

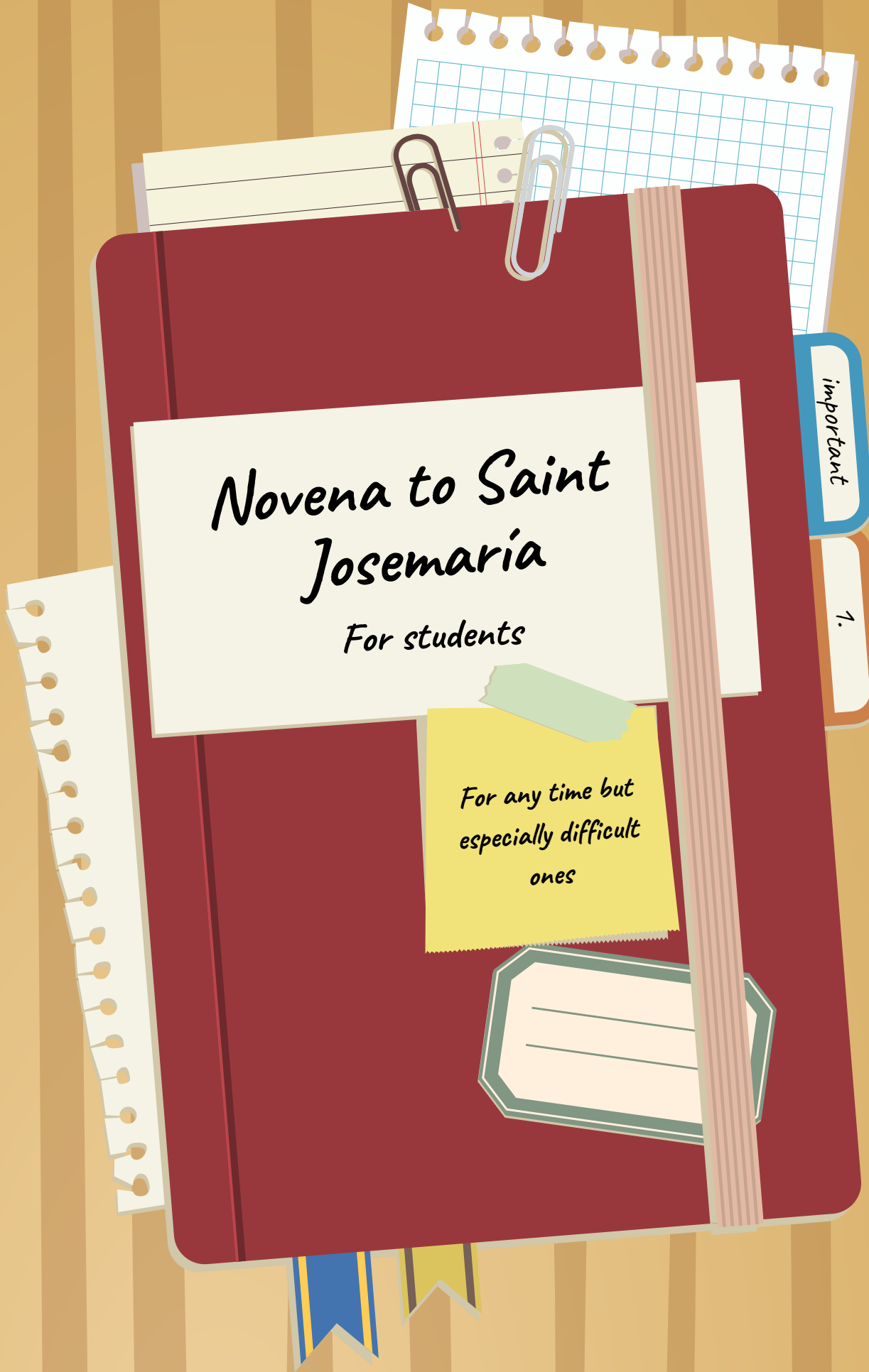
Novena to Saint Josemaría

For students

*For any time but
especially difficult
ones*

important

1.



Introduction

Are you a student about to start college or university? Maybe you're eagerly anticipating finishing your studies, or perhaps you are busy with many other commitments while you study.

Well, this prayer is for you! Life as a student can be so challenging and often involves worry and hard work. Look at what happened to Jacob in the Old Testament, who, after so many years of working to forge his way in life, was able to say:

If the God of my father, the God of Abraham, and the fear of Isaac, had not been for me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the toil of my hands, so He rendered judgment last night. (Genesis 31:42)

God also walks with you through His friends – the saints – who are like “allies” to help you.

Saint Josemaría - the founder of Opus Dei - is one of these saints. He lived the life of a student intensely because he was completing his law degree and doctorate while he was studying to be a priest.

He was always surrounded by students as he promoted many activities of formation.

For this reason, the founder of Opus Dei **identifies with you** and with the situation you find yourself in now. He is your “ally” in Heaven and you can count on his support to help you carry out your studies.

How can he help you? By following his message and example, you can learn to study well and to do so out of love for God and for the good of other people. In the midst of adverse situations facing many nations, you can ask him to intercede for you and help you overcome challenges so that you can successfully complete your studies

God won't abandon you either

in fact, He has dreamt of you and of how you will use your abilities to help the people around you. For this reason you can also proclaim like Jacob: God is proud of me, He knows how much it costs me and, if it were not for Him, I would not reach the goal



Are you thinking of asking for his help?

Well, we suggest praying this Novena for students. You can do it as best suits your circumstances, resting assured that Saint Josemaría will help you. He will present your requests before God with the understanding of someone who was a student, and who helped many students, teaching them to use their circumstances to become better people and to grow as children of God.

Day one: Building a better world, studying.

The student's life is often occupied with tasks and projects, dreams and assignments, working at home, at school, at the University, but one thing is for sure, **a student is one who studies.**

To study, to work: [...] They are most fundamental weapons for whoever wants to be an apostle in the middle of the world (Furrow, n. 483)

This is our greatest responsibility before God and the world and that is why we want to take on this task with all our strength. Through our studies, we can get to know ourselves better and fill ourselves with knowledge that will serve us now and in the future.

Studying is a long-term investment that depends entirely on us. But our studies do not remain with us alone as we strive to leave a mark on our generation and on those to come. So, rather than getting overwhelmed, we can feel excited as we ponder what it takes to build a better world. The better we study, the greater our contribution will be.

My resolution for the day:

Give me, Lord, the ability to assume my duties as a student with courage and responsibility, bringing out the best in me every day and keeping my eyes on the future. Help me to study well, to carry out my commitments and tasks as best I can; serving others and growing, above all, in the ability to love and transform my environment. I also ask You, through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, to grant me (your request).

(And it goes on...)



Novena prayer

O God, who has raised up in the Church Saint Josemaría, priest, to proclaim the universal vocation to holiness and apostolate, grant us, through his intercession and his example, that in the exercise of ordinary work we may conform ourselves to Your Son, Jesus Christ, and serve with ardent love the work of Redemption. Amen.
Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be

Notes

Day two: Light to understand, strength to love.

Studying feeds the intelligence. It is a great gift that God has given us. But we do not have to wait for a miracle to increase our knowledge: we just need to start getting to work.

While we should ask God for enlightenment to understand what we are studying, we also need willpower to study, to overcome laziness, to not remain superficial and to remove the obstacles that prevent us from concentrating.

Have you ever felt like quitting school? Sometimes subjects can become unbearable, leaving you uninterested. Other times we are overwhelmed by idleness to finish a job, a workshop or class task, but we can overcome all of this with God's help. .

My resolution for the day:

Give me, Lord, light for my intelligence and strength in my will to thoroughly and consistently fulfil my duties as a student, and to be able to be salt that gives flavor and light that illuminates the world. I also ask You, through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, to grant me (your request).

(And it goes on...)

*Study. Study in earnest. If you are to be salt and light, you need knowledge, ability. Or do you imagine that an idle and lazy life will entitle you to receive infused knowledge?
(The Way, n. 340)*



Novena prayer

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Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be*

*Day three:
Focus on the small things,
because they do matter.*

It is good to have dreams and great ideas, to put our abilities at the service of God and others and to tell the best stories with our lives.

*Have you seen how that imposing building was built? One brick upon another. Thousands. But, one by one. And bags of cement, one by one. And blocks of stone, each of them insignificant compared with the massive whole. And beams of steel. And men working the same hours, day after day...
(The Way, n. 823)*

Yet, it is not in the imagination where ideas are formed, but in everyday life. Thus, it is necessary to put care into everyday things, even if they are small. Think about large buildings: they are made up of small stones, step by step and bit by bit.

My resolution for the day:

Jesus, may I always dream big things, and at the same time, know how to put care and enthusiasm into the small things of each day, so that by doing well with what I have in my hands, I will leave the result in Yours. I also ask You, through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, to grant me: (your request).

(And it goes on...)



Novena prayer

*O God, who has raised up in the Church Saint Josemaría, priest, to proclaim the universal vocation to holiness and apostolate, grant us, through his intercession and his example, that in the exercise of ordinary work we may conform ourselves to Your Son, Jesus Christ, and serve with ardent love the work of Redemption. Amen.
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Day four: How do I want to be remembered?

Have you ever met somebody so honest that you feel like you can trust them with anything? Now, think about the many opportunities you have as a student to practice those virtues.

For example, if your parents give you the opportunity to study, you can take the opportunity **to be honest and reciprocate** the effort they have made and be grateful. Through this, they can see how you are making the most of your studies and that you are being honest when you tell the truth.

The honest student does not cheat on exams or plagiarize their work, understanding that the decisions you make today impact your tomorrow. If you start practicing sincerity today, you will become an honest person, but if you cheated or lied today, you could start to become more dishonest and insincere.

If you ever find yourself in a situation wondering about whether you should be honest or not, ask yourself: what kind of person do I want to be? **What kind of person am I becoming? Do not fool yourself by leaving the problem for later.** Do not think: "I'll copy now, but when I finish my degree I'll be an honest professional." Will you really?

My resolution for the day:

Jesus, may I always dream big things, and at the same time, know how to put care and enthusiasm into the small things of each day, so that by doing well with what I have in my hands, I will leave the result in Yours. I also ask You, through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, to grant me: (your request).

(And it goes on...)

*Remember that to enter into Heaven you have to be a good and honest man.
(Furrow, n. 43?)*

Novena prayer

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Day five: Storms are part of the landscape.

The student's work is like running a marathon. In long races there may be strong starts, but there may also be struggles along the way, there are downhills and uphills. The important thing is not to throw in the towel.

The strong man will at times suffer, but he stands firm; he may be driven to tears, but he will brush them aside. When difficulties come thick and fast, he does not bend before them. (Friends of God, n. 77)

True victory in studying consists of fighting things like fatigue and laziness everyday, with the help of God. Some days, for example, you may have to work harder to find transportation, to find the books you need and to not get discouraged. By taking every step with love, you are not only fighting for success in your studies, but you are advancing on your path to Heaven.

My resolution for the day:

Saint Josemaría, ask God to give me the virtue of constancy and perseverance in the journey undertaken, without forgetting that those who fight until the end of their lives are saints. May he always know how to lift me up after each fall, to bravely continue the path with humility, with love, with hope (Forge, no. 186). And don't forget to intercede for the intention I have in this novena (your request).

(And it goes on...)



*When you find studying is an awfully uphill task offer that effort to Jesus. Tell him that you continue poring over your books, so that you may use your knowledge as a weapon to fight his enemies and so gain many souls for him... You can then be sure that your study is well on its way to becoming prayer.
(Furrow, n. 619)*



Novena prayer

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Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be*

Notes

Day six:

*Let God carry out
his project in me.*

Saint Josemaría reminds us that each person has a distinctive mission to fulfil and that we are all unique:

Our Father has created us one by one and shared out different goods among his children. It is up to us to use these talents, these qualities, in the service of all men. (Friends of God, 258)

For this reason, it is so important that you have a good understanding of your talents because, through them, you will leave a unique mark on your profession. By loving what you do, you will also be able to do good for others.

Consider the following: What job excites me? What profession should I practice to fulfil myself and benefit others? These are questions that you should ask yourself in depth and, to find answers, sometimes you need someone to guide you. It's not easy to know yourself well. Perhaps what you want to study is not within your reach. But whatever paths life takes you on, try and work to the best of your ability, giving it your all.

God wants us to be happy and is determined for us to be so. He will help you discover your vocation, and He will give you all that you need to fulfill the job He has called you to do. The vocation of a professional is an essential, inseparable part of our condition as Christians. **Our Lord wants you to be holy in the place where you are, in the job you have chosen.** (Friends of God, n. 60)

My resolution for the day:

Help me, my God, to see clearly what You expect of me, the mission You have given me in the world, and give me the strength to make it a reality. I also ask You, through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, to grant me: (your request).

(And it goes on...)

*Many great things
depend – don't forget it –
on whether you and I live
our lives as God wants.
(The Way, n. 755)*

Novena prayer

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Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be*

*Seventh day:
The key to happiness: serve.*

We are given many opportunities to fulfill our mission in the world. We can do so by being prudent in our studies, by taking part in initiatives that contribute to the good of others, and by always searching for truth.

As a student, you should dedicate yourself to your books with an apostolic spirit, and be convinced in your heart that one hour added to another already make up – even now! – a spiritual sacrifice offered to God and profitable for all mankind, your country and your soul. (Furrow, n. 522)

Many times, we will provide this service by performing tasks that we like and that fill us with satisfaction. Other times, we will have to take on things that are difficult for us or that we do, but overcoming fatigue and setbacks, with the awareness that in this way we serve everyone for the love of Jesus Christ and with the conviction that **to be happy, what you need is not an easy life but a heart which is in love.** (Furrow, n. 795)

My resolution for the day:

Make me, Lord, a person who feels united with those who suffer, who is not indifferent, and activate the creativity of charity in me to invest my time and effort in serving others. I also ask You, through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, to grant me: (your request).

(And it goes on...)



Novena prayer

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Notes

Day eight: With a big heart.

Pope Francis explained that magnanimity means walking with Jesus and following His own mission. The student who walks alongside the Master tries to make their work – their studies, classes, homework – a concrete way of imitating Christ, always doing the best they can.

By living in faith, expressing enthusiasm, setting goals, working to benefit others and living confidently, you are feeding your heart and soul.

My resolution for the day:

Jesus, make me a person with a big heart so that my life bears much fruit. Help me to be generous, to be useful and allow my efforts to leave a mark. May I always walk with.

You and in this way illuminate this world with the torch of faith and love. (cf. The way, n. 1). I also ask You, through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, to grant me: (your request).

(And it goes on...) 

Magnanimity means greatness of spirit, a largeness of heart wherein many can find refuge. Magnanimity gives us the energy to break out of ourselves and be prepared to undertake generous tasks which will be of benefit to all.

*The magnanimous person devotes all his strength, unstintingly, to what is worthwhile. He is not content with merely giving. He gives his very self. He thus comes to understand that the greatest expression of magnanimity consists in giving oneself to God.
(Friends of God, n. 80)*



Novena prayer

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Day nine: To reach the goal.

Saint Josemaría's students always seemed to understand the importance of studying and working with enthusiasm and with love for Jesus Christ. To do this, you need to set your sights on Heaven, having the desire to get there, while at the same time having your feet firmly planted on the ground.

Place on your desk, in your room, in your wallet... a picture of Our Lady, and look at it when you begin your work, while you are doing it, and when you finish it. She will obtain, I assure you!, the strength for you to turn your task into a loving dialogue with God.
(Furrow, n. 531)

It is so important to look towards Jesus, only He gives meaning to our efforts, fills our lives and drives us – day by day – to seek holiness. Thus, we can understand what Saint Josemaría wrote to us in point 335 of The Way: "An hour of study, for a modern apostle, is an hour of prayer."

As children, we would tend to seek help from our mothers, or mother figures. Now, even though we are older, let us ask the Virgin Mary for help in our studies: **"Before, by yourself, you couldn't. Now, you have turned to our Lady, and, with her, how easy it is!"** (Way, n. 513).

My resolution for the day:

At the end of this novena, I want to ask you, Jesus, to help me decide to seek holiness through my studies. Let me not settle for doing it moderately well. May I apply all my energies and qualities towards what really matters: fighting for love until the last moment. I also ask You, through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, to grant me: (your request).

(And it goes on...)



Novena prayer

O God, who has raised up in the Church Saint Josemaría, priest, to proclaim the universal vocation to holiness and apostolate, grant us, through his intercession and his example, that in the exercise of ordinary work we may conform ourselves to Your Son, Jesus Christ, and serve with ardent love the work of Redemption. Amen.
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Ecclesiastical Approval

Today, the feast of the Blessed Virgin of Coromoto, Patroness of Venezuela, I present, with great satisfaction and full of hope, the ecclesiastical approval for the publication of the Novena to Saint Josemaría for the students. I trust that, through your intercession, many young people will obtain very concrete help to sanctify their study tasks in the different academic, work and technical tasks and challenges that they have to face. I hope, above all, that it helps us discover, in the midst of hours of study and work, that kind face of Jesus Christ, who renews us from within and invites us to give our best every day.

Mons. Fernando José Castro Aguayo.
Bishop of Margarita. Venezuela. September 11th, 2020.

If you want to record the graces received through the intercession of Saint Josemaría, you can send your story by email: info@opusdei.org

The stories will be sent to the office that is in charge of the causes of the saints. Anyone who wishes can authorize the publication of the text on this website or in other media. This contributes to spreading devotion and recording the effectiveness of this person's intercession before God.

More information about Saint Josemaría at:

WEB: <https://opusdei.org/en/>
Instagram: [@opusdei_en](https://www.instagram.com/opusdei_en)

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