



*Novena to
Saint Katharina Kasper*

Numbers in the text correlate with the date of correspondence written by Katharina.



Day 1 - Love of God

It was the main aim of Saint Katharina to love God always, everywhere, and above all else.

Once she wrote to her councilors: "May the Holy Spirit with the seven gifts and ardent love be always in our hearts and make us happy" (5/23/1876). The

love of God was alive for her, so much so that she knew it would make people happy.

Prayer

I ask you, Saint Katharina to, help me by your intercession to love God in everything and above all, because God loves me. Show me how to recognize God's love. Help me to respond to God's love with my love by accepting what happens. I firmly believe that to those who love God, all things will turn out for the best.

Reflection



Day 2 - Doing God's Will

Saint Katharina showed her love of God especially in her striving to always recognize God's will and to do it. In one of her letters she writes: "We need to pray much, that the Holy Spirit will enlighten, direct and guide us so that God's holy will may be done in everything and always" (12/16/1887).

Saint Katharina never assumed to know beforehand what God expected of her in a given situation. She knew well that we need the help of the Holy Spirit in order to recognize God's will.

Prayer

Intercede for me, dear Saint Katharina, to know in my pressing need what God wants of me and for me. Help me to trust completely in God's providence and to accept God's will, so that like you I may find my home in God and that I give God glory in everything.

Reflection



Day 3 - Love of Neighbor

For Saint Katharina, love of God was closely connected to love of neighbor. We see this in her ministry to the elderly, the sick and the children, but also in the way she dealt with her Sisters. She was never selfish, and her love of God was not a theory but was very concrete

and practical. She said: "True love of God brings forth true love of neighbor" (1/18/1869).

Prayer

I ask you, Saint Katharina, intercede for me in my present need. Help me to avoid losing sight of other people; let me not be blind to the burdens of others. Ask God to give me a great heart, willingly sharing joys and sufferings with others. Ask God, too, to solve my present problem in such a way that I can still be kind to others, that I may be free of bitterness, and that I can recognize God's love in everything that happens.

Reflection



Day 4 - Living Faith

“In these dangerous times we need to have a deep and lively faith as well and be firmly grounded in the religion of our Church” (3/3/1882). Saint Katharina explained this was the basis of Christian living for her. In her time, faith was endangered. She saw the manifold difficulties which surrounded her and

the people of her time. But her answer was not fear. It was a life founded in faith.

Prayer

Saint Katharina, ask God for me to have a strong faith as you had, so that I do not lose hope in my present difficulty. Help me show my love of God by trusting firmly in God’s guidance and support, even when they seem absent. May I be filled with the deep happiness that comes from being loved by God.

Reflection



Day 5 - Trust in God

In many of Saint Katharina's writings we find encouragement to trust. That shows that trust for her was nothing passive. One needs courage to trust, and peace will be the consequence of such courageous trust. So she advised her Sisters once, saying: "Let us have courage

and trust, and apart from that, let us be quiet and keep the peace in our hearts." (9/8/1872). Another time she writes: "Keep courage and trust, and God will help" (9/19/1884). Often trusting prayer was her way of solving problems.

Prayer

Saint Katharina, in my present situation I need to trust in God like you. Plead with the Lord to help me find such trust, so that I can keep my inner peace, and stay calm and full of confidence, I will try to let God decide, and to accept whatever God sends me.

Reflection



Day 6 - What to do in Difficulties

All through her life, Saint Katharina met with manifold and grave problems, concerning the

work and the honor of the total congregation. In such situations she showed an astonishing calm and great perseverance. What she wrote explains how she got the strength for her attitudes. She wrote: "Let us courageously fulfill God's holy will in everything. Crosses and suffering are necessary for growth in holiness. Let us be grateful for all suffering" (8/4/1870).

Prayer

Dear Saint Katharina, your example is a great challenge for me. Beg God for the grace for me to be able to wait quietly until God will help me. Help me to recognize the blessing that is connected to my present concern. Intercede for me that I can trust in God's love, even now.

Reflection



Day 7 - Importance of Prayer

Again and again Saint Katharina asks the recipients at the end of her letters to pray for her and the concerns of the congregation. In her writings, we often find suggestions and admonitions like the

following: “Pray much to the Lord, pray in trust” (11/10/1875). She knew that our own efforts alone will not succeed but that everything depends on God’s blessing and God’s help.

Prayer

Although I know, dear Saint Katharina, that I need to employ the strengths and talents given to me, I still ask you to intercede for me that I do not over value myself. Ask God to give me insight and strength. I will gratefully accept from God what only God can achieve, and honor God with my trust.

Reflection

Day 8 - Mary our Model

Once Saint Katharina advised her Sisters:
“Continually honor the bitter passion of Jesus, the holy Eucharist, and our dear Mother of God” (11/19/1877). She has a great devotion to Mary. When we consider that she gave the name to her congregation that is modeled on Mary,



we see that Mary's example was of extreme importance to her.

Prayer

Dear Saint Katharina, you honored Mary as your teacher and you found guidance in her life. Help me to seek and to find my guide and companion in Mary the Mother of God. Support me too, together with her, in my efforts of receiving God's help in my present concern, and of accepting God's decision.

Reflection



Day 9 - Gratitude

Saint Katharina had an attentive heart which noticed God's gifts as well as everything good done by others. This attentiveness urged her to keep being grateful. She did not tire in showing her Sisters reasons for gratitude. In one of her circulars she wrote: "A thousand thanks

be to the Lord for all graces and benefits, for joys and pains, for health and sickness, but especially for all the graces and benefits that have been granted us by the graces given to us through the church and through the priests." (12/1885).

Prayer

Dear Saint Katharina; intercede for me with God to grant me the grace of loving attentiveness, so that I too can perceive what I have to be grateful for. Help me to be happy and content with this. I ask you to intercede for me with God in the problems concerning me presently, so that I will be able to thank God with a joyful heart.

Reflection

When the novena is prayed in community, one can add any prayer of one's choice, or close with the following prayer:

Closing Prayer

Saint Katharina, we thank you for the example you gave us. You are a guide for us in our thinking and doing. We ask you to intercede for our community and achieve for us the readiness to search for the will of God and to respond as you did. We also ask you to support us in our concern which we recommend to you.

Ask God that we might have the grace to be ready to accept God's decision, and to recognize God's love in everything we experience.

Amen.