



## *Novena to the Immaculate Conception 2026*

### **Day 6: Mother Most Amiable**

It doesn't matter if you haven't been 100% present during this novena; what's important is to seize the opportune moment, the present moment, to join once again in the contemplation of the mysteries of the Virgin Mary's life. Specifically, through her Immaculate Conception, to discover the profound love God has had for each one of us through our Mother the Virgin. Today we approach that mystery of the Virgin's immaculate heart through the contemplation of Mary as the Admirable Mother, the Lovable Mother.

We begin:

*By the sign of the holy cross,*

*from our enemies deliver us, O Lord, our God.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Lord our God, by a mysterious design of your providence you complete what is lacking in Christ's passion with the infinite sufferings of the life of His members. Grant that, in imitation of the Virgin Mother of Sorrows who stood by the cross of her dying Son, we too may remain beside our suffering brothers to bring them consolation and love.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

Today we approach the contemplation of our Mother the Virgin through that Gospel text that records the prayer known as the Magnificat. That prayer which is the response of our Mother the Virgin to the greeting Saint Elizabeth made when she went to visit her.

That prayer which is a precious weaving, a precious tapestry, like a most beautiful tapestry of Sacred Scripture that, dwelling in the Virgin's heart, is recited by her giving glory to God our Lord. In it we know perfectly well that Mary emphasizes precisely the thanksgiving because the Lord has looked upon the humility, the lowliness of his handmaid. And here we must note that God our Lord, God Almighty, Omnipotent, looks upon and allows Himself to be admired by our littleness.

In the littleness of that woman, that young girl who says yes, He feels the Lord's joy and for that reason has chosen her to fulfill those promises of redemption. In our littleness, that joy and desire to give His love to all creatures is truly actualized. Mary says that the Lord helps, remembering His mercy.

How important it is also for us to remember this: that the Lord wants to help us, that He remembers His mercy. And the word "mercy" manifests precisely that tender love that arises

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from the depths, “Rajamim” in Hebrew, of our Lord Almighty. It is the heart moved by man's misery, his poverty.

And the prayer ends by saying as He had promised to our fathers. Feeling mercy and allowing oneself to be moved by mercy is the promise God made from the beginning to creation, to His creature, to man, to the human being. And therefore you and I are worthy, by the action of the Holy Spirit, by Mary's "Yes," to be redeemed by Christ our Lord. Because the Father has loved us, because He desires union with each one of us.

Another text suggested for meditation today is the text from John 19:23-27, in which, at the foot of the Cross, Christ looks at Mary, looks at the disciple whom He loved so much, and there uses that wordplay to reveal a great treasure:

*"Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother. And from that day the disciple took her into his home."*

Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort speaks of Mary as the most lovable of all creatures, the most worthy of love among all creatures. While Saint Bernard and Saint Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort highlight more Mary's maternal tenderness in the Upper Room than her amiability. Like that day in the Upper Room, today Mary unleashes that maternal tenderness over all her faithful children, over all those who want to welcome that mother's love she wants to give us.

Jesus gave us His mother as our mother. And a few days ago we contemplated how, as children of the Lord's handmaid, we are His servants, because He has broken our chains. And if we are servants of the Lord, it is because Mary made herself the handmaid of the Lord and we have been freed by Christ's blood. And this is very important because we would not be freed if we were not children of the handmaid. We are children of Mary. Christ has given us Mary as mother.

I encourage you to truly meditate today on the greatness of this affirmation: I am Mary's child. We have no greater guarantee for our salvation—beyond the truth that Christ died for us—than that Mary is our mother. That Mary, as mother, cares for us as a son.

And that must be our thanksgiving today. How great you are, Lord, who, besides giving your Son so that our salvation might be given, has given us Mary as mother so that we do not stray from our path toward that profound gift you have given us with heaven, with salvation.

Mary, lovable mother, welcoming mother, mother of merciful gaze, you have been given us as Mother. From that day the disciple took her into his home. It is important to note that it is not John's merit to welcome Mary, but that by welcoming Mary, John opens his heart completely to her. He allows her to be mother. He allows her to carry out that maternal mission of care, concern, love for the son.

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Each one of us must learn to love Mary more and more, to treat our Lady better, but above all to discover how we must love that mother who loves each one of us madly and looks upon us with special predilection. Mary as mother always has a smile on her lips for her children.

I encourage you today to seek that profound, maternal gaze of Mary—which we said yesterday purifies the heart of those who look upon her—to discover that deep smile on her lips, that sympathetic smile of joy for you, her son, her daughter. I insist that when John opens the doors of his home to her, so that she may enter, he allows her to be mother.

By opening the doors of your soul and heart to her, you are telling the Mother of God: "I want you to be my mother." Not only asking her to show herself as mother, as we said at the beginning of the novena, but suggesting to her:

*"Be my mother, I want you to be my mother, I want to be your child. My God, the day I die I want to present myself before you and be able to say with an expanded heart: I am Mary's child, I am the child of your mother, I am your child."*

Mary's motherhood is, therefore, a gift from Jesus' heart, who even in the moment of expiring lovingly cares for His creatures.

Mary's love as mother is the profound care of that heart enamored of each of her creatures, of each of her brothers, of each of the children of God the Father, entrusted to Mary to be cared for. What peace it must give our soul to know that in moments of tribulation it is Mary who runs to our aid! It is the Holy Spirit who, as the one who conceived life in Mary's womb, comes running to meet us to give us shelter, to embrace us, to care for us. There is no greater joy, then, in the heart of our Virgin Mother than that we run to her maternal protection.

As that prayer says, "*sub tuum presidium confugimus*", "Under your protection we seek refuge," Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all evils, glorious and blessed Virgin. How important it is to know how to run to our Mother and let our Mother use her immaculate heart, her maternal heart, to care for the children God has given her. "*Santa María mater admirabilis ora pro eis, ora pro me.*" Dear Holy Mother Mary, Admirable Mother, pray for them, intercede also for me.

Today, to try to please our Mother, I encourage you to stop and think. How much do I pray in my daily life? How much prayer is there in my life? Try to begin praying the Rosary if you don't already. Perhaps one mystery, perhaps for some intention or person you know needs it. And if you already pray it or make prayer, do your best to pray it with a friend or family member in community.

And ask yourself: Have I known how to welcome Mary as Mother? Do I often leave my Mother alone, or do I worry about accompanying her in my daily life? Do I know how to call her, have I

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learned to call Mary, my Mother? Do I recognize you, Mother, as the one who can alone console all my worries?

And together, one more day, we raise our prayer, that Volunteer Prayer that disposes us to be on the front lines in service of souls for the greater glory of God our Lord:

*Lord Jesus, you who have called us to stand ready upon the frontiers of service and love for all, make yourself present among us so that we too may always be present wherever the cry of a human being is heard; make us generous in our self-giving, timely in our efforts and effective in helping others, instruments of good wherever we are needed forever. We ask your help, you who are the ideal of our lives and who live and reign for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

*Let us pray.*

*O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, we beg you that, just as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the foreseen death of this same your Son, so too may you grant us that, through her intercession, we may come into your presence free from every fault, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*The Lord be with you.*

*And may the blessing of almighty God:*

*the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you, keep you, and accompany you always.*

*Amen.*

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