

NOVENA TO SAINT ARTEMIDE ZATTI

Day 1 - Love for God

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Today is our first-day Novena to Saint Artemide Zatti, our theme is leading us to focus on the Love for God.

Reader 1: From the book of Deuteronomy (Deut 6: 3-9)

Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly; for the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you a land flowing with milk and honey.

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them on your arm as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

Reader 2: From the letter of Juan Edmundo Vecchi, Rector Major on the Saint Artemide Zatti

Today's novelty, to which the title of the letter refers, consists precisely in including a coadjutor among those whom the Church has considered worthy of being proposed, by a public act, as models of spiritual life and charity to her religious brothers and, more widely, to all Christians. And this is on the basis of the testimony of many, confirmed by God through a 'miraculous' fact, attributed to his intercession. Artemide Zatti is the first non-martyr Salesian brother to be beatified and the fact gives, as I said, a touch of completeness to the series of models of Salesian spirituality, which the Church officially declares as such. I called this novelty "disruptive", in the sense that it shakes us, challenges us in our charismatic fidelity, and in the ability to propose today's model of lay Salesian vocation that is truly meaningful and attractive [...] I intend, instead, to address an urgent invitation to meditate on the figure of Zatti, in order to arouse practical orientation and commitment, at the provincial and regional level, in favour of the vocation of the Salesian brother.

Where it is not possible to communicate and "infect" at that level, our work becomes less effective, and the dreams of global reforms are sterile. To be truly

effective, it is essential to think globally and act decisively at the local level. at the provincial and regional level, in favor of the vocation of the Salesian brother.

Intercessions

Leader: Lord Jesus, give us the courage to follow in the footsteps of Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: because of his example, we can be witnesses of Your love.

Leader: Holy Father in memory of Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: give us the courage of an authentic and profoundly human Christian witness.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Day 2 - The Holiness of God and man

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Our Theme for today is the Holiness of God and man.

Reader 1: From the book of Leviticus (Lv 19: 1-2.17-18)

The Lord spoke to Moses and said: "Speak to the whole community of the Israelites, telling them:" Be holy, because I, the Lord, your God, am holy. You will not cover hatred in your heart against your brother; openly reproach your neighbor, so you will not burden yourself with sin for him. You will not take revenge and hold no grudge against the children of your people, but you will love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.

Reader 2: From the letter of Juan Edmundo Vecchi, Rector Major on the Saint Artemide Zatti

Dear confreres, let us prepare to welcome the grace and the message that the Church communicates to us through the witness of Salesian holiness of this coadjutor brother. The figure of Artemide Zatti constitutes a stimulus and inspiration to make us sensitive to new areas of pastoral care that are urgent today and above all to push us to rethink with generosity and breadth the presence of the Salesian brother marked by these typical traits:

- the absolute desire to stay and work with Don Bosco, according to the *da mihi animas*;
- the experience of total consecration, which has its most immediate and strong expression in participation in the community mission and in fraternal love;
- the serene and continuously updated development of one's professional training as a means to do good.

The event of his beatification, which proposes him as a singular model for our family and the Church, underlines a fundamental element of our experience as consecrated persons at the beginning of the third millennium: it is *the priority given to the spiritual dimension of existence.*, novelty and prophecy brought by the Incarnation, which manifests itself in a charity capable of carrying out greater acts than man. This is the main prophetic form of Christianity: surprising with the radical choice of love, fearlessly contesting any ambiguity, acting decisively against evil, which humiliates people. Perhaps the urgency today is not to find

many (formal educational) institutions, but to review the message transmitted by our personal and community life as a gospel unfolded over time, and an extension of the life and action of Jesus. a word, *our holiness!*

Intercessions

Leader: Lord Jesus, give us a watchful eye on the realities of our time,

All: so that our action is ready to serve the needs of those who live around us.

Leader: Good Father who while you were hanging from the wood of the cross you did not impute any harm to your executioners,

All: give us a big heart capable of welcoming those who approach in search of comfort.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Day 3 - Vocation

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti heard the voice of God, and he generously answered the call through his service to the needy, our theme for today is Vocation.

Reader 1: From the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is 42, 1-4. 6-9)

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased. Upon him I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out, nor shout, nor make his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench. He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow dim or be bruised until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching.

I, the Lord, have called you for justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you and set you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness. I am the Lord, Lord is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the earlier things have come to pass, new ones I now declare; Before they spring forth I announce them to you.

Reader 2: From the document "Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church"

Consecrated life, "which is placed in the very heart of the Church as a decisive element for its mission", must look to this heart to find and understand itself. The religious brother will find here the profound meaning of his own vocation. In his contemplation he is enlightened by the figure of the Servant of Yahweh described by Isaiah, to whom God says: "I have established you as the covenant of the people" (Is 42,6). This figure acquires its perfect physiognomy in Jesus of Nazareth, who seals the new covenant with his blood and calls those who believe in him to continue the mediation entrusted to the Servant: to be the covenant of the people.

Intercessions

Leader: Lord Jesus who gathered around you the weary and afflicted people,
All: help us to be a sign of unity for your Church.

Leader: Eternal Father who in your common vocation to holiness unified the people in your love,
All: give us the strength to discover and realize your project on each of us.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Day 4 - You seduced me Lord (Jer 20: 7)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Our theme for today is taken from the book of Prophet Jeremiah, *You seduced me Lord (Jer 20: 7)*.

Reader 1: From the book of the prophet Jeremiah (Jer 20: 7-9)

You seduced me, Lord, and I let myself be seduced; you did violence to me and you prevailed. I have become an object of derision every day; everyone makes fun of me. When I speak, I must cry out, I must shout: "Violence! Oppression!" Thus the word of the Lord has become a cause of shame and mockery for me all day long. first name!". But in my heart there was like a burning fire, held in my bones; I tried to contain it, but I couldn't.

Reader 2: From the letters of Artemide Zatti

As for that not being able to go on with my vocation because I started studying late, I will reply as St. Paul wrote to the Philippians that "*qui coepit in me bonum opus, perficiet usque in diem Christi Iesu*", that is to say, that God that my name is the religious state will give me everything I need to follow it; where on the contrary he threatens me, if I do not persevere, by excluding me from the kingdom of heaven, saying in the Holy Gospel that *qui mittens manum suam ad aratrum respicit retro aptus non est Regno Dei*; and if I am sick, I always give thanks to God for this illness of mine, because I am sure that for my good, both spiritual and material, he has allowed it. [...] I am very happy to know that thank God you are in good health, and I never forget in my unworthy prayers to recommend to our good God that he keep you in the health of the body, but even more so in that of the spirit, especially when I think that in the world there are so many dangers and opportunities to offend him! and to get corrupted! Ah! in truth I tell you that this thought afflicts me; but it does not stop being at the same time salutary, because in this way I can find reasons to thank God for having raised me from the accursed world, and brought me to this Holy Congregation, where I enjoy perfect peace and tranquillity.

I hope that the good Lord will grant you all the graces I desire; and to this end all the prayers, including Holy Communion, of the day of St. Louis and of the preceding days will be according to your intention. So please don't be afraid or ashamed to ask for thanks. Ask and you will get; and the more you ask, the more you will get; since he who asks for a lot receives a lot; who little, receives little; and whoever asks for nothing, receives nothing.

Intercessions

Leader: Lord Jesus, make our hearts attentive and docile to the voice of the Spirit,

All: so that it can always be persevering in your love.

Leader: Good Father who took us away from the flattery of the world to be your proud witness,

All: help us to proclaim your Word with our Life.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Day 5 - Prayer

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Today our theme focuses on the importance of Prayer.

Reader 1: From the book of Tobias (Tb 12,6-13)

Then Raphael called them both aside and said to them: "Bless God and proclaim before all the living the good he has done to you, so that his name may be blessed and celebrated. Make known to all men the works of God, as it is right, and do not hesitate to thank him. It is good to keep the secret of the king hidden, but it is a reason for the honor to manifest and praise the works of God. fasting and almsgiving with justice, than wealth with injustice. It is better to practice alms than to accumulate gold. Almsgiving saves from death and purifies from all sin. Those who give alms will enjoy a long life.

Reader 2: From the letter of Father Jorge Mario Bergoglio on Saint Artemide Zatti

“From the time we began to pray to Bro. Zatti 18 young lay brothers entered and persevered, with another five who left during the novitiate or juniorate: a total of 23 vocations.

The novices, students, and lay-brothers have several times made the Novena in honor of Bro. Zatti, asking for lay vocations. I myself have done the same. I am convinced of his prayers and intercession for this intention, because the numbers involved make it a rare case in our Society. As a mark of our gratitude, in the 2nd and 3rd editions of our Booklet of Devotions to the Sacred Heart, we have included a Novena asking for the canonization of Bro. Zatti.

Another interesting point is the quality of those who entered and are persevering. They are young men who want to be the kind of lay-brother that St Ignatius himself wanted, without them having to be spoon-fed. For us the vocation of the lay-brother is very important. Fr Arrupe used to say that without them the Society would not be what it is meant to be. They have a special charisma which is nourished by prayer and work. And they are a benefit for the whole body of the Society. [...] They are hard workers, pious, happy and level-headed, of manly bearing and well aware of the vocation to which they have been called. They feel a special responsibility to pray for the young Jesuit students who are preparing for the priesthood. They display no inferiority complex for the fact that they are not priests, nor do they have any idea of applying to become deacons, etc.; they know what their vocation is and that is how they want it to be. This is helpful, and a very good thing.

These have been the general lines of my relationship with Bro. Zatti on the question of Lay-brothers for the Society. I repeat that I am convinced of his intercession, because we have prayed so much through him as our advocate. This is a wonderful stimulus for us too to ask for the intercession of Artemide Zatti for an increase in good and holy vocations of Salesian Brothers.

Intercessions

Leader: Jesus do that following your example,

All: we know how to live an intense life of prayer mindful of all the gifts you have bestowed on your people.

Leader: Holy Father, do that at any time of the day

All: my heart remains steadfast, and my spirit always turned to you through pure and constant prayer.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Day 6 - The humility of the service

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Our theme for today is telling us about the humility of the service of Saint Artemide Zatti.

Reader 1: From the book of the prophet Micah (Mi 6: 6-8)

"With what will I present myself to the Lord, will I bow down to the Most High God? Will I present myself to him with burnt offerings, with one-year-old calves? Will the Lord welcome thousands of rams and myriad torrents of oil? Will I offer him my firstborn for mine? guilt, the fruit of my bowels for my sin? "Man, have you been taught what is good and what the Lord requires of you: to practice righteousness, to love goodness, to walk humbly with your God.

Reader 2: From the apostolic exhortation *Vita consecrata* (n.24)

Consecrated life reflects this splendor of love, because it confesses, with its fidelity to the mystery of the Cross, that it believes and lives in the love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this way, it contributes to keeping alive in the Church the awareness that the Cross is the superabundance of God's love that overflows into this world, it is the great sign of Christ's saving presence. And this is especially in difficulties and trials. This is what is witnessed continuously and with a courage worthy of profound admiration by many consecrated persons, who often live in difficult situations, even persecution, and martyrdom. Their fidelity to the one Love is shown and tempered in the humility of a hidden life, in the acceptance of sufferings to complete what in one's own flesh "is lacking in the sufferings of Christ" (Col 1:24), in silent sacrifice, in abandonment to the holy will of God, in serene fidelity even in the face of the decline of one's strength and authority. From fidelity to God comes also the dedication to neighbor, which consecrated persons live not without sacrifice in constant intercession for the needs of their brothers, in generous service to the poor and the sick, in sharing the difficulties of others, in solicitous participation in concerns and concerns. evidence of the Church.

Intercessions

Leader: We pray to you, Father so that our service is entirely dedicated to the brother who is next to us,

All: because even today we can offer Your face to those who live in solitude.

Leader: We thank you Father for the good deeds sown in the furrows of this day,

All: let no one ever suffer for our selfishness and our infidelities.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray

you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Day 7 - Fasting

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: In Today's novena, our theme focuses on the value of Fasting.

Reader 1: From the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is 58: 6-11)

Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking off every

yoke? Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: "Here I am! If you remove the yoke from among you, the accusing finger, and malicious speech; If you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; Then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom shall become like midday; Then the Lord will guide you always and satisfy your thirst in parched places, will give strength to your bones And you shall be like a watered garden, like a flowing spring whose waters never fail.

Reader 2: From the document "Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church "

The bonds of the communion of the religious brother extend beyond the limits of the Church since they are moved by the same "character of universality that adorns and distinguishes the people of God". The brother's vocation is part of the response that God gives to the void of fraternity that hurts the world today. At the vocational root of the brother, there is a profound experience of solidarity that essentially coincides with that of Moses in the face of the burning bush: he discovers himself as the eyes, ears, and heart of God, of the God who sees the oppression of his people, hear his cry, feel his anguish, and go down to free them.

Intercessions

Leader: Jesus Master, grant your servants a fiery spirit in service,
All: so that they can always be close to the needs of your people.

Leader: Good Father, sustain our hearts in the trials and temptations of the world,
All: so that our spirit can always be steadfast against the snares that the enemy disseminates on our path.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,
All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Day 8 - Seeking the Lord

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Leader: Our theme for today is all about Seeking the Lord, like Saint Artemide Zatti who sought the Lord through his service and sacrifices.

Reader 1: From the book of the prophet Zephaniah (Zep 2,3; 3,12-13)

Seek the Lord all you poor of the earth, who carry out his orders, seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you will be able to find shelter in the day of the Lord's wrath. I will leave among you a humble and poor people. The rest of Israel

will trust in the name of the Lord. They will no longer commit iniquity and speak no lie; a fraudulent tongue will no longer be found in their mouth. They will be able to graze and rest without anyone harassing them.

Reader 2: From the document "Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church "

The fraternity of religious brothers is a stimulus for the whole Church, because, in the face of the temptation of domination, of the search for the first place of the exercise of authority as power, it makes present the evangelical value of fraternal, horizontal relationships: "But do not be called "rabbi", because only one is your Master and you are all brothers. And do not call any of you on earth "father", because only one is your Father, the heavenly one. And do not be called "guides", because only one is your Guide, the Christ "(Mt 23,8-10).

Intercessions

Leader: Lord Jesus who, teach us to form a humble heart in ourselves, following your example,

All: let us never deviate from the path you have traced for us.

Leader: Holy Father, arrange for us to continually address our prayers and thoughts to you,

All: so that every day can be lived in your love.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Day 9 - The Lord is the inheritance

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Our theme for today is all about, The Lord being the inheritance.

Reader 1: From the book of Deuteronomy (Dt 10,8-9)

At that time the Lord selected the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord, to serve him and to bless in his name, as is the case to this day. Therefore Levi has neither part nor inheritance with his brothers: the Lord is his inheritance, as the Lord your God had told him.

Reader 2: From the apostolic exhortation *Vita consecrata* (103)

Those who embrace consecrated life, men and women, place themselves, by the very nature of their choice, as privileged interlocutors in that search for God which has always stirred man's heart and leads him to multiple forms of asceticism and spirituality. This research today, in many regions, emerges insistently as a response to cultures which tend, if not always to deny, certainly to marginalize the religious dimension of existence. Consecrated persons, living their freely assumed commitments coherently and fully, can offer an answer to the longings of their contemporaries. [...] Every consecrated person is committed to cultivating the interior man, who does not become estranged from history nor withdraws into himself. Living in obedient listening to the Word, of which the Church is the guardian and interpreter, it points out in the supremely loved Christ and in the Trinitarian Mystery the object of the deep yearning of the human heart and the destination of every religious itinerary sincerely open to transcendence. For this reason consecrated persons have the duty to generously offer hospitality and spiritual accompaniment to those who, moved by the thirst for God and eager to live the demands of faith, turn to them.

Intercessions

Leader: Good Father, form in us every day the heart of an educator and shepherd,
All: because following the example of your disciples we can be true guides for your people.

Leader: Jesus, our Lord, grant that by living our consecration consistently,
All: we can respond to the yearnings of the heart of those who seek the face in their life.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, who in the humble and the simple reveal the great signs of your love as a Father, through the intercession of Saint Artemide, religious, give us, we pray you, to be able to see in every brother who suffers in body and spirit, the transfigured face of your Son. He is God, and lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: Saint Artemide Zatti,

All: PRAY FOR US

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

