

The Surrender Novena: History, Meaning, and an Invitation to Trust

The Surrender Novena is a beautiful and consoling prayer rooted in the spirituality of Don Dolindo Ruotolo, a holy priest from Naples, Italy. Living from 1882 to 1970, Don Dolindo's life was marked by profound suffering—misunderstandings, unjust accusations, physical illness, and long periods of isolation. Yet through every trial, he clung to a radical trust in Jesus, teaching that true peace is found not in control, but in complete surrender to God's loving will.

This message of surrender is especially timely for the faithful today, and it offers particular encouragement to women striving to live their vocation with faith, generosity, and hope amid the responsibilities of daily life.

The Origin of the Surrender Novena

The Surrender Novena comes from interior words Don Dolindo received during prayer, which he understood as coming directly from Jesus. In these words, Jesus gently but firmly invites souls to stop worrying, stop planning outcomes, and stop carrying burdens that belong to Him alone. Instead, He asks for trust...simple, childlike trust.

Each day of the novena returns to the same refrain: **“O Jesus, I surrender myself to You; take care of everything.”**

This prayer expresses the heart of Christian discipleship. Surrender is not weakness or passivity; it is a courageous act of faith that allows God to work freely and powerfully in our lives.

Why Pray the Surrender Novena?

The Surrender Novena is a remedy for anxious hearts. It speaks directly to those who feel overwhelmed by family responsibilities, work, health concerns, relationships, or the future. Jesus' words in this novena remind us that worry closes the door to peace, while surrender opens the soul to grace.

Those who pray this novena often experience:

- A deep interior calm rooted in trust
- Freedom from constant fear and overthinking
- Renewed confidence in God's providence
- Strength to carry daily crosses with hope

Jesus reassures the soul throughout the novena that He knows every need and desires to act—but He asks us to place everything fully into His hands.

An Encouragement for the Women of the Diocese of New Ulm

The Surrender Novena is a particularly fitting prayer for the women of the Diocese of New Ulm—women who nurture families, serve parishes, support communities, and quietly carry many unseen burdens. This novena can be prayed personally in the quiet of one's home, before the Blessed Sacrament, or together with friends, prayer groups, and fellow parishioners.

Prayed individually, it becomes a daily act of trust. Prayed together, it becomes a powerful witness of faith and mutual encouragement. In homes and gatherings across the diocese, this novena can unite women in a shared spirit of surrender, reminding each one that she is never alone and that Jesus is faithfully at work.

The greatest miracles are born of abandonment to God's will. May this novena help every woman who prays it to let go of fear, rest in God's care, and discover anew the peace that only Jesus can give.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to You—take care of everything.

Some resources:

General info and novena: <https://www.surrendernovena.com/home>

Beautiful Surrender Novena prayer to purchase:

<https://fullofgraceusa.com/collections/surrender-novena-products/products/the-surrender-novena-standard-size>