



NOVENA

Blessed

Barbara Maix

Foundress of the Congregation Of the
Immaculate Heart Of Mary



"Day and night, I cry out and pray before the throne of the Most Holy Trinity and Most Sacred Heart of Mary, begging abundant blessings for all; extraordinary graces for each person. See what each person is needful of."

(B. Maix, Petrópolis, 1872)



"My Jesus, here I am. Do with me what you wish!
Nothing else I wish,
than to do Your Most Holy Will!"

(B. Maix, april 3, 1860)



BIOGRAPHY

BLESSED BARBARA MAIX

Barbara Maix

Barbara Maix, foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, was born in Vienna, Austria, on the 27th of June, 1818. Due to the persecution of the Revolution of 1848, Barbara sailed for Brazil with 21 other companions, arriving at Rio de Janeiro after a voyage of 57 days. On the 8 of May, 1849, she founded the Congregation of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Rio de Janeiro.

Barbara Maix, who passed to eternal life on the 17th of March, 1873, lived out the Theological and Cardinal Virtues in an evangelical and heroic fashion to the highest degree; having presented herself as a model of life and virtues of the Christian faith for our present day.

At the end of the month of March, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI authorized the publication of the Decree of the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Foundress: the prodigious cure of the child, Onorino Ecker, who in July of 1944 was completely cured after suffering third degree burns when a pot of boiling water, which was placed on the fire, tipped over on the red hot coals; and he breathed in the hot vapor together with ashes.

With this, Bárbara arrived at the final step of her process of Beatification.

Beatification

The process of beatification of the Austrian Foundress had its beginning in 1993, and became a reality on November 6, 2010, at the state capital of Porto Alegre, when more than 15,000 people participated, and were enthralled at a unique and historic ceremony for the Church in Rio Grande do Sul. The trajectory of the Beatification arrived at its most emotional moment with the beginning of visitation of the reliquary; but this story looks forward to the official canonization of Blessed Barbara. Blessed Barbara is the first person declared Blessed from the Archdiocese of Porto Alegre.





NOVENA

Introduction:

In this novena, we will ask for the intercession of our dear Barbara Maix, Consecrated Religious, Foundress of the Order of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In this novena, we are asking the intercession of our dear Blessed Barbara Maix, where she will intercede for us with Our Lord.

Suggestions for praying correctly the Novena:

1º) Do not fall into the superstition that by praying a lot, we will obtain what we want: in this novena, what we are doing is to request that Blessed Barbara Maix present to God what we are asking for.

2º) Do not think that our dearly beloved Barbara Maix will perform a miracle for everything we are praying for: she listens to the needs we have, to strengthen our life of faith in Christ. Barbara does not perform miracles; it is God who works miracles; Barbara simply presents our prayers to God. We are not taking away any honor from our Blessed Barbara, but rather valuing her as our intercessor.



How do we pray correctly this novena?

1º) The novena extends for nine days. Do not interrupt the novena to the Blessed Barbara Maix during these nine days.

2º) Each day of the novena is based on an initial prayer; then we have a small fragment from the life of the Blessed. Then, we pray the final prayer. At the end is the invocation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

3º) Also, it is a sign of our devotion to have present during the novena a relic of the Blessed Barbara Maix, to feel her presence more strongly; since relics can bring us closer to the Saints or Blesseds. In this case, if we pray the novena in the presence of a relic of our Blessed Barbara Maix; we will feel more strongly her presence; and we will feel closer to her and to Our Lord. This is so, since the relics are a visible sign of our devotion and an important sacramental in our life as Christians.

4º) It is recommended that we always trust that our dear Blessed will always hear us; since it is our faith that moves us to pray this novena, which allows Blessed Barbara Maix to intercede for us.



NOVENA

Prayer for all the days

(Pray this prayer first all the days of the Novena)

Almighty and eternal God, through the intercession of Blessed Barbara Maix, hear our prayers which with faith and love we participate in this novena.

And You, o God of love who is attentive to all that you hear, do not forsake these petitions that I present to You, through the intercession of Blessed Barbara Maix; and if it is your divine will to grant the request we ask, we also pray for her prompt canonization. AMEM.



Day 1

“If we wish to love Jesus, we should go to Calvary, for it is there that He is”.

We should reflect on this phrase which our dear Blessed Barbara used to repeat; so that, following her footsteps, we might succeed in arriving at Calvary and encounter our dearly beloved Jesus.

Song: (One that is known)

Word of God: Luke 23, 54-56.

Reflecting on the women who accompanied Jesus, Barbara understood that she should share this moment of Calvary as a manifestation of her love for Him. Let us listen.

Prayer of the faithful: At each intention we pray:

We want to renew our life through love.

-For the Church which was born from the heart of Christ, **we pray:**

- For those who carry the heavy yoke of injustice, loneliness and misunderstanding, **we pray:**



- In thanksgiving to God for haveing given us His Son, Jesus, **we pray:**

- So that each day we may walk towards Calvary, ever drawing closer to Jesus, **we pray:**

(other intentions of the group...)

Let us pray

Heavenly Father, that we, your servants, may know how to obtain that same spirit which Blessed Barbara Maix managed to achieve in her own life.

So that we may be able to ascend to Calvary and be with you and serve you in your Kingdom. Amen.

(Conclude with the final prayer on the last page)



Day 2

“I will be always secure in God”.

That, following the example of Blessed Barbara Maix, we may see in her life how she always remained steadfast in her faith, despite all the trials and sickness and suffering in her life.

Song:

Psalm 31(30) 3-4.6.7b.8^a.17.20

Let us participate in this prayer, responding: I will be always secure in God.

- Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to save me. For you are my rock and my fortress, for your name's sake lead me and guide me. **A:**

- Into your hands I commend my spirit, you will redeem me, Lord God of truth. But I trust in the Lord. I will rejoice and be glad in your mercy. **A:**

- Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your mercy. You hide your faithful in the shelter of your presence, safe from scheming enemies. **A:**



Word of God : John 6, 59-69.

While many of Jesus' followers leave him, St. Peter expresses his fidelity in name of those who remain.

Let us pray

Almighty God, may we your servants,
always remain secure in your Divine
presence, as did your dear servant,
Blessed Barabara Maix.
so that thus, we may always engage in your
Ministry here on earth.
AMÉN

(Conclude with the final prayer on the last page)



Day 3

“Day and night I cry to the Holy Trinity and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that their abundant and extraordinary graces will flow over every person.”

Let us remember to always cry out to the Holy Trinity and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so that they pour forth their many graces to the whole human race; and that all of us, children of God, see the light of the eternal Love of our loving God.

Song:

Word of God: Luke 1,46-55

The Cantic of Mary expresses and will always express the deepest sentiments of the person at prayer.

Prayer of the Faithful: To each petition we respond:

My spirit proclaims the greatness of the Lord.



- That we recognize the gifts and graces that God gives to each one of us, **we pray:**

- That all Christian communities always be a visible sign of the Gospel, through their faith in the Holy Trinity and their seeking after God's kingdom, **we pray:**

- That the great challenges of humanity find a solution in the practice of justice and solidarity by all, **we pray:**

- In thanksgiving to God for Mary in her Immaculate Heart, who accompanies us with her love, **we pray:**

Let us pray

Almighty God, may we cry out to the Most Holy Trinity in the person of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, that reigns throughout the whole world. That this humanity, that is so blind, come to see the light of God, and be converted; and through the intercession of Blessed Barbara Maix, our petition arrives to the Most Holy Trinity and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

AMÉN

(Conclude with the final prayer on the last page)





Day 4

“For me, anything may work against me and afflict me—Praise the Lord !”

That we might know how to imitate the virtues of Barbara, since her own life has marked so deeply people whom we know. Because Barbara has led such a humble and deeply spiritual life; we must know that anything may work against and afflict our lives, as Barbara so well used to tell her daughters.

Song:

Matthew 11, 25-30:

By his words and actions, Jesus reveals that God's will is to inaugurate the Kingdom. But the wise and the intelligent cannot perceive the presence of the Kingdom which comes about through Jesus. To the contrary, it is the poor who perceive this. And Jesus prays and gives thanks to the Father for this.

Reflection: In groups of two reflect the following: What is the message that this text is saying to me?



Prayer of the faithful:

To each intention, we respond:

Lord, we want to build your Kingdom.

- For the unity of all Christian churches; and that we appreciate all that unites us, **we pray:**
- For all those dedicated to education; that they carry the light of culture and wisdom to all parts, **we pray:**
- For all those who live in the darknes of addictions, that they find light and hope for their lives in Jesus, **we pray:**
- For our community, that all dedícate ourselves in promoting harmony and peace among peoples, **we pray:**
- For each one of us, that following the example of Barbara, we may be able to confront all the obstacles that come into our lives, **we pray:**



Song:

Let us pray

Almighty God, who through the grace we have received to know your servant Blessed Barbara Maix, may we know that in our own lives, there will be times when events will oppose us and afflict us in our daily lives. AMEN.

(Conclude with the final prayer on the last page)





Day 5

“May honor be given to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”.

May we learn to give glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; following the example of Barbara Maix, who in every momento, was accustomed to always give glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Song:

Matthew 3,13-17.

Jesus receives the Baptism of John the Baptist; this was the moment when the Spirit of God descends as a Dove, and God the Father confirms Jesus as His beloved Son. Let us listen:

Prayer of the faithful:

At each intention we pray:

Help us Lord, to live out our baptism.

- Upon baptising Jesus, John saw the Holy Spirit come down from heaven and remain over Him.



We give thanks to the Lord for our baptism, when we received the Holy Spirit with His gifts, **we pray:**

- So that all those baptized in Christ, beloved by God and anointed with the Holy Spirit, may pass through the world, doing good to all, **we pray:**

- For those parents and godparents who have requested baptism for their children, that they continue nourishing their faith through their own words and attitudes and example, **we pray:**

- That all of us baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; may be joyful missionaries in our family, at work and in our society, **we pray:**

- Giving thanks to God for Barbara Maix and for all the blessings he grants to us, **we pray:**

Renewal of Baptism. (Prepare some small recipients of water)

ALL: Today I beg you, Lord: that you renew in me the grace of my Baptism. I beg you to send me the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I beg you Lord, that you be in me and I in You. Thank you Lord.

Pray the Creed



Drink the water.

Let us pray

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit;
praise and glory to you on the earth And in Heaven.
Glory and honor to God our Father,

And to his Son and his Holy Spirit, who is The love of
the Father and the Son. AMEN.

(Conclude with the final prayer on the last page)





Day 6

“That which I have by God’s grace; I give you the example of always forgiving, with all the energy and consolation of my heart.”

Let us learn with our dear Blessed Barbara Maix to forgive always no matter how hard it is; since she has left us an example, the same as Our Lord Jesus Christ forgave the evildoers who put Him to death on Calvary.

Song:

Word of God – Matthew 18,21-22 (or 18,21-35)

Jesus says that we must forgive always. Seventy times seven is a number that represents an unlimited number of times.

A momento of silence for sharing the Word of God.

Prayer of the faithful: Let us ask God that, through the intercession of Barbara Maix, He gives us the grace of forgiveness; and to forgive always.



At each petition, we respond: *Through the intercession of Barbara Maix, forgive us Lord.*

- In you we trust: when meekness appears to be cowardice, **we pray:**

- To you we have recourse: When we allow ourselves to be entrapped by the criteria of the World, **we pray:**

- Our hope is in you: when it is difficult for us to practice humility, **we pray:**

- We trust in you: When we suffer from injustice and violence, **we pray:**

- We look to you: When addictions devastate our Young people, **we pray:**

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, Love of your children, Full of love and goodness; help us to follow what Your servant Barbara has taught us, that we always forgive. May her example be the teaching for us to be the Christians we should be. AMEN.

(Conclude with the final prayer on the last page)



Day 7

“Do not become disheartened, God is aware of the time and the hour. At the proper time, God will be there to help. Of this, I am absolutely certain”

“The most important rule of our Congregation is charity.”

Let us never become dispirited; because Our Lord Jesus Christ knows the moment and the hour when He will take action. In the meantime, as our Blessed Barbara Maix has taught us, we continue full of confidence, as she did; and let us be full of hope for the moment when God Himself will act in our lives.

Psalm 136(135)1.23-24.10-15 (one person and everyone responds).

- Give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good.

A: Because his love is everlasting.

- The Lord remembered us in our low estate.

A: Because his love is everlasting.

- And freed us from our oppressors.

A: Because his love is everlasting.



- Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt.

A: Because his love is everlasting.

- And led out his people from there.

A: Because his love is everlasting.

- With a mighty hand and strong arm.

A: Because his love is everlasting.

- Who split in two the Red Sea.

A: Because his love is everlasting.

- And led Israel through its midst.

A: Because his love is everlasting.

- But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea.

A: Because his love is everlasting.

John 15,07-17. The commandment of love.

The fruit that the Christian community is called to produce is love. Jesus wants a relationship of friends and not of servants; and He asks us that we love each other as He loves us.

Moment of reflection: Are we being witnesses of God's love for us? What is our reaction to Jesus' request: "Love one another as I have loved you"?



Let us pray

Almighty God, whom we follow hopeful for the
moment you will take action in our lives,

Do not ever permit us to lose hope in
our lives.

AMEN

**(Conclude the novena with the final prayer, on the
last page)**





Day 8

“Let us live according to the former way, as the first Christians, encouraged and guided by God’s Spirit... and united by our fraternal love.”

That we may learn to live out the same spirit of Barbara Maix, who imitated the first Christians. And since this was a challenging style of life to put into practice in the life of faith; thus we also can be faithful in our day to day faith, and arrive at holiness, as did Barbara Maix.

Hymn:

Word of God: Acts 2, 42-47:

St. Luke presents a picture of the Christian community. This community is born from the gospel proclaiming of the teaching of the apostles. And the community sustains itself through prayer, the eucharist, and through a new paradigm of relationships: brotherhood takes the place of oppression, and the sharing of goods takes the place of commercial exploitation. The only authority is God.



Prayer of the faithful:

On behalf of the first Christian communities who persevered united through prayer, we respond to each petition: *Jesus our Savior, hear our prayer.*

- For the Church, that it may always be the sacrament of solidarity and justice among our peoples, and proclaim the truth of the Gospel, **we pray:**

- For all those who labor for the poor and marginalized, that they do so with great compassion and joyful heart, **we pray:**

- For the proud and the arrogant and those who look down on others, that they may discover the joy of living in humility and brotherhood, **we pray:**

- for families, that they follow the way of Jesus, becoming a “domestic church”, and being blessed by God, **we pray:**

- For ourselves, that following the example of Barbara Maix, we may imitate the way of life of the first Christians, **we pray:**



Let us pray

Almighty God, that we may live out the spirit of the first Christians; with the challenges that we must deal with little by little; so that in this way, we may learn the ways of faith; and be faithful in our daily lives.

AMEN

(Conclude with the final prayer on the last page)





Day 9

“My consolation, my joy, waiting for the final moment; I forgave everything with all my being; give me my daughters as you wish they may be.”

Let us not forget to always be aware that our brothers and sisters are children of God; and especially, be aware of the presence of Gd every day and also at our last breath, as Blessed Barbara always did.

Hymn:

Psalm 143(142), 1.8-11.

Let us pray the psalm, telling God, that, following the example of Barbara Maix, we place our whole life according to God's will for us. At each invocation, we respond: *I place my life in your hands, o Lord.*

- Lord, hear my prayer, attend to my supplication; answer me in your faithfulness and justice.

- I remember the days of old; I ponder all your deeds; the works of your hands I recall; I extend my hands toward you.



- In the morning let me hear of your mercy, for in you I trust. Show me the path I should walk, for I entrust my life to you.

- Rescue me, Lord, from my foes, for I seek refuge in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

- May your kind spirit guide me on ground that is level. For your name's sake, Lord, give me life.

Gospel: John 6,36-40 and Luke 22,42

In Jesus, Barbara finds the way and the model of self-giving to follow God's will in her life.

Reflection:

Barbara understood that the will of God is a life with dignity for all, and bringing about the Kingdom of God. How will this happen in our own reality?

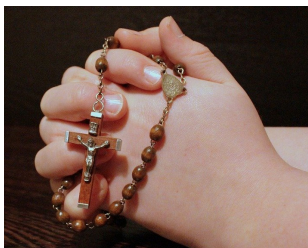


Let us pray

Loving Father, may we always have you present in our life; and in our last breath may we feel your presence in our life. May you always assist us during our life and at the hour of our death.

AMEN

(conclude the novena with the final prayer on the last page)





LET US PRAY

O most merciful God, who for the salvation of sinners and the refuge of the afflicted, have made the Immaculate Heart of Mary most like in tenderness and compassion to the Heart of Jesus, grant that we, who now commemorate her most sweet and loving heart; may by her merits and intercession, ever live in the fellowship of the Hearts of both Mother and Son, through the same Christ our Lord. Amem.



Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, Pray for us.

Blessed Barbara Maix, **Pray for us.**



LITANIES FOR INTERCESSION TO THE
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY AND TO
BLESSED BARBARA MAIX

Lord have mercy on us.

A: Lord have mercy on us.

Christ have mercy on us.

A: Christ have mercy on us.

Lord have mercy on us.

A: Lord have mercy on us.

Christ hear us.

A: Christ hear us.

Christ graciously hear us

A: Christ graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, Have mercy on us

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity one God,

Heart of Mary, always immaculate

and full of grace, Pray for us



Heart of Mary, blessed among all hearts,
Heart of Mary, vessel of the Holy Trinity,
Heart of Mary, most similar to the Heart of Jesus,
Heart of Mary, in which Jesus was much pleased,
Heart of Mary, fount of humility,
Heart of Mary, model of patience and meekness,
Heart of Mary, seat of mercy,
Heart of Mary, on fire with divine love,
Heart of Mary ocean of goodness,
Heart of Mary, miracle of purity and innocence,
Heart of Mary, mirror of divine perfections,
Heart of Mary, that realizes the salvation of the world
with your great concern,
Heart of Mary that brings about the conversion of
sinners,
Heart of Mary, that faithfully conserves the words and
actions of Jesus,
Heart of Mary, pierced with the sword of sorrow,
Heart of Mary, greatly afflicted by the Passion of
Jesus Christ,



Heart of Mary, nailed with Jesus to the cross,
Heart of Mary, buried with sorrow with Jesus,
Heart of Mary, joyfully reborn in the resurrection of
Jesus,

Heart of Mary, filled with inefable sweetness in the
Ascension,

Heart of Mary, overflowing with fulness of
graces at the coming of the Holy Spirit,
Heart of Mary, consolation of the afflicted,
Heart of Mary, refuge of the just and the sinners,
Heart of Mary, hope and sweet sustenance of those
who venerate you,

Heart of Mary, help of the dying,
Heart of Mary, joy of the angels and saints,
Immaculate Mary meek and humble of heart,

A: Conform my heart to the heart of Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

A: Forgive us, Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

A: Lord, hear us.



Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
A: Have mercy on us.

FINAL PRAYER

O God, our loving and merciful Father, who
Chose **Barbara Maix** to always and in every
moment do your holy will,
Especially with regards to the most needy.
You know our hopes and
Our needs;
Give us the grace we so urgently need...

We beg also through the intercession of
The Immaculate Heart of Mary: the
CANONIZATION of your faithful servant
The Blessed Barbara Maix.

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory to...



General Headquarter of Congregaion

1001 Ramiro Barcelos Street - Zip Code 9935-005

Porto Alegre – RS – Brasil

Phone: +55 51 33239800

secretaria.geral@icm-sec.org.br

Site: icm-sec.org.br

facebook.com/irmas.icm

youtube.com/tvbarbaramaix