

Novena for the Festival of Life 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Intro Prayer

Gospel Reading

Mother Elvira Quote

Video

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Day 1: Work

November 5, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

Lord, in Your great kindness and mercy You have faithfully cared for each one of Your children, calling us to this great family of Community Cenacolo. Your loving gaze has faithfully watched over and guided each young man and woman, family member, and friend of our Community for the last 27 years that we have been in America. You know our hearts. You see our strength and our weakness, and You say to each one of us: "I tell you, 'Arise!'" May we always respond with faith and hope as we continue to rise anew with You each day. Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

Mk 8: 34-35

Mother Elvira

Work in Community is not just an end in itself, but something greater. It is not for nourishing our pride or ambitions, not for earning money, not a way of escape or a false anchor of salvation. Instead, it is an instrument for rebirth, for developing your capacity to dialogue, sacrifice, and be humble, in order to discover your gifts and those of your brothers, which are the first great Providence of God to develop for the good of all.

From the book "A Hope Reborn"

Video

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Mother of waiting, who seeks with your heart, with your gaze, with your tears your lost children in a world that has abandoned God. We thank you because your love has brought us here to bring life, hope, joy, and faith to many young people and to all those who seek truth, forgiveness, and peace. We entrust ourselves to you, our most beloved Mother, so that you can educate and form each one of us in listening to the living Word, your Son, the Risen Jesus, so that one day we will be together in the kingdom of light and salvation. Here we are, Mary. We are with you today and always! Amen.

Day 2: Prayer

November 6, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

“I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, if you who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

Lk 11: 9-13

Mother Elvira

From the beginning of their walk, without fear, I ask the youth to kneel before the Bread of Life who, thanks to the goodness of the Bishops, is present in all of our houses, for I am certain that He does not disappoint. Some of them say to me, “I am atheist. I don’t believe. I don’t understand.” I respond to them that you don’t understand prayer with your head; you experience it in your heart. If you trustingly open your heart to Jesus, you feel that His humanity, present in the consecrated host, awakens your true humanity, and the image of God, in you, begins to radiate again! Then I see them after a few months and they say to me, “I feel changed!” and I see a new light in their eyes. It is the miracle of prayer that I’ve been contemplating for many years now.

From the book “Nothing is Impossible for God” Mother Elvira

Video

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Day 3: Friendship

November 7, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Jn 13: 34-35

Mother Elvira

The first concrete experience of love when you enter is friendship. Someone who was desperate like you welcomes you without self-interest, and you see the light in his eyes. The guys at the house where you enter stay close to you. They make you see that your life, and the decision you made to let it come alive are gifts for them. It is the strength of true friendship that supports you in overcoming tough moments at the beginning. Then you discover in your walk the joy that you too can be a true friend, capable of loving.

From the book "A Hope Reborn"

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Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Day 4: Sharing

November 8, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew

“Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”

Mt 10: 42

Mother Elvira

Many fears can be healed, so much freedom can be won, and so many amazing discoveries can be made by speaking truthfully about ourselves. If you have the courage to communicate your joys and difficulties to your brothers without fear, you experience the beauty of being at peace with yourself and others.

From the book “A Hope Reborn”

Video

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Day 5: Providence

November 9, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

“So do not worry and say, ‘What are we to eat?’ or ‘What are we to drink?’ or ‘What are we to wear?’ All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.”

Mt 6: 31-34

Mother Elvira

We trusted because faith brought us to the point of not having fear, of cultivating hope, trust and patience, and of placing all our security in that God whom I knew in my heart. He guaranteed much more than all human security. I also wanted the youth that I welcomed, not only to hear us speak about God, but also to see His concrete Fatherhood. I said to Him, “I will welcome them, and you demonstrate to them that you are Father.” And in all these years, I can testify to you with joy that “Lady Providence” has never let us down.

from the book “Nothing is Impossible for God” Mother Elvira

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Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Day 6: Families

November 10, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

Children, obey your parents [in the Lord], for this is right. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise, "that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life on earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord.

Eph 6: 1-4

Mother Elvira

The Community has never asked any kind of fee from the families of the young men and women. What it asks of parents, instead, is a commitment to conversion through a journey of change that is parallel to their children's walk in the Community. Our experience over the years shows that the rebirth of the young men and women greatly depends on their parents' commitment to find a way of living based on the truth and the discovery of the importance of faith.

From the book "A Hope Reborn"

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Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Day 7: Friends of the community

November 11, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

From the holy Gospel according to John

“Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Jn 13: 12-15

Mother Elvira

Before the multitudes that seek Him, Jesus asks us, as he exhorted the apostles, “You give them something to eat.” That is, He asks us to give ourselves, to break ourselves like bread on the table of a world that suffers from the hunger for hope, joy, and peace.

from the book “Sparks of Light” Mother Elvira

Video

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Day 8: Former Members

November 12, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

“[Jesus] said to them, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this household.’ If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.”

Lk 10: 2-6

Mother Elvira

I never planned, calculated or decided the path I was to follow. I am the first to be astonished by what the Lord is working, and I desire only one thing: to continue entrusting myself to Him, without the expectation of knowing His will even one moment before it is fulfilled. The only, and everlasting project is to continue running, following the Holy Spirit with Mary in faith and love, wherever He desires to take us.

From the book “Nothing is Impossible for God” Mother Elvira

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Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

Closing Prayer

Day 9: Arise

November 13, 2020

Song to the Holy Spirit

Opening Prayer

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

"[Jesus] journeyed to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, 'do not weep.' He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted and he said, 'Young man, I tell you, ARISE!' The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, 'a great prophet has arisen in our midst,' and, 'God has visited his people.' This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region."

Lk 7:11-17

Mother Elvira

I say often to the young men and women, collaborators and friends of Community Cenacolo, that not even our sin should stop us from loving. Sometimes we feel stuck, poor, or incapable, because we think about our wounds and constantly focus on our limitations. Instead, let us try to place them before the Lord, in all truth, so that He can free us of the weight of our sins and send us as apostles in the world to proclaim His Resurrection.

From the book "Sparks of Light" Mother Elvira

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