

**PRAYING THE NOVENA
WITH THE BLESSED
ENRICHETTA ALFIERI**



Give me, o Lord, a heart...

The radiant smile, sever look, delicate and reserved presence.
This is sister Enrichetta, with interiority of her person, the strength
of her faith and robustness of her spirit.

THE SIMPLE LIFE

Maria Angela Dominic Alfieri is born in Borgo Vercelli on the 23rd of February 1891 in the christian family.

Enter with sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antid Thouret, on the 20th December 1911.

At the age of 28th becomes seriously sick and has intense suffering physically and moral almost for four years.

Some months after her first pilgrimage to Lourdes in which has participated on stretcher.

On the 25 February 1923, she is healed miraculously, thanks for the intercession of Virgen Mary, she takes up again her apostolate.

Sent to the jail of Saint Vittore of Milan, she starts her intense work of human promotion and of evangelization which will make her protagonist till the day of her death which is held on the 23 of November 1951.

Her mission with the prisoners is marked of courageous and creative charity, which has expressed in the tragic years of Resistance (1943-1945), in which she herself experienced the arrest and prison.

She is called "Mother or Angel of Saint Vittore" for her charitable tenderness; has illuminated with her smile and warmed with love to God the entire humanity that has founded inside and outside of the prison.

The Pope Benedict has declared Venerable the Servant of God Sr. Enrichetta Alfieri on the 19 December 2009.

Sr. Enrichetta is proclaimed Blessed on the 26th June 2011 in Milan.

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SUGGESTIONS

Before starting our prayer, let us choose a peaceful place where we can recollect ourselves, better if it is a Church or a Chapel, before the Blessed Sacrament. Let us create silence in ourselves so that God who always waits for us in silence may speak and listen to us.

We pray the Novena in the company of the Blessed Sister Enrichetta to know better her spirituality and to discover how it is possible to be holy in any place and in any historical situation. Since we are all baptized we are all called to be holy in our ordinary life, following the example of Blessed Sister Enrichetta who dedicated her life to love Jesus Christ and to serve Him in her brothers and sisters, especially those in prison.

Let us read the texts for each day taken from the Word of God and from the writings of Blessed Enrichetta, letting them go deep into our heart. Let us stop for a while in silence, listening to the thought that mostly touched us and let us keep it within us during the day.

Let us try to put into action the commitment suggested, as a way of living in a deeper way the spirit and the message of Blessed Sister Enrichetta during the Novena.

When reciting the prayer to Blessed Enrichetta we pray with devotion and in union with all our brothers and sisters all over the world

SCHEME OF THE NOVENA

- **Guide:** In the name of the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit

- **Assembly: Amen.**

- **Song**
- **Reading from the Word of God**
- **Reading from the writings
of Blessed Enrichetta**
- **Silence**
- **Commitment**
- **Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, source of all vocations, give to Your children the joy of knowing You and the grace of following You.

May the young people hear Your call, and the adults be persevering and faithful.

May Sister Enrichetta lead our steps, and You, Good Master, through her intercession renew the faith of Your Holy Church. **Amen.**

- **Guide:** Let us bless the Lord.

- **Assembly:** Thanks be to God.

From the Word of God:

«...Which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Rise and walk"? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" - he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to human beings» (Mt 9: 5-8).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«I had very strong pain and was parched with thirst. With immense effort. I succeeded in taking into my hands the small bottle with the water of Our Lady of Lourdes and took a very small sip from it. I did this while invoking the Holy Virgin with great trust. For a few minutes. I felt faint and then I heard a voice telling me: Get up! All of a sudden I found myself sitting up on the bed freed from all pain...» (cf. *Letter to the Mother General*, 20th March 1923).

Commitment:

Let us learn from Blessed Enrichetta to believe that "*nothing is impossible to God*", so that we may be open to the calls of the Lord in our life.

Prayer: ...

From the Word of God:

Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. *Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.* Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame (1 Peter 3: 13-16).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«At the entrance in the centre of the prison the almost unceasing movement kept me breathless, even more agitated than before. I did not think anymore of the interrogation. My sentence had been pronounced: "deportation". My departure could take place at any time, during the day or in the night... For so much injustice, oppression and suffering, Lord have pity on this poor world. Have pity also on our destroyed homeland so dear to us. May it rise again from its rubble soaked with tears and blood. May it rise again purified and more beautiful, honoured, harder working, stronger and, above all more Christian and virtuous» (cf. *Memoire*, 1945, pp. 45-46).

Commitment:

In this day let us commit ourselves to counteract evil with goodness, being sure that the seeds of hope spread in the world are stronger than the seeds of the conflictual ego.

Prayer: ...

From the Word of God:

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest" (Mt 9: 35-38).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«Charity is a fire which expands while burning; I will suffer, work and pray to attract souls to Jesus» (Memento, 1923-1926).

Commitment:

We treasure all the occasions to do acts of charity where we live and where we work.

Prayer: ...

From the Word of God:

Remember the days past when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a great contest of suffering. At times you were publicly exposed to abuse and affliction; at other times you associated yourselves with those so treated. You even joined in the sufferings of those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, knowing that you had a better and lasting possession. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence; it will have great recompense. You need endurance to do the will of God and receive what he has promised (Hebrews 10: 32-36).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«I kept hearing those desolate cries and the anxious pleas for pity. I kept seeing those pale faces and the lost eyes filled with tears... All this tormented me and, not being able to sleep, I suffered and prayed for them. I felt bad because I was unable to give them any comfort. The thought of those in prison saddened me very much but that of those being deported tormented me... and it became my inner martyrdom so constantly was this thought fixed within me» (cf. Memoire, 1945, pp. 69-70).

Commitment:

We give a special attention to the poor and those who suffer and we spend time of adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament for them.

Prayer: ...

From the Word of God:

He was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples". He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test" (Lk 11:1-4).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«After trying in vain the whole afternoon to make any short prayer, I knelt down and recited the whole holy rosary meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries in such a alive way as I had never done before in my life. From that moment prayer and meditation became my only occupation, my strength in this time of isolation» (cf. Memoire, 1945 p.31).

Commitment:

We find time for a more intense prayer so that the power of prayer may transform our life.

Prayer: ...

From the Word of God:

«...Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light» (Mt 11: 28-30).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«This is what we should do: look at Jesus and say yes and then let Him do it» (cf. Thoughts, no date).

Commitment:

We dedicate time to reading the writings of Blessed Enrichetta to learn from her to trust in God.

Prayer: ...

From the Word of God:

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep (Rom 12: 12-15).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«Suffering is not enough; we need to suffer well. To suffer well it is necessary to suffer with dignity, love, sweetness and fortitude. The true religious facing the cross or pierced by the sword, answers always with a smile» (cf. *Thoughts*, before 1923).

Commitment:

Let us stop before the Crucifix, thinking of the power of this love full of mercy and able to change our heart of stone into a heart of flesh.

Prayer: ...

From the Word of God:

I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are (John 17: 9-11).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«...I take on the hearts of all people. I offer them to You so that You may transform them and they may praise You... For this same reason I would like to give voice and heart to all creatures. Again I offer You, O Lord, my exile to honour Yours; I offer it to you... for the peace of this poor world...» (cf. *Retreat*, Grumello del Monte, 8-14 October 1944).

Commitment:

In this world marked by large-scale migration, let us open our hearts in order to welcome, love and live in solidarity, first of all with those closer to us.

Prayer: ...

From the Word of God:

And Mary said:

«My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever». (Lk 1: 46-55).

From the word of Blessed Enrichetta:

«On 25th February 1923, the day of the 9th Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Good Heavenly Mother raised me prodigiously from death to life... Feelings: gratitude, wonder, disappointment. The gate of Heaven closed, reopened the gate of life. Promises to the Virgin Mary as a witness to my strong gratitude: Reciting daily the Magnificat after the Holy Communion...» (cf. *Memoire*, 1923).

Commitment:

Let us learn to thank and praise the Lord of Life and to acknowledge the gestures of kindness and solidarity of those close to us *thanking* them wholeheartedly.

Prayer: ...

PRAYER

Father of infinite goodness and tenderness,
we praise You and we thank You for the gift
of Blessed Enrichetta Alfieri to the Church and to the world,
she is the witness of strong faith,
tenacious hope
and burning charity.

Lord Jesus,
let the same fire of charity
that urged Blessed Enrichetta
to give herself each day
to those who had lost all hope of redemption,
to the humiliated and hurt women,
to the victims of all violence,
burn in us too
so that love, Your Love, may triumph again.

Holy Spirit,
eternal source of joy,
give us the strength to offer
to each person we meet on our path,
a warm smile,
a gesture of forgiveness and peace,
a heart that listens and welcomes with love,
following the example of Blessed Enrichetta,
for the glory of God.

Amen.

(with ecclesiastical approval)