

from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love.

REFLECTION: *How can you continue to grow in God's love?*

NOVENA PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help Bishop Edgar as he continues to share his passion and dedication to building up the Body of your Son. May his charisma for evangelization unite the hearts of your faithful and soften the hearts of those who struggle to love you. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: Same as Day One

DAY SEVEN>>>

OPENING PRAYER: Same as Day One

READING: 1 Corinthians 2:3-8

I came to you in weakness and fear and much trembling, and my message and my proclamation were not persuasive (words of) wisdom, but with a demonstration of spirit and power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. Yet we do not speak a wisdom to those who are mature, but not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

REFLECTION: *How has your faith led you to know God's wisdom?*

NOVENA PRAYER: God of power and wisdom, you have provided your flock with a shepherd who has demonstrated great spirit and faith in you. Protect him as he continues to serve you not with wisdom of age but of faith. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: Same as Day One

DAY EIGHT>>>

OPENING PRAYER: Same as Day One

READING: John 13:1-11

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over. So, during supper, 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." Jesus said to him, "Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed, for he is clean all over; so you are clean, but not all." For he knew who would betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean."

REFLECTION: *How is Jesus calling you to serve others humbly and compassionately?*

NOVENA PRAYER: Lord Jesus, Bishop Edgar comes to us as your humble servant. Bless him and all of your faithful that we follow in your footsteps as we continue to serve others in your name. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: Same as Day One

DAY NINE>>>

OPENING PRAYER: Same as Day One

READING: Mark 16:14-20

But later, as the eleven were at table, he appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart because they had not believed those who saw him after he had been raised. He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents [with their hands], and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.]

REFLECTION: *How do doubts and confusion in your faith keep you from spreading the Good News?*

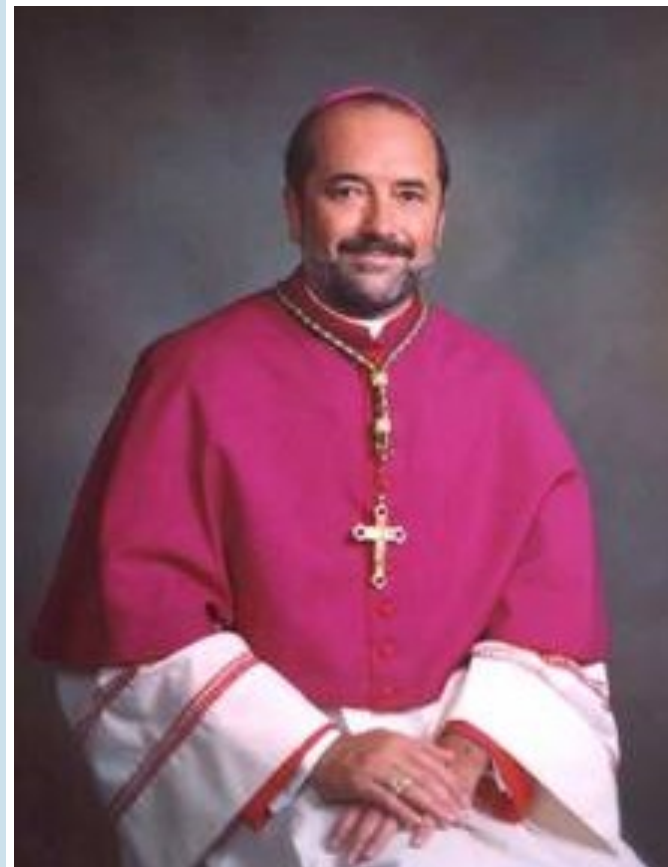
NOVENA PRAYER: God, [E]ternal [S]hepherd, you tend your Church in many ways and rule us with love. You have chosen your servant, Edgar, to be a shepherd of your flock for the Diocese of Fall River. Give him spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he build your Church as a sign of salvation for the world.* AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: Same as Day One

Novena for Bishop Edgar da Cunha Written By
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All Scripture passages taken from www.usccb.org

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Join Us in Prayer!

Novena for
Bishop Edgar da
Cunha

Tuesday, Sept. 16th
through
Wednesday, Sept. 24th





"I could never, in my wildest dreams, imagine myself standing here as the future bishop of this diocese. Only God's plan, and God's will, could make it possible."

DAY ONE >>>

OPENING PRAYER: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love.

READING: Genesis 18:1-5

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oak of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: "Sir, if it please you, do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest under the tree. Now that you have come to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way." "Very well," they replied, "do as you have said."

REFLECTION: *In what ways could you welcome people to church or to the Catholic faith?*

NOVENA PRAYER: God of Abraham, you have called Bishop Edgar into your service. May he tend to the needs of your faithful with eagerness, tenderness and compassion the way Abraham tended to the needs of your messengers. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: *Pray the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be.*

DAY TWO>>>

OPENING PRAYER: Same as Day One

READING: Matthew 4:18-22

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

REFLECTION: *What have you (or are ready to) leave behind to follow Jesus more closely?*

NOVENA PRAYER: Lord Jesus, you are the great fisher of men. Guide Bishop Edgar as he casts his net among the people of our diocese. May he gather and unite his people and bring them closer to your grace. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: Same as Day One.

How Do I Pray a Novena?

A novena is a process of praying for nine consecutive periods of time—usually nine days in a row. Take a few moments to pray with us each day as we anticipate the installation of Bishop da Cunha on September 24th and reflect upon your own faith in the process.

DAY THREE >>>

OPENING PRAYER: Same as Day One

READING: Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher in teaching; if one exhorts, in an exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

REFLECTION: *Reflect on your gifts. How can you best use them to live as the Body of Christ at home? at church? at work or school?*

NOVENA PRAYER: Holy Spirit, you have graced Bishop Edgar with the spiritual gifts needed to shepherd his new flock. Continue to bless him with these gifts as he embarks on this new mission to serve God, our Father. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: Same as Day One

these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

REFLECTION: *What is preventing you from having peace in your heart?*

NOVENA PRAYER: Lord God, through your servant Edgar, let the word of Christ dwell in the hearts of the faithful of our diocese. Continue to bestow your blessings upon him as serves your people in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: Same as Day One.

Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

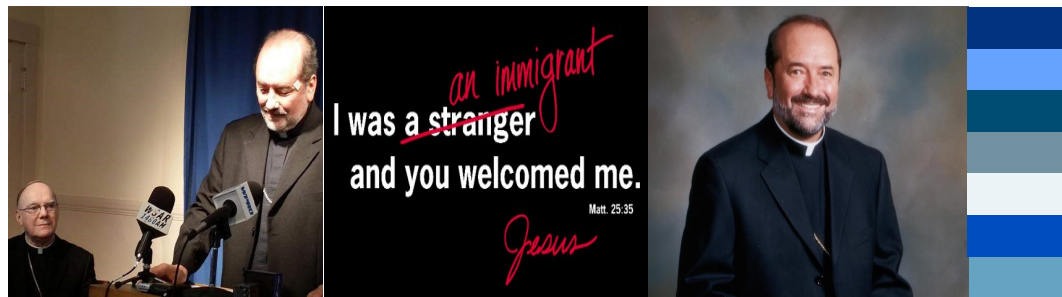
REFLECTION: *Who are the rocks in your faith life?*

NOVENA PRAYER: Lord God, through your servant Edgar, let the word of Christ dwell in the hearts of the faithful of our diocese. Continue to bestow your blessings upon him as serves your people in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER: Same as Day One.

DAY SIX>>>

OPENING PRAYER: Same as Day One



DAY FOUR>>>

OPENING PRAYER: Same as Day One

READING: Colossians 3:12

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all

DAY FIVE>>>

OPENING PRAYER: Same as Day One

READING: Matthew 16:13b-19

"Who do people say the Son of Man is? They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of

READING: Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising