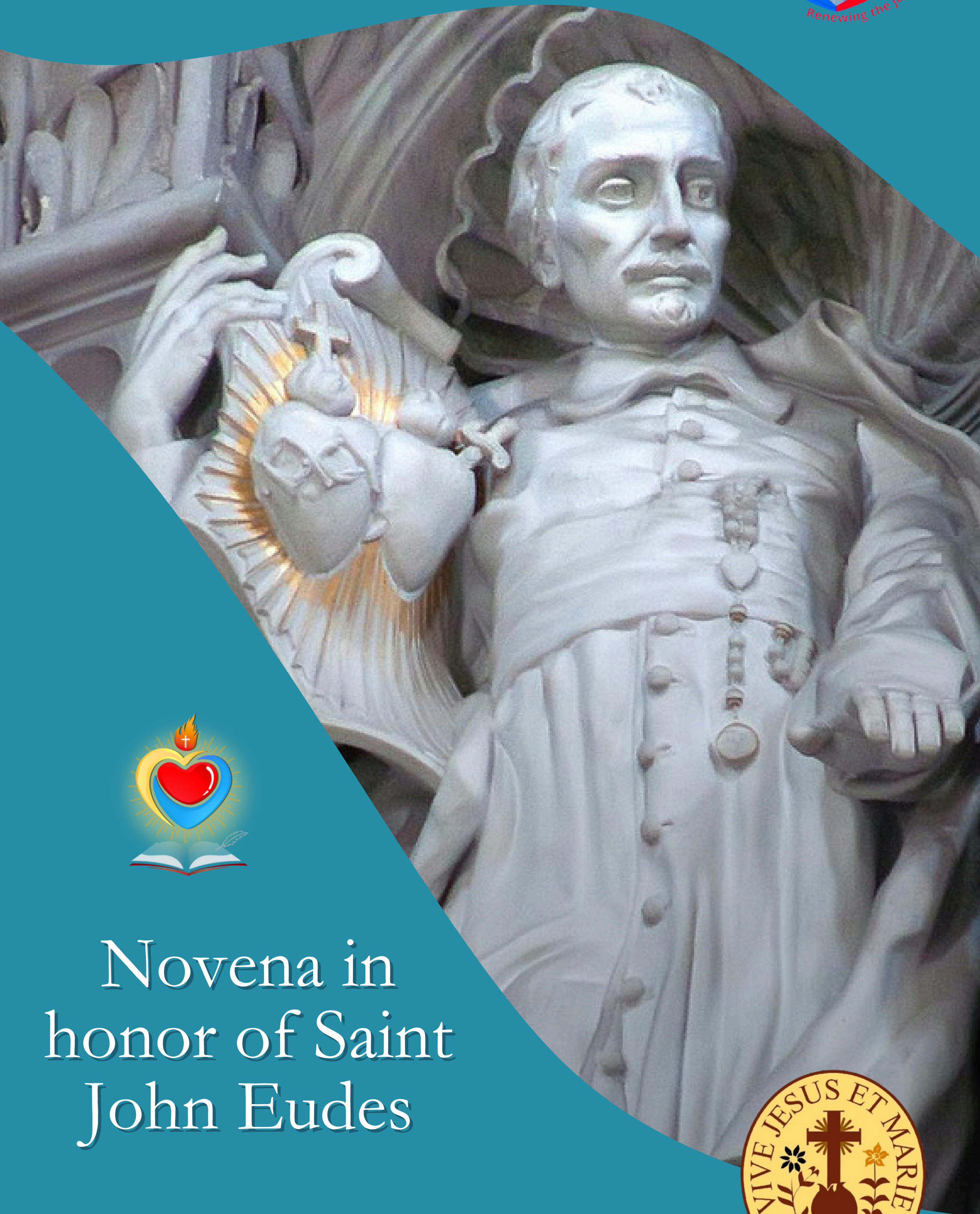


EUDIST UNIT OF SPIRITUALITY

In the framework of the Jubilee of Hope and the 100th anniversary of the Canonization of Saint John Eudes



Novena in honor of Saint John Eudes

SAINT JOHN EUDES APOSTLE OF THE HEARTS
OF JESUS AND MARY



Introduction to the Novena in honor of Saint John Eudes 2025



With deep joy and gratitude, we prepare to live this novena in honour of Saint John Eudes, in the context of the Eudist Jubilee Year marking the 100th anniversary of his canonisation and the Jubilee of Hope celebrated by the whole Church. This time of grace invites us to rediscover the richness of Eudist spirituality and to renew our commitment to live as true "pilgrims of hope," inspired by the example and teaching of this great saint. John Eudes was a tireless apostle of the Heart of Jesus and Mary, and a teacher of Christian love who continues to lead us towards the fullness of life in God.

During these nine days, we will delve into some of the most significant themes of Eudist spirituality, gathered in the Interior Colloquies of the Christian Soul with its God, by Saint John Eudes. Each day of the novena will help us to meditate on God's eternal love, on our dignity as Christians and on the call to live in holiness, following the example of the French saint. This experience of prayer will not only be an act of devotion, but an opportunity for conversion, interior renewal and growth in faith, hope and love.

The structure of each day of the novena will consist of four moments:

1. An opening prayer, which will prepare us to enter into God's presence.
2. A meditation based on texts by Saint John Eudes.
3. A reflection, which will help us to internalise the message and apply it to our lives.
4. Recitation of the Joyful Mysteries
5. Finally, a closing prayer, in which we will lift up our confident supplication to the Lord.

May this novena be for all of us a path of grace and an impetus to continue walking with joy, as children of St. John Eudes and witnesses of hope.

UEE Team



Prayer for every day

God and our Father, who, to accompany many on the paths of salvation, deigned to choose Saint John Eudes, grant us to share in his zeal for your glory and his ardour in proclaiming the goodness of the hearts of Jesus and Mary, so that after imitating these divine models on earth, we may find in them refuge and hope at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

JOYS

Antiphon: From Jesus and Mary obtain for your children a fervent love.

You were favored by Mary; In the waters of baptism your charity was kindled. At an early age you experienced God, and your love for Mary, to whom you gave your heart, grew.

The priesthood of Christ enamoured your heart; you happily knocked on a door: the Oratory of Jesus. An enlightened teacher spoke to you of the Incarnation. The Lord consecrated you a priest forever.

Plague! Your people cried out; your zeal united you with them. The first weapons of the apostle that your memory kept. Your words sparked a fire of faith in your world. You opened a path for all: the life and kingdom of Jesus.

Your gaze discovered the enslaved woman. Your charity offered her a charitable refuge. For many years you fought with your eyes fixed on God. His Will was your guide, which you sought with determination.

You lit the fire of the Heart in the Church, worship of the Son and the Mother united in one love. Your strong voice resounded in fields and cities, and in their royal palaces you questioned the king himself.

To form priests, your zeal opened homes, and your zeal, imbued with holiness, sought them out. To all the baptised, you opened the field of mission, and your love committed them to be voices of Christ in the world.

Tireless in your work, the end took you by surprise. You gave years filled with love to Jesus Christ. You left your mark on the world, which we fervently follow today. Join us in Heaven and inspire us in our mission.



DAY 1
MEDITATION
FROM ALL ETERNITY GOD HAS FILLED US WITH FAVOURS.

Before God, who knows neither past nor future, all things have always existed. All things are present and visible in his eternal light. Therefore, from all eternity, God set his merciful eyes on me, thought of me with solicitude, loved me with fervour and tenderness. With marvellous goodness, he arranged everything that was to happen to me spiritually and physically, with the circumstances that would surround my being and my life, and he formed great plans for me.

By his design, God created me with the natural advantages and perfections that I received from him, and he has preserved me at every moment of my life. He wanted to create the world and preserve it out of love for me.

The eternal Father had the design to send his Son to earth and to deliver him to the cross and to death to free me. Out of love for me, the Son wanted to become incarnate, to do and suffer what he did and suffered in this world. Out of love for me, the Holy Spirit formed him in the blessed womb of the Virgin and came into this world to be my light, my sanctification, the spirit of my spirit and the heart of my heart.

In a word, it was the eternal plan of the Holy Trinity to grant me the corporal and spiritual, temporal and eternal graces that it has granted me and will grant me forever. So, my God, from all eternity you have carried me in your spirit and in your heart; you have thought of me and loved me for an eternity before I could think of you and love you.

You, God of love, have not existed for a single moment without having your spirit and heart set on me. What is man that you should give him importance, that you should care for him? And so I can say, O eternal goodness, that in a certain way you thought of me and loved me at the same time that you thought of yourself and loved yourself, for you loved me from all eternity. (St. John Eudes, OC II, 135-136)



REFLECTION

In this Jubilee Year, as we contemplate the figure of Saint John Eudes, we enter into the mystery of a God who, from all eternity, has thought of us with inexhaustible love. We are not the result of chance, but of the loving plan of the Trinity, who has set his merciful gaze on each one of us. Recognising this truth, Saint John Eudes became an ardent witness to God's eternal love and lived his life as a grateful response. To be "pilgrims of hope" is to remember that we do not walk alone or without purpose: our origin and destination are in the heart of God, who has always dreamed of us and sustains us at every step.

This first day of the novena invites us to renew our certainty that our life is woven by a love that precedes us. In each of our personal histories — with their lights and shadows — the faithfulness of a God who has always been Father, Son and Spirit for us shines forth. Following the example of Saint John Eudes, let us open our hearts to gratitude and allow ourselves to be transformed by the awareness of being eternally loved. In this way, our hope will not be a fragile illusion, but a living force that impels us to walk with joy towards the fullness that God has always prepared for us.

PRAYER

Eternal and loving God, thank you for thinking of me and loving me from all eternity. Grant that, like Saint John Eudes, I may live each day with gratitude and hope, trusting in your goodness that sustains and guides me. Amen.



DAY 2
MEDITATION
OUR OBLIGATIONS FOR THE BENEFITS WE HAVE
RECEIVED FROM GOD IN OUR CREATION AND
PRESERVATION

I will consider that the one who created me, giving me being and life, was not the world, nor the spirit of evil, nor myself, but God with his infinite power, wisdom, and goodness. He made us, and we are his. His infinite power brought me out of nothing. His immense wisdom is manifested in the admirable arrangement of all the parts of my body and soul. His ineffable goodness is revealed in that he did not give me a mineral, vegetable or animal existence and life, but formed me in his image and likeness. He made me born with advantageous circumstances of time and place and family origin, with attributes of body and spirit and other conditions that have accompanied my birth and that I must carefully consider. (Psalm 100 (99), 3. 318)

How shall I repay the Lord for all the good he has done for me? I will give thanks, bless him, and love him with all my heart. For if God has been the author and eternal principle of my being and my life, and not the world, nor Satan, nor myself, I must use them entirely for God and to fulfil his holy dispositions.

But God is not only the beginning from which I came, but the prototype whose living image I am. I must therefore imitate him in his holiness, charity, patience, meekness, vigilance, justice, and mercy. I will examine whether I have spent my past life in the service of the One who gave it to me, or of others. I will ask myself whether I have strived to imitate Him and to express in myself His image or the image of His enemy. (St. John Eudes, O.C. II, 139-140)

REFLECTION

Every breath, every moment of life, is a gift from God, who with infinite love and wisdom has brought us out of nothing. We are not the work of chance, but the direct creation of the God who thought us in his image and likeness. Saint John Eudes invites us to humbly recognise the greatness of this gift:



we were made for God and in God, and we are called to reflect his holiness, justice and mercy in our lives. To be "pilgrims of hope" is to walk with an awareness of this dignity: that our life does not belong to us, but has been entrusted to us to glorify our Creator.

The Jubilee Year urges us to renew our active gratitude, because it is not enough to recognise the good we have received; we must respond with love. Let us ask ourselves today: Do we live as true children of God, or as reflections of a world that has forgotten its origins? Today is a favourable time to reorient our lives, to place them at the service of the One who gave them to us, as Saint John Eudes did. May each of our actions, however small, reflect the image of the One in whom we live, move and exist.

PRAYER

Lord, you created me with love and wisdom, and every moment of my life is your gift. Help me to recognise you as my origin, my model and my destiny. May I, like Saint John Eudes, live gratefully and give my whole life to your service. Amen.

DAY 3

MEDITATION

THE DIGNITY AND HOLINESS OF OUR END

For what purpose did God create us? For the same purpose as the angels. God placed man on earth to do what angels do in heaven, that is, to worship, praise, love, and serve God, and to follow His holy will in everything and everywhere. We must therefore lead an angelic life and find our happiness in doing these things.

Let us humble ourselves, detest our wickedness, and renounce the prince of darkness forever. Let us ardently desire to imitate the angels, beginning here on earth what we will do eternally in heaven. Let us beg them to associate us with them in the praises they offer unceasingly to God, and to make us sharers in their love and fidelity.

God has placed us on earth for the same purpose as the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, pastors, priests, and all the other saints who lived



here below and are now in the cycle. They were men like us, flesh and blood, equally fragile, exposed to the same dangers and temptations. We are part of the same Church as they were, we worship the same God, we have the same Saviour and mediator, Jesus Christ, our Lord; we possess the same Gospel, the same sacraments, the same faith, the same hope and the same promises. And the same one who sanctified them has an infinite desire to sanctify us if we do not hinder him. However, they are saints and served the one true God in holiness and righteousness in his presence all the days of their lives. (St Augustine, Confessions 1.1. 321)

And what about us? What are we and what do we do? How many reasons we have to humble ourselves! What will we say to the Son of God when, on the day of judgement, he shows us all his saints, who were like us, and makes us see that it was much easier to follow him than to imitate those who are now forced to cry out in hell: We, foolish ones, strayed from the path of truth and wandered through impassable deserts! (St. John Eudes, O.C. II, 142-143)

REFLECTION

St. John Eudes reminds us that we were created for a sublime goal: to worship, love, and serve God, as the angels and saints do. Our passage through this earth is not trivial or meaningless; it is a pilgrimage toward eternity, a school of holiness. Through our daily lives, our decisions and our faithfulness, we are called to share in the glory of the saints, those who, being human like us, responded with love to God's grace. In this Jubilee, we recognise that hope is not just waiting, but an impulse that drives us to live in holiness from now on.

We are pilgrims of hope because we have been created for heaven, and our hearts cannot rest except in God. As we look at the life of Saint John Eudes and so many witnesses of faith, we renew our decision to live with meaning, in fidelity and love. Imitating the saints is not nostalgia for the past, but a present invitation to live the Gospel radically. May this day rekindle in us the desire for holiness, not as a distant goal, but as a vocation possible here and now, sustained by God's grace.



PRAYER:

Lord, you created me to worship and serve you like the saints and angels. Kindle in me the desire to live in holiness. May I, like Saint John Eudes, walk each day with hope and fidelity toward the fullness of your love. Amen.

DAY 4

MEDITATION

DUTIES TO GOD FOR THE CREATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD

Let us consider the beginning and end of this great universe, which comprises the heavens, the stars, the four elements, and countless creatures.

The beginning and end of this work is God, its Creator, who created it for himself and for his glory. Indeed, all creatures in the universe bless and glorify God, each in its own way. His works are full of his glory. Splendour and beauty are his works. The heavens are , and the earth is full of your glory. All insensitive and irrational creatures fulfil God's will, follow the instincts they have received from him and never violate the laws he has prescribed for them: he gave them a law that will not pass away. All of them serve his designs, because everything is at your service and manifests his power, wisdom and infinite goodness.

What power it is to have brought out of nothing so many and such varied things! What wisdom to have established such admirable order, relationship, proportion and correspondence! What goodness to have done so many wonders for all men in general and for each one in particular, even for the ungrateful and perfidious who do not thank him and who use them to wage war against him and offend him! They are so many tongues and voices that cry out to us incessantly: Love, love him who has created us for you. It is very strange, my God, that irrational and inanimate creatures glorify you while man, who is obliged to do so, dishonours you.

The unspeakable goodness with which God created the beings of the universe is also evident in the fact that He not only created them for us and gave them to us, but did so with infinite love. So, if every morsel of bread we eat and

every drop of water we drink had an infinite price, He would give them to us with the same love. And if you could count all the creatures in the world, you would count as many debts to the One who created them and gave them to us with infinite love.

REFLECTION:

Contemplating creation with the eyes of faith, as St. John Eudes did, allows us to discover that the entire universe — from the stars to the gentlest breeze — is a silent song that glorifies God. Nothing exists by chance. Everything has been created with wisdom, order and love to manifest divine glory and serve humanity. In this Jubilee Year, we are called to rediscover our vocation as worshippers in the midst of creation: pilgrims of hope who recognise that the earth and everything in it is a gift from God, entrusted to our hands to care for and praise him in it.

What a painful paradox that irrational creatures faithfully fulfil their purpose, while human beings — created in the image of God — often forget their Creator! This day invites us to a profound examination: do we honour God with our lives, or do we live with our backs turned to his glory? Following the example of Saint John Eudes, let us renew our admiration for creation and assume our duty to praise, bless and serve God in everything. May every flower, every star, every food we receive inspire us to love the Creator more and to live responsibly as faithful stewards of his wonders.

PRAYER:

Creator God, who with infinite love formed the universe for your glory and our good, teach me to recognise you in every creature and to return to you in praise what you give me as a gift. May my life be a song of gratitude and fidelity, like that of Saint John Eudes. Amen.



DAY 5

MEDITATION

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD IN THE CREATION OF MAN

God's attributes are not empty or idle: he exercises them continually with us and with all his creatures, with marvellous results.

For, as a beginning, he gives us being, not only once at the moment of our creation, but he produces us unceasingly with much greater effectiveness than the source feeds its streams, the tree its branches, the sun its rays. That is why we depend on him much more than the stream on its source, the branches on the tree, and the rays on the sun.

As our end, centre, element and supreme good, he is constantly calling and drawing us to himself and saying to us: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. For if there is a secret virtue in the heart of a stone, in the vital element of fish, and in the sphere of fire that draws them so powerfully, how much more will there be in our true centre, in our real element, and in our true medium, which is God?

Yet how is it that we allow ourselves to be drawn to him so languidly? We must admit that our obstacles and resistance are great, and the weight of our sin is heavy and frightening. (St. John Eudes, O.C. II, 151-152)

REFLECTION:

God is not a distant Creator or a craftsman who abandons his work after finishing it. Saint John Eudes teaches us that God continually exercises his power, his goodness and his wisdom in our lives: he gives us being at every moment, he sustains us like the sun sustains its rays, like a spring sustains a stream. Our entire existence depends on him, and yet how easily we forget this truth! The Jubilee Year calls us to regain awareness that God is our origin and our destination, our centre and our true good. We are pilgrims of hope because we know that God never ceases to draw us to himself, even when we resist his love.

Faced with this divine attraction, as constant as it is discreet, is the reality of sin that cools us, distracts us, and closes us in on ourselves.

Today is a day to humbly recognise how little we allow ourselves to be loved by God and how much we need Him, with His mercy, to break down the walls we have built. Like Saint John Eudes, let us learn to let ourselves be drawn, to let ourselves be comforted, to return to the Heart that created us and has never ceased to sustain us. For God never stops saying to us, “Come to me,” and that voice is the flame that kindles the hope of those who journey towards Him.

PRAYER:

God of eternal love, who creates and sustains me at every moment, draw my heart to you. Break down the barriers that separate me from your will and let me rest in your presence. May I, like Saint John Eudes, live confidently in your goodness and always walk towards you. Amen.

DAY 6

MEDITATION

GOD'S RIGHTS OVER MAN BY VIRTUE OF CREATION

By virtue of the above attributes, God has many rights over us that we must know so as not to violate them. For if we care so much about knowing the most insignificant rights we have over those who depend on us, how much more should we consider the immense and important rights that the great God has over us, so that we may act accordingly. Let us see what they are:

1. By all his attributes in general, he has the right to be recognised, worshipped and glorified as God, as our God, and to have all things sacrificed to him, even ourselves.
2. As our beginning, end, and supreme good, He has the right to possess us fully, as something totally His, created only for Him and infinitely dependent on Him.
3. As the beginning and end of our being and our life, he also has the right to be the master of our thoughts, words and actions, of the uses and functions of our life. We must not think, say or do anything that is not for him and for him, according to his will and for his glory.

4. As our beginning, he produces us unceasingly and carries us always in his arms to prevent us from returning to nothingness. He therefore has the right not only that we remain in him by force, since in him we live, move, and exist, but that we remain in him voluntarily through our love and charity. For God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God. My God, grant that I may always remain in your love and in charity towards my neighbour, so that I may always remain in you. (Acts 17:28; 1 Jn 4:16; 330)

5. His status as principle gives us a being and a life that are a participation in his own. Hence, St. Paul warns us that we are of God's lineage (1).

6. As our end, our centre, our divine element and means, he has the right to expect us to aspire and strive unceasingly towards him and to seek our rest and happiness in him alone.

7. As the supreme good, he has the right to be loved above all things and to be the master of our thoughts and affections. My God, only in you are true goods, honours and joys to be found. May I therefore love you exclusively and sovereignly, and may you henceforth be the sole object of my desires and my love. (St. John Eudes, O.C. II, 154-155)

REFLECTION

Today, human rights are rightly exalted, as they are fundamental to the development of life. In light of this, Saint John Eudes also invites us to remember something deeper and more essential: God has rights over us, because He is our Creator, our beginning, our end, and our supreme good. If we start from this reality, our defence of the good of others takes on meaning. Everything we are, have and do belongs to God, because He has given us existence and sustains us in being. We are not our own, we belong to God. In this Jubilee Year, recognising this divine lordship is not a cause for fear, but for freedom, because it is necessary to live in the certainty that we are pilgrims of hope walking towards the One to whom we belong out of love and whose will is our peace.

The human heart finds its true dignity when it is consecrated to God with freedom and love.

He does not demand like a tyrant, but calls us as a Father, draws us to Himself as the Supreme Good, and transforms us from within. To recognise His rights is to live a spirituality of trusting surrender: may every thought, word and action be for Him and in Him. Like Saint John Eudes, let us make God the centre of our decisions, the master of our affections and the destination of our searches. Only in this way will we find rest, because only in Him is our true happiness.

PRAYER

My God, you created me out of love and sustain me at every moment. I recognise that everything in me belongs to you. Grant that I may live for you, think of you, and love you above all things. Like Saint John Eudes, may I remain in your love and always walk towards you. Amen.

DAY 7

MEDITATION

DUTIES TO GOD BECAUSE OF HIS RIGHTS OVER US

We have already carefully considered God's attributes in relation to us and the rights He has because He created us. It is now our turn to think about the obligations that arise from this. Because:

1. If God is our beginning, we must remain in him, lead a life worthy of our origin, make him the reference point for who we are and what we do and give, and we must continually sacrifice ourselves to him so that he may take full possession of us. Look at the quarry from which you were hewn.
2. If God is our end, our centre and our supreme good, we must continually long for him, desire him, seek him everywhere and in everything, and find no rest or contentment outside of him. (Is. 51:1).
3. If God is our prototype, we must study his life and his perfections unceasingly in order to imitate them and make ourselves the living image of such an adorable example. You will conform to the model that was shown to you on the mountain.

4. If God is our king, our ruler and protector, we owe him honour, obedience and trust.

5. If God is our sovereign, with power infinitely greater than that of the potter over his clay vessel, by which, as Job says, he can strike me a thousand times, even without reason, we must abandon ourselves totally to him.

6. If God is our supreme judge, we must submit to his power to judge us. We must worship, bless and glorify him in all his judgments, known or unknown, which he makes every day over all creatures and especially over us. We worship him in a special way in the judgment he exercises at every moment over the souls that appear before his tribunal and in the judgment, whatever it may be, that he will make over us at the hour of our death and on the day of the final judgment. Finally, we must fear him, because it is terrible to fall into the hands of the Living God and to live as those who must soon appear before his throne to give an account of even a single idle word. (St. John Eudes, O.C. II, 157-158)

REFLECTION

After recognising that everything in us comes from God, Saint John Eudes leads us to the heart of Christian life: responding to that love with total surrender. God has rights over us, and we have sacred duties towards Him, above all: to live for Him, to desire Him, to imitate Him, to honour Him, to obey Him and to trust in His judgement. Not as slaves, but as free children who love because they have been deeply loved. In this Jubilee Year, our hope is nourished by this truth, for God, who deserves everything, also gives everything. He does not demand without first having given abundantly.

St. John Eudes invites us to a life lived in constant reference to God as our everything. A life centred on Him, trusting in His government and abandoned to His will. Let us not live with our backs turned to God's judgement, but in joyful vigilance, knowing that we will be measured not with harshness, but with the measure of love. As pilgrims of hope, let us courageously take up these duties, so that our existence may glorify God, not only with words, but with deeds, with attitudes, with all that we are. For only in Him will we find our rest and our glory.



PRAYER

Lord and my God, you are my beginning, my end, and my just and merciful judge. Teach me to live for you with faithfulness and trust. May I, like Saint John Eudes, glorify you with my whole life and live each day as one who is walking towards your presence. Amen.

DAY 8

MEDITATION

WE ARE OBLIGED TO SERVE, HONOUR, LOVE AND IMITATE GOD

Let us consider what the three divine Persons are and do for one another.

The Father unceasingly communicates to his Son his being, his life, his perfections, his glory, his happiness, his goods and treasures.

The Son ceaselessly thanks his Father, as his origin, for all he receives from him, and is in a perpetual state of relationship, glory and praise towards him.

The Father and the Son communicate to the Holy Spirit what they are, what they have, what they can do and what they know. The Holy Spirit gives thanks unceasingly to the Father and the Son, as his beginning, for all that he receives from them. And these divine communications, processions and relationships (...) are eternal, continuous and immense, because they fill heaven and earth.

And through these communications and processions, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have the same essence and divinity, live with the same life, have equal power, wisdom, goodness and holiness, and are in perfect unity and society. These divine persons contemplate each other unceasingly and are perpetually occupied in praising, loving and glorifying one another. (St. John Eudes, O.C. II, 165-166)

REFLECTION

St. John Eudes opens a window for us into the very heart of God: the Holy Trinity, an eternal community of love, gift and gratitude. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit live in a continuous exchange of life, glory and love, and

invite us to participate in this mystery. Our deepest vocation is to imitate, serve, honour and love God as a reflection of this divine dynamism. In this Jubilee Year, we are called to enter into this circle of love, not to remain on the periphery, but to live as true children of God, configured to Christ, guided by the Spirit and welcomed by the Father.

To be “pilgrims of hope” is to know that our destiny is not loneliness or self-sufficiency, but communion with God. This hope becomes commitment. If God in his Trinitarian manifestation gives himself without reserve, we too are called to give ourselves un ly, to live in constant praise, to love as we have been loved. Saint John Eudes lived this intensely: his life was a faithful echo of Trinitarian love. May ours too, with humility and truth, be a living expression of that mystery which dwells in us and sustains us.

PRAYER

Triune God, mystery of eternal love, teach me to live in communion with you, as the Son with the Father and the Spirit. May my life, like that of Saint John Eudes, be praise, surrender and love, and may the desire to imitate your perfection and unity grow in me every day. Amen.

Day 9

Meditation

OUR DUTIES TO GOD AS CHRISTIANS

God, by creating us, is our beginning, our king and Sovereign: and we are his creatures, his work, his subjects and servants. But, in addition, because of our regeneration and the new birth of baptism, which gives us a new being and a new and divine life, God is our Father, to whom we can and must say: Our Father who art in heaven. Therefore:

1. If through our new birth we have come forth from the bosom of God, our Father, we will also remain there forever, in his bosom. Otherwise, we would lose the new being and life we received in baptism. That is why he says to us: Hear me, you whom I carry in my womb, whom I bear in my bowels. (Mi. 5:48. 2 EL 5:1. 3 Jn. 1:12. 4 Jn. 20:17. 5 1 Jn. 3:1)

2. We are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, of his blood, of his royal and divine race, and we are part of his genealogy. Hence, Christians, the new man and the new creature, born solely of God, know no genealogy other than that of Jesus Christ, nor any other Father than God. You shall not call one another father on earth. We no longer know anyone according to the flesh, says St. Paul. And the Lord tells us: What is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3. We are co-heirs of the Son of God and heirs of God. O wonders, O dignity, nobility and greatness of the Christian! Behold what a magnificent gift the Father has given us, that we are called children of God, and indeed we are. What great grace God gives us when he makes us Christians, and how grateful we must live with his goodness! (St. John Eudes, O.C. II, 168-169)

REFLECTION

On this last day of the novena, Saint John Eudes leads us to the core of our identity: we are Christians, that is, children of God through baptism, brothers and sisters of Christ, temples of the Holy Spirit. This grace is not a label, but a new life that springs from the heart of the Holy Trinity. To be a Christian is to be born from the womb of God and to live permanently in his bosom, as beloved children. In this Jubilee Year, celebrating hope means recognising with wonder the dignity we have received and committing ourselves to live up to the gift entrusted to us.

Saint John Eudes moves us to recognise Christianity as a grace. This grace implies a responsibility, which leads us to live as true children, as co-heirs of Christ, as new creatures who reflect God's life in the world. It is not just a matter of bearing a name, but of embodying a belonging. Today, as we close this novena, let us ask for the grace to live with deep gratitude, radical fidelity and joyful hope. Like Saint John Eudes, let us be witnesses of the love of God who has called us to be his forever.

PRAYER:

Good Father, through baptism you have made me your child and brother of your beloved Son. I thank you for the gift of being a Christian. Grant me to live with faithfulness, hope and love, like Saint John Eudes, and make my life a reflection of your grace and glory. Amen.



FOR 19 AUGUST
Invocation to Saint John Eudes

Saint John Eudes,
(ALL: PRAY FOR US).

Saint John Eudes, chosen by God,
Model of Christian life,
Faithful fulfiller of the divine will,
Saint John Eudes, filled with love for Jesus.

Saint John Eudes, delicate and tender in your love for the Virgin Mary,
Saint John Eudes, knowledgeable about the divine mysteries,
Father, doctor and apostle of the cult of the Sacred Hearts,
Saint John Eudes, filled with the Holy Spirit.

Faithful worker in the house of the Lord,
Saint John Eudes, moved by a special love for sinners,
Saint John Eudes, made all things to all people,
apostolic preacher.

Saint John Eudes, ardent defender of the faith
Saint John Eudes, enriched with the charism of contemplation,
Honour and pride of the priesthood,
Formator of priests,
Light of the Church,

Saint John Eudes, adorned with the gift of wisdom,
Prudent guide of believers,
Saint John Eudes, lover of evangelical perfection,
founder of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary,
founder of the Daughters of Our Lady of Charity,
founder of the Society of the Admirable Heart.

Like Christ, humble of heart,
Saint John Eudes, desirous of being crowned with martyrdom,
Sleepless support of the poor,
Help and comfort of the sick,
our guide and protector.