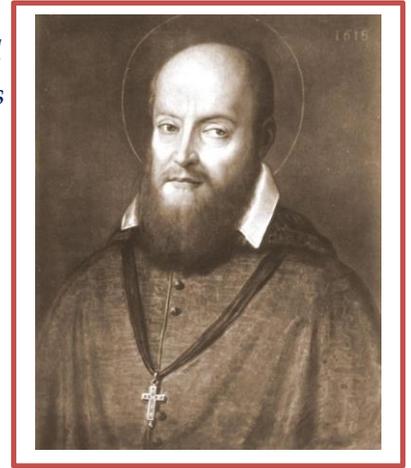


NOVENA TO ST FRANCIS DE SALES - DAY 9

Meditation

Think for a moment of the piety of the Madonna when the angel told her that the Spirit would overshadow her. What sentiments of humility, confidence and courage! At the very moment when she understood that God had given her His heart, that is, His Son, she gave herself to God. Her soul was flooded with charity, so she could say with the sacred spouse, "...My heart trembled within me, and I grew faint when he spoke." [Sg:5:4] As far as we are concerned, we receive a similar grace in Communion, because not an angel but Jesus Christ Himself assures us that in it the Holy Spirit descends on us. Heavenly power covers us with its shadow and the Son of God really comes to us. He can say that He is conceived and born in us. Truly then, the soul can respond with the Madonna, "I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me as you say." [Lk 1:38] (*Spiritual Directory, Art. 12*)



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

