Novena of The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

(For private devotion)

First Day

Jesus speaks: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Matthew 10:39.

Saint Vincent de Paul (d. 1660, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission, "the Vincentians" and cofounder of the Daughters of Charity) writes: "All beginnings are somewhat strange; but we must have patience, and little by little, we shall find things, which at first were obscure, becoming clearer."

We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Saint Vincent de Paul, teach us true poverty of spirit. Help us to know Your love for us and Your creation. Guide us to decide each day of our lives to show a preference for service of God and neighbor.

Saint Vincent de Paul, I ask you to pray to God for my special need (state intention here).

(Go to the Litany of the Beatitudes and Ending Prayer on the back side.)

Second Day

Jesus speaks: "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31.

Saint Louise de Marillac (d. 1660, cofounder of Daughters of Charity) writes: "Thirst for justice, which is a more pressing need, must lead us to desire greater things. We must long for union with God and the disposition and means to attain it. We must ardently desire that the effects of His holy will reign in us; and we must do all in our power to bring about this reign in others."

We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Saint Louise de Marillac guide us in our decision-making.

Saint Louise de Marillac, I ask you to pray to God for my special need (state intention here).

Third Day

Jesus speaks: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Matthew 10:2.

Blessed Rosalie Rendu (d. 1856, Daughters of Charity) writes: "You are living in a period of harvest. Make good use of this precious time. From every point of view, it is the best of your life. Learn to become a child of Saint Vincent, ... Be humble, gentle, obedient of heart, and simple as a dove...

We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Blessed Rosalie Rendu, guide us to seek fellow harvesters in the field, to understand our gifts and to encourage the gifts of others.

Blessed Rosalie Rendu, I ask you to pray to God for my special need (state intention here).

Fourth Day

Jesus speaks: "Do you not yet understand or comprehend? Are your hearts hardened?" Mark 8:17. Blessed Frederic Ozanam (d. 1853, founder of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul) writes: "If the signs, daily more menacing, make me dread

the future storms, I also expect to see signs of the divine protection multiplied so that the world will not despair."

We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Blessed Frederic Ozanam give us the graces necessary to overcome fear and to serve You and our neighbor.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, I ask you to pray to God for my special need (state intention here).

Fifth Day

Jesus speaks: "The water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14.

Saint Catherine Laboure (d. 1876, Daughters of Charity) speaks, "See, children, I am doing the work of the Daughters of Charity. These are our pearls, we must take care not to leave them to others. ... no one feels weary when they do the will of God."

We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Saint Catherine Laboure, give us the graces necessary to discern and follow your will for us.

Saint Catherine Laboure, I ask you to pray to God for my special need (state intention here).

Sixth Day

Jesus speaks: "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd". John 10:10

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (d. 1925, Third Order Dominican, member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul) writes: "We should never just get by; we should live!" We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, give us the graces needed to act with justice in following your teachings in the Beatitudes.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, I ask you to pray to God for my special need (state intention here).

Seventh Day

Jesus speaks: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." John 14:27

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (d. 1821 Daughters of Charity) writes: "You will help others more by peace and tranquility of your heart than by any eagerness or care you can bestow on them."

We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, give us the graces to follow your will for us with temperance.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, I ask you to pray to God for my special need. (state intention here).

Eighth Day

Jesus speaks: "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25: 34-36.

Servant of God Stéphanos II Ghattas, CM (d. 2006 Congregation of the Mission,) writes: "I hope that one of the main results that this [event] will bring to the Church and today's world is greater love and solidarity among all people, and that all of us will put into practice the lesson of the Master at the final judgment."

We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Servant of God Stéphanos II Ghattas, grant us the prudence to lead people in Christ.

Servant of God Stéphanos II Ghattas, I ask you to pray to God for my special need (state intention here).

Ninth Day

Jesus speaks: "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." John 18:37.

Blessed Ceferino Giménez Malla (d. 1936 member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul) shouts "Viva Cristo Rey!" (Christ the King for ever!)

We pray: Lord Jesus, with the intercession of Your friend Ceferino Giménez Malla, give us the graces needed to act with fortitude in following Your Gospel.

Blessed Ceferino Giménez Malla, I ask you to pray to God for my special need (state intention here).

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Litany of the Beatitudes.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when men reproach you, and persecute you, and speaking falsely, say all manner of evil against you, for my sake. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, You who willed to become poor, give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor, help us to recognize you in them-in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune. Enkindle within our Vincentian Family unity, simplicity, humility, and the fire of love that burned in St. Vincent de Paul. Strengthen us, so that, faithful to the practice of these virtues, we may contemplate you and serve you in the persons of the poor, and may one day be united with you and them in your kingdom. Amen.