



Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo (1882–1970)

## The Surrender Novena

*The surrender refrain with nine daily reflections*

These nine daily reflections accompany the surrender refrain associated with Fr. Dolindo Ruotolo; they do not reproduce a full translation of his original text.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

Pray these words ten times each day. The complete nine-day novena begins below.

### **Surrender Novena — Day 1**

The first day begins with the relationship between worry and surrender.

We often pray about a problem while simultaneously trying to control every possible outcome. Our thoughts circle around the difficulty: What if this happens? What if that happens? What am I going to do?

True surrender asks us to place the matter into the hands of Jesus.

This does not mean that we stop fulfilling our responsibilities. Rather, after doing what God reasonably asks of us, we stop acting as though everything ultimately depends upon us.

Today, place your intention before Jesus and ask for the grace to release your anxious grasp upon it.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

## **Surrender Novena — Day 2**

On the second day, meditate upon the difference between surrender and resignation.

Christian surrender is not hopelessness. It does not mean saying, “Nothing can be done.”

Surrender is an act of confidence.

Think of a child who brings a problem to a loving parent. Having asked for help, the child does not need to dictate every step the parent must take.

We often do exactly that with God.

We ask Him to help us and then immediately begin telling Him how the problem must be solved.

Today, ask for the grace to trust not only that God hears your prayer, but that His wisdom exceeds your own.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

## **Surrender Novena — Day 3**

The third day turns our attention toward the prayer Jesus Himself taught us:

“Thy will be done.”

These words can be difficult when God's will is not yet clear to us.

They are not meant to be spoken as a defeated sigh. They are words of profound confidence in a Father who sees what we cannot see.

We may ask God boldly for healing, reconciliation, employment, protection, guidance, or any other good thing. But beneath every petition remains the deeper prayer:

Father, I trust Your will.

Today, surrender not only the problem but also the outcome you have imagined for it.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

## **Surrender Novena — Day 4**

Sometimes we surrender something to God and the situation appears to become worse.

That is when surrender becomes particularly difficult.

We may begin wondering whether God heard us at all.

The fourth day invites us to trust Jesus even when we cannot yet understand what He is doing.

Faith does not require us to pretend that suffering is easy. Nor does it prohibit us from seeking appropriate help. Rather, faith keeps us from concluding that God has abandoned us simply because we cannot presently see the answer.

Today, surrender the temptation to judge God's goodness according to what you can see at this moment.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

## **Surrender Novena — Day 5**

The fifth day invites us toward the childlike trust praised throughout the Gospel.

A small child can fall asleep while being carried because the child trusts the one doing the carrying.

There are moments in our lives when we cannot see the road ahead.

We do not know what tomorrow will bring. We cannot determine how a problem will be resolved. We may not even know what to ask for anymore.

At such times, surrender becomes very simple:

Jesus, carry me.

Today, allow yourself to rest spiritually in the care of Christ.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

## **Surrender Novena — Day 6**

The sixth day concerns the restlessness that returns after we surrender.

Perhaps yesterday we entrusted everything to Jesus and experienced peace. Today the worry has returned.

That does not mean the prayer failed.

Surrender is often something we must practice repeatedly.

Each time fear returns, it gives us another opportunity to place the matter back into God's hands.

We can say:

Jesus, I gave this to You yesterday. I give it to You again today.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

## **Surrender Novena — Day 7**

The seventh day asks us to examine how much we rely upon our own calculations.

Human reason is a gift from God. Prudence, planning, medical treatment, good counsel, and responsible action all have their proper place in Christian life.

But reason cannot see everything.

There eventually comes a point beyond which planning cannot carry us.

Surrender begins precisely there.

After we have done what is ours to do, we entrust what remains to Divine Providence.

Today, ask Jesus for the humility to recognize the difference between what He asks you to do and what you must leave to Him.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

## **Surrender Novena — Day 8**

The eighth day focuses upon fear of the future.

Much of our anxiety concerns things that have not happened.

We imagine tomorrow's conversations, tomorrow's diagnosis, tomorrow's bills, tomorrow's disappointments, and tomorrow's losses.

But God's grace is given to us in the present.

Jesus asks us to live faithfully today and entrust tomorrow to Him.

When your mind begins constructing frightening possibilities, return to this simple act of surrender.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!

### **Surrender Novena — Day 9**

On the final day, gather together everything you have placed before Jesus during the novena.

Perhaps nothing outwardly has changed.

Perhaps everything has changed.

Either way, the deepest purpose of the Surrender Novena is not to discover a technique for getting God to give us the outcome we want.

It is to change our relationship with Him.

The goal is greater trust.

Place your intention before Jesus once more. Thank Him for hearing you, even if you do not yet know the answer.

Ask for the grace to continue surrendering after the novena ends.

Then pray ten times:

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything!