



Scriptural Novena for Writers

Copyright © 2019 Rhonda Franklin Ortiz
www.rhondaortiz.com

Scripture quotations are from *The Catholic Edition of the Revised Standard Version of the Bible*,
copyright © 1965, 1966 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
Used by permission in accordance with fair use. All rights reserved worldwide.

Image credit: Detail from an icon of St. Matthew the Evangelist. Public domain.

WHAT IS A NOVENA?

Novena prayers are devotional prayers with an ancient tradition, shared by Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans, and other Christians. Novenas follow the biblical model of the Apostles praying for nine days for the coming of the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 1). Typically, a novena is prayed for a specific intention.

The following novena of guided meditations was created specifically for writers and, being rooted in scripture, can be used by Christians of any denomination.

NOTES

Each meditation opens with a recited prayer, invoking the Holy Spirit. Those opposed to recited prayers are welcome to replace it with spontaneous prayer.

All scripture quotations have been taken from the Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition. Using a different translation of the Bible is, of course, perfectly fine.

Feedback on this novena is welcome! Email Rhonda Ortiz at rhondaortiz@gmail.com with any comments or questions.

DAY ONE • “*In the beginning was the Word...*”

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God’s presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God; ³all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. ¹¹He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. ¹⁵(John bore witness to him, and cried, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.’”) ¹⁶And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

Words and Images for Meditation

Christ as Word
Creation
Creativity
Participation in Christ
Light and darkness
Life
“A man sent from God”

Witness
The world
Flesh
Children of God
Fullness
Law
Grace and truth

Reflection

Christ is the Word. How does this reality inform your writing?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

For ever, O Lord, thy word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.
Thy faithfulness endures to all generations;
thou hast established the earth, and it stands fast.

Psalm 119:89-90

DAY TWO • *The Burning Coal*

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God's presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

Isaiah 6:1-13

In the year that King Uzzi'ah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

⁶ Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ And he touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." ⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." ⁹ And he said,

"Go, and say to this people:
'Hear and hear, but do not understand;
see and see, but do not perceive.'

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people fat,
and their ears heavy,
and shut their eyes;
lest they see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed.”

¹¹ Then I said, “How long, O Lord?”

And he said:

“Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without men,
and the land is utterly desolate,
¹² and the Lord removes men far away,
and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

¹³ And though a tenth remain in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak,
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.

Words and Images for Meditation

Angels
Heavenly glory
Need for prophecy
Sin and society
Divine calling
Ministry of words
Purification
Fire

The altar
Perseverance
Fat hearts, heavy ears, shut eyes
Criticism
Courage
Pain
Houses without men
“The holy seed is its stump.”

Reflection

Purity of heart does not mean refusing to look at life’s hard realities, as the prophet Isaiah learns. So it is with writing: conflicting desires, the struggle of good versus evil—these form the backbone of nearly every story, true or fiction. How does your writing do this? Do you need to push yourself more?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
thou God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of thy deliverance.
O Lord, open thou my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Psalm 51:14-15

DAY THREE • *Resisting the Call*

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God's presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

Exodus 3:1-15; 4:10-17

³ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Mid'ian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt."

⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"

And he said, "Here am I."

⁵ Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Per'izzites, the Hivites, and the Jeb'usites. ⁹ And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have seen the oppression with which the

Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?”

¹² He said, “But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain.”

¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you’: this is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

⁴ ¹⁰ But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either heretofore or since thou hast spoken to thy servant; but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”

¹¹ Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

¹³ But he said, “Oh, my Lord, send, I pray, some other person.”

¹⁴ Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and he said, “Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well; and behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ And you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶ He shall speak for you to the people; and he shall be a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. ¹⁷ And you shall take in your hand this rod, with which you shall do the signs.”

Words and Images for Meditation

“Keeping the flock”
Discovering God’s calling
Angels
Miracles

Holy ground
“Hid his face”
Affliction
Land of milk and honey

“Who am I?”

Signs

God’s ineffable Name

The God of our fathers

Remembrance

Fear and disbelief

Scrupulosity

Resistance

Eloquence or lack thereof

Help from others

God’s patience

Reflection

Has self-doubt ever prevented you from accepting or finishing a project? What was at the root of your doubt?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;

yea, wait for the Lord!

Psalm 27:13-14

DAY FOUR · *Talents*

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God's presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

25 ¹⁴“For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’

²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’

²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But

his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents.²⁹ For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.’

Words and Images for Meditation

God’s trust
Sharing in God’s work
Variety of talents
Work
Increasing talents
Fear
Faithfulness
Joy

Reward
“I knew you to be a hard man”
Wickedness and sloth
Heaven
Judgment and hell
Works of mercy
Urgency
Mission

Reflection

How does your writing yield an increase?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars which thou hast established;

what is man that thou art mindful of him,
and the son of man that thou dost care for him?
Yet thou hast made him little less than God,
and dost crown him with glory and honor.
Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet.

Psalm 8:3-6

DAY FIVE · *Temptation*

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God's presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city, and set him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will give his angels charge of you,'

and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.'

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! for it is written,

‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Words and Images for Meditation

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Spirit-led | God’s word as life |
| Up on a mountain | Tempting God |
| The devil | Power |
| Forty days | Worship |
| Hunger | “Begone, Satan!” |
| Command | Angels |
| Stones and bread | Ministry |

Reflection

As a writer, what temptations do you face? What aids does the Lord give you for battling these temptations?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

I call upon thee, for thou wilt answer me, O God;
incline thy ear to me, hear my words.
Wondrously show thy steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at thy right hand.

Psalm 17:6-7

DAY SIX · *Wisdom*

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God's presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

Proverbs 4:1-9

⁴ Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,
and be attentive, that you may gain insight;
² for I give you good precepts:
do not forsake my teaching.
³ When I was a son with my father,
tender, the only one in the sight of my mother,
⁴ he taught me, and said to me,
"Let your heart hold fast my words;
keep my commandments, and live;
⁵ do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.
Get wisdom; get insight.
⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you;
love her, and she will guard you.
⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and whatever you get, get insight.
⁸ Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;
she will honor you if you embrace her.
⁹ She will place on your head a fair garland;
she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."

Words and Images for Meditation

A father's instruction
Insight
Family
Heart
Commandments

"Get wisdom, get insight"
Forsake
Prize
Beginning of wisdom
Reward

Reflection

How would you describe your relationship with your editors and writing partners? How deeply do you trust their feedback and advice on your writing? Do you wait for their counsel before publishing your work?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

Come, O sons, listen to me,
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
What man is there who desires life,
and covets many days, that he may enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

Psalm 34:11-14

DAY SEVEN • *Water into Wine*

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God's presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

John 2:1-11

² On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; ² Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with his disciples. ³ When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

⁴ And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come."

⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it.

⁹ When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now."

¹¹ This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Words and Images for Meditation

Marriage

Mary

Sons and mothers

“The wine failed”

Intercession

“My hour has not yet come”

Obedience

Purification

Stone jars

Natural water, divine wine

Ignorance of the steward

Jesus manifesting his glory

Reflection

Has Christ ever taken your words (water) and transformed them into something truly great (wine)? What lessons did you learn from that experience?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

My heart overflows with a goodly theme;
I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Psalm 45:1, 8-9

DAY EIGHT • *Spiritual Gifts*

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God's presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

¹² Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be uninformed.² You know that when you were heathen, you were led astray to dumb idols, however you may have been moved.³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to

the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single organ, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so adjusted the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part, ²⁵ that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

Words and Images for Meditation

Education
Words of the Holy Spirit
Variety and sameness
Gifts as manifestation of the Holy Spirit
The Body of Christ
Jealousy
Difference

Equality
Complementary
Dispensable and indispensable
Suffering and rejoicing together
Acceptance of one's limitations
Higher gifts

Reflection

Think of someone you esteem who is *not* a writer. What special gifts do they have? What do they teach you?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.
Praise the Lord with the lyre,
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!
Sing to him a new song,
play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.
For the word of the Lord is upright;
and all his work is done in faithfulness.
He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

Psalm 33:1-5

DAY NINE • *The Excellent Way*

Opening Prayer

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Place yourself in God's presence, surrendering yourself to Him and offering Him praise and thanksgiving.

Reading

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:1-13

12 ³¹ And I will show you a still more excellent way.

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; ⁵ it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. ¹³ So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Words and Images for Meditation

“A still more excellent way”
Words, knowledge, or faith without love
Noisy gong, clanging symbol
Attributes of love
Prophecies will pass away; tongues will
 cease
Imperfect knowledge and prophecy

Like a child
Seeing in a mirror
Seeing face to face
Understand and understood
Faith, hope, and love abide
Love is greatest

Reflection

What about writing makes it an act of love?

Insights

Petition

Bring your needs and writing intentions to our loving God.

Closing Prayer

We have thought on thy steadfast love, O God,
 in the midst of thy temple.
As thy name, O God,
 so thy praise reaches to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 48:9-10