

EN

2026
Cenacolo
7 - 15 july



"Be opened!"

(Mk 7:34)

NOVENA

1st DAY - Tuesday July 7, 2026

BE OPENED TO LIFE!

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

*Holy Father,
Creator and Lover of Life,
we thank You for Mother Elvira's "yes," through which the Cenacolo Community was born.
Lord Jesus,
we praise and bless You because, throughout these 43 years, Your infinite Mercy
has worked the miracle of opening so many hearts that were once deaf and mute,
closed and hopeless, making them capable of listening to Your voice and speaking
a new language—the language of the joy of living!
Holy Spirit, during these days of the "Feast of Life," we will be gathered with Mary in this Cenacle:
come down upon us with power!
Open our lives wherever they are still closed to Your grace and Your light.
open our minds and our ears to hear the Word of God.
open our mouths to smiles, to prayer, to sharing, to praise, and to thanksgiving.
open our hearts to the love of God and to the service of our brothers and sisters.
Mary, Mother of the Cenacle, together with Mother Elvira from heaven, pray for us and with us!
Intercede for all those who will come up this hill, that they may receive the grace
to hear the voice of the Risen Jesus, say to their hearts: "Effatà... Be opened!",
so that they may live the beauty of new life in Christ!
Amen.*

From the Psalm 139 (138) (Ps 139: 1-3,13-17)

LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
you know when I sit and stand;
you understand my thoughts from afar.
You sift through my travels and my rest;
with all my ways you are familiar.
You formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.
I praise you, because I am wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works!
My very self you know.
My bones are not hidden from you,
When I was being made in secret,
fashioned in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw me unformed;
in your book all are written down;
my days were shaped, before one came to be.
How precious to me are your designs, O God;
how vast the sum of them!

- A Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – *My life is precious*

At last, let us celebrate the gift of life. Life is not something abstract. The Lord gave us our very bodies, which carry life within them. Just think: this life will never end. Everything that our hearts have longed for—everything beautiful, precious, meaningful, and worthwhile—we will one day receive. We must live by faith. Faith means entrusting ourselves to Someone, to God, who is the lover of life.

Do you truly want to live? Do you want to embrace life and experience it to the fullest? Then let us begin with our minds. What do I think about? What fills my thoughts each day? Let us allow light, beauty, hope, trust, forgiveness, and every good thing to enter our minds. It is within us that the real battle for our lives is fought. Our lives are shaped by who we are on the inside.

Come on, let us make a change. Let us begin to say, "I want to. I want to. I want to love my life." Your life is precious. Your life is capable of extraordinary things. This is what life is about—the life within us. We need to begin to care for and cherish our inner life: our feelings, our will, our freedom, our capacity to love, and the whole world that exists within us. Let us give thanks again and again for the gift of life. Remember just one thing: my life is precious.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

-PRAYER WITH MOTHER ELVIRA

Mother of waiting, who, with your heart, with your gaze,
with your tears, seek for your children who are lost in a world that has abandoned God.
We thank you because your love has brought us here
to give life, hope, joy and faith to many young men and women,
and to all those searching for truth, forgiveness, and peace.
We entrust ourselves to You, our most beloved Mother,
that you may mold us and teach us to listen to the living Word,
Your son, the Risen Christ,
so that we may reunite with Him one day in His Kingdom of light and salvation.
Here we are Mary, we are with You today and always! Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2nd DAY - Wednesday July 8, 2026

BE OPENED TO TRUST!

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

*Holy Father,
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we thank You for Mother Elvira's "yes," through which the Cenacolo Community was born.
Lord Jesus,
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Holy Spirit, during these days of the "Feast of Life," we will be gathered with Mary in this Cenacle:
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Intercede for all those who will come up this hill, that they may receive the grace
to hear the voice of the Risen Jesus, say to their hearts: "Effatà... Be opened!",
so that they may live the beauty of new life in Christ!
Amen.*

From the Psalm 31 (30) (Ps 31: 2-6,15-17,24-25)

In you, LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your righteousness deliver me;
incline your ear to me;
make haste to rescue me!
Be my rock of refuge,
a stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me.
Free me from the net they have set for me,
for you are my refuge.
Into your hands I commend my spirit;
you will redeem me, LORD, God of truth.
But I trust in you, LORD;
I say, "You are my God".
My destiny is in your hands;
rescue me from my enemies,
from the hands of my pursuers.
Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your mercy.
Love the LORD, all you who are faithful to him.
The LORD protects the loyal,
but repays the arrogant in full.
Be strong and take heart,
all who hope in the LORD.

- A Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – *Trust in the Community*

Trust without obedience is only wishful thinking. When we tell you how important it is to trust the community, we are not giving you an idea or a theory—we are giving you a response: obedience. To trust is to obey. I obey the Community because I trust it. When I came into this Community, I had no idea that I would meet you—that you would be kind, welcoming when you spoke to me, caring, loyal. I didn't know any of that. I simply decided, "I am entering this Community," because I trusted that Community.

The Community is not just a building or a house. The Community is your brothers and sisters. That is why you must be consistent. You came into the Community through an act of trust, so that trust is important and it must continue to grow. If you stay here constantly making calculations, following your own plans, or judging everything rationally—"If Elvira tells me, I'll do it. If Aurelia tells me, I'll do it. But if you tell me..."—then you are missing the point. If you are here to discover and cultivate within yourself the tree of trust—in life, in yourself, and in all those values you had stopped living—then trust everyone who is here to help you. Trust becomes another word for listening: listening that leads to action, listening that bears fruit. We listen, and then we act. Otherwise, we just keep going around in circles. That is how life is. Of course, there are always distractions and interferences. Many different influences cross our path: sympathy and dislike, "I like that person," "I don't like that one." These are all interferences. But fundamentally, we must keep our eyes fixed on one channel: trust.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

-PRAYER WITH MOTHER ELVIRA

Mother of waiting, who, with your heart, with your gaze,
with your tears, seek for your children who are lost in a world that has abandoned God.
We thank you because your love has brought us here
to give life, hope, joy and faith to many young men and women,
and to all those searching for truth, forgiveness, and peace.
We entrust ourselves to You, our most beloved Mother,
that you may mold us and teach us to listen to the living Word,
Your son, the Risen Christ,
so that we may reunite with Him one day in His Kingdom of light and salvation.
Here we are Mary, we are with You today and always! Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3rd DAY - Thursday July 9, 2026

BE OPENED TO LISTENING!

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

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Intercede for all those who will come up this hill, that they may receive the grace
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so that they may live the beauty of new life in Christ!
Amen.*

From the Psalm 81 (80) (Ps 81: 9-17)

Listen, my people, I will testify against you
If only you will listen to me, Israel!
There shall be no foreign god among you;
you shall not bow down to an alien god.
I am the LORD your God,
who brought you up from the land of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth that I may fill it.
But my people did not listen to my words;
Israel would not submit to me.
So I thrust them away to the hardness of their heart;
Let them walk in their own machinations.
O that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways,
In a moment I would humble their foes,
and turn back my hand against their oppressors.
Those who hate the LORD will try flattering him,
but their fate is fixed forever.
But Israel I will feed with the finest wheat,
I will satisfy them with honey from the rock.

- A Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – *Listening, Welcoming, and Obeying*

Let us respect the Word of God exactly as it is proclaimed and read, and let us allow ourselves to enter into it. Remember that the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us, will remind us of everything, just as Jesus promised when He said He would send the Holy Spirit. And the promises of Jesus are true—they are fulfilled, not only two thousand years ago, but today.

As I was saying, when we listen to the Word, we should do so with interest, with passion, and with love, saying to ourselves, "I want to hear what Jesus is saying today through today's Gospel," because it is God's Word speaking to us today. So we must not listen with our ears alone; we must welcome the Word into our hearts. It is possible to hear the Word in the same way we hear the noise of a cement mixer or the barking of a dog—only outwardly. How often do we do that? In fact, afterward I might ask, "What did the Word say?" And we look around and answer, "I don't remember." You see? We didn't really hear it at all. There must be a deeper step. I truly listen by letting go of other distractions and interests. I make room in my mind, in my will, and in my freedom. I focus my whole attention because I genuinely want to listen. And to listen means to welcome the Word. When we welcome it, it remains impressed in our minds, then it sinks more deeply into our hearts and our consciences, and from there comes the desire to obey it. Because if you have listened to the Word and welcomed it, but you do not put it into practice, you empty the presence of Jesus in your life and in your personal history of its power. Then everything we live becomes difficult and burdensome.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

-PRAYER WITH MOTHER ELVIRA

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with your tears, seek for your children whom are lost in a world that has abandoned God.
We thank you because your love has brought us here
to give life, hope, joy and faith to many young men and women,
and to all those searching for truth, forgiveness, and peace.
We entrust ourselves to You, our most beloved Mother,
that you may mold us and teach us to listen to the living Word,
Your son, the Risen Christ,
so that we may reunite with Him one day in His Kingdom of light and salvation.
Here we are Mary, we are with You today and always! Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BE OPENED TO PRAYER!

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- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

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so that they may live the beauty of new life in Christ!
Amen.*

From the Psalm 116 (114-115) (Ps 116: 1-8,12-19)

I love the LORD, who listened
to my voice in supplication,
Who turned an ear to me
on the day I called.
I was caught by the cords of death;
the snares of Sheol had seized me;
I felt agony and dread.
Then I called on the name of the LORD,
"O LORD, save my life!"
Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
yes, our God is merciful.
The LORD protects the simple;
I was helpless, but he saved me.
Return, my soul, to your rest;
the LORD has been very good to you.
For my soul has been freed from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
How can I repay the LORD
for all the great good done for me?
I will raise the cup of salvation*
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
Dear in the eyes of the LORD

is the death of his devoted.
LORD, I am your servant,
your servant, the child of your maidservant,
you have loosed my bonds.
I will offer a sacrifice of praise
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

- Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – *Prayer Is a Cry to God*

Where do we find the strength and the determination to keep going? We draw it from prayer. Every one of you has faith. We have all received the gift of faith. The question is: how do you help it grow? Begin by praying. What is prayer? Prayer is a sigh to God; it is a cry to God! Start simply by making the Sign of the Cross. If you don't know how, you will learn little by little. Perhaps you have never known this reality of prayer before, but you can discover it today. Prayer is born from this desire to communicate with God, to enter into a dialogue with Him—whether by praying the Our Father or simply speaking to Him in your own words. Speak to Him naturally. Say, "Lord, I place myself in Your hands. I don't know what may happen to me today. Protect me." Pray the Hail Mary and say to Our Lady, "Protect me." Speak to the Lord. He is the One who gave us the gift of hearing. Do you think He cannot hear our voices? He hears us wherever we are and however we speak. He hears because His is the ear of the heart. He reads and understands our thoughts. If those thoughts are turned toward Him, He responds immediately. Then what? We often pray for God's providence, don't we? So, pray! Understand that the Lord truly hears us. This is what I want to tell you: when problems arise, instead of arguing, complaining, or cursing, say, "Lord, You know." This is our prayer: trusting in Him, believing that He truly listens, that He knows, and that He knows exactly what we need. Jesus is deeply humble. The Lord is good, and He has left us free. If we do not invite Him, He does not force His way in. He does not attack or break down the door. Why? Because He created us to be free—free and intelligent. And this is what we call prayer.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

-PRAYER WITH MOTHER ELVIRA

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Your son, the Risen Christ,
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Here we are Mary, we are with You today and always! Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5th DAY - Saturday July 11, 2026

BE OPENED TO SHARING!

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

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Intercede for all those who will come up this hill, that they may receive the grace
to hear the voice of the Risen Jesus, say to their hearts: "Effatà... Be opened!",
so that they may live the beauty of new life in Christ!
Amen.*

From the Psalm 133

How good and how pleasant it is,
when brothers dwell together as one!
Like fine oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
Upon the beard of Aaron,
upon the collar of his robe.
Like dew of Hermon coming down
upon the mountains of Zion.
There the LORD has decreed a blessing,
life for evermore!

- A Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – Share in Order to Love and Open Your Heart

Sharing is a moment—right now, aside from Saluzzo, where there are always about forty of us and the group is always changing because young people are constantly coming and going—but in the other houses where you live together 24 hours a day, perhaps for a year or two, you live together, get to know one another, form deep bonds, and love one another more deeply. So you share together the proposal you'd like to put forward: this capacity to love, to forgive, to start over, to stand in for a brother who's going through a crisis, to understand him—and certainly to rebuke him, to set him straight. When you love, you hold your brother accountable; if you're truly a friend, you don't let him get away with just anything because you care about his growth—but you suffer with him, pray with him, and fast with him if necessary, to achieve something great. The Community wants to reach the heart of a person, not just the surface of a brother—the heart where you suffer, where you rejoice, where you love, where you trust, where you think. But it's true that only if we open our hearts

to love many people—the more we're able to love many, the more we gain and receive in return—because our heart expands, widens, and loves.

Certainly, one may be more naturally inclined, by character or temperament, toward one brother than another. I love you just as you are, in the situation you're in, with the needs you have. What matters is love, and then, when the other person needs to be understood, loved, forgiven, and helped, you're there. Now is truly the time to awaken the heart, to awaken the heart.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

-PRAYER WITH MOTHER ELVIRA

Mother of waiting, who, with your heart, with your gaze,
with your tears, seek for your children who are lost in a world that has abandoned God.
We thank you because your love has brought us here
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Your son, the Risen Christ,
so that we may reunite with Him one day in His Kingdom of light and salvation.
Here we are Mary, we are with You today and always! Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

6th DAY - Sunday July 12, 2026

BE OPENED TO SERVICE!

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

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so that they may live the beauty of new life in Christ!
Amen.*

From the Gospel according to John (Jn 13: 1.3-9,12-15)

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus fully aware that the Father had put everything into his power and that he had come from God and was returning to God,
he rose from supper and took off his outer garments. He took a towel and tied it around his waist.
Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Master, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing, you do not understand now, but you will understand later."

Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "Unless I wash you, you will have no inheritance with me."

Simon Peter said to him, "Master, then not only my feet, but my hands and head as well."

So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, "Do you realize what I have done for you?"

You call me 'teacher' and 'master,' and rightly so, for indeed I am.

If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.

- Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – Let Us Serve with Love

Love is shown above all through selflessness. When you do something, when you make a choice, do it freely, without expecting anything in return. Whatever comes, comes. As I was saying this morning, there is something truly great and beautiful about serving. But do not serve because you have to, or because you want to be noticed, or simply because it is your duty. Serve with love. To

serve with love means to be attentive, thoughtful, and intuitive. It means noticing what is needed before anyone has to ask you. It is a love that gives its life, yet in giving it away, you find your life again. Do not serve to gain recognition, because you are the oldest, because it is expected of you, or because you are in a position of responsibility. We are all called to serve, and that means we can always serve. Jesus said it clearly: "Whoever wants to become great must be the servant of all." Be the least. What does that mean? It means having no expectations. If someone thanks you, you are happy. If no one thanks you, you are just as happy. To be able to serve is to reign. You discover that your life is rich—rich because of the gifts you are able to give to all those whom you serve. Then you feel mature, free, and truly useful. Let us always examine the quality of our love. Ask yourself: How much love did I put into this act of service? Because it is love that gives us energy, strength, and the true joy and meaning of life.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

-PRAYER WITH MOTHER ELVIRA

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7th DAY - Monday July 13, 2026

BE OPENED TO TESTIMONY!

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- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

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Amen.*

From the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (Is 49: 1b-5b.6)

Hear me, coastlands,
listen, distant peoples.
Before birth the LORD called me,
from my mother's womb he gave me my name.
He made my mouth like a sharp-edged sword,
concealed me, shielded by his hand.
He made me a sharpened arrow,
in his quiver he hid me.
He said to me, You are my servant,
in you, Israel, I show my glory.
Though I thought I had toiled in vain,
for nothing and for naught spent my strength,
Yet my right is with the LORD,
my recompense is with my God.
For now the LORD has spoken
who formed me as his servant from the womb,
That Jacob may be brought back to him
and Israel gathered to him;
It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,
and restore the survivors of Israel;
I will make you a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

- A Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – *Witness Through Your Life*

You have walked a journey, and it is important that this journey becomes visible, that it becomes a witness. It is true that, at a certain point, people no longer listen even to spoken testimonies; words alone are no longer enough. People listen with their eyes. Real testimony is no longer primarily made of words, but of one's own life. When we give a testimony, we should at least have the desire to say: I have lived at least a small part of what I am speaking about.

It is not enough simply to have listened, memorized, and repeated the Word. We must enter into it and allow it to become part of us. Then we can speak from what we live. What truly touches others is what we live: our attitude, the tone of our voice, our conviction, and the visible desire to seek what is essential and to help others. We can truly bear witness only when we have already borne witness to ourselves: when we are at peace with one person, reconciled with another. These are deeply personal steps that each of us must take before we can authentically speak about the Community or about faith.

Because it is your life that must bear witness. You must first bear witness to yourself. You must believe for yourself. You must be well within yourself. Do not put on a performance for others. Let goodness become the blood in your veins, the flesh of your flesh. Kindness, mercy, patience, refusing to criticize, refusing to point the finger, refusing to hate—these are the real signs of a transformed life. In fact, the more we speak about goodness with our lips, the more we realize how important it is that our lives be consistent with our words.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

-PRAYER WITH MOTHER ELVIRA

Mother of waiting, who, with your heart, with your gaze,
with your tears, seek for your children who are lost in a world that has abandoned God.
We thank you because your love has brought us here
to give life, hope, joy and faith to many young men and women,
and to all those searching for truth, forgiveness, and peace.
We entrust ourselves to You, our most beloved Mother,
that you may mold us and teach us to listen to the living Word,
Your son, the Risen Christ,
so that we may reunite with Him one day in His Kingdom of light and salvation.
Here we are Mary, we are with You today and always! Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

8th DAY - Tuesday July 14, 2026

BE OPENED TO MISSION!

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

*Holy Father,
Creator and Lover of Life,
we thank You for Mother Elvira's "yes," through which the Cenacolo Community was born.
Lord Jesus,
we praise and bless You because, throughout these 43 years, Your infinite Mercy
has worked the miracle of opening so many hearts that were once deaf and mute,
closed and hopeless, making them capable of listening to Your voice and speaking
a new language—the language of the joy of living!
Holy Spirit, during these days of the "Feast of Life," we will be gathered with Mary in this Cenacle:
come down upon us with power!
Open our lives wherever they are still closed to Your grace and Your light.
open our minds and our ears to hear the Word of God.
open our mouths to smiles, to prayer, to sharing, to praise, and to thanksgiving.
open our hearts to the love of God and to the service of our brothers and sisters.
Mary, Mother of the Cenacle, together with Mother Elvira from heaven, pray for us and with us!
Intercede for all those who will come up this hill, that they may receive the grace
to hear the voice of the Risen Jesus, say to their hearts: "Effatà... Be opened!",
so that they may live the beauty of new life in Christ!
Amen.*

From the Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 10:1.5b-10.16)

Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick. The laborer deserves his keep. Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves.

- Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – Missionaries by Going Beyond Ourselves

We go with our own poverty and weakness. We go in solidarity with a world that suffers, that searches, that longs to choose God. We have encountered Him. We can no longer say that we do not know this God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: a God of family, friendship, love, and dialogue, everything our hearts truly need. I also like to reflect on the fact that, in Baptism, we all received the missionary vocation.

Jesus said, "Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News." He said this to everyone. He did not say it only to priests, brothers, sisters, or missionaries. He said it to all of us, because through Baptism we have all received this mission. We have become missionaries, priests, kings, and prophets—not because of our own abilities, but because God's power has been poured out upon us. He does this because He is good, and because He wants us to share with others what we ourselves have received through His mercy and His love. To be a missionary means freeing ourselves and overcoming our laziness. To be a missionary means to go. We become missionaries when we step

out of our selfishness, our fears, our pride, our judgments, and the walls we have built around ourselves. We become missionaries when we leave behind the things we have constructed for our own security and, with faith, go out to meet a brother or sister. A missionary is someone who never grows tired of going beyond himself or herself in order to encounter the other, whoever that person may be.

Our Father, 10 Hail Mary, Glory Be

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with your tears, seek for your children whom are lost in a world that has abandoned God.
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to give life, hope, joy and faith to many young men and women,
and to all those searching for truth, forgiveness, and peace.
We entrust ourselves to You, our most beloved Mother,
that you may mold us and teach us to listen to the living Word,
Your son, the Risen Christ,
so that we may reunite with Him one day in His Kingdom of light and salvation.
Here we are Mary, we are with You today and always! Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BE OPENED TO THE WILL OF GOD!

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- Prayer for the Festival of Life 2026

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so that they may live the beauty of new life in Christ!
Amen.*

From the Psalm 40 (39) (Ps 40: 2-9)

Surely, I wait for the LORD;
who bends down to me and hears my cry,
Draws me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the muddy clay,
Sets my feet upon rock,
steadies my steps,
And puts a new song in my mouth,
a hymn to our God.
Many shall look on in fear
and they shall trust in the LORD.
Blessed the man who sets
his security in the LORD,
who turns not to the arrogant
or to those who stray after falsehood.
You, yes you, O LORD, my God,
have done many wondrous deeds!
And in your plans for us
there is none to equal you.
Should I wish to declare or tell them,
too many are they to recount.
Sacrifice and offering you do not want;
you opened my ears.
Holocaust and sin-offering you do not request;
so I said, "See; I come

with an inscribed scroll written upon me.
I delight to do your will, my God;
your law is in my inner being!"

- A Spark of Light from Mother Elvira – *Trusting in the Will of God*

It is a covenant, a condition I have placed before the Lord: do not make Your will known to me unless I am about to carry it out. Why should the Lord tell us everything in advance? If He is God, then He is Lord. When we try to plan everything ourselves, it feels almost like an offense. When we try to manage life in a purely technical, numerical way—strict schedules, fixed plans, this and that, here and there—it seems as though we are eliminating someone very important, the only One who truly matters. Faith obliges us to trust. Otherwise, faith becomes nothing more than religious formalism. For us, faith is a living Person to look in the eyes, to listen to with the ears of the heart, to trust completely—to throw ourselves out of an airplane without a parachute. In other words, to truly trust. This morning I even had to ask Jesus for forgiveness, because I realize that when I say “trust,” I am also trying to convince myself. It is not yet a perfect faith. I do not fully possess it. But even as I say it, I become more convinced. And next time, perhaps the sun will not come on Sunday morning but on Saturday evening instead—because we need to live this experience. We should be constantly speaking to one another about trust in God. Our problems are not solved by patting each other on the back or exchanging nice words. God has His rightful place. We must show deep respect for a living God, for a risen God.

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