

Hope in Hard Times: A Novena with Dorothy Day
DAY 9, Hope and Delight



Photo: Cherry Blossoms, Marcus Garvey Park, Harlem, NYC, 4/21/2020

The Dorothy Day Guild asks its members and others to “spiritually gather” (in the words of Pope Francis) to pray a novena for solidarity and compassion in this challenging time. Her conversion cost her dearly, but Dorothy always insisted that it was a great joy, occasioned by the birth of her daughter, that brought her to God. The mystery of life! Later she said she learned of God’s goodness from her love of His poor. Today, we pray for mindfulness of beauty and grace in the midst of suffering. We pray to see with the eyes of faith “if only through a glass darkly,” and hold fast to hope as we journey together — like those disciples on the road to Emmaus — through these hard times.

“Irene pointed out a phrase to me recently of Ruskin’s which appealed to us both. It was “the duty of delight.” To reverence and be thankful for life itself, in a time when the world holds human life so lightly there is again joy. To be grateful is to be full of grace and grace is participation in the divine life, knowing that we are sons of God and heirs of the kingdom.

Happiness too means warmth after cold, peace after pain and satisfaction after hunger. These simple joys are good to remember... We must express it with sweetness, with tenderness. When I saw the altar boy kiss the cruet of water this morning at Mass, I felt how necessary ritual is to life. To kiss the earth, to lift the arms, to embrace the lonely.”

– Dorothy Day, *The Catholic Worker*, 1951

Let us pray...Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be OR the Holy Rosary

Prayer for the Canonization of Servant of God Dorothy Day (1897 – 1980)

God our Father,

Your servant Dorothy Day exemplified
the Catholic faith by her life
of prayer, voluntary poverty,
works of mercy, and
witness to the justice and peace
of the Gospel of Jesus.

May her life inspire your people
to turn to Christ as their Savior,
to see His face in the world's poor, and
to raise their voices for the justice
of God's kingdom.

I pray that her holiness may be recognized by your Church

And that you grant the following favor that I humbly ask through her intercession:
(here mention your request)

I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.