



Novena
to the Servant of God
Mother Bernarda Heimgartner
Co-foundress
of the
Sisters of the Holy Cross at Menzingen

Day One

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

Already in the days of her childhood and youth, she followed Your Divine Call with an open mind and a ready heart. Worldly allurements could not keep her from You, but with a clear and steady purpose she came ever nearer to You, O Divine Beauty.

Help me, that I, too, may seek You alone in the fulfillment of your Holy Will in all things.

O God of Goodness and Mercy, with childlike confidence I place my cares and this special intention... in Your Fatherly Hands, beseeching You to grant my petition through the mediation of Your faithful handmaid, Bernarda.

Through her intercession,
graciously hear me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father... (x3)



Day Two

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

During her schooldays and later years of training, she applied herself with great zeal to her studies. She admired the works of God in nature, and marveled at the greatness and glory of the supernatural world. Although estranged from her native land, she threw herself wholeheartedly into all spheres of her training so that, in her turn, she might one day spend herself for the benefit of youth and the needy.

Grant that I, too, may be ready for your gifts to use them selflessly for the benefit and salvation of my fellows.

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Day Three

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

Her heart was animated by the burning desire to spend her life for the glory of God. To this end she dedicated herself with youthful earnestness to Christ, her Divine Spouse, by her Religious Profession. Her dedication was irrevocable and stamped her whole future life.

Help me that Your Divine Honour and Glory may be the object of my life also.

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Day Four

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

The young community under her care for a long time had no fixed abode. Mother Bernarda endured all adversities with great courage. Forgetting herself, she made her motherly heart the home and refuge of her spiritual Daughters during those times of trial.

Help me, forgetting myself I, too, may find in You my support and security in all the tribulations of this life and that I may be a help and comfort to others.

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Day Five

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

She dedicated all her energies to the one ideal of her life: The Christian education of youth. She loved the young and strove to win them early to a love of goodness. She clung to this ideal in all the difficulties and storms of life, and to it she sacrificed her whole strength.

Help me that I, too, may dedicate all my energies to the fulfillment of my vocation, even at the risk of meeting with misunderstanding and prejudice.

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Through her intercession, graciously hear me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father... (x3)

Day Six

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

Day by day she became more and more a woman of prayer, as she referred everything to God. In His presence she made her decisions, and in union with Him lived her days and often spent her nightly vigils. Prayer was the very breath of her being.

Help me that I, too, may learn to pray and become more and more aware of Your Divine Presence.

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Day Seven

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

One of the traits of her spiritual life was a deep love and veneration for Our Lady. In the school of Mary, her devotedness grew, her humility deepened and her fortitude increased. Mary was her Model and Guide.

Help me that my love for Mary may grow daily, and that I, too, may pattern my life on hers.

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Day Eight

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

Her life became more and more a veritable <Way of the Cross>. She bore physical and mental sufferings with confidence and fortitude as a true Sister of the Holy Cross. Neither misunderstandings nor any other adversities could mar the nobility of her soul. The imitation of her suffering Lord became for her a source of solace and strength.

Help me that I, too, may carry my daily cross manfully for love of You.

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Day Nine

O God, You have given us, in the life of Mother Bernarda, a model of courage and fortitude, to light up our way and to strengthen our trust in Your Divine Guidance and Providence.

Humanly speaking, Death robbed us of her all too soon. She felt its approach, faced it bravely and accepted it. There would still have been much for her to do here below, but that thought did not disturb her. The Lord called, and she placed her life confidently into His Hands.

Help me, that I, too, may look upon death as home going to You, and face it trustfully, were it even today.

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Prayer

For the Beatification of the Servant of God Mother Bernarda Heimgartner

Most Holy Trinity, in Thy wise Providence, Thou has raised Thy handmaid Bernarda to be the Foundress and Mother of a religious family for the education of the young and for works of Christian charity. Thou hast entrusted to her thousands of spiritual Daughters who labour for Thy Kingdom, at home and in distant missionary lands.

Deign, we beseech Thee, through the intercession of this Thy pious, prudent and deeply interior servant, Thy valiant and patient cross-bearer Bernarda, to help us in our manifold necessities, so that Holy Church may very soon permit her to be publicly venerated.

Amen.

