

Daily Reflections

DAY 1

Mary, powerful help of those Christians who approach the throne of your mercy with trust, listen to the prayers of your children who invoke your help to avoid sin and the occasions of sin.

DAY 2

Mary most holy, kind and merciful mother, with your visible help you freed the Christian people from the ferocious assaults of the Muslims. Free our souls from the attacks of the devil, the world, and the flesh, so that we may always overcome the enemies of our salvation.

DAY 3

Most powerful Queen of Heaven, you triumphed over heresies which sought to tear your children away from the Church. Come to our assistance so that we may remain steadfast in our faith and may guard the purity of our hearts in the midst of the many dangers that beset us.

DAY 4

Mary, our most amiable Mother, you are the Queen of martyrs because of the heroic courage and strength you exercised on earth. Obtain for us the strength we need to be constant in your service and always to show ourselves your devoted children in life and in death.

DAY 5

Loving Mother Mary, you showed your powerful protection in the triumph of Pope Pius VII. Spread your mantle over the Church; and protect our Shepherd, the Holy Father, from the attacks of the enemy, free him from all attacks, and assist him always as he steers the bark of St. Peter to safety.

DAY 6

Mary, Queen of the Apostles, take under your protection all the ministers and the faithful of the Catholic Church. Fill them with a burning zeal for the salvation of souls, and give special assistance to missionaries so that they may succeed to attract all souls to faith in Jesus Christ and thus form one flock under the guidance of one Shepherd.

DAY 7

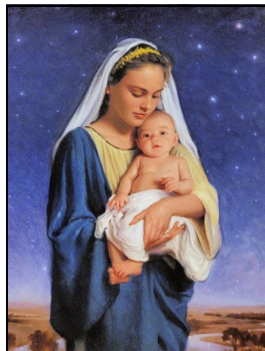
Loving and merciful Mother, you saved Christians from countless misfortunes. Free us from the plague of infidelity which seeks to alienate us from the Church and religious observances by means of corrupt publications and schools and irreligious sects. Grant perseverance to the good, give strength to the weak, and move sinners to repentance, so that truth and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ may triumph in the world.

DAY 8

Mary, Pillar of the Church and Help of Christians, we beg to keep us firmly rooted in our faith and to protect in us our freedom as children of God. We promise not to stain our souls with sin and to obey our Holy Father and the Bishops in communion with him. We want to live and die in the bosom of the Church and to attain eternal salvation.

DAY 9

Most loving Mother Mary, you have always been the Help of Christians. Help us with your powerful protection in life and especially at the hour of our death, so that, after having loved and venerated you on earth, we may come to proclaim your mercy in heaven.



Novena in Honor of Mary Help of Christians

May 16-24

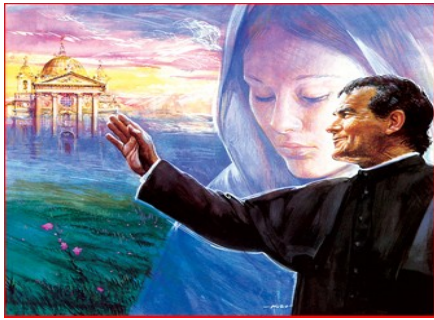


**Salesians of Don Bosco
Office of Youth Ministry
and Vocations**

Mary, Help of Christians

“The help of God and Mary will not fail you...I recommend devotion to Mary Help of Christians and frequently Holy Communion”.

-Don Bosco



The principal objective is to promote veneration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Mary Help of Christians. This title seems to please the august Queen of Heaven very much. So writes St. John Bosco about the promotion of the devotion to Mary Help of Christians (Auxilium Christianorum). The Association of Mary Help of Christians was granted official status and indulgences in April 1869.

Devotion to our Lady is not an end to itself. Speaking of devotions to Mary, the Second Vatican Council stated: “While honoring Christ’s Mother, these devotions cause her Son to be rightly known, loved, and glorified, and all His commands observed”. Similarly, Don Bosco often repeated: “I beg you first to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and then to pay homage to Mary most holy”.

Devotions to Mary, Help of Christians

If we could but lift the veil and show you the graces that have been granted to those dedicated to Her, we could intone a magnificent hymn in honor of the Mighty Virgin, Help of Christians.— Don Bosco

Our Lady made known to St. John Bosco that she wished devotion spread to her under this title, and she worked many miracles to help him in his work. St. John Bosco built a great church in Turin dedicated to Mary, Help of Christians, and the Holy Father made it a minor Basilica.

Many miracles were worked in this church. The lame walked, the blind saw, the sick in soul and body were restored to health. From this Church, the heart of the Salesian work, the sons of St. John Bosco have carried the name of Mary, Help of Christians, to every part of the world.

It is the office of a mother to give help to her children in all their needs. This title expresses in practice Our Lady’s position as our mother. She has all the help we need and she wants to give it to us, if only we will ask for it.

Call on Mary in all your difficulties with the little prayer, Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us, and you will never call in vain. And again, ‘Spread devotion to Mary, Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are’. In this sanctuary, by a brief of April 5, 1870, Pope Pius IX founded an archconfraternity, and enriched it with many indulgences and spiritual favors, and on May 17, 1903, by a decree of Pope Leo XIII, the image of Mary, Help of Christians, which is venerated there, was solemnly crowned. (From the *Companion of Youth*, written by St. John Bosco).

Novena to Mary, Help of Christians

Begin the Novena each day with:

◆ Daily Scripture Meditations

1. Faith and the acceptance of the Word of God: Luke 1:26-38
2. Sincere humility: Luke 1:48
3. Active charity: Luke 1:36-39
4. Filial love for God: Luke 2:21,22,40
5. Gratitude for our gifts: Luke 1:46-49
6. Gratitude shown in the offering at the temple: Luke 2:22-24
7. Poverty accepted with dignity and trust in the Lord: Luke 1:48
8. Prayer in the apostolic community: Acts 1:12-14
9. Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother: John 19:25-27

◆ In the name of the Father and Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

◆ Say the Apostles’ Creed

◆ Recite daily reflections on opposite page

◆ End the Novena each day with

-Our Father, Hail Mary (10 times), Glory be to the Father.

◆ Say Novena Prayer

Almighty and merciful Lord, in a marvelous manner, you deigned to make the most holy Virgin Mary a powerful helper in defense of Christians. Grant that, having fought the good fight under her protection during our life, we may be victorious over our infernal enemy at the hour of our death. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

◆ Mary, Help of Christians, Pray for us.