

**WHY NOT PRAY PART OF THE FIRST AND GREATEST NOVENA
– NINE DAYS OF PRAYER -
FROM ASCENSION THURSDAY TO PENTECOST SUNDAY?**

The Catholic practice of novenas has its origin in the first ‘novena’ – the nine days of prayer between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday, described in the Acts of the Apostles, when the disciples, Our Lady and the family of Jesus gathered, as requested to do so, to wait in the upper room and to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. (*Nove is the Latin for 9*).

1. One possible novena involves praying the great 9th century hymn ‘Come Holy Ghost Creator Come each morning and evening.

Come, Holy Ghost, creator, come,
From thy bright heav’nly throne.
Come take possession of our souls,
And make them all thy own.

Thou who art called the Paraclete,
Best gift of God above,
The living spring, the living fire,
Sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,
Finger of God’s right hand
His promise teaching little ones
to speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blessed light,
With love our hearts inflame;
And with thy strength, which never decays
Confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
True peace unto us bring;
And through all perils lead us safe
Beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,
Through thee the eternal Son,
And thee the Spirit of them both,
Thrice-blessed Three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
With his coequal Son;
The same to thee, great Paraclete,
While endless ages run.

SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT LORD, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH

‘Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, Come’ is an anonymous 19th Century translation of the 9th century Latin hymn, ‘Veni Creator Spiritus’, attributed to Rabanus Maurus (766-856), a German Benedictine monk.)

2. Another involves praying the American Franciscan Richard Rohr's Litany of the Holy Spirit

Pure Gift of God	Planted Law
Indwelling Presence	Truth Speaker
Promise of the Father	God's Secret Plan
Life of Jesus	Great Bridge Builder
Pledge and Guarantee	Warmer of Hearts
Eternal Praise	Space between Everything
Defense Attorney	Flowing Stream
Inner Anointing	Wind of Change
Reminder of the Mystery	Descending Dove
Homing Device	Cloud of Unknowing
Knower of All Things	Uncreated Grace
Stable Witness	Filled Emptiness
Implanted Pacemaker	Through-Seer
Overcomer of the Gap	Deepest Level of Our Longing
Always Already Awareness	Attentive Heart
Compassionate Observer	Sacred Wounding
Magnetic Center	Holy Healing
God Compass	Softener of Our Spirit
Inner Breath	Will of God
Divine DNA	Great Compassion
Mutual Yearning Place	Generosity of the Creator
Given Glory	Inherent Victory
Hidden Love of God	The One Sadness
Choiceless Awareness	Our Shared Joy
Implanted hope	God's Tears
Seething Desire	God's Happiness
Fire of Life and Love	The Welcoming Within
Sacred Peacemaker	New and Eternal Covenant
Nonviolence of God	Contract Written on Our Hearts
Seal of the Incarnation	Jealous Lover
First Fruits of Everything	Desiring of God
Father and Mother of Orphans	

You who pray in us, through us, with us,
for us, and in spite of us.

Amen. Alleluia!