



# NOVENA

WITH SERVANT OF GOD  
MOTHER VOJTĚCHA HASMANDOVÁ



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WITH SERVANT OF GOD  
MOTHER VOJTĚCHA HASMANDOVÁ  
of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy  
of St. Charles Borromeo (SCB)

KARMELITÁNSKÉ  
NAKLADATELSTVÍ  
KOSTELNÍ VYDRŮ  
2011

## INTRODUCTION

Most people – even the Christians around us – lack a clear-cut view of what is holy, or of ‘holiness’. They imagine it to be something exceptional, and almost unattainable; something reserved solely for a few chosen individuals. Nevertheless, the Church today accentuates the role of the saints when we pray in the Apostolic Confession of Faith: *I believe in the communion of saints*. This communion includes not only those who have been officially beatified or sanctified but also the multitude to whom November 1st, the Feast of All Saints, dedicated. On that day we remember our parents, relatives, friends, and all those good people we have met in our lifetime, people who radiated Divine goodness and love and who enriched us during our encounters. The Czech poet Petr Kříčka called such people who walked in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands “the angels of God“.

It was the Holy Father John Paul II who – if we may use the expression – ‘set the record’ for the number of official beatifications and sanctifications. He sought, in point of fact, to hold up saints to the people of today as models in society – saints from all social strata and of all ages. These include the

With the ecclesiastical approval of the Brno Bishopric  
Ref. No. Ep/142/10, given on February 26th, 2010  
by Mons. Vojtěch Cikrle, the Bishop of Brno

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Prague 2011

ISBN 978-80-7195-563-4

young children, shepherds from Fatima, Francis and Hyacintha, young people like the mountaineer Pier Giorgio Frassati, husbands and wives, clergymen, members of monastic orders, laymen and hundreds of martyrs for Christ and the Church. The Pope wanted to present them as models, so that we would realise that holiness is not exceptional, that holiness, as emphasised by the Second Vatican Council, is the calling of every Christian, and that, therefore, everyone can and should become a saint. Holiness is not the prerogative of an exceptional individual, nor a monopoly held by the privileged: rather, it is a calling open to us all.

Holiness is a perfect communion with Christ, it is the fruit of Divine grace and man's free answer to it. It is a constant and persistent quest for God's will and its fulfilment, and hence it is not exceptional: just doing the ordinary things of one's daily life, doing them well and assiduously, whether in one's studies, at work, within the family, in any lay vocation or in priesthood or consecrated life.

Each Christian should become not merely an *alter Christus*, another Christ, but *ipse Christus* – Christ himself. Such was the journey through life travelled by Mother Vojtěcha (Adalberta), from her early childhood until the last moments of her life. This is corroborated by the magnificent testimonies of eye-

witnesses, including members of her family, her former pupils, sisters of her own as well as other congregations, bishops, priests and those members of monastic orders who visited her, as well as fellow prisoners who survived her.

The famous Marxist convert, later Trappist, Thomas Merton writes in his book “No Man Is an Island” that Divine providence sends into our life's journey others who help us to discover God's will, or to whom we can give something from our own spiritual treasure. Mother Vojtěcha not only guided many people to holiness, but personally met several others who are now servants of the Lord, and once a beatified nun. For several years, her spiritual father was the former prisoner for Christ Fr. Jan Evangelista Urban OFM. After a cathedral Mass she met Mother Teresa of Calcutta, now beatified, at the Brno Bishopric. The two sisters immediately found mutual sympathy and understanding, being linked by their vows of mercy to those in need. In Rome, at the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, it was the then Cardinal Prefect Pironio who not only listened to Mother Vojtěcha with interest, but who also arranged her attendance at a Mass with the Holy Father John Paul II in his private chapel, and a subsequent meeting with the Pontiff. She even had the opportunity to

speaking privately to John Paul II, and would certainly have mentioned the secret tabernacles and covert sisters in her home country. It was thanks to Mother Vojtěcha's dauntless attitude towards the regime of the time that these sisters could exist, and she obtained the Pope's blessing for them.

Let us however leave the examination and verification of the virtues of Mother Vojtěcha in the hands of the relevant group of experts – theologians (known as the Theological Commission), and the final word to the Holy Father himself. For the purposes of beatification, as well as sanctification, the Church requires one miracle (generally a miraculous recovery) to have been attributed to candidates for sainthood during their lifetime. Indeed, this is expected to be the culmination of their reputation for holiness – almost an official seal of verification, a stamp acknowledging that their souls truly are with the Lord and that they can intercede with Him on our behalf. When, at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, the postulator of the Rome stage of the process introduced himself to the Cardinal Prefect, the latter encouraged him by saying: “Do not be afraid to promote miracles. Just as other nations succeeded, yours will as well, if it is the Divine will!”. When we ask Mother Vojtěcha for inter-

cession, we must turn only to her and not add any other saint or blessed to our prayers.

Our novena is entitled “with Mother Vojtěcha” (i.e. not “to Mother Vojtěcha”), and we have included for each day some virtue or phenomenon of her life (the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit, Mary, life with the Church, devotion to one's vocation), which may encourage us on our own journey as well. We also add three kinds of prayers: for any need, for recovery and for her beatification. We can of course address her in our own words, too, as the Holy Spirit inspires us. Let this novena serve all those who will perform it for the sake of the greater honour and glory of God, for the celebration of our Servant of God, and for our own spiritual advancement.

In Rome, January 21st, 2010

(the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the death of Mother Vojtěcha)

*Mons. ThDr. Josef Laštovica*  
*Postulator*

## AN OUTLINE OF THE LIFE OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA

Mother Vojtěcha Hasmandová, Servant of God, was born at Huštěnovice near Uherské Hradiště – just a few kilometres from Velehrad, a major Czech pilgrimage site – on March 25th, 1914, four months before the outbreak of World War I. Christened Antonia, she was the fifth of six children. Growing up in a farmer's family, she did not long enjoy the love of her mother, who died as a result of post-partum sepsis following the birth of her last son, Vojtíšek. Antonia, who was then just six years old, stayed at home with her father, whom she loved deeply. The Hasmand family led a profoundly Christian life – daily prayers, holy Mass, the rosary and love of one's neighbour were a matter of course. Following the example of her elder sister and friend, very soon in her childhood little Antonia decided upon a consecrated life.

Initially, her father opposed her early departure from home, but eventually he consented. At the age of 13, she was admitted as a postulant to become a Sister of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo at Frýdlant nad Ostravicí. She first had to finish her local schooling, but then left for Prague to attend St. Anne's Teacher Training Institute, from which she graduated four

years later. While in Prague she also made her first profession, and on March 19th 1940 took her life-long monastic vows. Her first teaching job brought her to the South Bohemian town of Třeboň, but as early as 1942 she volunteered to serve as a medical nurse in a hospital at Slaný, near Prague, where she lovingly and selflessly looked after wounded soldiers, both German and, later, Russian. After the Second World War she resumed teaching at a local school at Líšeň near Brno, later serving as its headmistress until the abolition of the school after February 1948.

Two years later she was appointed Mother Superior of the convent at Prachaticce, the native town of St. John of Nepomuk Neumann, in his family home. She was responsible not just for the local community, but also for the running of an old people's home. It was there that, at the request of her General Mother Superior, Bohumila Langrová, she hid a priest who had escaped the April 1950 raids on all monasteries in Czechoslovakia by the Communist secret police. In September 1952, however, the hideaway was betrayed, and both Sister Vojtěcha and Fr. Remigius were arrested. In September 1953, following a one-year detention pending trial, Sister Vojtěcha was sentenced in a show trial to eight years' imprisonment as a spy in the service of the

Vatican. She spent six years in Pardubice Prison and two years in Prague's Pankrác Prison. These prison years were filled by her bravery, faith, hope and love in the service of her fellow prisoners. Whenever she could, Sister Vojtěcha helped, encouraged and supported others, taught the truths of the faith and prayers, and forgave those who had harmed her. She contracted tuberculosis of the lung in Pardubice. An amnesty in 1960 shortened her imprisonment by a mere four months, and Mother Bohumila – released from prison and rehabilitated at the same time – sent her to the convent at Vidnava in North Moravia, close to the Czechoslovak-Polish border, in an effort to keep her from the prying eyes of the StB (secret police). Even here, though, the StB attempted to have her liquidated, not once, but twice. In her final, tenth year at Vidnava she was appointed local Mother Superior, and a few months later she left as the community's delegate to the General Chapter of the Congregation at Znojmo-Hradiště, where on July 7<sup>th</sup> 1970 she was elected General Mother Superior of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo. Mother Vojtěcha was re-elected to that office after six years, and in 1982 for a third six-year term after receiving the necessary approbation from the Vatican. Her almost 18-year-long tenure was marked by efforts for

the post-Conciliar renewal of her congregation, in keeping with the guidelines and wishes of the Second Vatican Council. In accordance with the spirit of the Council, Mother Vojtěcha attained approval of the order's Constitution and took part in the establishment of an international Federation of seven branches of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles of Borromeo. Leading by example, she sought to walk the path to holiness and encouraged the sisters under her authority and her many friends. These were years of fruitful work in a difficult period, that of the so-called 'normalisation' (following the repression of the Prague Spring), which adversely affected the Church. For this Church, Mother Vojtěcha lived a life of love and devotion to the Holy Father. Despite the difficulties of the times she met the Pontiff in Rome twice: Servant of God Paul VI in 1970, and the Blessed John Paul II in a private audience in 1979.

In the summer and autumn of 1987 Mother Vojtěcha suffered the first symptoms of a serious lung disease. A malignant tumour developed in her lungs on the same spot attacked years previously by tuberculosis in Pardubice Prison. In early November, Mother Vojtěcha accepted this harsh diagnosis from the hands of God, and the following day, on the feast of St. Charles Borromeo, wrote her spiritual testament.

The last weeks of her life were the climax of her lifelong ordeal. She suffered great pains from metastasis, spread the disease to her spine and central nervous system. In the heroism of her sacrifice, and strengthened by the Last Rites, she gave her soul to God at Znojmo-Hradiště on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1988. Her funeral proved to be a major manifestation of faith under the totalitarian regime: some 120 open clergy (as well as many secretly ordained), many nuns and some 500 believers accompanied Mother Vojtěcha to the local cemetery.

The reputation for holiness of this humble sister continues to spread, with believers turning to her for intercession, and their pleas and prayers have been answered. In 1996, at the request of her successor Mother Remigie Češíková, the Bishop of Brno Mons, Vojtěch Cikrle, began – with the permission of the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints – the diocesan stage of the beatification process. Mother Vojtěcha received the title “Servant of God”. Eight years later, all the necessary documents were taken to Rome, where the Roman stage of the process continues, led by postulator Mons. Josef Laštovica and his colleague Sister Remigie. On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 a printed copy of the “Position on the Life, Virtues and Reputation for Holiness of the Servant of God” was submitted to the

Congregation for the Causes of Saints. This document will serve as background material for study by experts for a proclamation on what is called the heroic degree of the virtues. The final word in this belongs to the Holy Father. In addition to this decree, recognition of a miracle that has occurred through her intercession will be necessary for the beatification of this Servant of God.

*S.M. Remigie Češíková, SCB*



# NOVENA

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## Day one

### FAITH

#### HOLY SCRIPTURE

“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.” (John 14.12)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” (John 14.1)

“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’” (Luke 17.5)

“...for I know the one in whom I have put my trust...” (2 Timothy 1.12)

#### PRAYER

Lord, our Heavenly Father, during the sacrament of holy baptism you let us take part in what Your Son has done for us through his death and through his resurrection; make us stronger through Your Holy Spirit to help us – as the ones you have taken as Your own – direct our whole life to You. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA

“Make sure you do want to be holy! And you will be! But holiness comes at a price. The more this holiness will cost you, the more of it you will attain. Everywhere. Through everything, at every moment. You should not belong to yourself, belong to nobody and nothing but the Lord.”

*(From a letter to fellow sister, 1950)*

“And most of all I ask, doing so daily, for help in fulfilling His Holy will as He expects from us. Never to disappoint Him in the least. After all, we grow with small things because our life consists of small things, and small things are the foundation of great things.” *(From a letter to a Borromean sister)*

#### PRAYER OF THE NOVENA

Almighty, gracious Lord, look down on the profound faith of Mother Vojtěcha and grant me the grace I seek through her intercession, for Your greater honour and glory... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the Father...

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## Day two

### HOPE

#### HOLY SCRIPTURE

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11.1)

“...What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2.9)

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5.5)

“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5.7)

#### PRAYER

Lord, you have given us the Virgin Mary as the Mother of holy hope; guide us kindly at her intercession so that, with her help, we may turn our hope towards Heaven and fulfill our task here on Earth in order to attain that which we expect, which is the substance of our faith and hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

#### THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA

“I beseech you not to be worried by anything or anyone. We are in the hands of God, and where we had suffered most we are suffering again, but differently. In this respect, our pain is joyful, and our joy painful.”

*(From a letter to a fellow sister regarding a dying brother, 1961)*

“I am preparing myself for death all the time. Having said that, I do not claim that I am already perfectly prepared for it. But I anticipate it. I only ask the Lord that the last sacrament might be administered to me fully conscious, and that my very last heartbeat would be an act of ultimate love for the Lord. I am very much looking forward to the Lord.”

*(From a letter, 1968)*

“I fully bow to the will of God, I feel myself under the protection of Mary. One day she will lead me across to the other bank – and I am not afraid. With Her, everything must finish well. Let God’s will prevail everywhere.”

*(From her last Christmas greeting, 1987)*

#### PRAYER OF THE NOVENA

Almighty, gracious Lord, look down on the unwavering trust of Mother Vojtěcha and grant me grace,

through her intercession, for Your greater honour  
and glory...  
Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the Father...

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## Day three

### LOVE OF GOD

#### HOLY SCRIPTURE

“Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength” (Mark 12.29-30)

“Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.” (John 14.23)

“... for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.” (Song of Solomon 8.6-7)

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently shall find me.” (Proverbs 8.17)

#### PRAYER

Lord, we seek refuge with You in difficulties, You give us strength and consolation; we know that we are not worthy of Your mercy, but take care of us so that we may feel Your paternal goodness and

love. We ask you for this Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen

#### **THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA**

“We have embarked on the path of Divine love and that is why only in Love shall we find the true content of life. Great efforts, accompanied by God’s grace, shall help in performing what man alone cannot do.” *(From a letter to her own sister, 1971)*

“Let us be great in our love.”  
*(From a letter to her own sister, 1976)*

“And let the life of contemplation be the wealth of your life, your happiness and a gift to the Lord for the salvation of the world and the growth of the Congregation.”  
*(From a letter to her own sister, 1977)*

“We should value every moment the Lord still gives us as an opportunity for sanctification and the salvation of souls. And the Lord and His love are worth our giving everything we have.”  
*(From a letter to her own sister, 1984)*

#### **PRAYER OF THE NOVENA**

Lord Jesus Christ, look down on the devoted love of Your servant Mother Vojtěcha and grant me grace, through her intercession, for Your greater honour and glory... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the Father...

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## Day four

### LOVE OF ONE'S NEIGHBOUR

#### HOLY SCRIPTURE

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25.40)

“Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6.2)

“The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” (Luke 17.5)

“One's almsgiving is like a signet ring with the Lord, and he will keep a person's kindness like the apple of his eye.” (Sirach 17.22)

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.” (John 15.12-13)

#### PRAYER

Lord, you want us to love all the people and to show our sincere love even to those who have harmed us; guide us in your mercy, in the spirit of the new commandment of love, to repay evil with good and to

tolerate what is troublesome in others. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA

“To separate love of God from love of one's neighbour would mean betraying the Gospels.”

*(From circular No. 15/1987)*

“I congratulate you on having also been granted the grace of receiving a call for the service of suffering Christ in the poor, sick, dying and needy. May the Lord always give you the Holy Spirit to help you in grasping ever more profoundly the mission of a sister of mercy, to help your charges in perceiving in you an example of humble and devoted service according to our *charismata*.”

*(From a letter to her sister on her nameday, 1987)*

“Through unity in love we testify to the presence of the celebrated Lord among us and make Him visible to the world. Love should be our common signet. Growth of love is the growth of spiritual life.”

*(From circular No.16/1987)*

#### PRAYER OF THE NOVENA

Lord, make me stronger to follow, like Your servant Mother Vojtěcha, the example of her immense love

for You and for others, and grant me grace, through her intercession, for Your greater honour and glory... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the Father...

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## Day five

### THE EUCHARIST

#### **HOLY SCRIPTURE**

“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them” (John 6.56)

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty’ (John 6.35)

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” (John 6.51)

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1 Corinthians 11.26).

#### **PRAYER**

Lord, you have established Your Son as the supreme and eternal priest to celebrate you and to sacrifice Himself for our salvation; through His own blood he has made us into His people and ordered us to honour the memory of His sacrifice; answer our pleas and let the power and strength of His cross

and resurrection be manifested in us, for He lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.

#### THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA

“People will feel good in our presence when our Lord who gives Himself to us as spiritual food shall radiate from us.”

*(From circular No. 1/1974)*

“Our tabernacles are a sign of the life of God, present among us. The sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Lord announces to us His boundless Love. What does the Eucharist mean in our life?”

*(Cf. from circular No. 5/1975)*

“He who really loves the Eucharist is grateful for every moment he can spend in its vicinity.”

*(From circular No. 6/1987)*

“Value the proximity of the tabernacle! Everything else is less! After all, only in the Eucharist do we have the certainty of vicinity – so staggeringly beautiful and real – the certainty of the vicinity of God Himself. Constantly stay in His light, carry His light, be His ray...”

*(Cf. from a letter to her sister, 1978)*

#### PRAYER OF THE NOVENA

Lord Jesus Christ, look down on the ardent and persevering love with which Mother Vojtěcha worshipped you in adoration, and grant me grace, through her intercession, for Your greater honour and glory... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the Father...



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**Day six**  
**GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**HOLY SCRIPTURE**

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come” (John 16.13)

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.” (Romans 8.11)

“Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.” (Acts 9.31)

“On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, ‘Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”’. Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive” (John 7.37-39)

**PRAYER**

Lord, you send Your Holy Spirit to illuminate us with the light of truth; let us never lack this aid of His, that we might make the correct decisions and act correctly. We ask this Through Christ our Lord, Amen

**THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA**

“Let us open our hearts to the Spirit of love and unity, the Spirit of strength and bravery, the Spirit of countless gifts, and thus experience God’s proximity.”

*(From circular No. 8/1980)*

“The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and Son to renew the face of the Earth and, linked with our own spirit, develops His abilities to the full.”

*(From circular No. 8/1982)*

“Let us rely on Him, let us live from His gifts! He will enable us to act correctly and perfectly, He will grant us strength and zeal to be ready to fulfill God’s designs.”

*(From circular No. 8/1982)*

“The Divine Spirit is constantly at work, and again and again wants to act inside and with us.”

*(From circular No. 9/1983)*

#### **PRAYER OF THE NOVENA**

Holy Spirit, teach us how to cooperate with Your gifts in keeping with the example of Your devoted servant Mother Vojtěcha and grant me grace, through her intercession, for Your greater honour and glory... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the Father...

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## **Day Seven**

### **WITH MARY**

#### **HOLY SCRIPTURE**

“Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’” (Luke 1.38)

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.’” (Luke 1.46-47)

“But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2.19)

“His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’” (John 2.5)

“When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother’. And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.” (John 19.26-27)

#### **PRAYER**

Almighty Lord, answer our pleas and help us, at the intercession of the Virgin Mary and under her protection, to safely pass through all the dangers here

on Earth and happily achieve eternal joy in heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

#### **THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA**

“You are never alone! I commit you to the kindest Mother of God whom I daily invoke on behalf of our sick and whom I ask to give you strength and bravery and consolation for those who gladly take even hard things from the hands of the Lord.”

*(Greetings and encouragement  
to a fellow sister, 1977)*

“I wish you, from the bottom of my heart, to cling to Mary’s Immaculate Heart, and together with Her to keep on rising with ever greater devotion to the intimate vicinity of God.”

*(From a greeting to a fellow sister  
on her jubilee, 1982)*

“Let us rejoice in our victorious celebration of our Queen and Mother! The Council calls on us to show filial love for our Mother with enthusiasm, and to emulate Her virtues! Let us fix our gaze on Mary! Wherever Mary comes, holiness enters with Her!”

*(From circular No. 8/1975, August 15<sup>th</sup>)*

#### **PRAYER OF THE NOVENA**

Lord Jesus Christ, look down on the dedicated love with which Your servant Mother Vojtěcha worshipped Your most holy Mother, and grant me grace, through her intercession, for Your greater honour and glory... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the Father...

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## Day eight

### LIVE WITH THE CHURCH

#### HOLY SCRIPTURE

“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16.18)

“Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’” (John 6.68-69)

“I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.” (Colossians 1.24)

“But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed.” (1 Peter 4.13)

#### PRAYER

Lord, you filled the Holy Bishop Charles Borromeo with the richness of Your grace; at his intercession look down on Your Church and constantly renew it internally to be a living image of Christ, and show

the world a way to salvation. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

#### THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA

“The Church asks us to bring into our lives a new spirit, the spirit of the Council. This is a spirit of genuine love and mutual trust, a spirit of sincerity and truthfulness, a spirit of poverty, simplicity and humility. First of all, we are asked to extricate ourselves from formality and superficiality. It is necessary to proceed to the depth, to the substance.”

*(From a programme, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1970)*

“Let us not forget that we are God’s chosen people and that the Church – the light of nations – is the light as well as our life, our vows, the life of prayer and sacrifice. Through strenuous efforts we may contribute to the glow of its light.”

*(From circular No. 1/1971)*

“The Church is not a communion of individuals but of outstanding individuals, the Church is an organism. In an organism one cell is connected to another, there is internal communication between the cells, each cell receives and gives. Only in this way can an organism discharge its function as a whole.”

*(From circular No. 2/1978)*

### **PRAYER OF THE NOVENA**

Lord Jesus Christ, look down on the devotion to the Church of Your servant Mother Vojtěcha, which she lived according to the example of St. Charles Borromeo as his spiritual daughter, and grant me grace, through her intercession, for Your greater honour and glory... Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory to the Father...

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## **Day Nine**

### **DEVOTION TO YOUR OWN VOCATION**

#### **HOLY SCRIPTURE**

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much” (Luke 16.10)

“Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’” (Luke 9.62)

“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4.1-3)

“No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful. and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10.13)

#### **PRAYER**

Lord, you want the power of the Gospels to act in the world as a ferment; we ask you on behalf of the

believers whom you call to fulfil their lives' missions in the world: fill them with Your spirit to help them spread Christ's light around them, and thus take part in building Your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

#### **THOUGHTS OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA**

“Let us serve the Lord joyfully! After all, we are the beloved children of God! We still live in times when we can cause joy to our Lord and God, and to all our neighbours. I greet you and wish your hearts full of the love and light of the Holy Spirit, and thus also full of joy.”

*(Greeting to sisters sent from her holiday, 1972)*

“Through the testimony of our own life and through our devotion we shall bring the world a new hope and a new life. That is our task, therein lies the genuine act of our mercy.”

*(Pochodeň – Torch II)*

“No great acts are needed. God often makes great acts through small acts performed by small people. If another man happens to experience God's proximity through your humble serving love, then God has made something great through you. It takes love – it takes devotion.”

*(Pochodeň – Torch II)*

#### **PRAYER OF THE NOVENA**

Lord Jesus Christ, look down on the dedication with which Your servant Mother Vojtěcha lived in her calling to mercy and contemplation, and grant me grace, through her intercession, for Your greater honour and glory... Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory to the Father...

## PRAYERS FOR THE INTERCESSION OF MOTHER VOJTĚCHA

### PRAYER IN ANY NEED

Almighty and eternal God, Your servant Mother Vojtěcha received with love and profundity Your call to service, and remained courageously devoted to it even in difficulties.

With innermost freedom and joy she made sacrifices for the growth of Your kingdom.

With trust in the wisdom of the Church she led the community entrusted to her, and kindly and magnanimously helped all those who approached her.

Lord, we submit to you these urgent pleas (...) and invoke the intercession of Mother Vojtěcha, trusting that they shall be answered. We ask You, through Your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns in unity with the Holy Spirit for ever and ever, Amen.

### PRAYER FOR RECOVERY

Almighty and eternal God, safe haven for the suffering, we invoke Your merciful love and ask, at the intercession of Mother Vojtěcha, for the recovery of the health of the sick (.....) so that he (she) may again praise and serve You, as You live and reign for ever and ever, Amen.

### PRAYER FOR BEATIFICATION

Holiest Divine Trinity, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, we bow to You, praise You, we thank You for all the gifts and grace You have given Your servant Mother Vojtěcha.

We kindly ask You to show the power of Your love for her and the greatness of Your grace, and let us enjoy her beatification. For this we ask You with humility and trust through Christ our Lord, Amen.

## Photographs



*One day before entering the Congregation  
–holding her niece Maruška, July 5th 1927*



*As a teacher  
at Třeboň, 1938*



*Her last photograph, two months before her death*

**Reports of pleas answered  
at the intercession of Mother Vojtěcha  
should be sent to the following address:**

Postulace Matky Vojtěchy  
Šporkova 12  
118 00 Praha 1  
[postulace@boromejky.cz](mailto:postulace@boromejky.cz)

or

Via Concordia 1  
00 183 Rome  
Italy

Financial contributions to support the ongoing process  
of beatification for Mother Vojtěcha Hasmandová  
will be gratefully received at this bank account:  
27-207280437/0100  
Komerční banka (the Commercial Bank),  
Kaiserštejnský palác, Malostranské náměstí 37/23, Praha 1  
Reference: 1988

*May God repay you for any gift!*





**Mons. ThDr. Josef Laštovica**  
**Sister M. Remigie Češíková SCB**

**NOVENA**  
**WITH SERVANT OF GOD**  
**MOTHER VOJTĚCHA HASMANDOVÁ**

**of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy**  
**of St. Charles Borromeo (SCB)**

Published by Karmelitánské nakladatelství at Kostelní Vydří  
in 2011 as their 1674th publication

Editor: Marie Konečná

English translation: Jan Valeška & Alastair Millar

Biblical citations from the NRSV, Catholic Edition (Anglicized text)

Graphic layout, setting and cover: Jakub Kubů

Photos from the archives of the  
Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of St. Charles Borromeo

Production: ERMAT Praha, s. r. o.

Printed by Grafotechna Print, s. r. o., Prague

