

A NOVENA OF PREPARATION

We pray this Novena for the people of the Diocese of Peoria. With the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the faithful will be empowered to go make disciples in our new, mission-driven, sustainable structure of parishes.

Day 1: We pray first for all disciples, at all stages on our journeys of faith. Let us pray for all those who are praying and working to create a vibrant, mission-driven and sustainable Church here in our Diocese.

Day 2: For all priests, and for the pastors who lead and guide our parishes. Grant our priests and pastors the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry each day.

Day 3: In thanksgiving for the gift of the Eucharist. We are a Eucharistic people. We have a relationship with the Lord, that the Lord gave us the gift of himself — his body, his blood in the Eucharist.

Day 4: We pray in thanksgiving for the example and life of Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen. As his candidacy for sainthood advances, we are blessed to have an example of modern evangelization to look to within our own community.

Day 5: We pray for all those who educate young people and hand down the Catholic Faith. We seek to develop faith-filled individuals who will lead our world in finding solutions to problems affecting peace, social harmony, and human and civil rights.

Day 6: We pray for all those who will benefit in the future from the decisions we are making today. Let us renew discipleship efforts, and work to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ in every corner of the Diocese.

Day 7: We pray for all those discerning their path to holiness in this world, especially a vocation to the priesthood. Choosing a consecrated vocation is a radical act in our modern world. Let us hold all these individuals in our prayers today.

Day 8: We pray in thanksgiving for all the members of consecrated Religious Communities, Contemplatives and Religious Orders who have served the Diocese of Peoria now and throughout our history.

Day 9: Today we pray in a special way for Bishop Lou and all the Bishops of the Diocese of Peoria. The task of a shepherd is to lead his flock, care for those in need, and can mean making difficult decisions as a leader.

Pentecost Weekend: On the first Pentecost the disciples were gathered together. Today, let us join our hearts, our minds and our prayers with one another. As we prepare to embrace the future together, we pray for unity.

Holy Spirit, Divine Counselor,

I adore You as the one true God with the Father and the Son.

I give You my heart and I offer my thanksgiving for all the graces which You bestow on me.

Grant me the gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, and thus renew the face of the earth. Recreate me as your true disciple so that the Church in Peoria will be renewed. **Amen.**



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