

“Justice For Laura” Novena - 9 Days of Prayer

Introduction



Intention: to observe the anniversary of Laura's abduction and murder, let us pray that God's justice for Laura may be done.

Specifically, let us pray for the conversion of her murderer.

This man, despite his horrific crimes, is still a beloved child of God, and one of the lost sheep for whom Jesus came into the world to find and save; let us pray that the Holy Spirit might touch his heart, bring about a true and deep conversion, bring him to real repentance and full reconciliation with God, the Father whose mercy endures forever, who does not will for a single sinner to be lost no matter how great their sins.

Our hearts may be hard, but God loves this man and we must be convinced that the divine justice which would be most pleasing to the heart of God would be for this man to sincerely repent and embrace the salvation which Christ holds out to him.

Manner of praying this novena...

Each day, we will pray Lectio Divina with an appropriate passage of Scripture, followed by a short reflection to relate the reading to this novena and prayer intention. It is encouraged that those praying would spend some amount of time each day meditating upon the reading and reflection of the day; the amount of time will be uniquely dependent upon the individual's own allowance of time and their personal advancement in prayer. No specific time or method is required, but simply to offer the intention to the Lord from your heart. Jesus reads our hearts more than our actions, so please do not get too caught up in the method; however, Lectio Divina is an ancient and time-honored tradition of prayer which is very helpful when utilized properly. If you are not familiar with this method of praying, here is a link which may help...

<http://www.fisheaters.com/lectiodivina.html>

Roman Catholics will quickly recognize the passages of Scripture as corresponding to one of the mysteries of the Rosary. It is encouraged that they would integrate this Lectio Divina meditation into the Rosary prayer, and offer a decade for these intentions.

For each day, this basic outline may be helpful (though not mandatory):

1. Find a time and place to set aside for prayer. Find a comfortable, yet alert posture in which to pray, and allow yourself to simply “be” for a few moments, letting the anxieties of life fade away, offering them all to the Lord in that silence. If it is difficult for you to enter into this silence, speak to the Lord about that, and implore His divine assistance at the beginning of the prayer time. You might say something like this...
“Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of Thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of Thy Love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created, and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.
O God, who did instruct the hearts of Thy faithful by the Light of the Holy Spirit, grant us by that same Spirit to be always truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”
2. After transitioning into this time of prayer, follow the proposed Lectio Divina method of praying with the day's Scripture passage. Spend as much time here as you feel comfortable with.
3. Read the day's novena meditation, and following the same basic method of Lectio Divina, ponder the relationship between the Scripture and the meditation, and bring all of these intentions to the Lord in your heart.
4. If you are Catholic, this would be an appropriate time to pray a decade of the Rosary, offering it for the novena's intentions.
5. To conclude the prayer, offer all of these intentions to the Lord with an *Our Father* – The Lord's Prayer.