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J.M.J.

NOVENA
IN HONOR OF
OUR COMPASSIONATE
HIGH PRIEST
— *Confraternity*
of Christ the Priest



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Introduction

Jesus is our Compassionate High Priest, as the Bible beautifully tells us. We share in Our Lord's Priesthood by baptism and ordination. This is an incredible Mystery! Jesus offered Himself up in our place, He continues to intercede for us in Heaven, and He calls us to give ourselves with Him as a gift truly pleasing to the Father. But how often do we thank and praise Our Lord for being our High Priest and Victim?

This Novena is one way to show our gratitude, and to meditate on His Priesthood. It can be prayed any time of the year, but especially in the nine days leading up to the Feast of Christ the Priest, celebrated on the first Thursday after Pentecost.

This is a shortened version of the Novena published by the Confraternity of Christ the Priest, www.christthepriest.com
Fr Thomas Casanova CCS

Day One - Our Compassionate High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

Jesus, Our Compassionate High Priest, knows our sufferings, our temptations and our weakness, and He says to us, "Come to Me, all you who are overburdened and I will give you rest." Again and again He says, "Do not be afraid". He has redeemed us, and has become our strength, our holiness. Let us confidently place our trust in Him.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

Day Two - Priest and Victim

Is 53:5-7

He was pierced for our offences, crushed for our sins, upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was

harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth.

Jesus is both High Priest and Victim. He freely offered Himself on our behalf. Full of sorrow for our sins and gratitude for His mercy, let us join Him on the Cross, offering all our joys and sorrows, actions and sufferings in union with His self-offering, so that we may become, with Him, victims of love.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

Day Three - The Lamb of God

John 1:29-30

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

In the Jewish Temple, lambs were offered as a holocaust. These sacrifices foreshadowed the true Lamb of God who would redeem us. What wondrous love! God the Son, the Eternal Word, became the Lamb of God to take away our sins! With St Paul we can say, "He loved me and gave Himself for me!" (Gal 2:20)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

Day Four - The Perfect Sacrifice

Hebrews 9:11-14

But when Christ came as high priest ... he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.

Jesus became the Eternal High Priest at the Incarnation, in obedience to the Father's will. How powerful that one single sacrifice, obtaining the grace of every conversion, every meritorious act, all perseverance, all holiness!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

Day Five - Worship in Spirit and Truth

John 4:23-24

Jesus said, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when *true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth*; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth."

It is written into our very nature to worship. Through sin, our human race turned from God. But Our Lord, true God and true Man, came to be a bridge between heaven and earth, offering on our behalf a sacrifice of infinite dignity. Through Baptism, we share in the Royal Priesthood and so are joined to the perfect praise of the Eternal High Priest.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

Day Six- The Mass

Hebrews 12:22-24, 28

You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.

Therefore, we who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude, with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe.

The Mass is the world's greatest treasure, heaven upon earth. Here Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest offers the same Sacrifice which He offered upon the Cross. Let us

never cease to thank Him giving us the gifts of the Priesthood, the Mass and the Most Blessed Eucharist at the Last Supper. At every Mass may we offer ourselves with Him through the hands of the Priest.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

Day Seven - Priestly People

1Pet 2:4-5, 9

Come to him, a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God, and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises" of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

We thank Our Blessed Lord for sharing His Priesthood with His Church through Baptism and ordination. Ordained priests carry an inestimable treasure for the service of all the baptised, teaching, shepherding and sanctifying. The Laity live their baptismal priesthood by actively and devoutly sharing in the offering of the Eucharist through the hands of the ordained, receiving the Sacraments with faith and love, offering prayer, sacrifices and works of charity, working to sanctify the world, and giving the witness of a holy life. And we are all to be missionaries, inviting all people to be united in the Holy Church.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

Day Eight - Living to Intercede

Hebrews 7:17,24-26

"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away. Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God

through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.

Ascending into heaven, Jesus our Eternal High Priest entered the Holy of Holies, bringing not the blood of bulls or goats but His own precious Blood. At every moment He is living to intercede for us. "*O marvellous condescension of divine love for us! ... In the crib, on the Cross, in the unending glory of the Father, Christ has all the members of the Church present before Him and united to Him.*" (*Mystici Corporis 75*)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

Day Nine - Co-Redeemers

Romans 12:1-2

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

O my Jesus, Eternal High Priest, moved with gratitude and love I resolve to live this Mystery in my life. I wish to *have the same attitude which was in You* when You offered Yourself to the Father: adoration, humility, purity, love. Let me share Your suffering as You *make all things new*. May I be full of faith, hope and love, and every day have a priestly attitude, so that I may *make up in my own body "what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the Church"* (Col 1:24). Help me to take up my cross every day and follow You, so that I may share in Your work of redeeming the world.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest, pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us, baptised and ordained sharers in Your Priesthood, so that through You, with You and in You, we may offer ourselves to the Father as a sacrifice of love for the glory of the Divine Majesty and the salvation of souls. O Mary, Mother of our Eternal High Priest, obtain for us your children the grace to share your "Yes" to the Will of God and your love for the Priestly Heart of your Divine Son. Amen.

***To Conclude the Ninth Day-
Litany of Christ the Priest.***