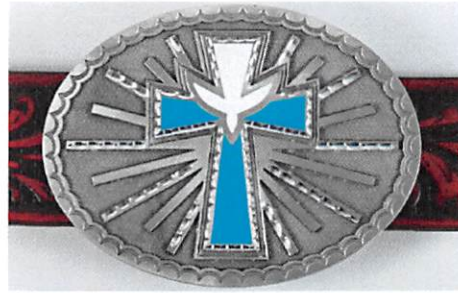


A NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS



The novena in honour of the Holy Spirit is the oldest of all novenas since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem to await the coming of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost. It is still the only novena officially prescribed by the Church. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian.

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT



Tune:
*Veni Sancte
Spiritus* by
Samuel
Webbe the
elder
(1740-1816)

1. Holy Spirit, Lord of light,
From Thy clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.
Come, Thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure,
Come, Thou Light of all that live.

2. Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful Guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow.
Thou in toil art comfort sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

3. Light immortal, Light divine,
Visit Thou these hearts of Thine,
And our inmost being fill.

If Thou take Thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

4. Heal our wounds; our strength renew;
On our dryness pour Thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away.
Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

5. Thou, on those who evermore
Thee confess and Thee adore,
In Thy sevenfold gifts descend:
Give them comfort when they die,
Give them life with Thee on high;
Give them joys that never end.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

To be recited daily during the Novena

On my knees before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body to you, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the strength and light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion, to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced feet of Jesus and looking at His five wounds, and trusting in His precious blood and adoring His opened side and stricken heart, I implore You, adorable Spirit, helper of my infirmity, to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord for Your servant heareth". **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE SEVEN GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

To be recited daily during the Novena

O Lord Jesus Christ who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your apostles and disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me, that He may perfect in my soul the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only to the things that are eternal; the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth; the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven; the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation; the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints; the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord with the sign of Your true disciples, and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. **Amen.**

FIRST DAY:

The Holy Spirit

Only one thing is important - eternal salvation. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared – sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of light, of strength and of love. With His sevenfold gifts He enlightens the mind, strengthens the will and inflames the heart with love of God. To ensure our salvation we ought to invoke the Divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helpeth our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asketh for us".

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, who hast vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit and hast given us forgiveness of all sins, vouchsafe to send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration Prayer for the Seven Gifts*



SECOND DAY:

The Gift of Holy Fear

The gift of Fear fills us with a sovereign respect for God, and makes us dread nothing so much as to offend Him by sin. It is a fear that arises, not from the thought of hell, but from sentiments of reverence and filial submission to our heavenly Father. It is the fear that is the beginning of wisdom, detaching us from worldly pleasures that could in any way separate us from God. "They that fear the Lord will prepare their hearts, and in His sight will sanctify their souls."

Prayer

Come, O blessed Spirit of Holy Fear; penetrate my inmost heart that I may set you, my Lord and God, before my face for ever. Help me to shun all things that can offend You, and make me worthy to appear before the pure eyes of Your Divine Majesty in heaven, where You live and reign in the unity of the ever Blessed Trinity, God, world without end. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts*

THIRD DAY:

The Gift of Piety

The gift of Piety begets in our hearts a filial affection for God as our most loving Father. It inspires us to love and respect, for His sake, persons and things consecrated to Him as well as those who are vested with His authority, His Blessed Mother and the Saints, the Church and its visible Head, our parents and superiors, our country and its rulers. He who is filled with the gift of Piety finds the practice of his religion not a burdensome duty but a delightful service. Where there is love, there is no labour.

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Piety, possess my heart. Enkindle therein such a love for God that I may find satisfaction only in His service and for His sake lovingly submit to all legitimate authority. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts*



FOURTH DAY:

The Gift of Fortitude

By the gift of Fortitude the soul is strengthened against natural fear, and supported to the end in the performance of duty. Fortitude imparts to the will an impulse and energy which move it to undertake without hesitancy the most arduous tasks, to face dangers, to trample under foot human respect and to endure without complaint the slow martyrdom of even lifelong tribulation. "He that shall persevere unto the end, he shall be saved".

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Fortitude, uphold my soul in time of trouble and adversity, sustain my efforts after holiness, strengthen my weakness, give me courage against all the assaults of my enemies, that I may never be overcome and separated from Thee, my God and greatest good. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts*

FIFTH DAY:

The Gift of Knowledge

The gift of Knowledge enables the soul to evaluate created things at their true worth - in their relation to God. Knowledge unmask the pretence of creatures, reveals their emptiness, and points out their only true purpose as instruments in the service of God. It shows us the loving care of God even in adversity and directs us to glorify Him in every circumstance of life. Guided by its light, we put first things first, and prize the friendship of God beyond all else. "Knowledge is a fountain of life to him that possesseth it."

Prayer

Come, O Blessed Spirit of Knowledge and grant that I may perceive the will of the Father; show me the nothingness of earthly things, that I may realize their vanity and use them only for Thy glory and my own salvation, looking ever beyond them to Thee, and Thy eternal rewards. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts*



SIXTH DAY:

The Gift of Understanding

Understanding, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, helps us to grasp the meaning of the truths of our holy religion. By faith we know them, but by Understanding we learn to appreciate and relish them. It enables us to penetrate the inner meaning of revealed truths and through them to be quickened to newness of life. Our faith ceases to be sterile and inactive, but inspires a mode of life that bears eloquent testimony to the faith that is in us; we begin to "walk worthy of God in all things pleasing and increase in the knowledge of God".

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Understanding, enlighten our minds that we may know and believe all the mysteries of salvation, may merit at last to see the eternal light in Thy light, and in the light of glory have a clear vision of Thee and the Father and the Son. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts*

SEVENTH DAY:

The Gift of Counsel

The gift of Counsel endows the soul with supernatural prudence, enabling it to judge promptly and rightly what must be done, especially in difficult circumstances. Counsel applies the principles furnished by Knowledge and Understanding to the innumerable concrete cases that confront us in the course of our daily duty as parents, teachers, public servants and Christian citizens. Counsel is supernatural common sense, a priceless treasure in the quest of salvation. "Above all these things pray to the Most High, that He may direct thy way in truth."

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Counsel, help and guide me in all my ways that I may always do Thy holy will. Incline my heart to that which is good; turn it away from all that is evil and direct me by the straight path of Thy commandments to that goal of eternal life for which I long. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts*



EIGHTH DAY:

The Gift of Wisdom

Embodying all the other gifts, as charity embraces all the other virtues, Wisdom is the most perfect of the gifts. Of Wisdom it is written "all good things came to me with her and innumerable riches through her hands". It is the gift of Wisdom that strengthens faith, fortifies hope, perfects charity and promotes the practice of virtue in the highest degree. Wisdom enlightens the mind to discern and relish things divine, in the appreciation of which earthly joys lose their savour whilst the Cross of Christ yields a divine sweetness according to the words of the Saviour: "Take up thy cross and follow me, for my yoke is sweet and my burden light".

Prayer

Come, O Spirit of Wisdom, and reveal to my soul the mysteries of heavenly things; their exceeding greatness, power and beauty. Teach me to love them above and beyond all the passing joys and satisfactions of earth. Help me to attain them and possess them for ever. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts*

NINTH DAY:

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit perfect the supernatural virtues by enabling us to practice them with greater docility to divine inspiration. As we grow in the knowledge and love of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit, our service becomes more sincere and generous and the practice of virtue more perfect. Such acts of virtue leave the heart filled with joy and consolation and are known as Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits in turn render the practice of virtue more attractive and become a powerful incentive for still greater efforts in the service of God, to serve whom is to reign.

Prayer

Come, O Divine Spirit, fill my heart with Thy heavenly fruits -Thy charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, and temperance - that I may never weary in the service of God, but by continued faithful submission to Thy inspiration may merit to be united eternally with Thee in the love of the Father and the Son. **Amen.**

*Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be to the Father...
Act of Consecration, Prayer for the Seven Gifts*

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

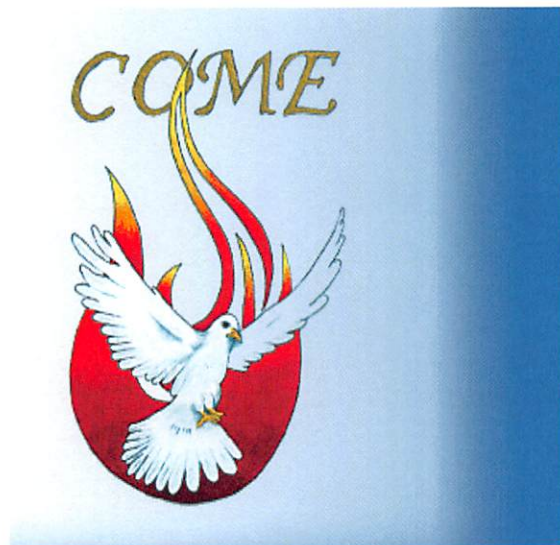
Come, O Holy Spirit, fill
the hearts of your faithful,
And enkindle in them the
fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.

R. And you shall renew
the face of the earth

Let us pray. O God, who taught
the hearts of the faithful by the
light of the Holy Spirit, grant that
by the gifts of the same Spirit we
may be always truly wise and
ever rejoice in his consolation,
through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen



LITANY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Lord, have mercy on us, *Christ have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. Father all powerful, *Have mercy on us.*

Jesus, Eternal Son of the Father, Redeemer of the world, *Save us.*

Spirit of the Father and the Son, boundless Life of both, *Sanctify us.*

Holy Trinity, *Hear us.*

Holy Spirit, Who proceedest from the Father and the Son, *Enter our hearts.*

Holy Spirit, Who art equal to the Father and the Son, *Enter our hearts.*

Promise of God the Father, *Have mercy on us.*

Ray of heavenly light, *Have mercy on us.*

Author of all good, *Have mercy on us.*

Source of heavenly water, *Have mercy on us.*

Consuming fire, *Have mercy on us.*

Ardent charity, *Have mercy on us.*

Spiritual unction, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of love and truth, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of counsel and fortitude, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of knowledge and piety, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of the fear of the Lord, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of grace and prayer, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of peace and meekness, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of modesty and innocence, *Have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit, the Comforter, *Have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, *Have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit, Who governs the Church,

Have mercy on us.

Gift of God the Most High, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit who fills the universe, *Have mercy on us.*

Spirit of the adoption of the children of God, *Have mercy on us.*

Holy Spirit, *Inspire us with horror of sin.*

Holy Spirit, *Come and renew the face of the earth.*

Holy Spirit, *Shed Thy light into our souls.*

Holy Spirit, *Engrave Thy law on our hearts.*

Holy Spirit, *Inflame us with the flame of Thy love.*

Holy Spirit, *Open to us the treasures of Thy graces.*

Holy Spirit, *Teach us to pray well.*

Holy Spirit, *Enlighten us with Thy heavenly inspiration.*

Holy Spirit, *Lead us in the way of salvation.*



Continued..

Holy Spirit, *Grant us the only necessary knowledge.*
 Holy Spirit, *Inspire in us the practice of good.*
 Holy Spirit, *Grant us the merits of all virtues.*
 Holy Spirit, *Make us persevere in justice.*
 Holy Spirit, *Be our everlasting reward.*
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
 Send us Thy Holy Spirit.
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
 Pour down into our souls the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
 Grant us the Spirit of wisdom and piety.
 Come, Holy Spirit! Fill the hearts of Thy faithful,
 and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Let us pray. Grant, O merciful Father, that Thy Divine Spirit may enlighten, inflame and purify us, that He may penetrate us with His heavenly dew and make us fruitful in good works, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. **Amen.**



CONCLUDING PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Holy Spirit of God, take me as your disciple, guide me, illuminate me and sanctify me. Bind my hands that I may do no evil; cover my eyes that I may not see it; sanctify my heart so that evil may not rest within me. Be my guide! Wherever you lead, I will go; whatever you command, I will do.

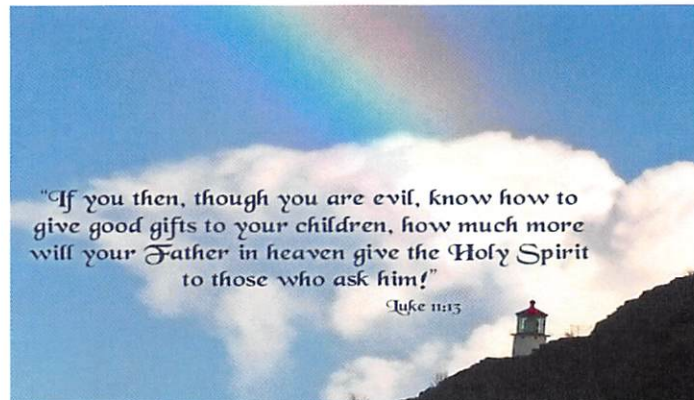
O Holy Spirit, come into my heart. By your power, draw me to you and grant me charity with fear. Guard me from every evil thought; warm me with your sweetest love so that all pain may seem light to me. Help me now in every action.

O Holy Spirit, infinite love of the Father and the Son, I offer myself this day and all the days of my life to you, O Consuming Fire. I am now firmly resolved more than ever to hear your voice and to do all things in compliance with your Holy Will.
Amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

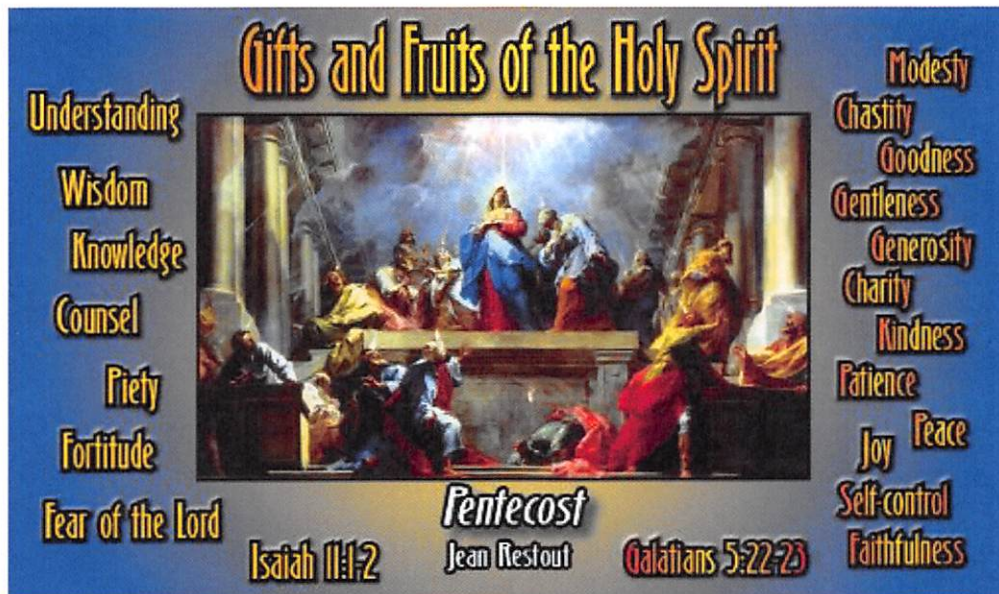
This prayer was written by Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787), a bishop and doctor of the Church and founder of the Redemptorist order.

Holy Spirit, divine Consoler, I adore You as my true God, with God the Father and God the Son. I adore You and unite myself to the adoration You receive from the angels and saints. I give You my heart and I offer my ardent thanksgiving for all the grace which You never cease to bestow on me. O Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favours, I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to grant me **the gift of holy fear**, so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon. Grant me **the gift of piety**, so that I may serve You for the future with increased fervour, follow with more promptness Your holy inspirations, and observe your divine precepts with greater fidelity. Grant me **the gift of knowledge**, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by Your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation. Grant me **the gift of fortitude**, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul. Grant me **the gift of counsel**, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement and may discover the wiles and snares of the tempter. Grant me **the gift of understanding**, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries and, by contemplation of heavenly things, detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this miserable world. Grant me **the gift of wisdom**, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God at my last end, so that, having loved Him and served Him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing Him eternally in the next. **Amen.**



A SIMPLE PRAYER

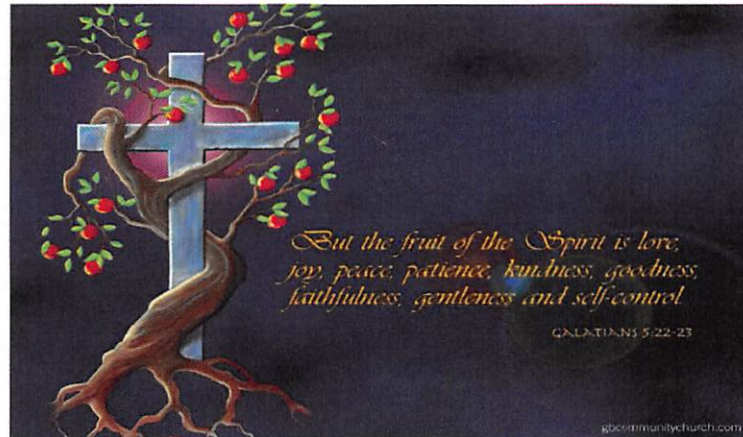
- Spirit of **Wisdom**, preside over all my thoughts, words and actions, from this hour until the moment of my death.
- Spirit of **Understanding**, enlighten and teach me.
- Spirit of **Counsel**, direct my inexperience.
- Spirit of **Fortitude**, strengthen my weakness.
- Spirit of **Knowledge**, instruct my ignorance.
- Spirit of **Piety**, make me fervent in good works.
- **Heavenly Spirit**, make me persevere in the service of God, and enable me to act on all occasions with goodness and kindness, charity and joy, with long-suffering, mildness and fidelity. Let the heavenly virtues of modesty, continency and chastity, adorn the temple you have chosen for your abode.
- Spirit of **Holiness**, by your all powerful grace, preserve me from the misfortune of sin. **Amen.**



THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them:

- charity
- joy
- peace
- patience
- kindness
- goodness
- generosity
- gentleness
- faithfulness
- modesty
- self-control
- chastity



Holy Spirit, eternal Love of the Father and the Son, kindly bestow on us the fruit of *charity*, that we may be united to you by divine love; the fruit of *joy*, that we may be filled with holy consolation; the fruit of *peace*, that we may enjoy tranquility of soul; and the fruit of *patience*, that we may endure humbly everything that may be opposed to our own desires. Divine Spirit, be pleased to infuse in us the fruit of *kindness*, that we may willingly relieve our neighbour's necessities; the fruit of *goodness*, that we may be benevolent toward all; the fruit of *generosity*, that we may share what we have to benefit others, never being mean or grudging, and the fruit of *gentleness*, that we may subdue every rising of ill temper in all our dealings with our neighbour. Creator Spirit, graciously impart to us the fruit of *faithfulness*, that we may rely with assured confidence on the word of God; the fruit of *modesty*, that we may order our exterior regularly; and the fruits of *self-control* and *chastity*, that we may keep our bodies in such holiness as befits your temple, so that having by your assistance preserved our hearts pure on earth, we may merit in Jesus Christ, according to the words of the Gospel, to see God eternally in the glory of His kingdom. **Amen.**

