



Novena to Our Lady of Fatima for Conversion

by: Deacon Keith Fournier



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## **Novena to Our Lady of Fatima for Conversion**

The Lord Be with You, I'm Deacon Keith Fournier, the Editor in Chief of Catholic Online. Through this Novena to Our Lady of Fatima for Conversion we ask for the intercession of the Mother of the Lord.

To lead us closer to Jesus and further in the life of holiness and to lead all the nations of the world to conversion to Jesus Christ.

The Prayers of the Mother of the Lord are powerful!

I am what is called a 'revert' to the Church. Though raised as a Catholic Christian, I fell away from the practice of the ancient faith, only to return.

My teenage search for truth finally led me home, to the Church into which I was baptized as a baby.

The Lord guided my journey.

Among the places it led was reading the "fathers" (early leaders) of the first centuries of the Church. In ancient Christian writings, I discovered how the early Christians viewed their participation in the Church as integral to their belonging to Jesus Christ.

They believed, and we profess, that the Church is fundamentally relational.

After questioning some of the teachings of the Catholic Church in my journey home to the Church I came to understand that the pronouncement of the early Church Council of Ephesus (431 AD) that Mary is "Theo-tokos", Greek for Mother or Bearer of God, was Christological – in other words, it speaks about Jesus Christ.

It was intended to correct growing heresies within the Church which undermined the core proclamation of the Gospel about who Jesus Christ truly is.

The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Word Made Flesh, Jesus the Christ, was truly both God and Man.

The One whom Mary bore was and is truly God and truly man.

I studied the historic background of the proclamation and came to understand what was at stake.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains it this way:



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“What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ.”

(CCC #487)

My study of early Church history revealed the presence of Marian piety and devotion, from the very first centuries of the Church.

From the frescoes in the catacombs to the reflections of the early church fathers on the significance of her role in salvation history and her continued role in the life of the Church.

When we were baptized, we were “incorporated” into Jesus Christ. We live our lives now in His Body. (1 Cor. 12)

The Head and the Body are eternally joined in a communion of love. St. Augustine - and countless Saints both East and West - wrote concerning the “whole Christ” as both head and body. (cf. Colossians 1:15 -23, Ephesians 4:15,16).

Everything Jesus has - He has given to His Church. That includes His Mother.

We are sons and daughters in the Son. The Father of Jesus is Our Father.

Perhaps one of the most well-known appearances of the Mother of the Lord is the one to whom we dedicate these nine days, a novena, of prayer.

From May 13, through October 13, in the year 1917, Mary, the Mother of the Lord appeared to three children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta in Fatima, Portugal.

In the liturgical calendar of the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church we celebrate the Feast of our Lady of Fatima on October 13th.

We will spend the next nine days reflecting on the message of Mary, which is the message of the Gospel.

We will join our prayer, around the globe, in a crescendo of intercession, asking for the intercession of the Mother of the Lord, under her title, Our Lady of Fatima.



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## Day One Novena Reflection Fatima

On the hundredth anniversary of the Apparition of Mary, the Mother of the Lord, to the children of Fatima, Pope Francis spoke to hundreds of thousands who gathered for prayer

Francis has a deep love for Mary, the Mother of the Lord. He is a champion of popular piety as a strength for the faithful and a vehicle for a genuine renewal of devotion for the whole Church.

However, after affirming that, along with them, he was there as a pilgrim, he used the opportunity to reset Marian Piety for Catholic Christians.

In his plain-spoken manner, he juxtaposed two approaches to Marian Piety. He cautioned against one. Then, he revealed the better way, an evangelical way, of practicing Marian Piety in a way which helps one draw closer to Jesus Christ.

The Pope asked the faithful:

*Pilgrims with Mary ... But which Mary? A teacher of the spiritual life, the first to follow Jesus on the narrow way of the cross by giving us an example?*

*Or a Lady unapproachable and impossible to imitate? A woman blessed because she believed always and everywhere in Gods words? Or a plaster statue from whom we beg favors at little cost?*

He continued:

*The Virgin Mary of the Gospel, venerated by the Church at prayer? Or a Mary of our own making: one who restrains the arm of a vengeful God? One sweeter than Jesus the ruthless judge? One more merciful than the Lamb slain for us?*

As we begin this Novena, nine days of prayer, let us ask the Mother of Mercy for Mercy for all the Nations, including the United States,

Let us ask, through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima, for a fresh outpouring of the grace of conversion. And, let us pray the prayer the angel taught the three children.

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,*

*Lead all souls to heaven*

*Especially those most in need of your Mercy*

*Amen.*



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## Day Two Novena Reflection Fatima

Let us pray for our own personal conversion and growth in holiness.

Mary is a teacher of true Holiness.

The Catholic Catechism reminds us that what is taught about Mary in the Church always points us closer to Jesus Christ:

*AND I QUOTE:*

*What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ.*

*God sent forth his Son, but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free co-operation of a creature.*

*For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary (Lk. 1:26,27).*

*(CCC#487, 488)*

Seeking the intercession of the woman whose free consent to the invitation of the Lord - given through an angel - brought heaven to earth and earth to heaven, Let us surrender our will to the Will of God. Let us pray for the grace we need to direct our freedom always toward Jesus Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Let us ask for the grace to turn away from sin, those wrong choices, which are an abuse of freedom and freely turn toward the Lord.

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us.

And, in the words taught to the children by the Angel who appeared to them:

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,*

*Lead all souls to heaven*

*Especially those most in need of your Mercy*

*Amen.*



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## Day Three Novena Reflection Fatima

Let us pray for an authentic renewal of Marian Piety. One which turns the whole world to Jesus Christ. After all, that is the greatest desire of the Mother of the Lord. She always points us to Jesus. She is the model disciple and the first evangelizer.

An early Church Father, Gregory of Nyssa (fourth century) once wrote::

*What came about in bodily form in Mary, the fullness of the Godhead shining through Christ in the Blessed Virgin, takes place in a similar way in every soul that has been made pure.*

*The Lord does not come in bodily form, for we no longer know Christ according to the flesh, but he dwells in us spiritually and the Father takes up his abode with him, the Gospel tells us. In this way, the child Jesus is born in each one of us. (Gregory of Nyssa, On Virginit)*

The Catholic Catechism tells us:

*Since the Virgin Mary's role in the mystery of Christ and the Spirit has been treated; it is fitting now to consider her place in the mystery of the Church. The Virgin Mary is acknowledged and honored as being truly the Mother of God and of the redeemer.*

*She is clearly the mother of the members of Christ since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head. Mary, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church (CCC 963).*

We have a Mother in this eternal family called the Church. Mary, the Mother of the Lord Jesus.

The pastoral admonitions of Pope Francis to the faithful who gathered to commemorate the centenary of the Apparitions at Fatima need to be heard by the faithful around the world.

Mary points to Jesus Christ, the One Savior of the World.

So, true Marian Piety and devotion is always Christological - it leads us into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

Let us pray for a New Evangelization of the Church.

Let us pray for a renewal of true Marian devotion.

Let us pray for and help to lead a new missionary age for the Church leading to the conversion to Jesus Christ of every Nation

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us.

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,*

*Lead all souls to heaven*

*Especially those most in need of your Mercy*

*Amen.*



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## Day Four Novena Reflection Fatima

Mary is always with Jesus

Mary was at the Incarnation, Birth, Crucifixion, and Resurrection of God Incarnate. She was there throughout the often-called hidden years in Nazareth. Mary was present in moments whose impact is timeless. She was there on the day of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church.

She was there as the first evangelist and disciple who gave the first Christian testimony to her cousin, Elizabeth. She won the first convert *in utero* in the person of John the Baptist. This event, called the Visitation, is recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 1: 39-45).

This was followed the visit of the Angel Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:6-38). Her response was to the Angel was not a onetime reaction. It reflected a life of surrender.

Her Fiat (Latin, let it be done) provides a pattern of life for us, if we choose to make it our own. It issued forth into a song of praise, her Magnificat.

Mary humbled herself.

She confronted her fears and entered a new way of living. All in a continued response to a gift initiated by a loving God.

We are called to respond the same way to His calling in our own life.

God is not an add on to our life. He is its source and its summit. There is a way that all men and women are invited into - not just once, but daily. The Way of the Lord Jesus. Mary walked in this way with extraordinary humility. She shows us love surrendered to Love Incarnate.

Justin Martyr and the early Christians found in her yes, the undoing of the no given by the first woman Eve. They called Mary the Second Eve, the mother of the new creation.

In her womb, she carried the One Scripture calls the New Adam.

Jesus was born from her as the first born of a new race of men and women who find a new birth through His life, death and Resurrection.

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us.

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,*

*Lead all souls to heaven*

*Especially those most in need of your Mercy*

*Amen.*



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## Day Five Novena Reflection Fatima

### Mary and the Holy Spirit

In the first chapter of the Gospel of St Luke we read of the Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary  
In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!"  
But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be.  
And the angel said to her,  
"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.  
He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?"  
And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."

In the Annunciation, the Spirit of God hovered over Mary. This is connected, through its symbolic language, to the creation account when the Spirit hovered over the waters (Gen 1:2).  
It also calls to mind the creation of Adam, the first man, who was fashioned out of clay. The Lord breathed the breath of life into him and the man became a living being (Gen 2:7).

The encounter also recalls the cloud of glory which covered the mountain when God gave Moses the Law on Sinai (Exodus 24). The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting (Ex 40), and no one could enter because the glory of God filled the tabernacle.  
Mary is a living tabernacle, an Ark of the New Covenant, a dwelling place of God Incarnate, a new temple of the Word Incarnate.

Such images were freely used by the early Christian fathers. Such uses did not in any way deflect from the centrality of Jesus Christ.  
Quite to the contrary. They only deepened the mystery and opened the early Church up to a deeper encounter with Jesus Christ.  
Let us pray that the same Holy Spirit which came upon Mary would be poured out afresh on the Church, the Body of Jesus Christ, and upon each one of us.

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us.

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,*

*Lead all souls to heaven*

*Especially those most in need of your Mercy*

*Amen.*



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## Day Six Novena Reflection Fatima

While there are reports of serious scrutiny being given to purported appearances of Our Lady by the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith in recent days, the Appearance of Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal has been affirmed as worthy of reliance.

From May 13, through October 13, in the year 1917, Our Lady spoke to the three children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, among other matters, of Russia.

During these same months, the Bolshevik revolution was underway. Atheistic Marxism seized hold of that once great Nation and subjugated the people for decades.

On July 26, 2000, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued what is called The Message of Fatima. It should be read by anyone who seeks to understand the approach that the Church, as mother and teacher, takes to private revelation.

In that document, the Congregation specifically addressed what is referred to as the Third Secret of Fatima. It was explained to now Saint John Paul II by Sr. Lucia, one of the visionaries, while he served as the successor of Peter.

Few messages have ever received as much interest as this third secret, at least in some in contemporary Catholic circles.

The interest has sometimes led to excessive curiosity and, in some circles, some of the reaction has smacked of a contemporary form of Gnosticism.

The core of the message of Fatima, when properly understood and received, is a call to repentance and genuine conversion to Jesus Christ.

It is a little gospel.

The children were told by Mary, the Mother of God, to tell all of us to repent from sin, do penance, turn back to Jesus Christ.

Then, to live lives of prayer and sacrifice, to become holy - in order to participate in the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ as it continues through the work of the Church, which is his body.

Some of what was told to the children concerned the consequences which would occur if people did not exercise their freedom properly by turning away from sin and turning back to God.

But the reason for the warnings is precisely to lead people to repentance, to turn people back to God not to cause fear.

Prophetic warnings are conditional. Our Responses matter.

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us.

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,*

*Lead all souls to heaven*

*Especially those most in need of your Mercy*

*Amen.*



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## Day Seven Novena Reflection Fatima

What about the Third Secret of Fatima?

In the document on the Fatima message, the Vatican Congregation noted: Sister Lucia had already given an indication for interpreting the third part of the "secret" in a letter to the Holy Father, dated 12 May 1982:

The third part of the secret refers to Our Lady's words:

*If not [Russia] will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. The good will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer; various nations will be annihilated'(13-VII-1917).*

*The third part of the secret is a symbolic revelation, referring to this part of the Message, conditioned by whether we accept or not what the Message itself asks of us: 'If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, .... Since we did not heed this appeal of the Message, we see that it has been fulfilled; Russia has invaded the world with her errors. And if we have not yet seen the complete fulfillment of the final part of this prophecy, we are going towards it little by little with great strides.*

*If we do not reject the path of sin, hatred, revenge, injustice, violations of the rights of the human person, immorality and violence, .... And let us not say that it is God who is punishing us in this way; on the contrary, it is people themselves who are preparing their own punishment.*

*In his kindness God warns us and calls us to the right path, while respecting the freedom he has given us; hence people are responsible.*

Let us pray that the ongoing Christian conversion which is occurring in Russia continue, in the Orthodox Christian Church, the Catholic Church and all Christian communities, continue  
Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us.

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,  
Lead all souls to heaven  
Especially those most in need of your Mercy  
Amen.*





## Day Eight Novena Reflection Fatima

In the appearances at Fatima Mary told the children her heart would triumph. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us the heart is the seat of our moral personality:

"Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication and Jesus, in the sixth beatitude teaches "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Mary's heart was pure, singularly turned toward the Lord. She was preserved from sin to be the Mother of the Sinless One. Her choices were always ordered toward the good, the true, the noble and the virtuous.

We need hearts like hers to be free and holy and happy.

Catholic Moral teaching offers a unique insight which has enormous potential to engage a culture enamored with self-fulfillment - but enslaved by making choices which lead to emptiness, division and despair. It affirms that the act of choosing places the person in a relationship with the object, or the subject, chosen.

In other words, what is chosen not only changes the world around us but changes us Or, even more simply, we become what we choose.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa provided an insight concerning our choices in an ancient sermon quoted approvingly by Saint John Paul II in his letter on the Moral Life, *The Splendor of Truth* and is cited in the section on the Moral Life in the Catechism of the Catholic Church :

*"All things are subject to change and becoming never remain constant, but continually pass from one state to another, for better or for worse.. Now human life is always subject to change; it needs to be born ever anew. But here birth does not come about by a foreign intervention, as is the case with bodily beings; it is the result of free choice.*

*Thus, we are, in a certain sense, our own parents, creating ourselves as we will, by our decisions".*

What we choose determines who we become.

Let us pray that our hearts would become like the heart of Mary, singularly given to the Lord.

When our hearts are given totally over to the Lord, we will become more and more like Him.

That is the path to holiness and holiness leads to true happiness and freedom .

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us.

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,*

*Lead all souls to heaven*

*Especially those most in need of your Mercy*

*Amen.*



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## Day Nine Novena Reflection Fatima

The Appearance of our Lady of Fatima came at a time when the errors of atheistic Marxism were about to be unleashed. Sadly, those errors led to the enslavement and death of scores of people.

The vestiges of that atheistic ideology still rob men, women and children of the freedom which the Lord Jesus came to bring.

His promise still echoes:

“If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

The Word became Incarnate in the womb of a Holy Virgin. From the moment Mary said "Yes", the Incarnation began.

Mary shows us the way to surrender to God's loving invitations in our daily lives; a path, to living a life of surrendered love. When we embrace it, it allows Love Incarnate, the Savior whom Mary bore to be, in a real sense, to be "incarnated" in and through each of us so that He can be given to others. We become "God Bearers."

We can become the tent and the ark within which that same God takes up His residence, comes to dwell, in our age - which is so desperately needs His saving presence.

When we begin to touch and grasp this profound insight we not only find ourselves transformed but learn how to become the vehicles through which Love is incarnated for all those around us.

He comes to dwell in all men and women who say "Yes" to Him.

"Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him." (John 14:23) Mary shows us how to participate in the ongoing incarnation of God's Love for the sake of world.

Our Lady of Fatima Pray for us.

*Oh, my Jesus, forgive us our sin, save us from the fires of hell,  
Lead all souls to heaven  
Especially those most in need of your Mercy  
Amen.*



## **Novena Prayer Asking the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima**

Beloved Father, through the life, death and resurrection of your only begotten Son, Jesus the Christ, we have become your adopted sons and daughters.

Through Baptism we are now members of His Body, the Church, which is Your family.

Our Savior Jesus taught us that “whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

We thank you that promise includes each one of us.

As members of the family of Jesus we now turn to you in prayer, as OUR FATHER, ABBA.

Before your Son and our Savior gave up the last drop of His Sacred blood - and breathed his last breath - to set us free from sin and death -

He turned to His Beloved Mother at the foot of the Cross.

And said

‘Woman, behold your son.’

Then he said to the disciple whom he loved with a special affection, John, and said,

‘Behold your mother’” (John 19: 26-27).

Throughout the Church’s history and Tradition great theologians, mystics, popes and saints have all viewed John as representing each one of us.

So, the last gift Jesus gave to us - before giving Himself fully - was His Mother to be our Mother.

The Mother of Jesus is the Mother of His Church - and our Mother.

Father, in your loving plan of salvation, you promised through the prophets of Israel that a Virgin would conceive - and bear a Son - who would be called Immanuel, God with us (Isaiah 7:14, Matt. 1:23)

You taught us to hope for salvation.

You fulfilled your promise. You gave us the complete fulfillment of that hope

As the Apostle Paul taught, in the fullness of time you chose that woman, born under the law to redeem us - and make us your sons and daughters. (Gal. 4:4)





Jesus Christ the Lord

The humble Virgin whom you chose is Mary.

Her “Yes” - her FIAT, brought heaven to earth and earth to Heaven.

She responded to the message of your angel and all of human history was changed.

She is now a part of that great cloud of witnesses gathered in your communion of love.

And she prays, for each one of us, in the Body of Her Son, the Church.

She participates in His ongoing redemptive mission, to bring all men and women to faith in Jesus Christ, holding a special place of honor and veneration.

She is a Messenger of His Mercy, calling the whole world to turn away from sin and turn toward Jesus - to be converted, made holy by being made new in Him.

In that ongoing role in your plan of salvation, she has appeared to some whose hearts are simple, childlike and open to the continued work of your Holy Spirit.

In her appearance to the three children of Fatima, she warned of what would occur if men, women and Nations made the wrong choice

refusing to repent,

refusing to turn away from sin and turn toward Jesus Christ.

But always with the goal of repentance and conversion.

Like Her Son, who said “Let the children come to me”, (Matt 19:4),

His Mother Mary often appears to children.

We believe that she appeared to Lucia, Jacinto and Francisco in the fields outside of Fatima Portugal in 1917 at a pivotal time in history.

She gave them a series of messages, accompanied by a miracle, which continue to inspire and move men, women and Nations,

to conversion to Jesus Christ.

Oh, how we need sincere, heartfelt and life changing repentance and conversion today.



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So, Through her intercession, the Intercession of Our Lady of Fatima

- we pray for the ongoing conversion of Russia,

I pray for the conversion of my own Nation, the United States.

Here, add your own Nation...

We pray for the conversion of all Nations.

Through Her intercession we pray for the graces we need to turn away from sin and be more deeply converted to Jesus Christ.

And Now Dear Father, in the name of Jesus, and under the maternal care of Mary, His Mother, under her title of Our Lady of Fatima, and I present my own personal intention:

Here, add your specific intention...

Finally, as the Family of God, let us join in praying that beloved prayer which includes the words which the Angel of the Lord spoke to the Mother of the Lord followed by the heartfelt cry of believers throughout the centuries who have sought her assistance through her ongoing prayer and intercession for the Nations:

Hail Mary, Full of Grace,

The Lord is with You

Blessed are You among women

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of death

Amen

Final Blessing:

May the Blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

come upon you and remain with you forever

AMEN



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