

NOVENA FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025

This novena reflects on the mystery of Christ's self-giving love: His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, which is the source of our spiritual life. We can also draw inspiration from **Brother Gabriel Taborin**, a humble servant of God who dedicated his life to education and evangelization through his life and exemplifying the call to "give life" by forming youth in faith and virtue. Each day, we meditate on how Christ's sacrifice transforms us and calls us to pour out our lives in love for others. Let us begin as **pilgrims of hope**, confident that 'neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus' (Rm 8:38-39).

Prayer for each day

God our Father,
who has raised up in the Church
the Venerable Brother Gabriel Taborin
to promote Christian education, catechesis
and liturgical animation,
grant that, sharing his charism,
we may know how to carry out our mission today
for the good of the family and of society
with the strength of your Spirit.
And if it is your will,
grant that he may be numbered among the saints,
granting us through his intercession the grace we need...
(mention the names of the persons for whom you wish to pray)
We ask you this with insistence through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



Day 16. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (Jn 15:13)

Jesus' entire mission was one of self-donation. *He came not to be served, but to serve* (Mark 10:45). In His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, He revealed the depth of God's love and the promise of eternal hope. Through His sacrifice, despair is conquered, and life triumphs over death. (*Spes Salvi*)

Prayer: Lord, teach me to love as You loved. Fill me with the hope of Your Resurrection, that even in sacrifice, I may see the promise of new life. Like Brother Gabriel, may I pour out myself in service, not counting the cost, but trusting in Your victory over sin and death. Amen.

Day 17. "This is My Body, given for you." (Luke 22:19)

In the Eucharist, Jesus continues to give Himself to us, not as a mere remembrance, but as a living encounter with His redeeming love. Through His Passion and Death, He poured out His life for our salvation; in His Resurrection, He opened the way to eternal life. Every Mass renews this sacred mystery, filling us with hope that even our smallest sacrifices, united to His, bear fruit in God's kingdom. Brother Gabriel Taborin had a deep devotion to the Eucharist, seeing it as the source of his strength and the fire of his mission. Like him, we are called to receive Christ's gift with gratitude and allow His risen life to transform us.

Prayer: Lord, nourish me with Your Body and Blood, the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation. Fill me with the hope of Your Resurrection, that I may give myself to others with the same selfless love You showed on the Cross. May every Eucharist renew my strength and deepen my trust in Your victory over sin and death. Amen.

Day 18. "He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities." (Is 53:5)

Christ's Passion was not a tragic end, but a deliberate act of love. He freely embraced suffering to redeem us. Yet the Cross was not the final word. By rising from the tomb, Jesus unveiled the eternal weight of glory hidden within sorrow, showing that every wound surrendered to Him becomes a vessel of grace. (St. Thérèse of Lisieux)

Prayer: Jesus, help me embrace my crosses with faith, knowing that in Your hands, sacrifice bears fruit beyond what I can see. Fill me with the hope of Your Resurrection, that I may endure trials with courage. May I always trust that Your redeeming love turns even brokenness into grace. Amen.

Day 19. *"A sword will pierce your own soul too."* (Lk 2:35)

Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, her heart pierced with sorrow, yet her suffering was not without hope. Just as she shared in Christ's Passion, she also witnessed the glory of His Resurrection. In her, we see that God transforms sorrow into joy, and pain into redemption. Brother Gabriel, with deep Marian devotion, entrusted his work to her, knowing that just as she accompanied Jesus in His suffering and triumph, she walks with us in our trials and victories. Through her intercession, we learn to trust that no sorrow is wasted when united to Christ's sacrifice.

Prayer: Mary, Mother of Sorrows and Joy, help me to embrace my suffering with faith, as you did. Teach me to stand at the foot of the Cross with hope, knowing that the Resurrection is the promise of every wound surrendered to God. May I, like Brother Gabriel, place my trust in you, confident that God brings life even from pain. Amen.

Day 20. *"I am the Resurrection and the Life."* (Jn 11:25)

The empty tomb is God's final answer to suffering and death, not the end of Christ's story, but the radiant beginning of ours. In rising, Jesus didn't simply reverse death; He transformed it into a gateway to eternal life. (*Spe Salvi* §6) This Paschal mystery became the heartbeat of Brother Gabriel's witness. Through illness, hardship, and trials, he clung to resurrection hope, trusting that no suffering was wasted in God's hands. His life was a living testament that even in the darkest valleys, the light of Easter dawns.

Prayer: Risen Jesus, flood my heart with the unshakable joy of Easter! Make me a living testament to Your victory; where I see crosses, remind me of empty tombs; where I encounter death, let me proclaim life. Like Brother Gabriel, may I face every trial with unwavering hope, knowing that in You, every sacrifice is redeemed and every act of love echoes into eternity. Amen.

Day 21. *"Love one another as I have loved you."* (Jn 15:12)

The Holy Family reveals God's plan for love that sacrifices and hope that endures. In Nazareth's hidden years, we see Christ's future Passion already being lived - in Joseph's quiet obedience, Mary's faithful surrender, and Jesus' humble submission. (St. Thérèse of Lisieux) Brother Gabriel, inspired by their example, placed our congregation under their patronage, recognizing that the family is the first school where we learn to love as Christ loves.

Prayer: Holy Family, form my heart in your school of loving sacrifice. Teach me, like Brother Gabriel, to see my daily crosses as participation in Christ's redemptive work. May my family, my community, my work, and my struggles become a living offering of love and hope.

Day 22. *"Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it."* (Prov 22:6)

For Brother Gabriel, teaching was never simply a profession, it was a sacred vocation, a participation in Christ's own ministry of forming disciples. He understood that education, at its deepest level, is an act of love that echoes God's creative power. Just as Jesus, the Divine Teacher, spoke words that gave life (Jn 6:63), Brother Gabriel saw every lesson as an opportunity to nourish both minds and souls.

Prayer: Lord, make me an instrument of your life-giving wisdom. Whether as teacher, parent, or mentor, help me to share not just knowledge but the light of faith. May I, like Brother Gabriel, see each educational moment as a chance to lead others to you, the source of all truth. Bless my efforts with your grace, that they may bear fruit for eternity. Amen.

Day 23. *"Go and make disciples of all nations."* (Mt 28:19)

The Church is Christ's living body on earth, called to bring His light to every generation. Just as Jesus healed, taught, and loved, so must we, not by our own strength, but through the power of His Spirit. Brother Gabriel lived out this very profound call to his last breath. Through his charism, he formed and made disciples of Christ. Schools became outposts of the Kingdom, where young minds encountered Christ's truth and hearts were formed in His love. In classrooms and chapels, he lived the

Great Commission, not just teaching subjects, but forming souls who could transform the world with Gospel hope.

Prayer: Lord, awaken in me the fire of Your mission! Make me Your hands to serve, Your voice to teach, and Your heart to love. Like Brother Gabriel, may I see every encounter as a chance to make disciples, trusting that You work through even my smallest efforts. Send Your Spirit to guide me as I continue Your saving work in our world today. Amen.

Day 24. *"You will be My witnesses to the ends of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)

The Resurrection changes everything, not as a distant memory, but as a living mandate that propels us forward. When the Risen Christ breathes His Spirit upon us (John 20:22), He empowers us to become life-givers in a wounded world. Brother Gabriel understood this missionary fire. Today, our schools must not be just institutions but radiant hearths where the flame of faith is passed to new generations.

Prayer: Risen Lord, fill me with Your Pentecost fire! Make my ordinary days loaded with eternal purpose. Like Brother Gabriel, may I see every encounter, whether teaching a child or comforting the weary, as sacred ground for being witnesses of Hope.

Animation of the Cause of Beatification. April 2025