

Introduction.

The 'Novena de Aguinaldos' is a traditional practice of popular Colombian religion. Its creator was 'Fray Fernando de Jesus Larrea' a Franciscan from Quito Ecuador, who in the late eighteenth century sent it to his spiritual child Doña Clemencia Gertrudis de Jesus Velez Caycedo Ladrón de Guevara de Aróstegui y Escoto, founder of the religious school 'La Enseñanza' in Bogotá.

In the nineteenth century, Mother Maria Ignacia, from the religious community 'La Enseñanza' (her name was Bertilda Samper Acosta) daughter of two writers (Don Jose Mario Samper and Doña Soledad Acosta) reformed and composed the so called 'joys'.

According to Father Carlos Augusto Mesa, this tradition is so Colombian that is it practically unknown elsewhere. The closest thing to the Novena are the 'Mexican posadas' a tradition in Mexico that is similar in form but not in content. They evoke the journey of Mary and Joseph asking for lodging before the birth in Bethlehem. Like the Novena, it is done between the 16th and the 24th of December.

The Novena de Aguinaldos is similar to other novenas such as the Immaculate Conception, with the difference that the Aguinaldos is the last preparation at the end of Advent for the coming of baby Jesus. For priests, the old version is the official one, because over time some have wanted to change the text to make them more understandable to people, but has fallen into inaccuracies.



The Pilgrims of Love Mission would like to invite you to a gathering to celebrate the mystery of Christmas.

This novena will begin on December 16th and will end on December 24th, marking the date of the birth of Christ with the celebration of the Holy Communion at midnight.

The Liturgical Station of the birth of Christ is, for us, the Pilgrims of Love, our main festivity, since the Divine Infant Jesus is the light which guides our evangelical mission around the world.

We believe in our hearts that it is the birth of the Christ Child, who was born in a poor and humble manger in Bethlehem, which brings us the greatest message of love and redemption.

Let us try to identify with the teachings of Baby Jesus, learning to be small, humble and docile of heart.

Let us live this Christmas as if it were the first and the last of our lives, with all our heart and with all our love for the arrival of our Messiah and Saviour.

Every Day Prayer.

To Start the Novena.

Oh most benign God of infinite charity, Who loves mankind so much that You gave us in your Son, the best token of Your love, that You became man in the womb of the Virgin, to be born in a manger for our health and remedy; I, in the name of all humanity, give infinite thanks for this sovereign gift.

In return, I offer You the poverty, humility and other virtues of Your Son, made Man; beseeching You for His divine merits, for the inconveniences in which He was born and for the tender tears that spilled in the manger, prepare our hearts with profound humility, a fiery love and total contempt of all the earthly things, so that the newborn Jesus may keep His cradle in them, and dwell there eternally. Amen.

*Recite three Glory Be's
Follow by the consideration of the day.*

irst Consideration.

December 16th.

In the beginning of times the Word rested in the bosom of the Father in the highest Heavens: there was the origin, the model of every creation.

In those depths of an incalculable eternity the Child of Bethlehem remained. There is where we should date the genealogy of the Eternal one that has no ancestors, and contemplate the life of infinite complacency that came from there.

The life of the Eternal Word in the bosom of its Father was a marvelous life, and yet, through sublime mystery, sought another dwelling in a mansion, created. It was not because His eternal mansion lacked something in its infinite happiness but because His infinite mercy longed for the redemption and salvation of human kind, which without Him, would not be fulfilled.

The sin of Adam had offended God and that infinite offense could not be forgiven, except by the merits of that

same God. The race of Adam had disobeyed and deserved an eternal punishment; therefore in order to save it and to satisfy that fault, God, without leaving Heaven, took the form of man on the earth and with the obedience to the plans of His Father, atoned for that disobedience, ingratitude and defiance.

It was necessary in the gaze of His love that He take the form, the weaknesses and systematic ignorance of man, to grow and to give spiritual growth; to suffer and die to passions and pride. For this, the Eternal Word, burning with the desire of saving man, resolved to be made man and therefore redeem the guilty one.

*Consideration of the day,
followed by the Prayer to the
Most Holy Virgin...*



Prayer to the Most Holy Virgin.

Every Day Prayer

Sovereign Mary, by your great virtues and especially by your humility, you rightly deserved that God would choose you for His mother, I implore that you prepare my soul, and the souls of all those who are making this novena at this time, for the spiritual birth of your adored Son.

Oh sweetest Mother! Grant us the profound recollection and divine tenderness in which you waited for God, so that we may become worthy to see, love and adore Him for all eternity. Amen.

Recite three Holy Mary's and Glory Be's



Prayer to Saint Joseph.

Every Day Prayer

Oh most holy Saint Joseph! Husband of Mary and adopted father of Jesus. I give God infinite thanks, because He chose you for such a noble position and adorned you with all the gifts worthy of such excellent greatness.

I request that, by the love that you have for the Divine Child, burn in me, the fervent desires to see Him and to receive Him sacramentally, until I may see and take joy in His Divine Essence in Heaven. Amen.

Recite one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.



ASPIRACIONES PARA LA VENIDA DEL NIÑO JESUS



*Dulce Jesús mío, mi Niño adorado,
¡Ven a nuestras almas!
¡Ven no tardes tanto!*

¡Oh Sapiencia suma
del Dios soberano,
que a infantil alcance
te rebajas sacro!
¡Oh Divino Niño,
ven para enseñarnos
la prudencia que hace
verdaderos sabios!

*Dulce Jesús mío, mi Niño adorado,
¡Ven a nuestras almas!
¡Ven, no tardes tanto!*

¡Oh Adonái potente
que a Moisés hablando,
de Israel al pueblo
disteis los mandatos!
Ah! Ven prontamente
para rescatarnos
y que un Niño Débil
muestre fuerte brazo!

*Dulce Jesús mío, mi Niño adorado,
¡Ven a nuestras almas!
¡Ven, no tardes tanto!*

¡Oh raíz sagrada
de Jesé, que en lo alto
presentas al orbe
tu fragante nardo!
¡Dulcísimo Niño
que has sido llamado
“Lirio de los valles
bella flor del campo”

*Dulce Jesús mío, mi Niño adorado,
¡Ven a nuestras almas!
¡Ven, no tardes tanto!*

¡Llave de David
que abre al desterrado
las cerradas puertas
de regio palacio!



JOYS DIVINE INFANT JESUS



*Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!*

With His highest wisdom
Our Sovereign God smiled
And Chose to be lowered
To the state of a child!
Divine Infant, come teach us
And we will agree
With the prudence we learn
True wise men we'll be!

*Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!*

Oh, powerful God
Through Moses is speaking,
To Israel's people
The commandments He's seeking!
This Child seems so weak
Yet His arms are so strong
Come promptly to save us
And keep us from wrong!



*Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!*

Oh most holy root
Bloom of Jesse's tree
Present to the world
Your fragrance, so sweet
Dear sweet Child
Flower of the field
Lily of the Valley
You are now revealed

*Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!*

The great key of David
That opens the doors
And welcomes the exiled
To royal palace shores!
Baby Jesus release us
With Your gentle aid
From this tragic jail
Which our sins have made!

*Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!*



Oh light of the East
The eternal suns rays
Splendors in the darkness
And falls on our gaze!
Oh precious Child
Our Christian joy
Show us Your smile
Oh dear sweet boy!

Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!



Holy of Holies,
A Spotless mirror
The unsurpassed image
Almighty God's, nearer!
You come as a Child
And save the banished
Protect the wretched
And our sins are vanished!

Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!

The King of nations,
Illustrious Emmanuel
Shepherd of the flock!
The longed for, of Israel!
Sweet Child Who guards
The dear little lamb
With Your staff, gently guides
The sheep and the ram!

Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!

The Heavens open up
Rain falls from above
Beneficial dews
Wash us with love!
Come God incarnate
New Child unconcealed
The stars brilliant light
Flower of the field



Oh my sweetest Jesus,
My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!

Come and see Mary
Who readies her arms
To hold her new born
And share her Sons' charms
Come, see St. Joseph
Yearning, mild as a dove
Preparing of himself
A tabernacle of Your love!

Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!

Aid for the suffering
Protector of the weak
Comfort for the sad
Light whom the banished seek!
Life of my life
My adored Master,
My constant friend,
My Divine Pastor!

Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!

I see before me
You whom I love!
I kiss Your feet
And Your hands above!
Prostrate on the ground
with my arms stretched out
what my words can't confirm
my cries leave no doubt.

Oh my sweetest Jesus, My beloved child
¡Come our souls are waiting, for Your love so mild!
¡Come our souls are waiting!

Come, our Saviour,
for whom we wait
Come to our souls,
Do not be late!

rayer to the Divine Infant Jesus.

Every Day Prayer to End the Novena.

Remember, Oh Holy Child Jesus, that which you have said to venerable Sister Margaret of the Blessed Sacrament, these words so full of consolation for our poor, burdened and suffering humanity: "Ask all that you desire through the merits of My Holy Childhood. Nothing will be refused you."

(pause so that everyone can make their petitions in silence)

Full of confidence in You O Jesus, Who are Truth itself, we come to make known all our misery to You. Help us to lead a Holy life in order to attain a Blessed Eternity. Grant us through the Infinite Merits of Your Incarnation and of Your Childhood, the graces of which we are in most need.

No, we shall not be deceived in our hope. We abandon ourselves to You, Oh Omnipotent God, so that in virtue of Your Divine Promise, You will favorably receive and deign to grant our prayer. Amen.

econd Consideration.

December 17th.

The eternal Word was on the verge of taking its created nature in the house in Nazareth where Mary and Joseph lived. When the shadow of the divine secret came to rest over her, Mary was alone, engulfed in prayer. The silent hours of the night passed in the closest union with God, and during that prayer, the Word took on His human nature. This did not happen unexpectedly; before becoming present, a messenger, Archangel Saint Gabriel, was sent to ask Mary, on behalf of God, for her consent for the incarnation. The Creator did not want to perform this great mystery without the acceptance of His creature.

That moment was very solemn. Mary had within her, the power to refuse. With what adorable delights, with what ineffable pleasure would the most Holy Trinity await for Mary to open her lips and pronounced her Fiat, that must have been a soft sweet melody for His ears, and with that, conformed her deep humility to the Omnipotent Divine Will!

The Immaculate Virgin has given her assent. The Archangel has disappeared. God has clothed Himself in the flesh, the eternal will has been fulfilled and the creation complete. The Word was made flesh, and though still invisible to the world, now lived among the men that His immense love has come to rescue.

*Consideration of the day, followed by the
Prayer to the
Most Holy Virgin...*



Child Consideration.

December 18th.

Thus began the life incarnate of the Child Jesus. We consider the Glorious Soul and the Holy Body, worshipping them deeply.

First, admiring the soul of that Divine Child, we consider the fullness of this beatific vision, from which, since the first moment of life, saw the Divine Essence more clearly than all the angels and read It's past and future with all it's mystery and verity.

From the soul of the Child Jesus, we pass now to His body, which was a world of wonders, a masterpiece of the hand of God. Desiring to be small and weak like those of all the children and subject to all the inconveniences of infancy, to resemble us more and to participate in our humiliations.

The beauty of this Body of the Divine Child was far superior then could be imagined, and the Divine Blood

circulated in His veins from the moment of the Incarnation is the Blood that washed all the stains from the guilty world.

We beg You to wash us in the sacrament of repentance, so that the day of Your Happy Birth finds us purified, forgiven and willing to receive Him with love and spiritual advantage.

*Consideration of the day, followed by the
Prayer to the Most Holy Virgin...*

ourth Consideration.

December 19th.

From the breast of His Mother, the Child Jesus began to put into practice His eternal submission to God, which continued without interruption throughout His life. He worshipped His Eternal Father, loved Him, submitted to His will; accepted with resignation all the weakness, all the humiliation and all the inconveniences.

Which of us would like to go back to a similar state with the full joy of reason and reflection? This is where the Divine Child entered His painful and humiliating career; here started the annihilation before His Father; to teach us what God deserves on the part of His creature; to atone for our pride, the origin of all our sins.

Do we desire to make a true prayer? Let us begin by forming an exact idea, contemplate the Child in the womb of His Mother. The Divine Boy prays and He prays in the most excellent way. He does NOT speak, does not meditate, neither does He dissolve in tender purposes. He accepts

whatever state He is in, with the intention to honor God, in prayer and in whatever state, highly express all that God deserves and in what form He should be adored by us.

Unite ourselves to the adorations of the Child God in the womb of Mary; unite ourselves to His deep humiliation, and let this be the first effect of our sacrifice to God. That we ourselves disappear in our own eyes, and God becomes everything for us.

*Consideration of the day, followed by the
Prayer to the Most Holy Virgin...*

ifth Consideration.

December 20th.

We have now seen the life that carried the Baby Jesus in the womb of His Virgin Mother; today we see the life that carries also Mary, during the same period of time.

Mary did not cease to aspire to the moment in which she would enjoy that terrestrial beatific vision, the face of God Incarnate. She was on the verge of seeing that human face which would illuminate the sky during all eternity. She was going to read the subsidiary love in those same eyes, whose rays should spread for always, the happiness in millions of chosen. She was going to see Him in the apparent ignorance of infancy, in the private charms of youth and in the reflective serenity of mature age.

Such was the life of the expectation of Mary! She would think it unheard-of for her self, but because of this, she would become the magnificent symbol of all Christian life. It should not suffice for us to admire the Baby Jesus dwelling in the Virgin Mary, but to think also that in each one of us He resides in essence, power and presence.



ixth Consideration.

21th of December.

Jesus had been conceived in Nazareth, in the residence of Joseph and Mary, and in all probability, He should have been born there. But God had arranged otherwise, and the prophets had announced that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem of Judah, city of David.

In order to fulfill this prediction, God used an instrument that did not seem to have any relation with this purpose; the order given by the emperor Augusto that all the subjects of the Roman Empire were to be registered in the land of their native birthplace. Mary and Joseph, as he descendants of David, were obliged to go to Bethlehem.

Jesus did not ignore the place in which He should be born and thus, inspires His parents to surrender to Providence, and in this manner they assent to the execution of His plans.

Interior souls, take heed of the Divine Child's ways,
because it is the most important lesson of spiritual life:
learn, that whoever has surrendered to God, no longer
belongs to oneself, nor should want, except that which God
wants for him.

*Consideration of the day, followed by the
Prayer to the Most Holy Virgin...*

eventh Consideration.

December 22th.

Let us picture Mary and Joseph's trip toward Bethlehem, carrying with them, the not yet born Creator of the universe, made man. Contemplate the humility and obedience of that Divine Child, who although of Jewish race and having loved His people during centuries with an inexplicable predilection, obeys a foreign prince who forms the population census of his province, as if that circumstance had something to gratify Him, and He wanted to hurry to take advantage of the occasion to register officially and authentically as a subject at the moment in which he was entering the world.

The longing of Joseph, the expectation of Mary are things that human language can not express. The Eternal Father is, if it is lawful to employ this expression, adorably impatient to give His only Son to the world and see Him occupy His place among the visible creatures.

The Holy Spirit burns with desire to present in the light of day, this Holy Humanity, which He Himself formed with Divine care.

Eighth Consideration.

December 23th.

Joseph and Mary arrive in Bethlehem seeking lodging at the inns, but they do not find any, either because they are all occupied or because they are rejected on account of their poverty. However, nothing can disturb the interior peace of the ones that are fixed in God.

If Joseph experienced sadness when he was rejected house after house, because he thought about Mary and the Child, he also smiled with holy tranquility when he set his eyes on his chaste wife. The noise of each door that closed before them was a sweet melody for their ears.

That is what He had come to seek. The desire of those humiliations is what had contributed to make Him take the human form. Oh! Divine Child of Bethlehem! These days that so many people have passed in celebrations and diversions or resting comfortably in wealthy mansions, has been for Your parents a day of fatigue and degradations of every sort. Alas! The spirit of Bethlehem is that of a world that has forgotten God.

How many times has our world not been likewise!

On December 24th the sun sets behind the rooftops of Bethlehem and its last rays gild the top of the steep rocks that surround it. Rude men roughly elbow the Lord in the streets of that eastern village and close their doors when they see His Mother.

The vault of the skies appears violet above those hills frequented by the shepherds. The stars start appearing one after another. In a few more hours the Eternal Word will appear.

*Consideration of the day, followed by the
Prayer to the Most Holy Virgin...*

Ninth Consideration.

December 24th.

The night has come to a close in Bethlehem's countryside. Rejected by men and being without shelter, Mary and Joseph have left the inhospitable town and they have found refuge in a grotto at the foot of the hill. The Queen of Angels was being followed by the donkey she had ridden on during the trip and in the cave they found a docile ox probably left there by one of the pilgrims who came looking for lodging in the town.

The Divine Child, unknown by His rational creatures has to turn to the irrational so that with their warm breath they heat the frozen atmosphere on that night of winter, demonstrating in this manner their humble attitude, respect and adoration that Bethlehem had denied Him. The reddish lantern that Joseph was holding weakly illuminated the poor enclosure, that manger full of straw which is the prophetic figure of the wonders of the altar and the intimate and prodigious Eucharistic union that

Jesus will pledge with men. Mary is in adoration in the middle of the chamber, and thus the hours silently pass on that night full of mysteries., frankincense and myrrh, before the feet of the Divine Child, symbols of charity, worship and mortification.

But midnight has arrived and suddenly we see in the previously empty manger, the expected Divine Child, predicted, desired for four thousand years with such ineffable yearnings. His most holy Mother prostrates herself in a profound attitude of adoration, impossible to fathom.

Joseph also approaches and pays the homage with which he inaugurates his mysterious and unflappable duty as adopted father of the redeemer of mankind.

The multitude of angels that descend from the sky to contemplate that unparalleled wonder let their joy explode with their harmonies of the Glory in Excelsis creating vibrations in the air, which is the echo of adoration that is produced around the throne of the Most High made perceptible for an instant to the ears of the poor creatures.

Summoned by them, the shepherds come in numbers from all over the region to worship the newborn, presenting their humble offerings.

The mysterious star of Jacob already shines in the East, and sets into motion the splendid caravan of the Magi heading to Bethlehem, which will arrive in a few days to place at the feet of the Divine Child, the gold, incense and myrrh, which are the symbols of charity, prayer and mortification. Oh adorable Child! All of us who have made this novena in order to prepare ourselves for the day of Your birth, we want to offer our humble adoration, do not reject it: come to our souls, come to our hearts full of love.

Ignite in our hearts the devotion to your Holy infancy, not erratic and limited to the time of your nativity but always and everlasting; devotion that faithfully and jealously nurtured will lead us to eternal life, freeing us from sin and sowing in us all the Christian virtues.

*Consideration of the day, followed
by the Prayer to the Most
Holy Virgin...*