

FIRST DAY

from Pope Pius XII's thoughts:

How many times we have heard compelling us in our heart with the desire to come to you, to dwell amidst you, in some way as Jesus did in His earthly life, blessing and healing – to reach all of you without exception, wherever you are, in hospitals, sanatoriums, clinics, private homes, to speak to each one of you, in intimacy, as if each one of you was the only one, and leaning over your bed, to make you feel all the tenderness of Our paternal affection, applying to your wounds the balm which, if not always heals, always at least comforts and soothes with the balm of the sweet Passion of Our Savior Jesus Christ ...

...ends with the prayer of Pius XII

SECOND DAY

The balsam from the Passion of Jesus will give you patience in the test. Under the oppressive weight of illness, acute or chronic, agonizing in its intensity or for its duration without end, in our poor nature crucified it can often be difficult to resign oneself, to continue to endure evils and afflictions, the pangs and most atrocious torments that come to men. He precedes you with the cross: follow Him. He brings His cross, most innocent: you bring also



A NOVENA FOR THE SICK

which we would like to send among you, wiping the tears, bringing comfort, healing wounds, restoring health and vigor! We must be content with the Spirit amidst us. And to each one of you we give our blessing.

Pius XII to the sick, February 14th, 1954

yours, in penitence and expiation for your sins and others. He carries the cross for peace in the world:

You should also carry yours with Him, to attain for you and for all of humanity peace with God and peace among nations.

THIRD DAY

Perhaps you are lying on a couch, tossing from side to side without ever finding reprieve, look to the Crucifix, Jesus

immobilized by the nails configured on the rough wood of the bare cross. Your throat is parched from a fever? The medicine is bitter? To Jesus on Golgotha did they not give that gall and vinegar? And so to each one of your grievances, He replies softly, “I know what that is, I went through the same pains”.

FOURTH DAY

Look at the cross, look at all those who have suffered! With His words and His example, Jesus taught men; with His miracles He went about doing good; but with His Passion and His Cross He has saved the world: “We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world”.

Jesus Himself, urges you to bring your cross and follow Him, invites you to cooperate with Him in the work of redemption. Like His Heavenly Father sent Him, so He sends you.

FIFTH DAY

Lift up your eyes, beloved sons and daughters, to the One who will give you the strength to carry your cross with living faith and Christian fortitude, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. He wanted to try the miseries of this life, the evils and afflictions, the pangs and the most atrocious tortures that come from men. He precedes you with His cross: follow Him. He carries His cross, most innocent:

bring yours also, in penance and atonement for your sins and the sins of others. He carries the cross for peace in the world: You also take yours with Him, for obtaining for you and for all mankind peace with God and peace among nations.

SIXTH DAY

To you especially we would like to draw near, we would like to lay sweetly Our hand on the foreheads burning with fever. We would, with infinite tenderness, whisper to each of you: "O anguished soul, why do you resist? He lets fall, in the mystery of pain, rays of light emanating from the Cross of Jesus! Had He done wrong? Look: perhaps near your bed, in sight, there is an image of the Madonna. What evil had she done? We would not have redemption if our Mother had not seen her Son die in agony; and there would not have been the possibility of salvation for us".

SEVENTH DAY

Do you want to be like Jesus? Do you want to transform yourself in Him? In illness you can find the cross and be nailed to it, by dying to yourself, so that He lives in you, serving others from you. Offer Him therefore your sufferings according to all the intentions for which He immolates Himself continually on the altar. Your sacrifice, united to the sacrifice of Jesus, will return many

sinners to the Father... And that day in which will be revealed in heaven the mystery of Providence in the economy of salvation, you will understand finally what the world of the healthy owes you.

EIGHTH DAY

Faith certainly does not make you love suffering for its own sake, but it will make for a glimpse into the many noble purposes that sickness can have, and can be peacefully accepted, even desired. Man has many sins to atone for, or at least has blemishes in the soul: suffering to be cleansed. Maybe you desired martyrdom and had dreamed that the opportunity to suffer for Jesus would happen to you, giving glory to God: this affliction of your body is like an outpouring of blood, it is a real form of martyrdom.

NINTH DAY

O Jesus, hear our voice, as You granted the entreaties of the Centurion for his servant, or of Jairus whose daughter was dying in the bloom of youth, of the Canaanite whose faith so deeply moved Your Heart. But if in the secret of Your adorable counsel the test should still be prolonged or not be shortened by death, then give one the serenity of a sweet and holy transition; to others, with filial resignation, the supreme consolation to fulfill in the disability of their members, indeed by means of the same disability,

the high and salutary mission you have entrusted to them.

PRAYER OF PIUS XII

Recite the following every day of the Novena after the daily meditation from the Pope.

O JESUS, ETERNAL PONTIFF,
YOU DEIGNED TO ELEVATE
TO THE SUPREME DIGNITY
AS YOUR VICAR HERE ON EARTH
YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT **PIUS XII**,
AND GRANTED HIM
THE GRACE OF BEING
A FEARLESS DEFENDER OF THE FAITH,
A COURAGEOUS ADVOCATE
OF JUSTICE AND OF PEACE,
A DEVOTEE TO HONORING
YOUR MOST HOLY MOTHER,
AND A LUMINOUS MODEL OF LOVE
AND OF ALL VIRTUES,
DEIGN NOW, IN VIEW OF HIS MERITS,
TO GRANT TO US THE GRACE ... ;
SO THAT MADE CERTAIN OF HIS
INTERCESSION WITH YOU
WE CAN SEE HIM ONE DAY RAISED
TO THE GLORY OF THE ALTARS.

In conformity with the decrees of Pope Urban VIII, we declare that there is no intention of anticipating in any way the judgment of the Church, and that this prayer is not intended for public use.

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