

IN THIS TIME OF A PANDEMIC, LET US PRAY THE ANNUAL NOVENA TO ROSALIE- MARCH 27 TO APRIL 4 INCLUDING THE PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE DIOCESE OF QUEBEC

Pope Francis emphasizes the importance of prayer in a crisis that reminds us that "humanity is one community." The International Misericordia Family has a mission of Mercy and must, more than ever, be united. As Rosalie said, "the more we are united, the more we will do them good."

During this global crisis, the Holy Spirit calls upon us to develop new ways of being a community as a spiritual Family so that our bonds will remain strong at the end of this pandemic.



As you know, the Annual Novena to Rosalie begins on Friday, March 27, and ends on April 4. We are, therefore, invited at this time of confinement, to unite and pray together. Beginning Friday, we will publish in our IMF Facebook group and the Prayer Network group a recording for each day of the Novena.

We invite everyone who wishes to participate in the annual Novena to Rosalie to join us either in the morning at 8:30 a.m. or in the afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Simply log on to the IMF Facebook page and click on the day's link. We can then be together to recite this Novena. To confirm your presence and to remain in communion with each other, we propose a gesture of solidarity either by clicking on "Like" or by writing a word each day of this Novena.

For those who are not subscribed to the IMF Facebook, please contact Martine Fradet at adjointe.crcj@videotron.ca.

If you do not have Facebook, you can recite the Novena either by logging on to the RCJC website or by reciting it with the Novena booklet.

Videos:

http://www.centrerosaliecadronjette.org/wp/?page_id=3909&lang=en

Booklet:

http://www.centrerosaliecadronjette.org/PDF/Novena%20With%20Rosalie%202016.pdf

Did you know that in the history of the Community of the Misericordia Sisters, Rosalie, and her companions faced the scourge of typhus, and the reciting of a novena was a privileged way of praying to fight against this scourge.

Scourge of typhus at the doors of the Hospice of Sainte-Pélagie - the House of Donagani

In 1847, nearly 4,000 Irish people suffering from typhus arrived in Montreal. Exhausted by the suffering and a difficult crossing, they fell by the thousands on the shores of the St. Lawrence. Bishop Bourget, his clergy, the communities, and many laypeople devoted themselves tirelessly to the sick.

No sooner had the Sisters moved into their new home on St. Catherine Street that they faced this crisis. The victims in Montreal were numerous, among them Father Rey and the midwife, Mrs. Montrait. In spite of this deadly epidemic, the Misericordia Sisters continued to assist the single mothers. Two novices who had to go outside to help were seriously infected. If the infection spread, it would be the ruin of the house and the end of the mission. Father Saché, S.J., gave the novices the last rites on the advice of the doctor who had no hope of saving them; they were in a coma. Bishop Bourget then decided to send a relic of Saint Beatrix to the hospice.



Rosalie had the relic displayed in the chapel, and they immediately began a novena. Her help was not long in coming; the two novices returned to health.

One of them testified about Rosalie's attentive presence when she was ill. Rosalie saw to it that she was well cared for and visited her every morning.

Since then, confidence in St. Beatrix grew and whenever there were any contagious diseases in the house, this relic was displayed. It was not long before her protection was felt.

I will end this message with a personal reflection.

Like Rosalie, who faced the typhus situation when she moved into her new home, the Misericordia Sisters and the IMF (RCJC) after moving, were faced with a similar situation with COVID-19, a pandemic that has has greatly destabilised the whole Family.

The founding Charism of Mercy has a unique history, mission, and spirituality. Its entire journey since the foundation of the Community

shows us that it has crossed time and borders, constantly adjusting to events. Each era has seen its challenges and achievements, and the charism, existing for 172 years, has again something to teach us today.

In this time of pandemic, we are asked as a Family to stay the course by responding to the call to be the face of Mercy wherever we are. If this charism, a gift of the Holy Spirit, has been able to continue its mission in the world and in the Church, it is because the Sisters and laypeople, when they received the charism in every era, were able to adapt, protect, and innovate in the face of challenges and changes.

Today is no different. It is through our prayers and actions that are planted today by faith that our seed will be transformed into an abundant harvest.

May Rosalie's presence and her intercession before the Merciful Father be for all of us a source of trust and hope.

United through prayer,

Denise Tessier Coordinator

RCJC

PRAYER OF THE DIOCESE OF QUEBEC

"In the present situation which concerns us, we appeal to you Lord.

Lord, give everyone affected by this virus the courage and the strength to fight it. May we receive the appropriate care as well as the support necessary to get through this ordeal.

With confidence, Lord, I entrust them to you.

Lord, help and support especially those working in the healthcare field who provide care and support to people in need. May your Holy Spirit inspire those who contribute to the research in order to end the pandemic.

With confidence, Lord, I entrust them to you.

Lord, inspire political leaders and the various media with the right words, gestures, prudence and solidarity. I pray that you will lay down your peace, spare our society from all unnecessary agitation, and foster the right attitudes to contain anxiety.

With confidence, Lord, I entrust them to you.

Lord, welcome all those who have died from this virus, comfort their families and loved ones. May they find hope and peace in your comforting Presence.

With confidence, Lord, I entrust them to you.

Lord, allow each and every Christian deprived of the Sunday Mass to continue to celebrate the day of the Lord in another way. May the decision taken by our bishops to suspend our Masses, in solidarity with our civil servants, help to reduce the spread of the virus.

With confidence, Lord, I entrust them to you.

Lord, hear this prayer and keep us in spiritual communion with our brothers and sisters. Amen."

https://www.ecdq.org/covid-19-ressources-spirituelles-pour-nos-communautes/