NOVENA TO BLESSED PAULINE-MARIE JARICOT

Foundress of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith

For us to be missionary disciples well engaged in our Christian community and the society, let us discover some secrets of Pauline-Marie Jaricot's life. Beatified, she becomes a model proposed to all the baptized envoys who brings us back to the essence of the life of discipleship: a life well anchored in Jesus Christ through prayer, fraternal and universal love!

Day One: "Facts to Love and to Act."

To respect oneself is to respect our profound nature of being made to love. At a very young age, Pauline-Marie Jaricot discovered that her heart was made to love and sought infinite Love. She then listened to this source in her who told her: "Come to the Father!" This source that made her to pray, allowed her to discover that Jesus is love.

In these nine days' prayer, let us return to the father and rediscover our purpose and our life as missionary disciples made to love. Let us be challenged by Pauline and her words: "To be able to love without measure, without remorse, without interruption, without fear, this is what I was looking for.

Our Father….Hail Mary……Glory be to the Father…..
Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!
Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

Day Two: "Stay with me in the depths of your heart."

To act, to carry out his mission as a disciple during his era that was difficult, Jesus revealed the secret to Pauline: "Stay with me in the depths of your heart." Then she discovered that she is a small living church that is inhabited by this Presence of Love, God wanted to manifest his Love to the men and women she meets. True contemplative prayer opens us to love our brothers and sisters with divine Love in our hearts! The Mission of the disciples always presents great challenges, and Pauline gives us her secret: "What could a soul constantly united to Jesus not be able to do!"

Our Father……..... Hail Mary……..... Glory be to the Father…..
Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

Day Three: "My struggles have changed in ardent charity."

The conversion of a disciple's heart leads that heart to become close to the needs of our loved ones, especially those many poor faces around us. Pauline was committed to the sick, abandoned children, street children and those born from prostitution. At the same time, she was concern with helping the poor in mission countries and she established a work with inspiration from heaven: *the propagation of the faith*. Every missionary-disciple will care about the needs of his loved ones and of the whole human family. This is the charity that God places in our hearts, a fraternal and universal charity. Let us pray to develop such ardent charity!

Our Father….Hail Mary……Glory be to the Father…..

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

Day Four: "Let our hearts be overcome by the infinite love of Jesus Christ."

The conversion of a disciple's heart is a long process that leads to the development of a poor heart, whose only richness is to be filled by the infinite love of Jesus. Pauline, an active woman with many initiatives of charity, passed from resistance to this love through prayer and the Eucharist which became the two great secrets of her life: "I had to enter the path of prayer." She then discovered the way of inner freedom and spiritual fruitfulness. Let us pray to enter more into the path of prayer and to be overcome, as Pauline says, by the infinite love of Jesus. Thus, His Love will pass through our lives to touch our loved ones and also those far away.

Our Father….Hail Mary……Glory be to the Father…..

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

Day Five: "Walk step by step behind Jesus, looking at his trace in every action we do."

Every missionary-disciple walks in the footsteps of the Master and great Missionary. Pauline developed a spirituality of the laity committed in the name of her faith and baptism. Not founding a religious community, but a Marian association of women at the service of the poor, not making the option of a consecrated life. Pauline invites us to value the vocation of each baptized person, God's plan for her was to follow the Missionary Master step by step: "As the Father sent me, so I sending you too!" Let us pray to engage more in our lives as baptized and sent, as missionary disciples.

Our Father….Hail Mary……Glory be to the Father…..

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

Day Six: "Prayer is the kingdom of God within us."

Faced with great challenges of the Universal Mission, as well as human limitations and weakness, Pauline understood that the humanly impossible becomes possible with God in prayer. Wanting to fight the growing impiety in his country, she founded the living Rosary. She was convinced that only prayer will help us to keep the faith and spread it throughout the world. Her concerned was to nourish this prayer with meditations on the life of Jesus Christ and the Mysteries of his life becomes a school of faith. She understood that prayer makes us welcome the life of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom he came to build on earth with us. She tells us again today, in the face of the challenges of the Mission: "Let us always pray, let us pray with confidence, let us pray without getting tired... Let us pray and seek the Kingdom first.

Our Father….Hail Mary……Glory be to the Father…..

Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

Day Seven: "Following Our Lord Jesus Christ, the poor are God's true courtiers, his favorites."

The Mission invites us to follow Jesus and his example of closeness to the poor. Pauline was attentive to the poor around her and trained her daughters in a constant proximity with them, by sharing meals and welcoming them into their homes. This closeness led her to develop a keen awareness of all social injustices and to research how to fight the roots of these evils. And the greatest force she was able to find, at the heart of the workers' revolt of her time and the lack of work, was again through prayer, the intercession of Mary, and finally, the mercy of the Lord present in the Eucharist. Let us pray to grow in our closeness to the poor, our capacity for social analysis and our commitment to the advent of the Kingdom of justice, sharing and fraternity.

Our Father….Hail Mary……Glory be to the Father…..
Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

Day Eight: "When the current is strong, you have to double the train."

Being a missionary-disciple and well engaged in the advent of the Kingdom requires doubling the oar. A woman very committed to the poor of her time knew the hands of the burglars, she says. At the end of her life, Pauline became a true beggar, a humiliating experience that makes her even more humble and abandoned herself in the hands of God, like Jesus on the cross in extreme confidence. She will thus row even more, with strength and courage. The last years of her life were given to the poor and for the cause of the Kingdom. "My only treasure is the Cross," she said six years before leaving this world. Let us pray to discover this treasure and to find strength and courage in the Mission. "Whoever wants to be a disciple, let him take up his cross and follow me," said the Master.

Our Father….Hail Mary……Glory be to the Father…..
Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!

Day Nine: **"Walk only after him, putting your feet in the footsteps of his own, and you will see that he who follows Jesus does not walk in darkness, that he is the way, the truth and the life. So, let him do it..."**

Pauline ends her life with this precious advice to today's missionary disciples. She testifies that all her life, she was able to walk in the Light of the Gospel and of the Spirit who guides the baptized and the whole missionary Church. Her advice is precious: *"Let Jesus and the Spirit do it in all the circumstances of your life committed to the service of the Kingdom."* Pauline is a disciple like St. Paul, who says she has grasped Christ less, but rather let herself be seized by him. After all, it is the Mission of Christ in which we collaborate. It is enough to be a beggar of Love, as is every disciple of Love. It is enough to always be with Him in the great Universal Mission. He is the Way, the Truth, the Life! Just let him do his work in us. Let us pray and allow Jesus to do it. Let us pray and let ourselves be guided by the Spirit.

Our Father….Hail Mary……Glory be to the Father…..
Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!
Blessed Pauline Jaricot, pray for us!