-human essence, and the people which can be defined as people-priest, for its participation in the priesthood of Jesus Christ in which is incorporated, he is even in the place of Jesus Christ, between the divinity and the humanity, as another Jesus Christ. He is between God-king and the people-king, that is in between the omnipotence of God-king and the only other potency recognised by God in the universe, that is man, created to be the king of creation. The one and the other of these royal mandates invest him of their dignity, so that he may be and appear always worthy of being their authorised representative, and more powerfully he may fulfil the mission of uniting between them those same extremes, God and the people. He must efficiently unite in his heart, God and people. He must effectively bring with his action the people to God and God to the people.

(J. Russolillo, Le Relazioni, Opere, vol. VII, p. 127 – Italian Edition)

L. Father, your Son Jesus told us to pray to you to send workers into the vineyard: guide the bishops, sustain priests and deacons, accompany seminarians; give, still, to your Church many and holy priests who, like St Justin Maria Russolillo, may live this mystery with love, zeal and generosity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

Litany of St Justin Maria Russolillo

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O my God and my All...

6th DAY: Vocation to Married Life

1R. From the Gospel according to Mark (Mk 10:6-9)
From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'
'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate."

2R. The first two human beings were created one for the other and both for the glory of God. As spouses, they had the object of their complacency in the other, and the common objective of growing. As spouses, they found in their union the sum of all other relationships and the full exercise of all their faculties. As spouses they had no other desire from among all created goods; one gloried in the other; one rested in the other; and from then on both were, and enjoyed, one life in one operation, directed to the formation of other people, who would carry on their ministry of God's glory on earth.

(J. Russolillo, Cammino verso l'unione sponsale, Opere, vol. IX, p. 58, Italian Edition)

L. Father, fount of love, bless and accompany the young people called to married life and all those who already answered your call to this vocation, so that, through the intercession of St Justin Maria Russolillo, every married couple may be a sign of the love of Christ for his Church and every family may be the image of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

Litany of St Justin Maria Russolillo

Prayer for asking favours

O my God and my All...



7th DAY: Vocation to Mission

1R. From the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:8)

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2R. “You will be my witnesses throughout the world.” The most thorough and effective witnesses. They are not only the most faithful narrators of the fact of the Incarnation, teaching redemption, passion, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, but they are also the bearers of Christ, revealers of His perfection, continuers of His Cross, as living epiphanies of the Lord. That perfection and that work, which is beyond man’s ability, give witness to the Lord’s presence in man. Witness equals martyrdom. Martyrdom equals heroic virtue. Only the Christian hero is the witness, the bearer, the revealer and the preserver of Jesus among the people. “You will be my witness,” says the Lord, “in the grace of my presence within you, in the grace of my Spirit who will be my sanctifier within you, you will be my witness. I cannot and do not want to be excluded from this divine promise and command. (*J. Russolillo, Ascensione, Opere, vol. I, p. 279, Italian Edition*)

L. Father, you who create and sustain the universe and every creature, encourage missionaries and, through the intercession of St Justin Maria Russolillo who prayed and suffered so that your Kingdom may expand to the whole world, call many generous men and women to be missionaries, so that they may bring to all, especially the poor, oppressed, marginalised, and those who are distant the annunciation of your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

Litany of St Justin Maria Russolillo

Prayer for asking favours

O my God and my All...

8th DAY: Vocation to Lay Work in the World

1R. From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 5:13-16, 48) “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven...Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”.

2R. The supreme fruit of the free divine action with the duly human cooperation is the saint. Every soul, then, which comes into this world must be a saint, as it is true that it is created in the image and likeness of God. When Jesus says: “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” and when St Paul says that “we are destined to be conformed images of the Son of God the Father”, they are doing nothing else than drawing the consequences of the divine principle of our creation: “Let us make man in our image and likeness”. And, if it is said, in truth, that all Christian perfection lays in charity, in the full and constant observation of the divine command of charity: “You will love the Lord God with all your mind, with all your heart, with all your strength and with all your soul”. Only by becoming love, we will be in the image and likeness of God who is all charity in his divine nature.

(J. Russolillo, Spirito e vita, Opere, vol. VIII, p. 98 – Italian Edition)

L. God our Father sustain and enlighten all those who give witness of your love in their workplace, house, politics, social service, in the gratuitous service of the brethren, so that, as dreamed of by St Justin Maria Russolillo, we may witness a deluge of saints and holy works in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

Litany of St Justin Maria Russolillo

Prayer for asking favours

O my God and my All...

9th DAY: Vocation to the Divine Union

1R. From the Holy Gospel according to John (17: 18-23)

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

2R. What do you want me to do? Here I am since you called me! Speak your servant is listening. Oh that I may be aware, feel, and follow your calling with more docility, fidelity and generosity!

Your vocation requires me that I direct myself to you and follow you, detaching and separating myself from worldly creatures. You have called me, and you want that I come to you and be with you forever.

(J. Russolillo, Devozionale, p. 390, Italian Edition)

L. God our Father, you who want that all your children may be one with you, through the intercession of St Justin Maria Russolillo, the apostle of the divine union, light up in all of us the ardent desire to remain in your love and to move always forward and always higher, always more and always better, from ascension to ascension, to attain the perfect union with you Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

All

Our Father

Hail, Mary

Litany of St Justin Maria Russolillo

Prayer for asking favours

O my God and my All...



Litany of Saint Justin Maria Russolillo

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, hear us	Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us	Christ, graciously hear us
God the Father of heaven	have mercy on us
God the Son, redeemer of the world	have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit	have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God	have mercy on us
Saint Justin, lover of the Trinity	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of the Father	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of the Incarnated Word	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of the Holy Spirit	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of the ever-virgin Mary	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of Mary celestial superior	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of Saint Joseph	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of Saints	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of the seven Spirits	
assistant to the throne of God	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of the angelic choirs	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of the Guardian angels	pray for us
Saint Justin, servant of the divine mercy	pray for us
Saint Justin, expert of holy inspirations	pray for us
Saint Justin, adorer of the Most Precious Blood	pray for us
Saint Justin, lover of the cross of fire	pray for us
Saint Justin, lover of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	pray for us
Saint Justin, lover of the Immaculate Heart	
of Mary	pray for us
Saint Justin, lover of the liturgy	pray for us
Saint Justin, apostle of the catechism	pray for us
Saint Justin, apostle of the youth	pray for us
Saint Justin, apostle of vocations	pray for us
Saint Justin, evangeliser of the divine union	pray for us
Saint Justin, promoter of the	
universal sanctification	pray for us
Saint Justin, promoter of priestly holiness	pray for us
Saint Justin, founder of the Vocationist Family	pray for us
Saint Justin, rich in charisms	pray for us
Saint Justin, worker of wonders	pray for us

Saint Justin, healer of the sick	pray for us
Saint Justin, reader of minds and hearts	pray for us
Saint Justin, mirror of charity	pray for us
Saint Justin, mirror of renunciation	pray for us
Saint Justin, mirror of mortification	pray for us
Saint Justin, mirror of evangelic life	pray for us
Saint Justin, mirror or priestly purity	pray for us
Saint Justin, mirror of contemplation	pray for us
Be propitious	hear us, O Lord
Be propitious graciously	hear us, O Lord
In your mercy	save us, O Lord
From all evils	save us, O Lord
From every sin	save us, O Lord
From the snares of the devil	save us, O Lord
From everlasting death	save us, O Lord
Through the merits of Saint Justin, Maria Russolillo	save us, O Lord
Through his ardent love	save us, O Lord
Through his indefatigable zeal	save us, O Lord
Through his extraordinary laboriosity	save us, O Lord
Through his penances	save us, O Lord
Through his voluntary poverty	save us, O Lord
Through his perpetual chastity	save us, O Lord
Through his perfect obedience	save us, O Lord
Through his profound humility	save us, O Lord
Through all his other virtues	save us, O Lord
Through the merits of all members of the Vocationist family, living and dead	save us, O Lord
Through the merits of all benefactors, living and dead	save us, O Lord
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world	spare us, O Lord
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world graciously	hear us, O Lord
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world	have mercy on us

V - Pray for us, Saint Justin Maria Russolillo

R - So that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray

O God, who have inspired your priest Saint Justin Maria [Russolillo], to lead your children to the perfect union with you through the universal sanctification, grant us, through his intercession, to discover our vocation and to faithfully preserve it by following Christ on the path of life.

Who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

Prayer for asking favours

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for the well being of the Church you endowed with extraordinary gifts St Justin Maria Russolillo, and you made him a pious and zealous Priest, an apostle of “Divine Vocations” and a fervent promoter of your Glory, Love and Will for the Universal Sanctification and for the “Divine Union” of all souls, grant us the grace of experiencing the power of his intercession while imitating his devotion, humility, patience, zeal and kindness.

May the Grace (...) that you will grant us through his intercession, be of spiritual advantage to us, for your own glory and for the growth of Your Kingdom on earth.

(Three “Glory Be” in honour of the Holy Trinity)

O my God and my All...

(Final hymn to be chosen among those in honour of Father Justin)







Nihil Obstat
M. Rev. Antonio Rafael do Nascimento, SDV
Superior Generalis
Societas Vocationum Divinarum