

Novena
to
Blessed Theresa
of
Jesus Gerhardinger



Introduction

During this novena, we are called to contemplate on some of the essential characteristics that define Mother Theresa's spirit for us. We pray that we might be faithful daughters in carrying on this spirit today.

- ❖ During the first three days, we reflect on Mother Theresa, ***woman of faith.***
- ❖ Mother Theresa always ***struggled for unity*** in her community and in the world. Our reflections focus on this during the fourth, fifth, and sixth days.
- ❖ Throughout the last three days, we contemplate Mother Theresa, ***educator with a world vision.***

Prayer for Each Day

Loving God!

**You have allowed the life of
Mother Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger to become
a guide for our times, leading us to you.**

**She stands before us a woman of faith, ever seeking God's
will, a woman who struggled for unity,
and an educator with world vision.**

**O God, you know our needs and concerns.
Hear us through the intercession of
Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger,
and strengthen us for our mission. Amen.**

First Day

Decision for Christ

Words from Scripture

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,

“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34)



Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“O Jesus, I am wholly determined to follow You alone.” (3)

“If we want to follow Jesus, we must make the spirit of Jesus our own.” (3006)

∞ Quiet ∞

Prayer

Lord Jesus, loving us unconditionally, You gave Your life for us. You have called us to be Your disciples, to risk carrying the cross to follow You. In doing so, You have promised us deep peace. Like Mother Theresa, we ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit so that we might deny ourselves, risk our very lives for You, and thus fulfill our mission in this world. Amen.

Jesus, Our Life, hear our petitions through the intercession of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen

Second Day

In God's Hands

Words from Scripture

Into Your hands I commend my spirit, full of trust. You have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God. (Psalm 31:6)



Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“I cannot describe my interior peace. Now I am in Jesus. You may do what You want with me; I can trust You.” (1)

“What the future will bring is in God's hand.” (5226)

∞ Quiet ∞

Prayer

Triune God, in critical situations, Mother Theresa entrusted her life completely to You. With faith in You, she put aside all anxious concerns and found deep serenity, indestructible hope, and complete security. Make us attentive to Your guidance so that we will walk the path that You show us in complete trust. Amen.

Faithful God, hear our petitions through the intercession of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen

Third Day

Transforming Power

Words from Scripture

*Jesus said to the apostles,
“Come away by yourselves to a
deserted place and rest a while.” (Mark 6:1)*



Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“In the activity of Martha, let us not forget the deep piety of Mary; at the right time, let us also rest at the feet of Jesus. From His Sacred Heart, we must breathe in the life of love, seeking strength and vigor for our work and pleading for His blessing.”
(1862)

∞ Quiet ∞

Prayer

Great and holy God, You are always there for us. You know our concerns, our needs. Praise and thanks be to You, O God!
Provide us with the gift of discernment so that You will be foremost in our lives. Strengthen us with a listening attitude and an openness to Your word, and make us more and more willing to be led by You, so that we can bring forth fruit in our mission.
Amen.

*God-With-Us, hear our petitions through the intercession of
Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen*

Fourth Day

United in Christ

Words from Scripture

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. (John 17:21)



Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“True and sincere love of our neighbor is at the same time the infallible criterion of our love of God.” (4307)

“Love one another as Jesus loves us all. Be always of one heart and one mind like the first Christians.” (5210)

☧ Quiet ☧

Prayer

Triune God, foundation and goal of every community, we thank You for creating us for each other. May we live in such a way that we create an atmosphere of love and respect, of trust and forgiveness. Help us to foster a spirit of unity and peace in our families, in our communities, and in our world. Amen.

God of kindness and love, hear our petitions through the intercession of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen

Fifth Day

Empty Before God

Words from Scripture

*Blessed are the poor in spirit.
(Matthew 5:3)*



Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“The spirit of poverty is also the spirit of our order.” (714)

“Let us begin to love the poverty of Jesus, to be content with what we have, and to practice self-denial then surely the blessing of God will not be withheld from us.” (2785)

∞ Quiet ∞

Prayer

Lord Jesus, whoever finds You, possesses all riches! Like Mother Theresa, fill us with the spirit of poverty which frees us from selfish longings for the things of earth and makes us ready to share our material, intellectual, and spiritual goods with others for Your sake. Strengthen us in our willingness to live simply and let our lives speak of justice, peace, and love. Amen.

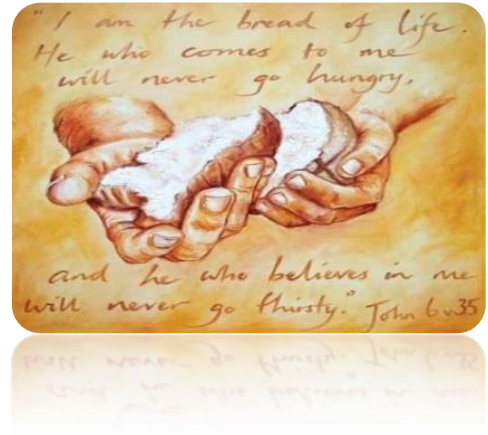
Jesus, Brother of the Poor, hear our petitions through the intercession of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen

Sixth Day

Strengthened by Christ

Words from Scripture

I am the Bread of Life. Whoever comes to Me shall never be hungry, and whoever believes in Me shall never be thirsty. (John 6:35)



Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“Always seek to enkindle your love anew with the love of Jesus in holy Mass and Communion.” (4554)

“If the cross presses heavily at times, hasten to the Blessed Sacrament, to Jesus, the crucified. Pray and tell Him of your needs and cares, and you will never leave without light, consolation, and help.” (714)

∞ Quiet ∞

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in each celebration of the Eucharist, we share in Your death and resurrection and encounter Your redeeming love. Grounding the congregation in Eucharist, Mother Theresa experienced and accepted the paschal mystery in her life. Help us, too, to live out this sacred mystery and, in doing so, to become Eucharist for one another. Let us strive for greater unity among ourselves through You, who is one with Your Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

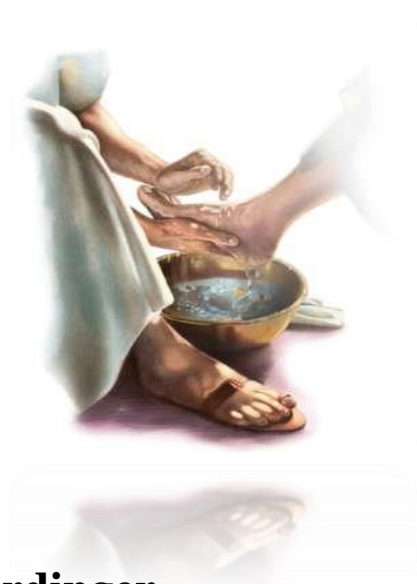
Christ, Bread of Life, hear our petitions through the intercession of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen.

Seventh Day

Called to Service

Words from Scripture

The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)



Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“With the dear Lord, what we do is less important than how we do it. Through a good intention and a pure motive, everything becomes divine service.” (5203)

“Let us serve the Triune God all our lives with joy, obeying God, loving God above all things.” (714)

∞ Quiet ∞

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You gave Your disciples an example by washing their feet. Just as You wanted to be the servant of all, Mother Theresa was always willing to serve wherever she was called. Give us the strength to serve in a way that Your love will be made visible by who we are and what we do, so that others will recognize that You love the world. Amen.

Jesus, Servant of all, hear our petitions through the intercession of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen

Eighth Day

Faithful to Mission

Words from Scripture

As you have sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. (John 17:18)

Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“We will devote all our energy so that God will be glorified, honored, and loved, and the reign of God will spread.” (714)

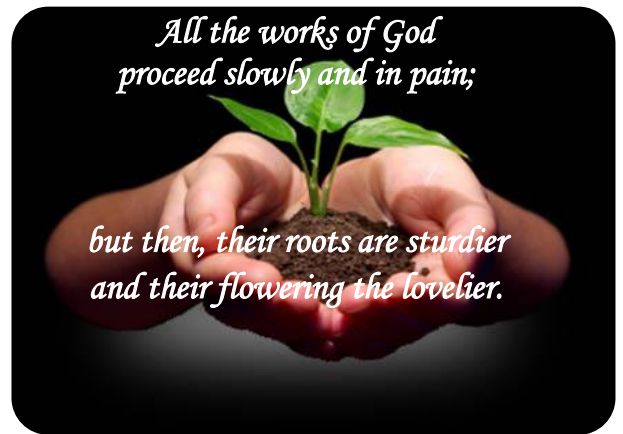
“May God be our goal and end in all things, our highest good in whom we find all that makes us content and truly happy.” (714)

∞ Quiet ∞

Prayer

Risen Christ, You sent Your disciples to proclaim the Good News to all people. As Your faithful follower, Mother Theresa directed her entire life toward that oneness for which You were sent. Each day, inspire us anew in our mission. Make us open to the urgencies facing us in our times and enable us to be women of hope so that Your reign will come and Your will be done. May You be glorified through our lives. Amen.

Jesus, sent by the Father, hear our petitions through the intercession of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen



*All the works of God
proceed slowly and in pain;*

*but then, their roots are sturdier
and their flowering the lovelier.*

Ninth Day

Led by Mary



Words from Scripture

Do whatever Jesus tells you. (John 2:5)

Words of Mary Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger

“With infinite mercy, God has chosen me as a devout daughter of Mary to remain with her at the crib and under the cross.” (29)

“So that our prayer may surely be heard, let us daily go to God through Mary, who can do everything with and through Jesus.” (2941)

∞ Quiet ∞

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You have given us Your mother as a model and sister in faith. She saw all that she encountered in the light of faith. We thank You for such a mother. Mary, grant us the grace to be more open to the Holy Spirit. May we respond in faith, as you did, as we say *YES* to God’s call to us each day. Amen.

Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary, hear our petitions through the intercession of Blessed Mary Theresa of Jesus. Amen