

The 54 Day Rosary Novena:

What is the 54 Day Rosary Novena?

The 54 day Rosary novena is a series of six consecutive nine day novenas. The first three novenas (the first 27 days) are offered for the intention. While the last three novenas (the last 27 days) are offered in thanks to God in anticipation of granting the favor. Each day of the novena consists of 5 decades of the rosary.

Where Does the Novena come from?

January 1883 Fortuna Agrelli, the daughter of Commander Agrelli became ill with 3 separate incurable diseases - enduring dreadful sufferings and torturous cramps. She had been given up by the most celebrated physicians

February 1884 Fortuna and her relatives prayed a rosary novena for her recovery.

March 1884 The Blessed Mother/ Our Lady of Pompeii appeared to Fortuna (in the house of Commander Agrelli at Naples) sitting on a high throne profusely decorated with flowers with the Infant Jesus on her lap. She held a Rosary in her hand and was accompanied by St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena. Our Lady and the Child were clad in gold-embroidered garments.

Fortuna petitioned Our Lady, "Queen of the Holy Rosary, be gracious to me, restore me to health." The Blessed Virgin replied, "You have invoked me by various titles and have always obtained favors from me. Now, since you have called me by the title so pleasing to me, 'Queen of the Holy Rosary,' I can no longer refuse the favor that you petition; for this name is most precious and dear to me. Make three novenas, and you will obtain all."

May 1884 Fortuna was cured. Afterwards, Our Lady appeared again. This time she said, "Whosoever desires to obtain favors from me should

make three novenas of the prayers of the Rosary in petition and three novenas in thanksgiving."

Church Approval It was said that the miracle of Fortuna's cure made such a deep impression on Pope Leo XIII which contributed to him in many of his writings to urge all Christians to love the Rosary and say it fervently.

The 54 day rosary novena was approved by Pope Leo XIII on November 29th 1887.

Note of Interest: Pope Leo XIII was the Pope who composed the St Michael Prayer for Protection....that another interesting story!