

NOVENA PRAYERS
to Saint Kuriakose
Elias Chavara

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Chavara Central Secretariat
CMI Prior General's House
Chavara Hills, Kakkanad, Kochi 682 030
Kerala, India
2018

Novena Prayers

to Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara (English)

Nihil Obstat

Rev. Dr. Saju Chackalackal CMI

General Councillor for Evangelization and
Pastoral Ministry

Imprimi Potest

Rev. Dr. Paul Achandy CMI

Prior General

Imprimatur

†George Cardinal Alencherry

Major Archbishop of Syro-Malabar Church

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Chavara Hills, Kakkanad, Post Box 3105

Kochi 682 030 Kerala, India



GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

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Having gone through the Novena Prayers submitted to me by Very Rev. Fr. Paul Achandy, the Prior General of the CMI, for my *imprimatur* and having found them free from theological and doctrinal errors and worthy to be recommended for the use of our faithful everywhere publicly and privately, I George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, hereby grant my *imprimatur* to the Novena Prayers seeking intercession of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara.

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount Saint Thomas, Kakkannad, on 24 December 2014.



George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar
Church

CONTENTS

Opening Hymn	9
Initial Prayer	10
Novena: First Day	12
Novena: Second Day	13
Novena: Third Day	14
Novena: Fourth Day	15
Novena: Fifth Day	16
Novena: Sixth Day	17
Novena: Seventh Day	18
Novena: Eighth Day	19
Novena: Ninth Day	20
Petitions (Intercessory Prayer)	21
Litany	24
Concluding Prayer	27
Blessing	28
Concluding Hymn	29
A Short Life History	30

Sayings of Saint Chavara for the Wellbeing of Families	35
Student's Prayer for Success in Studies	42
Prayer to Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara for Families	44
Prayer to Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara	46

OPENING HYMN

Oh! Holy soul Cyriac,
Mirror of grace, atop Mount Carmel,
Pray for us.

To cast away the powers of sin,
Over the course of our lives,
To endow our empty souls,
With peace, salvation and joy!
To accept all pain and suffering,
With a peaceful consenting heart,
To place our trust, faith and hope,
In God and God alone!

INITIAL PRAYER

Oh God, You who lavishly shower Your mercy and blessings upon us, we thank You for giving us Saint Kuriakose Elias as our heavenly patron. We love You wholeheartedly, Oh Lord, and express our sincere gratitude for all the blessings showered upon us through his powerful intercession. Relying on Your infinite mercy, we repent and beg pardon for all our sins. Give us the grace to refrain from sin and graciously accept our humble prayer, which we offer to You through Saint Kuriakose Elias, our patron.

Oh God, You protect and guide all those who seek You with a pure heart. We accept Saint Kuriakose Elias, who dedicated his whole life to Your service, as our special patron. You granted him the grace to practise extraordinary devotion, faith, love and obedience. He

was blessed with the gift of prayer and was rich in Divine knowledge.

We pray that through the intercession of Saint Kuriakose Elias, may we be blessed in all the frustrations, disappointments, dangers, diseases, sorrows and hardships that enter our lives.

NOVENA: FIRST DAY

Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you remained holy in the eyes of God throughout your life. May your exemplary life be an inspiration for us to lead a holy life rooted in the will of God. Pray for us that we may cling on to hope amidst miseries of life and glorify God. From early childhood you were keen to grow in holiness. As a result, God enriched you with Divine knowledge and the gift of internal prayer, thereby helping you to lead a life in the same grace that you received in baptism. Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias, pray that we, your children may also lead a holy life with a pure heart.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... (*silently present petitions*) ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

NOVENA: SECOND DAY

Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you taught us to overcome the hardships of life with the power of prayer. Intercede for us that we may receive the grace to trust God in crucial moments such as financial crisis, choosing the right vocation of life and impending job opportunities.

Grant us the grace to be obedient to the will of God and to lead an ideal Christian life built on God's Word.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... *(silently present personal petitions)* ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

NOVENA: THIRD DAY

Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you taught us from your own experience that the Holy Mass is the Divine medicine that nurtures the spiritual atmosphere in families. Pray that we may experience the Divine presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and partake in His sacrifice with more devotion and piety.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... *(silently present personal petitions)* ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

NOVENA: FOURTH DAY

Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you wished that every Christian family should emulate the Holy Family and also gave us the necessary guidelines and life orientation through your literary works. Intercede for us so that peace, prosperity, and unity may nurture in our families and help our children to grow in wisdom and holiness.

Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias, patron saint of families, help our families to grow in true Christian Spirit and grant us the grace to be content with what we have. Take care of our personal needs.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... (*silently present personal petitions*) ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

NOVENA: FIFTH DAY

Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you were convinced that the power and nobility of the human mind lies in practising prudence, patience, and mercy. You lived an exemplary life filled with patience and suffering. Intercede for us so that we may obtain the grace to love our enemies and dedicate our lives in service to others' wellbeing. We take refuge in your patronage.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... *(silently present personal petitions)* ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

NOVENA: SIXTH DAY

Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you remained faithful to our Mother Church and worked incessantly for her growth throughout your life. We seek your help to lead a life under the protective mantle of the Holy Catholic Church. Grant us the grace to be ideal children of the Church and obey all Her commands. May we never be separated from the Holy Catholic Church. Also help us to nurture faith, humility, and patience in order to lead a holy life.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... *(silently present personal petitions)* ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

NOVENA: SEVENTH DAY

Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you dedicated your entire life for the salvation of souls and worked incessantly for the Kingdom of God. Pray that we may lead a life of true Christian witness and attract many souls to Christ to build up the Kingdom of God.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... (*silently present personal petitions*) ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

NOVENA: EIGHTH DAY

Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, the Redeemer of the world, taught us that "Obedience is better than sacrifice." Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you were obedient to the will of God because you understood that it is more pleasing to Him than any sacrifice offered. Pray that we may grow in the virtue of obedience and always be obedient to the teachings of the Holy Church. Also grant us the grace to seek the will of God in everything we do.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... *(silently present personal petitions)* ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

NOVENA: NINTH DAY

Oh Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, you have taught us that the priests and the religious are called by God to save themselves and for the salvation of many others. Intercede for priests and religious so that they may lead a holy life and inspire others to do the same. Help us to live a life aimed at self-sanctification and salvation of souls. Pray that the number of vocations for the service of the Church may increase and grant us the grace to love our neighbours as ourselves.

We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... *(silently present personal petitions)* ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

PETITIONS

Celebrant: Let us pray with joy and hope,
Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: For the grace to lead a holy life
till death, like Saint Kuriakose Elias,
we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: To foster our spiritual journey
through prayers and to grow in the
love of God, imitating Saint
Kuriakose Elias, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: For the unity and peace in our
families and devotion to the Holy
Family, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: For the grace to lead a virtuous life according to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: To live with the goal of building the Kingdom of God and to stay under the protective mantle of the Holy Catholic Church, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: To accept all pains and sufferings that God allows, and to be thankful in all circumstances, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: For the grace to be obedient to our parents, superiors and authorities, thereby obtaining the favour of God, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara taught us that “A day without a good deed should not be accounted in your life.” For the grace to love our neighbours just as we love ourselves, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: For the empowerment of all priests, sisters and all those who have dedicated their lives for the service of the Holy Church, we pray.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us silently present our personal petitions to our Lord, through Saint Kuriakose Elias.

LITANY

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Christ, have mercy!

Christ, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Christ, hear us!

Christ, graciously hear us!

God, the Father of Heaven.

Have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the World.

Have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God.

Pray for us.

Saint Joseph, Guardian of families.

Pray for us.

Saint Thomas, the Apostle of India.

Pray for us.

Saint Kuriakose Elias, ideal of spiritual life.

Pray for us.

Apostle of the Holy Eucharist.

Pray for us.

Devotee of the Holy Family.

Pray for us.

Beloved son of the Mother of Carmel.

Pray for us.

Model of obedience.

Pray for us.

Symbol of humility and submission.

Pray for us.

Example of charity.

Pray for us.

Lover of enemies

Pray for us.

Refuge of the destitute and oppressed.

Pray for us.

Protector of faith.

Pray for us.

Fountain of the Holy Spirit

Pray for us.

Faithful servant of the Holy Church.

Pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of
the world!

Spare us, oh Lord!

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of
the world!

Graciously hear us, oh
Lord!

Lamb of God, who takes away, the sins of
the world!

Have mercy on us!

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Oh Almighty God, Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara lived a holy life in your presence and became your pleasing servant through continuous meditation, prayer and service to the Holy Church. Mercifully look upon us who seek refuge in the patronage of this holy servant of yours. Oh Lord, we beseech you to cure the sick, console the sorrowful, bless the couples without children, grant students the gift of knowledge, provide shelter to those in economic hardships, preserve the priests and religious in holiness, and establish peace and joy in our families. We pray that You call children from our homes for the service of the Holy Church.

Accept our prayers and bless us through Saint Kuriakose Elias, your

humble servant and our beloved patron. † In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, our Father, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you always, forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING HYMN

Oh! Almighty, Thou have sanctified,
The flawless and brave Cyriac,
With a thankful heart of praise,
Humbly we bow before Thy feet.
Bless Thy children, who seek the aid,
Of thy holy servant Cyriac,
Enrich us with Heavenly gifts,
And pour upon us newell grace.
Lord to Thee we offer our lives,
Abounding with tears and sorrows,
By the worth of Thy faithful servant,
Bless us Thy children, oh Lord!

A SHORT LIFE HISTORY OF SAINT KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA (1805-1871)

Kuriakose Elias Chavara was born on 10 February 1805 in Kainakari, a small village of Alleppey district in the Travancore state. After his primary education he joined the Pallipuram Seminary attached to Saint Mary's Church, Cherthala. Father Thomas Palackal was his Malpan (teacher). He received his sub-diaconate in 1827 and was ordained a deacon in 1828. On 29 November 1829, he was ordained a priest at Saint Andrews Church, Arthunkal. From a very young age he was instructed to chant the name 'Jesus', as a result of which he eagerly wished to live a life dedicated to Jesus.

After his priestly ordination, he joined Father Thomas Palackal and Father

Thomas Porukara, his Malpans, and laid the foundation for a centre for religious life at Mannanam. They were joined by Brother Jacob Kaniathara, who shared their lofty ideal of life of interiority and devotion. They established a residence at Mannanam in 1831 and named it '*Beth Rauma*' (house on the hilltop). *Beth Rauma* at Mannanam had a humble beginning and later grew into a dwelling place for a group of priests who were known as 'Servants of the Immaculate Conception'. This group at Mannanam formed the first community of the congregation of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI). Father Thomas Palackal and Father Thomas Porukara died in 1841 and 1846, respectively.

With the demise of his Malpans, Father Kuriakose Chavara was entrusted with the responsibility of the new congregation, which he led until his death. In

1861, the then Archbishop, Bernardinose, appointed Father Kuriakose Chavara the Vicar General of the Syro-Malabar Catholics to fight against the Rocco schism, which did shake the unity of the Malabar Church.

From 1831 onwards Father Kuriakose engaged in various spiritual and welfare activities, such as starting a Sanskrit school at Mannanam for the educational development of the area, establishing the first wooden press in Kerala, renewing the Order of the Liturgy, popularising Sunday sermons, and organizing retreats for the spiritual renewal of the people. In 1866, he founded the first Indian religious congregation for women, the Congregation of Mother of Carmel (CMC).

Father Kuriakose Elias Chavara spent the last seven years of his life at Koonammavu, Kerala, where he died on 3 January 1871 and was buried in Saint

Philomena's Church, Koonammavu. Later, on 24 May 1889, his mortal remains were removed from Koonammavu and reinterred in St. Joseph's Monastery Chapel at Mannanam, the mother house of the CMI congregation.

Saint Kuriakose Elias was well known for his sacrificial life and continues to be an inspiration for many in Christian virtuous life. Many favours have been received through his intercession. Saint Alphonsa, the first canonized saint of India, sought the intercession of Saint Kuriakose Elias and was instantly cured of her illness. She has certified this cure in her own handwriting.

The canonization process of Kuriakose Elias Chavara was begun in 1956 and, on 8 February 1986, he was beatified by Pope John Paul II at Kottayam, Kerala.

The miraculous cure of the crippled feet of Joseph Pennaparampil from Calicut, Kerala, through the intercession of Saint Kuriakose Elias was approved for the beatification. The miraculous cure of the alternating convergent squint eyes of Maria Jose Kottarathil from Pala, Kerala, was approved by the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, Rome, for the canonization.

On 23 November 2014, Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara was canonized at Rome by Pope Francis. The tomb of Saint Kuriakose is situated in front of the main altar of Saint Joseph's Monastery Chapel at Mannanam.

SAYINGS OF SAINT CHAVARA FOR THE WELLBEING OF FAMILIES

1. A good Christian family is the image of heaven. The *raison d'être* of family is that the members live together by the bond of blood and affection, with children duly respecting and obeying their parents, walking peacefully before God and each one, seeking eternal salvation according to his or her proper state of life (*Chavarul*, Introduction).
2. Forgive the mistakes and shortcomings of each other. If you do so, you will experience peace on earth and eternal reward in heaven (*Chavarul*, Part I,1).
3. The honour and blessing of a family lies in coexisting without any quarrels and to be on good terms with everyone. Even animals retaliate against those who resent them. The ability to overlook

faults in others and to forgive them is possible only for those who are really strong, prudent, and honourable (*Chavarul*, Part I,1).

4. Civil litigations ruin families... No one has been happy or better off by having gone in for civil litigation (*Chavarul*, Part I,2).
5. Don't lend money to anyone except on the ground of charity. The wealthiest family is the one which is not in debt (*Chavarul*, Part I,4).
6. Don't show off the status of your wealth. He who displays all his wealth is considered to be of lower status. Very often, the one who styles himself as rich will soon go begging (*Chavarul*, Part I,5).
7. Be frugal in spending, and don't spend beyond your means in celebrating anniversaries and festivals. For, no one knows how long one can keep up such a style. The light of a mini lamp that

burns longer is preferable to a torched haystack that blazes for a while and gets extinguished instantaneously (*Chavarul*, Part I,6).

8. Don't contract relationship with families that lack order and fear of God. For, it is not the rich who bring goodness and delight into your family, but the orderly and God-fearing relatives (*Chavarul*, Part I,8).
9. Don't entertain all sorts of people in your house, but receive only those who are well-mannered and God-fearing. As the old saying goes, "show me your friends and I will tell you who you are." (*Chavarul*, Part I,9).
10. Let everyone know that your house is not a place for indecent talk, unchristian conversations, grumbling and uncharitable criticism of neighbours or anyone else (*Chavarul*, Part I,10).

11. The wealth of a family does not lie in amassing innumerable possessions, but in their quality (*Chavarul*, Part I,11).
12. Laziness is the mother of all vices; it ends up in inculcating bad habits such as drinking. Alcoholism is a reprehensible evil in the society and the worst act before God (*Chavarul*, Part I,12).
13. Business is not only risky for your soul but also for your wealth. If there is no other option to make a living, you are not forbidden from pursuing business. It should, however, be carried out with due care, honesty, and justice (*Chavarul*, Part I,13).
14. Days on which you have not rendered any good to others will not be reckoned in the book of life (*Chavarul*, Part I,14).
15. Extravagance and miserliness are both sinful. Worms will devour the wealth of a miser. The luxuries of an extravagant will vanish like smoke (*Chavarul*, Part I,15).

16. You don't require many friends; but choose one carefully from among a thousand. Those who do not love God will not truly love you either (*Chavarul*, Part I,16).
17. Don't mingle with those who steal; for, certainly, they will not hesitate to steal your possessions. Moreover, you will have a share in their sin as well (*Chavarul*, Part I,17).
18. Don't deny or delay just wages to labourers; for, it is a grave sin crying out before the throne of God. Don't humiliate or trouble the poor; for, God will seek retribution from you on account of their tears (*Chavarul*, Part I,18).
19. The most valuable possession of a family consists in fear of and devotion to the Lord. A family in which the fear of the Lord pervades will enjoy the fruit of divine blessings in this world as well as in eternity (*Chavarul*, Part I,19).

20. Collecting pagan or heretical books or those containing lewd songs in the house is identical to hiding fire in haystacks. Parents shall procure for their children the treasure of books packed with wisdom and philosophical knowledge that enhance piety (*Chavarul*, Part I,21).
21. Children are sacred treasures entrusted to you by God Almighty (*Chavarul*, Part II,1).
22. If you desire your children to be with you and be helpful to you in your old age, ensure that they are trained to be good Christians in their tender age. If they do not fear and love the Lord when they are young, they will neither love nor respect their parents (*Chavarul*, Part II,1).
23. Both extreme strictness and too much leniency towards children are evil. While too much affection will make them proud, excessive anger and

punishment will lead to lack of trust, shamelessness, and intellectual incompetence in them (*Chavarul*, Part II,9).

24. If the parents don't love and respect each other, their children also will not respect them (*Chavarul*, Part II,9).
25. When they come of age, children should be given full freedom to choose their state of life. For, it is God who resolves on their state of life and it is the responsibility of the children to make the right choice; it is not the prerogative of the parents (*Chavarul*, Part II,14).
26. Seek in every alliance courteousness and noble qualities of conduct than wealth and social status. Otherwise, instead of joy and happiness, it may result in incessant grief for children as well as parents (*Chavarul*, Part II,14).

STUDENT'S PRAYER FOR SUCCESS IN STUDIES

Oh God, the fountain of all knowledge, I submit myself completely to your will. Enlighten my intellect, increase my memory and grant me the grace to concentrate in my studies, so that I may glorify You and be a living testimony of Christ. Remove all hindrances, disappointments and fear from my mind and give me the grace to trust You in all circumstances. Bless me to study with confidence and courage and to submit all my talents for the growth of Your Kingdom. Protect and preserve me, my school/college, my teachers, my classmates, my parents, and my siblings.

Oh Saint Kuriakose, you knew the importance of education and the role it played in building the Kingdom of God. At a time when education was not

popular and people were illiterate, you did your best to educate the public. You were a great teacher filled with wisdom and prudence. Saint Kuriakose, intercede for me that I may shine in my studies and be the light that Jesus wants me to be!
Amen

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

PRAYER TO SAINT KURIAKOSE FOR FAMILIES

Oh God, we thank you for giving us Saint Kuriakose as the patron of families. All the glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Saint Kuriakose, Devotee of the Holy Family, pray for us so that peace, love, unity, and prosperity may be preserved in our families. Help us to grow in true faith and have devotion and reverence to God. Grant us the strength to overcome the hardships of life and the grace to thank God in all circumstances. Teach us to seek only the will of God and always depend on His love. Increase our zeal for building the kingdom of God and instil in us the desire to live for the glory of God. Intercede for the diverse needs of each members of this family. Let vocations to priesthood and religious life arise from

our families. We trust in your intercession and ask you to obtain for us this particular favour ... (*silently present petitions*) ... from our merciful Abba, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

PRAYER TO SAINT KURIAKOSE ELIAS CHAVARA

Most loving Jesus, we thank you for giving us Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara as a role model of Christian life. Bless us who emulate the example of this Holy Father and grant us grace to grow in the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.

Oh Saint Kuriakose, You lived a very holy life doing the will of God. You dedicated your life for the Kingdom of God, you were a model for priests and religious and taught the families to grow in peace, joy, and happiness. Help us to follow the will of God in our lives, thereby glorify God and be living testimonies of Christ. Grant us the grace to learn the Word of God and love our neighbours as ourselves. Oh powerful mediator of the Holy Family, pray for our families. We ask you to pray

for this particular intention ... (*submit petitions*) ...

We thank you, oh Saint Kuriakose, and promise to always honour you as our special patron and encourage devotion to you. Amen.

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory be...

For more information

Chavara Central Secretariat

CMI Prior General's House
Chavara Hills, Kakkanad, Post Box 3105
Kochi 682 030 Kerala, India

www.chavaralibrary.in

PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we praise and thank you for giving Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara as a model in glorifying you and growing in spiritual life.

Loving Father, Saint Chavara, intercede for our family in a special way so that we may grow in faith and holiness like you. Help us to overcome the trials of our life and enjoy love and unity among ourselves. O! Father, Pray to Jesus to give the grace of joy and happiness to our parents; understanding and spirit of tolerance to couples and bless them with children; good state of life and suitable job to youngsters; wisdom and health to children. Intercede for us, so that we may love everybody, fulfill God's will and live in satisfaction with what we have. O dear Father, the great devotee of Holy Family, intercede before God to have vocations to Religious life and Priesthood from our families. Grant us the special favour we pray for..... through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Our Father/ Hail Mary/ Glory be.