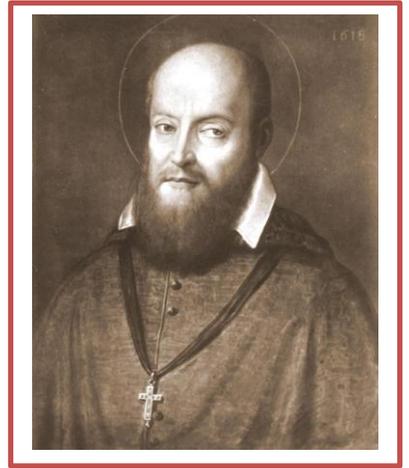


NOVENA TO ST FRANCIS DE SALES - DAY 7

Meditation

Our intellect is ordinarily full of ideas, opinions and considerations suggested by self-love. This is the root of many conflicts within the soul, putting before us all sorts of reasons dictated by human prudence to justify our pretensions. People who make use of this false prudence, instead of enlightening their intellect, obscure it. They reject advice given to them and let those reasons prevail in their minds which support their own opinions, even wrong ones. Make use of the virtue of prudence because it is good, but make good use of it. Employ it only rarely, with simplicity, and solely for the glory of God. (Sermons 30; O. IX, pp. 297-298)



Prayer

O blessed Francis de Sales, who on earth did excel in a life of virtue, especially in the love of God and neighbour, I earnestly ask you to take me under your compassionate care and protection. Obtain for me conversion of mind and heart.

Grant that all people, especially (*names of those whom you wish to include*) may experience the depth of God's redeeming and healing love.

Teach me to fix my eyes on the things of heaven even as I walk each day with my feet planted firmly on the earth. Help me, through the practice of virtue and the pursuit of devotion, to avoid anything that would otherwise cause me to stumble in my attempt to follow Christ and to be an instrument of the Holy Spirit. Encouraged by your prayers and example, help me to live fully my sacred dignity with the hope of experiencing my sacred destiny: eternal life with God.

Receive also this particular need or concern that I now lift up in prayer. (*mention your particular need*).

O God, for the salvation of all, you desired that St. Francis de Sales— preacher, missionary, confessor, bishop and founder—should befriend many along the road to salvation.

Mercifully grant that we, infused with the humility and gentleness of his charity, guided by his wisdom and sharing in his spirit may experience eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Francis de Sales, pray for us.

Live Jesus! In Our Hearts

