



What's A Novena?

A story worth remembering at examination time is one told by Our Blessed Saviour. It concerns two neighbors. One of these men was awakened one night at midnight by the unexpected arrival of an old friend. The visitor had been traveling for many hours and was hungry.

The host went to the pantry and found it empty.

He thought it a matter of charity to find some substantial food for his friend. So, in spite of the late hour, he threw on a coat and hurried off to his next door neighbor.

He pounded at the front door for a while. When he heard activity within, he shouted his appeal: "Lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has just come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him."

One can imagine the sleepy-eyed neighbor opening the second floor bedroom window and making a grouchy response: "Do not disturb me; the door is now shut, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give to thee." (The quotes are the words of Christ".)

But the needy fellow did not depart. He kept pounding at the door, with the result that the lights were turned on, the door opened and a supply of bread handed to him.

Our Blessed Lord compared Himself to the man with the supply of bread, and said: "I say to you, although he will not get up and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him all he needs. And I say to you, ask, and it shall be given to you. For everyone who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it shall be opened."

By this parable Christ tells us that He will answer prayer that is persevered in. A novena is simply perseverance in prayer for nine days. Novena is from the Latin word "novem" which means nine.

One could keep praying for a favor for any number of days. God, however, seems to look with special favor upon nine days. This was the length of time he asked His Apostles to wait in prayer before He sent the Holy Ghost at Pentecost.

He who prays and quits after a day or two shows an indifferent attitude. Either he is not too anxious to obtain the favor or he does not understand that one must make himself worthy of a favor. Repeated prayer prepares the soul for God's gift.

The Novena for Examinations is not a prayer for a miracle. You must do your part, which is to study. Your prayer will aid your understanding and memory. Start your Novena tomorrow. For nine days persevere in Mass and Communion, the rosary and the prayer to Father Moreau.

PRAYERS: (deceased) grandmother of Tom Krass (Mission House); uncle of Pat Kenny (Wal); friend of John Krueger (Sor); father of Bill Denning (Morr) Anniv). (Ill) uncle of Tom Krass. Three special intentions. One Thanksgiving.