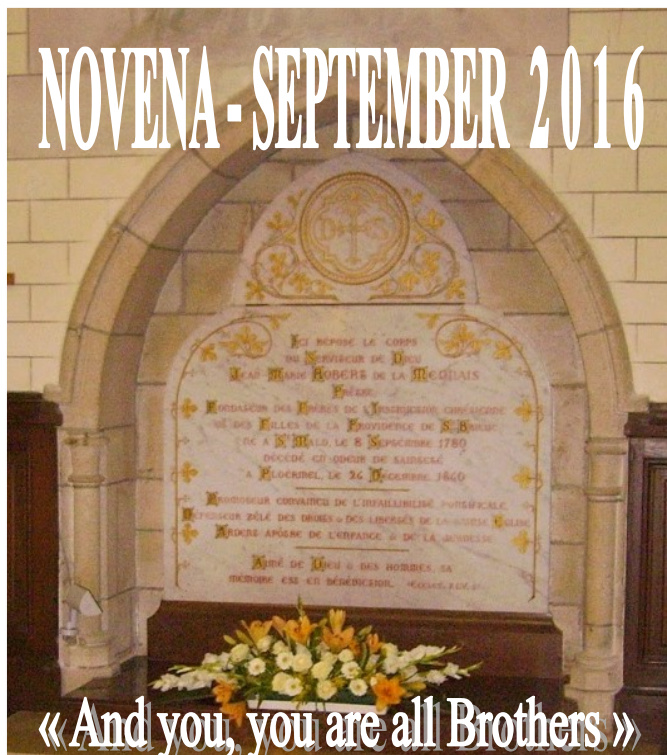


## Guidelines for the novena



### After the Word of God of the Morning Prayer :

1. **Someone reads** the proposed thoughts for the day (❖).
2. **We pray together the intercession for each day** (see below ➤)
3. **We can name one or two known sick people's names** who recommend themselves to the Founder
4. **We say together the prayer for the beatification.** (During the week of the Novena we can omit the intercession of the breviary)

### 18th September

❖ "Finally, allow us to observe that there exists the most intimate union among all teachers in your little seminar. They love each other, they help each other, they all follow the same method and they are like-minded. This perfect agreement is our only richness. " [ Jean -Marie de la Mennais to the minor seminary of Saint Malo, 1808) .

➤ *Grant, Lord, that our thoughts, our activities, our hearts are united like those of true brothers.*

### 19th September

❖ "Brotherly love will unite them in such a way that everyone will rejoice in the joys of the others, and all will be suitable to approach God and accomplish his work by mutual support." [ Constitutions of the Priests of St. Peter, 1828 ]

➤ *Grant, Lord, that we may love each other as true Brothers and help each other to grow in joy and maturity.*

### 20th September

❖ "They will avoid contentions, rivalries, secret jealousies, mocking words, everything that hurts, everything that separates and alters charity. " [ Constitutions of the Priests of Saint Peter ]

➤ *Grant, Lord, that we may be delicate among ourselves, avoiding words and attitudes that hurt, and may we be careful to put into action all that can please others.*

### 21st September

❖ "Generally I know that Jean-Marie de la Mennais instructed especially the ignorant for whom he had a weakness. He prayed for his enemies, he rejected nobody, he was always gentle and pleasant : many times I heard him say to the superiors of Brothers

➤ *Grant, Lord, that our hearts and our hands may be open like the hearts and hands of the Brothers visa- à-vis all those we meet.*

### 22nd September

❖ "Father de la Mennais testified to his charity towards the others in different ways: concerning the children, he always welcomed them with paternal kindness, on the other hand the poor were always welcome to the community and they were always distributed with the remaining food everyday: sometimes they would be 20 , 30, 40 ... "[ Rev. Hillion ]

➤ *Grant, Lord, that we may always be sensitive to the poor, the excluded, the weak, especially those who are close to us.*

### 23rd September

❖ "Father de la Mennais also had great care for the sick and the infirm and commended his Brothers to visit and care for them, and he himself assiduously visited the sick of the house. " [Brother Joseph Guillon ]

➤ *Grant, Lord, that we may be very attentive to those who are not well, and those whom we treat with delicacy, those who live with us with health problems.*

## 24th September

❖ "Instead of seeking to leave work to others, they will have a heart to mutually relieve each other and embrace with eagerness what will be more painful in their duties. "

➤ *Grant, Lord, that we may know how to work with one heart, helping each other, testifying with the same love for all and uniting our hands, our minds and our hearts.*

## 25th September

❖ "During the construction of the chapel a particular place was excavated in the wall. Father de la Mennais asked what it was, but guessed well that it was reserved for his burial. "I do not want it, he said , I want to rest in the middle of my Brothers. " [Brother Aloisius Renault ]

➤ *Grant, Lord, that we may be happy in the midst of our Brothers in the Mennaisian family, in our community, and may we feel as members of the same family.*

# 26th September Celebration " You are all Brothers "

## The word of God

"In truth I tell you once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name. I am there among them." (Mt. 18: 19-20)

## The word of the Church:

«Community life, then, it should in some way be evident that, more than an instrument for carrying out a specific mission, fraternal communion is a God-enlightened space in which to experience the hidden presence of the Risen Lord" (cf. Mt 18:20). [ Vita Consecrata , 42]

## The word of Jean-Marie de la Mennais :

"If we are united, we shall be strong and happy; yes this holy union will be the charm and grace of our society. How good and happy it is to be together as Brothers. " [ Sermons VIII , 2104 ]

## We pray together

So that we may always live more intensely fraternal community, where one experiences life in Jesus.

**We can name one or two known sick people's names who recommend themselves to the Founder**

- Prayer for the beatification and canonization
- of John Mary de la Mennais



O God, our Father!

You have aroused Jean-Marie de la Mennais  
and You gave him a fiery zeal and iron courage  
in the service of the Gospel.

Through him, you have given birth in the Church  
to two congregations devoted to Christian education  
of the little ones and of the poor.

Grant us to be faithful to the spirit of our Father.  
May his charism of founder be constantly deepened  
and developed in our religious family  
and throughout the Mennaisian family.

By his prayer, grant us the gift of a new Pentecost  
that transforms our hearts and make us bolder  
to make Jesus Christ  
and his Gospel known to the children  
and the young people of today.

For the glory of your Name,  
let the holiness of our Father  
be recognised and proclaimed by the Church.

Hear also the prayer we address  
to you now through his intercession ...  
(time of silence)

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus, glorify your servant  
Venerable Jean-Marie de la Mennais!