



Novena to Saint Rose of Lima



St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
3216 Lawrence Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario
M1H 1A4

ACT OF CONTRITION

(composed by Saint Rose)

Lord, Jesus Christ, true God and true Man, my Creator and Redeemer, my soul bursts with sorrow for having offended You, for what You are and because I love You above all things. O Lord! You are truly my God, the spouse of my soul and all the joy of my heart. I desire to love You, good Jesus, with the most perfect love, with that ineffable love with which all the dwellers of heaven love You. I wish to love You more than that, God of my heart and my life. You are my comfort, my joy and my delight. I wish to love You with all the love with which your Blessed Mother and my mistress loves You. And not satisfied with this, O Salvation of my soul, I wish to love You as much as You love me. Embrace me; consume me in the fire of Your divine love. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER FOR EVERY DAY

Saint Rose of Lima, beloved of my soul, you have inspired in me a sure faith that through your powerful intercession I shall be free from all the evils that afflict me and I shall be lifted from the unfathomable abyss of my miseries. I know how unworthy I am to appear before you, purest creature. The very reason which moves me more efficaciously to take refuge in you and take you as my counsel and mediator is that I know your most tender and compassionate disposition, similar in every way to that of the most meek Jesus. I know that you will listen to me and I will not be deprived of my hopes. I confidently come to you and beseech you for my corporal as well as spiritual needs. Listen to the pleas of my heart and do not abandon me either in life or in death. May I always be your privileged devotee. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER FOR EVERY DAY

Our most glorious patroness and counselor, Saint Rose of Lima, purest flower of sanctity and innocence, most beloved spouse of Jesus!! for the ardour of divine love which engulfed your heart for your sovereign spouse, for your most ardent zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, for the affection you always had for your people and country, I beg you to grant us from the Lord the preservation of godliness in God's vast dominions; the propagation of the faith and the conversion of the unfaithful everywhere; peace and prosperity in our country; and particularly, the favors that I plead from you, if they will be for God's greater glory and the good of our souls. Amen.



FIRST DAY:

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN!

Saint Rose's faith in the celestial Father's providence was very great. She harbored absolute certainty that He would save her from all the exigencies of life, and especially that He would grant her the salvation of her soul. This was founded on the tender and filial love which she felt for Him and which nothing could diminish. One day, enclosed in a small cell in her garden, she prayed asking for the salvation of her soul. Suddenly she found herself surrounded by many roses, scattered on the floor. The Child Jesus appeared to her and said: "Rose, gather in your skirt all these roses." The Saint did as she was told and the Child Jesus asked her for one of the roses, which He accepted so graciously, saying: "This rose is you and of this My Providence will take charge with singular concern"

Rose, our sister, pray for us . . . That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, our most loving Father, Who so generously has taken us from nothingness and protects us with Your unfailing Providence, leading us towards the true abode, our souls are filled with joy and hope on remembering that Your tender glances watch unceasingly over the afflictions, anxieties and necessities of Your poor children. The example of the virtues of our beloved Saint Rose, and principally, her spirit of filial piety and inviolable trust in Your Paternal Providence, induce us to offer you the homage of our humble gratitude and filial love. We implore you through her merits and intercession, to grant us the grace to enjoy some day your divine presence in heaven. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

SECOND DAY:

HALLOWED BE THY NAME!

What tortured most the heart of Saint Rose was to know that the Holy Name of God was not duly honored by men. She would have given her life a thousand times to prevent it from being outraged by sinners. When, one day, profanations were threatened to be committed by heretics in the temples of Lima, Saint Rose, at the foot of the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the Church of Saint Dominic, prayed with ardent zeal: "I will lay my body here like a shield, so that the blows which the heretics may direct against My Lord may land on me. I will ask them not to take my life with a single blow, but that they may piece me a thousand times, dividing my body into small particles, so that for the time they would spend doing this, they would be stopped from committing the injuries that I fear they would commit against my Sweet Jesus.

Rose, our sister, pray for us. . . That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.



PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, Our Father, Who manifested to us the glory of Your Holy Name, that It may be honored, known and served by all creatures . . . the ardent zeal and generosity of Saint Rose for the reverence of so august a Name lead us to dedicate to You our most fervent praises and humble offerings. Through their merits and intercession, deign to manifest the light of your acknowledgment of all of us that we may honour you on this earth with a virtuous and holy life and hereafter glorify you eternally in heaven. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



THIRD DAY:
THY KINGDOM COME!

The Kingdom of God is the Redemption of Jesus as is known and accepted by mankind. Saint Rose was grieved to know that there existed thousands and thousands of men who did not know Him, and who would unavoidably be lost. She prayed for them with vehement pleas; she wanted to be Christ's apostle and used to say: "Had I not been a woman, after my studies, my first attention would be focused on the missions and the preaching of the Gospel, offering myself to go to the fiercest and most bestial provinces, where people thrive on human flesh to attend to the pagans with health and reparation, at the cost of my own blood and through the efforts of preaching and teaching the catechism.

Rose, our sister, pray for us . . . That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, You wished to reveal to us the joy of Your divine Kingdom through Your only Son, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of mankind, the propagation of which in the whole world, Saint Rose so ardently pleaded to You, wanting to be herself a missionary of Your Holy Name among the sinners who offend You. We earnestly beg You to come promptly and establish Your kingdom of love and charity among us, that we may be worthy one day to enjoy eternal bliss in the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH DAY:
THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!

Through the efforts to conquer herself and that Divine Will may triumph in her, Saint Rose was able to sanctify herself. The Lord allowed her to encounter contradictions and sufferings in all the phases of her extra-ordinary life: from the devil who persecuted her; from the world who censured her; from her mother and brothers who quarreled with her for what they opined were excesses and false appearances. She also had to suffer from some of her confessors who did not understand her true spirit. She suffered in her body with different ailments and in her soul with bitterness and acerbity and want of devotion. But she bore all this with admirable patience and submissiveness to the Divine Will; and she used to repeat many times: "Increase, O Lord, the sufferings as long as you increase your love."

Rose, our sister, pray for us . . . That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, You have deigned to reveal to Your creatures the sure path to Your divine will, in order that, fulfilling it on earth, we may be like the blessed in heaven. Full of gratitude we bless you, for Saint Rose in her lifetime gave us an excellent example of patience and submissiveness in the midst of the painful contradictions and the cruelest sufferings. Through her merits and intercession, we beg You to increase in us Your holy love, that we may always live, gently submissive to Your paternal designs, and be worthy of Your heavenly promises. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.





FIFTH DAY:

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

The corporal as well as the spiritual nourishment are gifts of God. Saint Rose obtained these, through her labor and prayers, for herself and her loved ones. It pleased the Lord to grant her these through extraordinary means, like the case of the chocolate which, in the wee hours of the night, her guardian angel brought to her from the house of Dona Maria de Usategui, to restore her weakened body. On other occasions, the super-substantial Bread of the Eucharist, miraculously overflowing from her soul, was nourishment as well as strength for her body, for it was not possible for Rose to receive other edibles. That is why she said that Sacred Bread “was enough to satiate men of all kinds of hunger they could desire”.
Rose, our sister, pray for us . . . That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, Provident Lord, through the abundance of your gifts, you deign to give corporal nourishment to all mankind, that mankind may in return make you offerings of gratitude and love. We admire the delicate and generous disposition in the life of our beloved Saint Rose, whom, many times, you provided with corporal nourishment. Through her merits and intercession, we pray that our daily bread as well as your grace in our souls may not fail us. With these, we hope to merit the participation in the ineffable sweetness of your celestial table.

SIXTH DAY:

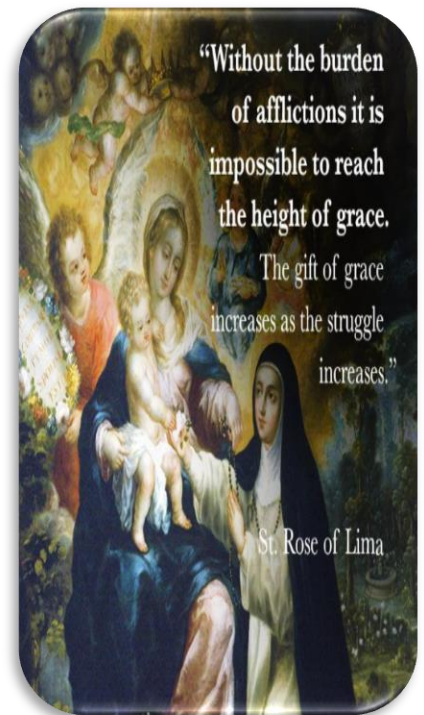
FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US!

Saint Rose linked the pain of her frailties with a complete oblivion of The offences she received from others. In truth, nobody could offend her because she never took offence from anybody. When nearing her end, after asking forgiveness from all those who surrounded her for the troubles which she could have occasioned them with her way of life, she begged Fr. Bartolomé Martinez, O.P., to read for her a prayer to ask the Lord to forgive all those who in life had caused her injury or damage. The priest read while she tightly held in her hands a crucifix and said: “Father and Lord, forgive them.”

Rose, our sister, pray for us . . . That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, most loving Father, through Your infinite goodness, You grant mercy and pardon the sins of your poor children. The example of humility and generosity of our beloved Saint Rose fills us with compunction on discovering our arrogance and the pertinacity of our hardened hearts towards those whom we believe offended us. At the sight of the immensity of our sins and feeling sincerely sorry for them, we heartily forgive all those who have offended us and we humbly beg you to grant us pardon. Receive us, your prodigal children, in Your merciful arms, that we may attain the glory of Heaven. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.





SEVENTH DAY:

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION!

The virtues of Saint Rose did not become perfect without much struggle. Rather, amidst continuous temptations of all kinds, she wove the crown of her victories. The world flattered her with seductive temptations; her own mother was an ally to these for she was inclined to make Rose follow her flirtations; the devil pursued her constantly with blows and ugly representations, tormenting her and trying to withdraw her from her life of austerity and innocence. In all these, Saint Rose took recourse to her Divine Spouse and He tenderly repeated her complaints of abandonment in which she was left. One day, the Lord appeared to her and said: “Do you believe that if I were not with you, you could attain such victory?”

Rose, our sister, pray for us . . . That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, in order to subdue our pride, You allow the world, the devil and our own flesh to combat us with violent temptations, putting us in grave danger of offending You and earning our perdition. The example of our beloved Saint Rose teaches us to look, by means of prayer, for the fortitude of grace, as the support of our weakness. Through her merits and intercession, we beg you to keep away the temptations that may cause us to fall into sin, and if it is Your will that we be tempted, leave us not without the aid of Your divine grace so that, once we have subdued our enemies, filled with merits, we may receive the crown of eternal glory. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

EIGHTH DAY:

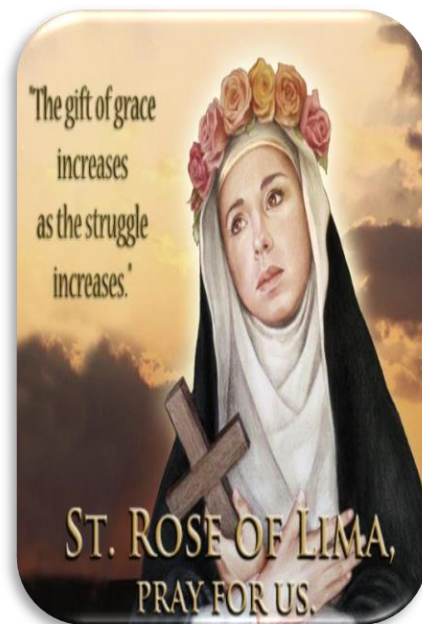
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Aside from the temptations which could have endangered her salvation, the Lord, with particular providence, freed Rose of all evils that could threaten her good name, her peace and her life. On one occasion, at the age of twelve, while she was with her mother in the field, Rose was saved from the fury of a bull who was running towards her. On another occasion, a creditor threateningly charged Rose’s father. In a miraculous manner, Rose furnished the money needed. All her life she was weak, with a multitude of ailments; but that did not cause Rose to neglect the work with which she supported her loved ones, nor did she lessen her mortifications. The Lord protected her as within His arms. “Do not fear”, He once said to Rose, “your life and your health are under My protection.”

Rose, our sister, pray for us . . . That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, You deign to lean Your heart on the misery of our immense needs, protecting us with the blessed shelter of Your providence which vividly shines in the path of the life of your beloved Rose, whom You freed from all danger and succoured with Your vast generosity. We beg You through her merits and intercession, never to lift Your protection from our paths. Scatter our enemies so that, free from all fear, we may serve You with fidelity in the midst of the dangers of the world and achieve eternal happiness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



It is in Christ...that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's favour (grace) to us... Ephesians 1:7



*"If only we would learn how great it is to possess divine grace and how many riches it has within itself, how many joys and delights. We would devote all our concern to winning for ourselves pains and afflictions in order to attain the unfathomable treasure of grace."
St Rose of Lima*

It is in Christ...that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven, so immeasurably generous is God's favour (grace) to us... Ephesians 1:7

NINTH DAY:

AMEN!

In the home of accountant D. Gonzalo de la Maza, Saint Rose was about to die. It was the eve of the feast of St. Bartholomew. A little before 12:00 p.m., as one who was listening to the celestial invitation, Rose made signs to hand to her the blessed candles for the agonizing and said: "Here comes the Spouse; come out and greet Him." She made the sign of the cross as one who is about to start a great endeavour and she made it feel that it was her parting hour. She begged that the pillow under her head be removed, to imitate Christ dying on the Cross, and with all her faculties and her eyes fixed towards heaven, showing no signs of fear, Rose said: "Jesus! My Jesus be with me!" Then, she expired peacefully. Rose put all her trust in God and God saved her and took her to heaven where she prays for us.

Rose, our sister, pray for us . . .That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

PRAYER:

Omnipotent and Eternal God, You chose death as a means to atone for our sins. The precious death of our beloved Saint Rose fills us with comfort. You freed Rose of all the miseries of this life and You brought her to Yourself to enjoy the infinite happiness of Your love. Through her merits and intercession, grant us, that being always conscious of our last moments in this life, and firmly supported by Your promises, we may live here with a wholesome fear of Your justice and then, through a saintly death, may be received in Your merciful arms, to live with You forever in heaven. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***St. Rose of Lima
Pray for Us!***