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The First and Greatest Novena.

"Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the coming of the Holy Ghost." That was Christ's admonition to His followers just before His ascension. Hence his disciples to the number of 120, returned from the Mount of Olives to the Upper Room where "all those were perservering with one mind in prayer....with Mary the Mother of Jesus."

There you have the first and greatest of all novenas--to the Holy Ghost, with Our Lady, in the Cenacle where the Blessed Eucharist had been instituted.

Understand the spirit of that novena which extended from the Ascension to Pentecost. All were one mind in prayer. Those disciples thought enough of the intentions of their novena to give themselves wholeheartedly to it.

They felt deeply the need of the coming of the Holy Ghost. They were weak and cowardly and uninspired for the gigantic work of spreading the new Church. And they knew it! There were among them, in the words of St. Paul, few wise according to the world; few powerful, few noble.

But through the coming of the Holy Ghost, the ignorant became enlightened to confound the wise; the weak became strong to confound the powerful; the lowly were raised up to confound the proud and mighty of the world.

You Novena to the Holy Ghost should start tomorrow (if it did not start today), under the inspiration of Our Blessed Lady. Make it in one mind a Novena of Masses and Holy Communions. Say daily until Pentecost, in the humble spirit of the early disciples:

"Come, O Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of the faithful. Enkindle within them the fire of Thy divine love. Send forth Thy Holy Spirit and all shall be created. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth."

Ask the Holy Ghost, Spirit of Light, to awaken your mind that you may relish the Word of God in true faith; that you may value above everything the presence of sanctifying grace within your soul.

Ask Him, Heavenly Inspiration, to make you love God like a saint in every manifestation of His will. Ask Him to console you in suffering and reverses, to strengthen you in temptation, to sanctify you through the sacraments and through an honest attempt against sin.

Write your intentions with those of Christians making the Novena of the Holy Ghost throughout the world.

Facts About The Grotto.

After a visit to Lourdes in 1873 Father Sorin returned intent upon erecting a facsimile of the miraculous shrine in France....Actual work began in 1877, after much discussion as to the spot....Some favored the hill near the seminary; others, the ground near Calvary....Great boulders, some weighing two and three tons, make up the foundation....A curious thing happened while the laborers were digging. Just to the left of the cavern, in relatively the same spot from which proceeds the miraculous flow of water at Lourdes, a spring of the clearest water was accidentally struck....It required 18 years to construct the Grotto....Lack of funds held up the work....Through a donation of Rev. Thomas Carroll of Oil City, Pa., the work was completed....On the Feast of Our Lady of Snows the Grotto was dedicated.

PRAYERS: (deceased) grandfather of Charles (Corby) and William (Eronson) Meyers. Ill, mother of Louis Alaman (Sor.); Sister Mary Ruth, C.S.U.; wife of J. Lovely (Dining Hall); mother of Joe Druecker (Alsh); sister of Marty Bayer (Cor.) 5 sp. ints.