

Summary of the nine-day Novena Mass

Day 1, July 19

The theme of the first day Novena was on the “Eucharist.” Ms. Marifi A. Geolina from the Center of Educators Formation gave a meaningful reflection on the Eucharist reliving the words of Saint Pedro Poveda, “The story of your communion is the story of your life.” (*Staunch Friends of God*, 135).

Day 2, July 20

Ms. Ma. Theresa Gayondato emphasized her reflection on the theme “Love for one another.” “In a complex environment of hatred and violence, there is an urgent need to manifest our love for one another,” she further said.

Day 3, July 21

Judge Cheryll Chamen-Paronda, former I.T. Youth shared a profound meaning and reflection on the theme “Truth” with the conviction to pronounce the words of Saint Pedro Poveda, “You cannot believe with all your heart and keep silent.”

Day 4, July 22

Mr. Antonio S. Lumactod, An ACIT member inspiringly delivered his reflection on the theme “Teacher”. He challenged everyone to be mindful of Saint Pedro Poveda’s exhortation, “Give me teachers with vocation, and I will give you back a method, a school, pedagogy.” He also shared the context of Spain during the civil war that when crucifixes were taken out from schools and churches were burnt, the committed lay Christian Teachers took over the role of the religious, nuns and priests who were persecuted and not allowed to teach in public schools and universities.

Day 5, July 23

The theme on Mary was the focused of the fifth day Novena Mass. Cora Viado, a member of the Primary Association who works in Japan, shared with praise and thanksgiving Mary’s role in our life as she quoted the words of Saint Pedro Poveda, “Bring people to the Blessed Mother for this is the greatest work of charity that you can do for others.”

Day 6, July 24

“Prayer and Study” was the theme of the sixth day Novena Mass. With this theme, Mr. Emmanuel Joseph O. Innis, the President of ACIT-Philippines reinforced the importance of prayer and study to every educator during Poveda’s times as well as today. He encouraged the Christian faithful citing the words of Saint Pedro Poveda, “You must prove in your deeds that knowledge harmonizes well with sanctity of life.

Day 7, July 25

Fr. Marcelo April B. Yap, former IT Youth meaningfully gave some relevant points on the theme “Priesthood” anchored on the life and martyrdom of Saint Pedro Poveda as a diocesan priest who declared himself “I am a priest of Christ” in front of his persecutors.

Day 8, July 26

Centered on the theme “Love for the Poor”. The sharer, Ms. Ria Ruiz, a member of the TA General Council accentuated the words of Saint Pedro Poveda, “No one represents Christ better than the poor. Treat them with respect and protect them with love.”

Day 9, July 27

Ms. Lady Vanessa B. Cabang, a faculty member of the Institucion Teresiana de Educacion y Cultura, Inc. (Saint Pedro Poveda College) Davao joyfully shared the meaning of “Vocation” as the theme of the ninth day Novena Mass. She challenged the congregation to develop greater meaning of their call and profession quoting the words of Saint Pedro Poveda, “Look at Christ and learn everything he teaches you from the cross.” (*Staunch Friends of God*, 236).