NOVENA

to

ST FRANCIS of ASSISI

St Francis of Assisi, born 1182 – died October 3, 1226.

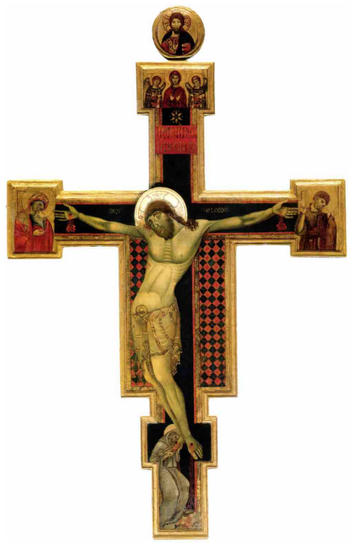
All stand for the duration of the Novena.

LATIN	ENGLISH
Priest: Deus in adjutorium meum intende. **R.** Domine ad adjuvandum me festina. **Priest:** *(All bow)* Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto. **R.** Sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen. Alleluia.	**Priest:** O God, come to my aid. **R.** O Lord, make haste to help me. **Priest:** *(All bow)* Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. **R.** As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

EXHORTATION

Let us turn to our blessed father Francis, imploring his merciful intercession (*state your petition*).

We ask that the holy Poverello of Assisi may obtain for us an increase in holiness, in charity, and in forbearance.



HYMN: *Francis, thou wast lonely plying*

1. Francis, thou wast lonely plying
   For thy bread from door to door,
   Till God heard thy bitter sighing
   For His wounds and for His poor;

2. Till He bade thee all things leaving
   Love the Lady Poverty,
   Whom in joyfulness receiving
   Thou didst wed as poor as thee.

3. Blind to earthen pomp and glory
   Thou didst see the Crucified,
   When the scars, that tell Love's story,
   Smote thee, hands and feet and side.

4. And His eyes upon the mountain
   Left each burning wound with thee,
   As they looked upon the fountain
   Of thy soul in ecstasy.

5. Now thy feet like ensigns glowing
   March above the starry plain,
   And thy hands are rich bestowing
   Love for all thy children's pain.

(All bow during this verse)

6. To the Father glory giving
   And the wondrous-wounded Son,
   Let us glorify the living Spirit,
   Ever Three in One.

by Shane Leslie

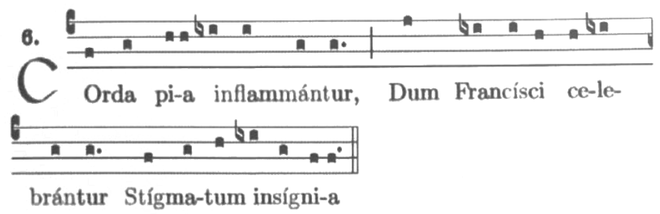
All: Amen.

Priest: Dominus vobiscum.
R. Et cum spiritu tuo.
V. Benedicamus Domino.
R. Deo gratias.

Priest: The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
V. Let us bless the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

HYMN: *Corda pia*

During the hymn, the celebrant incenses the icon, relic and altar.
The Choir sings the verses and all join in the refrain: Corda pia.



Refrain:

Corda pia inflammantur, Dum Francisci celebrantur Stigmatum insignia.

Gentle hearts are set on fire in the telling of Francis' Stigmata.

1. Absit nobis gloriari, Nisi in Cruce salutari Francisci vestigio. *Corda pia…*

1. Let us not glory, but in the healing Cross, and tread the path of Francis. *Corda pia…*

2. Nam in monte vir devotus, Vigil, nudes, ardens totus Crebra dat suspiria. *Corda pia…*

2. On the mountain, he keeps watch: devout, stripped bare, yearning, sighing. *Corda pia…*

3. Soles ergo clausus orans, super gestis Crucis plorans, moerore conficitur. *Corda pia…*

3. Alone, heart-sore with sorrow, he weeps and prays the Way of the Cross. *Corda pia…*

4. Ad quem venit Rex e caelo, affixusque Crucis telo aspectu pacifico. *Corda pia…*

4. The King of Heaven comes to him, nailed to the Cross, radiant with peace. *Corda pia…*

5. Cernit serves Redemptorem, saeculorum Imperatorem, passum impassibilem. *Corda pia…*

5. The servant sees his Redeemer, the Ruler of Ages: beyond death, yet dying. *Corda pia…*

6. Cor Francisci transformatur, corpus vero mox ornatur mirandis stigmatibus. *Corda pia…*

6. The heart of Francis fills with compassion; the wondrous Stigmata will adorn his body. *Corda pia…*

7. Crucifixi ergo Christi mors et vita fuit isti jugis meditatio. *Corda pia…*

7. Ever before him is Christ, Crucified: His life and death. *Corda pia…*

8. Cujus cordis vim fervoris ostendit per membra foris Stigmatum impressio. *Corda pia…*

8. His heart's passion forges its way through his body to mark hands and feet with the Stigmata. *Corda pia…*

9. Crucifixe, singulari modo Cruci conformari mente fac et habitu. *Corda pia…*

9. O Crucified One, mould our thoughts and works to the Way of the Cross. *Corda pia…*

10. Fac ut nos in regno lucis perfruamur fructu Crucis, quo laetemur caelitus. *Corda pia…*

10. May we enjoy the fruits of the Cross and rejoice in the heavenly splendour of your Kingdom. *Corda pia…*

11. Collaudetur Crucifixus, Francisus prorsus innixus super mundi foedera. *Corda pia…*

11. Let us praise the Crucified One, with Francis, who now rests beyond the weary cares of the world. *Corda pia…*

DAY SEVEN

Gratias agentes quaesumus Domine; ut, intercedente beato Patre nostro Francisco; cujus gaudemus triumphis, spiritualibus profiamus auxiliis. Per Dominum.

We implore you Lord, that by the intercession of our blessed father Francis, in whose triumph we rejoice, we may advance in spiritual grace. Through our Lord.

DAY EIGHT

Deus, qui famulo tuo Francisco ejusque filiis in beatissima Virgine Maria singulare praesidium contulisti: da nobis; ut, Matre eadem nostra, et Regina protegente, majestati tuae fideliter servire, et nominis tui gloriam verbo et exemplo diffundere valeamus. Per Dominum.

God, You granted Your servant Francis and his sons the special patronage of the blessed Virgin Mary; grant us, by the protection of our Mother and our Queen, the strength faithfully to serve Your majesty and by word and example to propagate the glory of Your Name. Through our Lord.

DAY NINE

Domine Jesu Christe, qui frigescente mundo, ad inflammandum corda nostra tui amoris igne, in carne beatissimi Patris nostri Francisci passionis tuae sacra Stigmata renovasti: concede propitius; ut ejus meritis et precibus, crucem jugiter feramus, et dignos fructus paentitentiae faciamus. Qui vivis et regnas.

Lord Jesus Christ, when the world was growing cold, in order that our hearts might burn anew with the fire of Your love, You renewed in the flesh of the most blessed Francis, our father, the sacred marks of Your Passion; mercifully grant that, by his merits and prayers, we may ever carry our cross, and bring forth worthy fruits of penance. You Who are God, living and reigning.

DAY FOUR

Deus, qui Ecclesiam tuam, beati Patris nostri Francisci meritis foetu novea prolis amplificas: tribue nobis; ex ejus imitatione, terrena despicere, et caelestium donorum semper participatione gaudere. Per Dominum.

God, through the merits our blessed father Francis, You enriched Your Church with new religious families; grant that by imitating him we may despise the things of this world and ever rejoice in the partaking of Your heavenly gifts. Through our Lord.

DAY FIVE

Praesta, quaesumus, omnipotens Deus: ut, sicut beatus Franciscus, verbi tui praeco, ita fecit et docuit, ut magnus esse meruerit in regno caelorum, nos quoque, ejus precibus et imitatione, tibi jugiter verbis et operibus placers studeamus. Per Dominum.

Grant, we pray you, almighty God, that as blessed Francis, in preaching Your word, so acted and taught that he deserved to be great in the kingdom of heaven, we also through his prayers and example may ever strive to please You in word and deed. Through our Lord.

DAY SIX

Populum tuum, quaesumus, Domine, contuna pietate custodi: et, beati Francisci Confessoris tui suffragantibus meritis, ab omni fac animae et corporis contagione securum. Per Dominum.

Protect Your people, Lord, with Your never-failing mercy, we implore You, and through the merits of blessed Francis, Your confessor, keep them safe from all contagion of soul and body. Through our Lord.

MEDITATION

(All kneel)

DAY ONE

Blessed Francis, you were born to rank and wealth and yet left the world behind. Help us to seek and find that treasure which lies beyond the allurements of this earthly life.

DAY TWO

Blessed Francis, you heard God's voice speak through the Crucifix at San Damiano and you obeyed. Inspired by your example, may we follow the Master when He calls.

DAY THREE

Blessed Francis, you joyfully embraced austerity, making sackcloth your wedding garment and ashes your riches. Graciously assist us to live a life of sacrifice and penance.

DAY FOUR

Blessed Francis, you founded the great Order of the Friars Minor to renew the vigour of the Christian message when it had dimmed. Stir up in our hearts, lively sentiments of faith and hope, so that Christ will find a warm welcome there.

DAY FIVE

Blessed Francis, God told you to *Rebuild my Church*, a church of living stones. With your help may we increase the Body of Christ by right example, fidelity and perseverance.

DAY SIX

Blessed Francis, you loved purity and hated vice. Mercifully pray for us, that we may overcome the temptations of the flesh and become modest in thought, word and deed.

DAY SEVEN

Blessed Francis, you loved all creation as a matchless example of God's goodness. Following your example, may we become worthy stewards of the earth and all its bounty.

DAY EIGHT

Blessed Francis, you were a knightly champion of Our Lady's honour and virtue. May we love her as you did, calling her Mother and flying to her protection in all our needs.

DAY NINE

Blessed Francis, you were favoured by the impression of the Stigmata, sharing our Lord's bitter sufferings. May we too be united with the Passion, remembering ourselves to be the cause of those dreadful torments.

VERSICLE AND RESPONSORY

V. Signasti, Domine, servum tuum Franciscum.	**V.** Thou didst sign Thy servant Francis, Lord.
R. Signis Redemptionis nostrae.	**R.** With the signs of our redemption.

COLLECTS

V. Dominus vobiscum.	**V.** The Lord be with you.
R. Et cum spiritu tuo.	**R.** And with your spirit.
Oremus.	Let us pray.

DAY ONE

Deus, qui ad sectandas Unigeniti tui vias beatum Franciscum ducem ac praeceptorem nobis tribuere dignatus es: concede propitius, ut, cujus hodie memoriam colimus, ejus in caelis gloriae participes effici mereamur. Per eumdem Dominum.	O God, to make us follow in the steps of your only-begotten Son, You were pleased to give us as guide and master, blessed Francis; mercifully grant that, as today we commemorate him, so we may be worthy to be made sharers of his glory in heaven. Through the same Lord.

DAY TWO

Deus, qui mira Crucis mysteria in beato Patre nostro Francisco Confessore tuo multiformiter demonstrasti: da nobis, quaesumus; devotionis suae exempla sectari, et assidua ejusdem Crucis meditatione muniri. Per Dominum.	God, in many ways You showed our father blessed Francis, Your confessor, the wonderful mysteries of the Cross; grant, we pray You, that we may ever follow the example of his devotion, and be strengthened by constant meditation on that same Cross. Through our Lord.

DAY THREE

Deus, qui sanctum Franciscum Confessorem tuum, humilitatis studio et paupertatis amore, tibi uni adhaerare fecisti: da nobis, ejus suffragantibus meritis, terrena cuncta despicere, et caelestia semper inquirere. Per Dominum.	O God, in the heart of your saint Francis, Your confessor, You placed that zeal for humility and love of poverty to bind him to you alone; grant us through his interceding merits to despise the things of this world and ever strive after those of heaven. Through our Lord.