



Novena in Honor of St. Charles Borromeo

October 26 – November 3, 2023

Saint Charles Borromeo (1538–1584) was the Archbishop of Milan and a Cardinal, as well as the Papal Secretary of State under Pope Pius IV. He was one of the drafters of the first Catechism of the Catholic Church, a leader of the Catholic Reformation, and an innovator of religious education, especially for children—establishing what is commonly known as “Sunday School.” He performed many works of charity and selflessly ministered to the sick during a serious outbreak of bubonic plague. Saint Charles Borromeo is the patron saint of learning and the arts and of catechists. His feast day is November 4.

“Charity is that with which no man is lost, and without which no man is saved.”

“God wishes us not to rest upon anything but His infinite Goodness.”

“If we wish to make any progress in the service of God, we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness.”

— **St. Charles Borromeo**

Day 1 (Thu. Oct. 26)

O glorious St. Charles, among all the Saints of God, one in whose intercession I should most confide, because you were chosen by God to promote the interests of religion, by promoting the Christian education of youth. You were, like Jesus Christ himself, always accessible to little ones; for whom you broke the bread of the word of God, and procured for them also the blessings of a Christian Education. To you, then, I have recourse with confidence, beseeching you to obtain for me the grace to profit of the advantages I enjoy, and for which I am so considerably indebted to your zeal.

Preserve me by your prayers from the dangers of the world; obtain that my heart may be impressed with a lively horror of sin; a deep sense of my duty as a Christian; a sincere contempt for the opinion and false maxims of the world; an ardent love for God, and that holy fear which is the beginning of wisdom. *Amen.*

Day 2 (Fri. Oct. 27)

O glorious St. Charles, model for ecclesiastics, by your generous detachment from all worldly concerns and by your zeal for the glory of God, and the relief of the poor, obtain for me, I pray, the grace to apply myself, like you, faithfully to all the duties which belong to the holy state to which it has pleased God to call me.

Glory be

Glory be, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Day 3 (Sat. Oct. 28)

O glorious St. Charles, whose care it was to observe in the most minute details and most perfectly the discipline of holy Church, obtain for me, I pray, the grace ever to love tenderly and observe exactly our holy Rule and Customs.

Glory be

Glory be, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Day 4 (Sun. Oct. 29)

O glorious St. Charles, who always prepared for death by the sanctity of your life, and accepted it with holy joy when it overtook you in the midst of your most glorious career: obtain for me, I pray, the grace always to accept, with Christian resignation, all that is painful to the senses which it shall please the Lord to send me; and that my life may be a continual preparation for death; so that when I arrive at my great passage, instead of feeling the terror of the sinner, I may enjoy the peace of the just, a prelude to eternal blessedness with the elect in heaven.

Glory be

Glory be, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Day 5 (Mon. Oct. 30)

St. Charles, whose commitment to education and the arts was unwavering, even amidst tremendous turmoil, obtain for me, I pray, a greater dedication to inspire the love of learning in others and to encourage creativity in those around me.

Glory be

Glory be, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Day 6 (Tue. Oct. 31)

O glorious St. Charles, among all the Saints of God, one in whose intercession I should most confide, because you were chosen by God to promote the interests of religion, by promoting the Christian education of youth. You were, like Jesus Christ himself, always accessible to little ones; for whom you broke the bread of the word of God, and procured for them also the blessings of a Christian Education. To you, then, I have recourse with confidence, beseeching you to obtain for me the grace to profit of the advantages I enjoy, and for which I am so considerably indebted to your zeal.

Preserve me by your prayers from the dangers of the world; obtain that my heart may be impressed with a lively horror of sin; a deep sense of my duty as a Christian; a sincere contempt for the opinion and false maxims of the world; an ardent love for God, and that holy fear which is the beginning of wisdom. *Amen.*

Day 7 (Wed. Nov. 1 – *All Saints Day*)

O saintly reformer, animator of spiritual renewal of priests and the religious, you organized true seminaries and wrote a standard catechism. Inspire all religious teachers and authors of catechetical books. Move them to love and transmit only that which can form true followers of the Teacher who was divine.

Glory be

Glory be, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Day 8 (Thu. Nov. 2 – *All Souls Day*)

O glorious St. Charles, by the joy which you found from tender infancy in the practices of piety, obtain for me, I pray, a constant and tender affection for all religious exercises.

Glory be

Glory be, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Day 9 (Fri. Nov. 3 – *Eve of St. Charles Borromeo's Feast Day*)

O glorious St. Charles, among all the Saints of God, one in whose intercession I should most confide, because you were chosen by God to promote the interests of religion, by promoting the Christian education of youth. You were, like Jesus Christ himself, always accessible to little ones; for whom you broke the bread of the word of God, and procured for them also the blessings of a Christian Education. To you, then, I have recourse with confidence, beseeching you to obtain for me the grace to profit of the advantages I enjoy, and for which I am so considerably indebted to your zeal.

Preserve me by your prayers from the dangers of the world; obtain that my heart may be impressed with a lively horror of sin; a deep sense of my duty as a Christian; a sincere contempt for the opinion and false maxims of the world; an ardent love for God, and that holy fear which is the beginning of wisdom. *Amen.*