

7.19 Our Lady of Namacpacan

Lady of Namacpacan In the name of the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit Amen. Ever blessed Virgin of Namacpacan. You are the compassionate Mother of all. We love and thank you. You have never failed your children in times of distress. Today we come to you, dearest Mother. Help us that Jesus may inflame our hearts with love for him and our neighbor. Teach us to reach out to the weak and the sick, to the poor and the needy. As we journey towards eternal life. Keep us close to you that the forces of evil may not prevail on us. Dearest Lady of Namacpacan. Grant us a Mother's blessing and a Mother's care now and at the end of our earthly journey. Amen. OUR LADY OF NAMACPACAN PRAY FOR US.



7.20 Novena to St. Teresa of Avila

LUZ:

St Teresa was born at Avila, Spain. Her mother died when she was 14, “Prompting her to embrace a deeper devotion to the Virgin Mary as her spiritual mother”. She entered a cloistered life with the Augustinian Nuns and then a Carmelite Monastery. She experienced numerous mystical visions and is closely associated with the venerated image of the Infant of Prague. Her Feast Day is 15th October.

BOTH: Join us the Ortega twins from the Philippines in praying the St. Teresa of Avila Novena



First day

O most amiable Lord Jesus Christ! We thank Thee for the great gift of faith and of devotion to the Holy Sacrament, which Thou didst grant to Thy beloved Teresa; we pray Thee, by Thy merits and by those of Thy faithful spouse, to grant us the gift of a lively faith, and of a fervent devotion toward the most Holy Sacrament of the altar; where Thou, O infinite Majesty! hast obliged Thyself to abide with us even to the end of the world, and wherein Thou didst so lovingly give Thy whole Self to us.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory be...

V. St. Teresa, pray for us.

R. That we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.

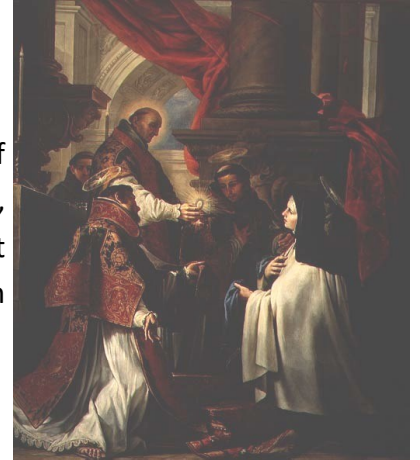
Let us pray.

Graciously hear us, O God of our salvation, that as we rejoice in the commemoration of the blessed virgin Teresa, so we may be nourished by her heavenly doctrine, and obtain the fervor of tender devotion; through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.



Second Day

O most merciful Lord Jesus Christ! we thank Thee for the great gift of hope which Thou didst grant to Thy beloved Teresa; we pray Thee, by Thy merits, and by those of Thy holy spouse, to give us a great confidence in Thy goodness, by reason of Thy Precious Blood, which Thou hast shed to its last drop for our salvation.



Third Day

O most loving Lord Jesus Christ! we thank Thee for the great gift of love which Thou didst grant to Thy beloved Teresa; we pray Thee, by Thy merits, and by those of Thy most loving spouse, to give us the great, the crowning gift of Thy perfect love.



Fourth Day

O most sweet Lord Jesus Christ! we thank Thee for the gift of great desire and resolution which Thou didst grant to Thy beloved Teresa, that she might love Thee perfectly; we pray Thee, by Thy merits, and by those of Thy most generous spouse, to give us a true desire, and a true resolution of pleasing Thee the utmost of our power.



Fifth Day

O most kind Lord Jesus Christ! we thank Thee for the great gift of humility which Thou didst grant to Thy beloved Teresa; we pray Thee, by Thy merits, and by those of Thy most humble spouse, to grant us the grace of a true humility, which may make us ever find our joy in humiliation, and prefer contempt before every honour.



Sixth Day

O most bountiful Lord Jesus Christ! we thank Thee for the gift of devotion towards Thy sweet mother, Mary and her holy spouse, Joseph, which Thou didst grant to Thy beloved Teresa; we pray Thee, by Thy merits, and by those of Thy most dear spouse, to give us the grace of a special and tender devotion towards Thy most holy mother, Mary, and towards Thy beloved foster-father, Joseph.



Seventh Day

O most loving Lord Jesus Christ! we thank Thee for the wonderful gift of the wound in the heart which Thou didst grant to Thy beloved Teresa; we pray Thee, by Thy merits, and by those of Thy seraphic spouse, to grant us also a like wound of love, that, henceforth, we may love Thee and give our mind to the love of nothing but Thee.



Eighth Day

O most beloved Lord Jesus Christ! we thank Thee for the eminent gift of the desire for death which Thou didst grant to Thy beloved Teresa; we pray Thee, by Thy merits, and by those of Thy most constant spouse, to grant us the grace of desiring death, in order to go and possess Thee eternally in the country of the blessed.



Ninth Day

Teresa, making her sweetly to die of love; we pray Thee, by Thy merits, and by those of Thy most affectionate spouse, to grant us a good death; and if we do not die of love, yet, that we may at least die burning of love for Thee, that so dying, we may be able to go and love Thee for evermore with a more perfect love in heaven.



Luz: O my God, defend Thyself! See how men misunderstood Thy Words: permit no weakness in Thy servants...

Nila: O Thou, our Monarch! King of Glory, Lord of lords, Sovereign of all princes, Chief among the Saints! O Power, dominating over all else! Wisdom above all knowledge, having neither beginning nor end! Limitless in all Thy Works, which are Infinite and incomprehensible and a fathomless Abyss of wonders! O Beauty containing all other beauty! Thou Art Strength Itself: Thou Art the Truth, O Lord, and the Genuine Riches; do Thou reign forever.



Luz: Most merciful God! Would that I possessed the combined eloquence of all the Human Race, with wisdom to understand — as far as the understanding can attain in this life, which is but utter ignorance — that I might succeed in telling at least a few of the many things that might be pondered over, in order to obtain some feeble idea of the perfections of this our Lord and only good.

Luz: O my God, what Father could be found, Who, having given us His Son, and such a Son, would, after we had so ill used Him, have allowed Him to remain among us to endure fresh wrongs? No such Father could be found save Thy Father, O Lord! Well didst Thou know of Whom Thou Art asking this boon. O what excess of love in both the Father and the Son! I am not so amazed at the Good Jesus! Having already said: "THY WILL BE DONE", for the sake of His Word He has bound to accomplish it...



Nila: I know that He is not like us, but as He recognized that He fulfilled His Father's Will by loving us as Himself. He sought how, although at His own cost. He might do this most perfectly.

Luz: But why, O Eternal Father, didst Thou consent to this? How couldst Thou see Thy Son daily in such wicked hands, after Thou hadst already permitted once? Thou didst witness how they treated Him: how couldst Thou have the heart to see Him this affronted day by day...

Nila: How many insults are being offered Him this very day in this Most Holy Sacrament! How often must His Father watch Him in the hands of His foes! What profanations are committed by the heretics!

Luz: Eternal Sovereign! How canst Thou consent such a request? How canst Thou permit such a thing! Yield not His love which for the sake of fulfilling Thy Will and of succoring a thousand pieces everyday. It is for Thee to look to it, my God, since Thy Son is reckless what He suffers.

Nila: Why must this every good thing come to us only at His cost? How is it that He is mute and knoweth not how to speak for Himself, but only pleaded for us? Shall no one intercede for this most meek and loving Lamb? Give me the right, Lord, to be His Advocate, since Thou has deigned to leave Him in our power and He submitted His Will to Thee thus utterly and giveth Himself so lovingly to us.

Luz: O Eternal Father, how unspeakable is This humility! What treasure will suffice to purchase Thy Son for us? How to tell Him we know—that was done for thirty pieces of silver, but no riches will enable us to buy Him...

Nila: Since, our Father Who art in heaven! Thou dost will and ratify this act, there must be someone to plead the cause of Thy Son, as He will never defend Himself. Let that part be our daring as the task maybe for us unworthy creatures, yet let us rely on our Lord's command that we should pray.



7.21 Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

Luz:

Here is the statue of Christ the King.

Last Sunday, November 22, we, Catholics celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King. Christ the King is a title of Jesus in Christianity referring to the idea of the Kingdom of God where the Christ is described as seated at the Right Hand of God (as opposed to the secular title of King of the Jews mockingly given at the crucifixion).

The statue is passed on to us twins by our late mother, Rosa Ubaldo Ortega. We had it repainted by Tony Belleza.

We have fond memories during our elementary and high school days spent at Christ the King College, walking distance from Twins Haven.



DOOR

NILA: The door at our Twins' Haven is carved with the images of Sts. Elijah and Elisha. The door was carved at Paete, Laguna, known for its generations of skilled artisans and their woodcarvings—from life-size statues of saints, to miniature sculptures. It was blessed by the late Bishop Artemio Rillera on March 28, 2010.



St. Elijah is the Spiritual Father of the Carmelite Order. Saint Elisha was a disciple of St. Elijah and after Elijah was taken up in a chariot of fire, he gave Elisha a double portion of his power and he was accepted as the leader of the sons of the prophets.



The Seal of Mount Carmel

In the center of the seal is Mount Carmel, cradle of the order, its tip reaching to the sky.

It refers to Mount Carmel, the Carmelite's place of origin in Haifa, Israel.

Three, six pointed stars represent the three great epochs in the history of Carmel. Another meaning of the stars is that they stand as a remembrance to the members of the Carmelite order.

The star inside the mountain represents the Carmelites who are still on their way to the summit of Mount Carmel (heaven), the other two stars in the sky represent all the Carmelites who have gone before us and have reached the goal of their life's vocation; union with God in love in the eternal joy of heaven.

The cross on the summit of the mountain was added in the 16th Century as a distinctive mark of the Discalced Carmelites.



Crown over the shield indicate the eschatological vision of Carmel as well as Mary, Queen and beauty of Carmel.

The stars also signify the 12 points of the rule. Above the shield is an arm with a flaming sword, symbol of the fiery spirit of Elijah. Over it is a scroll, bearing the words of the Prophet: 'with zeal I have been zealous for the Lord God of Hosts'

Fatima and Antarctica Souvenir Photos

LUZ: On October 13, 2017, which marks the 100th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, I Maria Luz namesake of Sr. Lucia, ocd recalls, upon setting foot at the colonnade to attend the culmination mass, she received a revelation from God. "People were moving towards me. Somebody pointing and with a joyous greeting said, "I knew that lady is special... I took a portrait of her."

We twins are awed with the marble 'hug' welcome one receives at the Sanctuary of Fatima.

Noteworthy in 'The 13th Day', the first major motion picture on the Miracle of Fatima is the remark of Lucia's mother_ "what makes you so special Lucia dos Santos"? Coincidentally, a man at the Greece airport sketched my face and give it me before embarking to Turkey.

Antarctica offers a "unique adventure at the End of the World of planet Earth. On a zodiac boat, we twins came close to penguins and inside the chapel at Villas Las Estrellas, St Teresa of Avila made sure her statue stays there to aid scientists and pilgrims in their spiritual lives. Indeed, it was a Journey of "Great Faith" turned into a journey of joy.



Wreath

NILA: For us Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new liturgical year, the Church wishes to indicate the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord.

The circular shape of the wreath, represents eternal life through our faith in Jesus Christ. Four candles are arranged in a wreath: three purple candles and one pink candle. The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday which is a Sunday, of rejoicing, because the preparation is now half over and close to Christmas.

Some Advent wreaths also include a fifth white “Christ” candle, symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

Statues of Our Lady of Fatima

LUZ:

We attended mass at the Chapel of the Apparitions on September 26, 2002 during our Marian Pilgrimage.

We bought a statue of Our Lady of Fatima at Portugal. The Mantle of the Statue changes into 9 colors with the Weather. I had a photo with the priest who blessed the statue.

Tin Statue

St. Teresa’s tin statue accompanied us twins during our Born for You _ the Life of Teresa stage play at San Fernando, La Union, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur and Camp Aguinaldo Theater at Quezon City.



Tarpaulin on Emily's photos

LUZ : When our eldest sister, Emily U. Ortega was 66 years old, she celebrated her birthday and 20 years in service at Sea and Sky Hotel and Restaurant. That was February 7, 2012 and she was 66 and this year my twin and I are also coincidentally 66 years old.

In Prague, the Infant Jesus, is enshrined at the Carmelite Church of Our Lady Victorious. Legend has it that that the statue belonged to the Saint Teresa of Avila in the past. Here is the statue of Sto. Nino given by our mother, the late Rosa Ubaldo Ortega, ocds.

Tarp: read

CHAPEL

Luz: Since we grew up in La Union, we often go to Luna to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Namacpacan. I prepared and submitted a thesis entitled Towards an Inculturated Understanding of Luke 1:26-56 in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of master in Ars, major in Religious Studies at St. Louis University, Baguio.

In the course of my study I interviewed Amparo

READ TESTIMONY

ST. LUCY

We visited the Church in honor of St. Lucy at Sicily.

Join us the Ortega twins in praying to St. Lucy.

BOTH: I come to you for you to protect my eyesight and to heal the illness in my eyes. O St Lucy, preserve the light of my eyes so that I may see the beauties of creation, the glow of the sun, the colour of the flowers and the smile of children. .

