

The Love Novena to St. Thomas Aquinas
Patron of Catholic Students and Schools

Daily Prayer

(Pray at the beginning of the novena on each of the nine days.)

St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of students and schools, I thank God for the gifts of light and knowledge He bestowed on you, which you used to build up the Church in love. I thank God, too, for the wealth and richness of teaching you left in your writings. Not only were you a great teacher, you lived a life of virtue and you made holiness the desire of your heart. If I cannot imitate you in the brilliance of your studies, I can follow you in the humility and charity which marked your life. As St. Paul said, charity is the greatest gift, and it is open to all. Pray for me that I may grow in holiness and charity. Pray also for schools, and for all students. In particular, please obtain the favor I ask during this novena (mention your request). Amen.

Day One: Love of Vocation

Repeat the Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, called by God, as a young man you became convinced that God was calling you to religious life. Although your family was opposed to it, you were determined to follow God's call. Even when your brothers kidnapped you and forced you to remain a prisoner in your own house, you did not give up but waited patiently for God's hour. St. Thomas, pray for all young people who are considering their vocation in life. Help them to be open to the call of God. Inspire them to make choices motivated by love for God and an unselfish love for other people. Whatever their state in life, help them to see their chosen path as a call to service. May all married couples, single persons, priests, and religious build up the Church through lives of unselfish devotion and love. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, pray for us.

Day Two: Love of Purity

Repeat the Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, lover of purity St. Thomas, you had a great esteem for the virtue of purity. When your family tried to deter you from entering the Dominicans by sending a woman to lead you into sin, you resisted the temptation and determined to consecrate your chastity to God forever.

Today we are immersed in a culture that degrades the gift of human sexuality. Human persons are viewed as objects of pleasure and their human dignity is devalued. Children suffer abuse and families are damaged by infidelity.

Pray that our society may once again value the virtue of chastity. Pray that those in the media will work to promote a Christian view of marriage and family life. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, please pray for us.

Day Three: Love of Humility

Repeat the Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, example of humility, when you were a young student some of your classmen called you the “dumb ox.” Although you were more intelligent than all of them, you bore their insults patiently without retaliating. You were endowed with a keen mind but recognized that God is the source of all gifts. You humbly acknowledged your dependence on God, and begged him to enlighten you so that you would act only for his glory.

St. Thomas, pray for me that I, too, may learn to act out of humility and never from the empty desire for esteem in the sight of others. Help me to seek only God's glory and to act with a right intention. Let me run after knowledge and not only for grades. May I seek to humble myself now, so that in heaven I will shine like the stars for all eternity. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, please pray for us.

Day Four: Love of Truth

Repeat the Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, devoted to truth, you devoted your life to seeking the truth and explaining it to others. You dedicated your mind to God, and used it to probe the Word of God more deeply. Your gifts as a theologian and philosopher make you stand out as one of the greatest doctors of the Church. In your discussions, you made truth your primary aim, while treating respectfully anyone who differed with you.

Obtain for me, too, a great love of truth. Help me to ponder God's word so as to draw from it the light I need to nourish myself spiritually. Keep me firmly rooted in the truth, and never let me be swayed by false teachings. I pray also for those who are lost in darkness; please bring them into the light of truth. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, please pray for us.

Day Five: Love for Our Lord in the Eucharist

Repeat the Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, afire with love for the Blessed Sacrament, you had a great love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and spent many hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. You once said that you learned more from prayer before the tabernacle than from many hours of study.

Pray that I, too, may be inflamed with an ardent love for the Holy Eucharist. Help me to always esteem and reverence this wonderful sacrament. Pray for me that I may always participate devoutly in Mass, receive Holy Communion with great fervor, and often visit Jesus in the tabernacle. Through contact with the Eucharistic Lord, may my heart overflow with love for God and for my neighbor. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, please pray for us.

Day Six: Love of Charity

Repeat Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, filled with charity, you were noted during your life for the charity you showed to others. During debates at the university, you did not ridicule those who argued with you but treated them with respect and love. You showed consideration for the needs of other people. Help me also to be more deeply rooted in love of God and neighbor, keeping in mind Jesus' words, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Help me to practice this same charity in a concrete way that does not stop at words, but is shown with sacrifice. May it begin first of all in my family, and then radiate to everyone I meet. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, please pray for us.

Day Seven: Love for the Church

Repeat Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, defender of the church, from your youth you learned to love the Church, your spiritual home. In your teaching, you sought to explain and defend the doctrine of the Church, making it known through your writings. Intercede for the Church today, that it may grow stronger and more spiritually fruitful in the world. Raise up holy priests, religious, and laity, that they may all be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Bless the Pope in his efforts to guide the Church, witnessing to the power of the Gospel to renew the face of the earth.

May learned men in the Church work to explore the richness of Catholic teaching so as to show forth its truth and benefit the faithful. Pray for missionaries as they work to spread the Gospel. May the whole Church be renewed by the power of the Spirit to more effectively witness to Christ in the world today. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, please pray for us.

Day Eight: Love of Prayer

Repeat Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, teacher of prayer, you knew that prayer is the source of wisdom and you spent long hours in conversation with God. Prayer became your very life. Whenever you pondered over a problem in theology, you turned to prayer to seek God's enlightenment. Now in heaven you see God face to face. Pray for me, too, that I may become a person of profound prayer. Obtain for me the grace that I may always pray with humility, confidence, and perseverance. Help me to grow more and more in the spirit of prayer, so that my whole life may become a prayer. May I always seek the face of the living God. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, please pray for us.

Day Nine: Love of Learning

Repeat Daily Prayer.

St. Thomas, patron of students St. Thomas, God called you to spend most of your life in academic pursuits, first as a student, and then as a professor of theology. In your work as a teacher, you desired to help your students apply what they learned in their lives, in order to grow in holiness. You realized that knowledge is meant to draw people closer to God. In your teaching you sought to communicate the truth, desiring to help your students become better Christians.

Pray for all students. Pray for those who may have difficulty in their studies, as well as for those who can study with ease. Pray that they may all be open to the truth, and always seek to better understand it. May they grow in knowledge so as to know God better and to be able to serve their brothers and sisters as the Lord desires. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, please pray for us.

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Arrangement and additions by Cynthia Dior.