

# Novena for Our Nation Seeks Mary's Aid for America <sup>(13467)</sup>

*The 54-day effort kicks off on the Solemnity of the Assumption.*

With so many challenges and problems in our country and our world, we wonder what can one person do? We CAN pray.

Father Heilman is spearheading a major spiritual initiative to turn the tide and heal the country — the “**Novena for Our Nation.**”

**The “54-Day Rosary Novena” will begin on Aug. 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption. The faithful are asked to pray daily for the nation to return to holiness, through the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on Oct. 7.** Of course, prayers can continue way past that, if you choose.

“What better time than now, in this election year, the terrorism going on and the condition of this world and our nation, to do this,” explained Father Heilman.

“All the signs are there,” said Father Imbarrato. “We have an immoral and corrupt government that is becoming more and more tyrannical. The fact of the matter is: We need a conversion of our culture, but, specifically, of our elected officials or leadership.

This 54-day novena and the Rosary Rally [on Oct. 7] is all part of the effort we need to end **preborn child killing** and attacks on marriage and the family.”

Father Heilman, noting biblical models like Nineveh. “I feel we’re in the same place we were at that time,” he explained. “I think of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, too.

## Plenty of Precedents

In 1571, St. Pius V called on **besieged Christian Europe** to pray the Rosary. Christians are certainly besieged today. Started on the Assumption, the novena “lands on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary exactly 54 days from point to point” and, the **feast of Our Lady of the Rosary commemorates Oct. 7 Victory at Lepanto** 445 years ago.

## 54 Days

A traditional novena lasts nine days. But this 54-day prayer puts **six novenas** together for a **singular purpose**. In 1884 the Blessed Virgin Mary purportedly appeared in Italy to a girl named Fortuna Agrelli, gave her the 54-day Rosary novena for herself and to share. The girl obeyed and was fully healed. This novena and her healing impressed Pope Leo XIII, who wrote 17 encyclicals on the Rosary.

The 54-day devotion consists of **five decades of the Rosary prayed daily for 27 days in petition; immediately thereafter, five decades are prayed daily for 27 days in thanksgiving, whether or not the request has been granted yet.** (Begin with the Joyful, no matter the day, then the Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries; continue this rotation.)

### **Seeking Mary's Aid**

Cardinal Raymond Burke, patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, says "There is no doubt that our beloved nation is in one of the worst crises which it has ever experienced, a profound moral crisis, which generates division on all levels and results in an ever-greater more pervasive violence and killing."

"Let us now turn to the powerful prayer of the holy Rosary, asking Mary Immaculate to intercede with Our Lord to **bring healing to our nation and to inspire in her citizens the holiness of life** which alone can transform our nation," he said. (Rosary bracelets or rosary rings keep the rosary handy.)

Those praying the novena may add to their prayers by meditating on Scripture, the saints, and the theological and cardinal virtues, gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit via the book *54 Day Basic Training in Holiness*. Reflections also appear on the [novena website](#). Pray in your family; with your friends. Just Pray. Grow closer to God and to your family.

### **D.C. Rosary Rally**

The Rosary novena will be capped off on Oct. 7 with a special "Rosary Rally" in Union Square in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, to call on the Lord for our nation's spiritual restoration. The faithful across the country are encouraged to have a Rosary Rally in their areas, too — in a parish church, at a government facility or in front of a Planned Parenthood business, for

<http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/novena-for-our-nation-seeks-marys-aid-for-america/>

*Joseph Pronechen is a Register staff writer.*

### **SIGN UP**

**What:** Rosary "Novena for Our Nation"

**When:** Aug. 15 to Oct. 7

**More Info:** Pray-ers may sign up on the [website](#) or via [Facebook](#) to show support, but there is no obligation to register to be part of the Novena for Our Nation. The important thing is to pray. Condensed from **National Catholic Register, August 7, 2016**