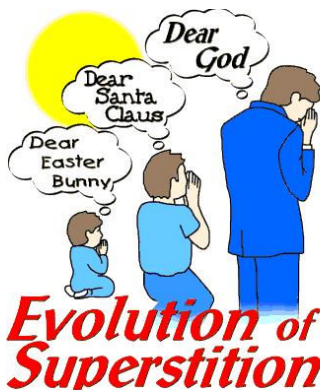


**Genuine Peasant Religion – Roman Catholic Style**  
by Richard T. Nolan



The e-mail copied/pasted below arrived on August 21, 2009. I was astonished by its substance! To me, it sounded just like nunspeak of the 1940s – with which I [then a student in a Massachusetts, Roman Catholic, private (not parochial), day Academy] remember well. The message to “undisclosed recipients” arrived via an acquaintance – a devout, adult Roman Catholic man on behalf of the cleric.

I cringed, because in the Episcopal Church and broader Anglican Communion, we certainly have our share of superstitious, even delusional, clergy and laity. Nonetheless, I don’t think it can get much worse than this!

The utter irreverence of asking the Creator to micromanage creation for one’s personal benefit is blasphemous.

Is it possible that the priest is trying to get some sympathetic layperson to buy his house via this pathetic plea/advertisement?

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Father (first name) is asking his friends-in-faith to pray the following novena as he places his home on the market.

He writes:

As many of you know, I have just begun the process to sell my house. Unfortunately, no matter how I have looked at the finances, it is just not possible to keep the house. In these difficult times in the real estate market, I am trying desperately to sell the house and get at least what we paid for it, or a little more. I am asking you to join with me starting Friday August 21st, a nine day novena to Saint Joseph. I hope that you will be able to join me in this endeavor, showering heaven with our prayers I am sure that God will do for me what I can't do for myself.

Here is the Novena:

**Opening**

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

**Come to my aid, O God, O Lord, make haste to help me.**

**Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of all good gifts, I come before you to honor you in your saints, and ask their help in my many needs.**

**You promised those who ask, would receive, those who seek, would find, those who knock, would have doors opened to them.**

**Hear the prayers of your church, grant my requests, and pardon my sins. Amen**

**St. Joseph, just and true, with a Father's care you raised the child Jesus, and with a husband's love, you shared your life with Mary, his mother.**

**I entrust myself to your care and place in your hands this request of mine (To sell my house in a timely manor and receive a fair market price for it)**

**In quiet Nazareth, long ago, the Holy Spirit spoke to your heart and you followed Gods will with wonderful faith.**

**In the quiet of my days, and in the hard choices I must make, help; me follow the Spirit's guidance and believe when I cannot see.**

**DAY ONE ONLY: Oh God, guide of those who listen and helper of those who hear your voice, speak to me, as you did to St. Joseph, and help me accomplish the things you give me to do.**

**DAY TWO ONLY: O God, you love your people and bless the ordinary lives we quietly live, As you bless what I do, however hidden and simple it may be, and let all I do be done with love.**

**DAY THREE ONLY: O God, ever faithful, you remember us always and in time reveal your blessings. Help me trust in you, as St. Joseph faithfully trusted, and never let me lose faith in the wonderful gifts you promise me.**

**DAY FOUR ONLY: God of families, bless the family that's mine. Keep us safe from harm, and never let evil come between us. Let peace remain in our hearts.**

**DAY FIVE ONLY: O God, who loves children, be kind to our children today. Give them eyes of faith for seeing far, a loving heart for welcoming life, and a place always at your side.**

**DAY SIX ONLY: God of our heavenly home, bless our home on earth. Let the spirit of Mary and Joseph rest at our table, shape our words and actions, and bring blessing to our children.**

**DAY SEVEN ONLY: God, our Father, give your fatherly spirit to those who are fathers now. Like Joseph, give them hearts of devoted love for their wives and children and strength for forgiveness and patience.**

**DAY EIGHT ONLY: Give shelter O God to those who need it, and bring together families divided. Give us enough to eat, and decent work to earn our bread. Care for us, O God.**

**DAY NINE ONLY: Bless all families, O Lord especially those in need. Remembering the life of your Son, we pray for the poor, for those who lack a good home, for those in exile. Grant them a protector like Joseph, O God.**

**Conclude every day with One Our Father, One Hail Mary and One Glory Be.**

**Thank you all in advance for joining with me in this novena. We all know how powerful prayer is, especially when joined together with a community. If you have anyone who would join this novena, please ask them to join in.**

**I will keep you posted of the progress of this sale. Don't know yet where I will go, much depends on the price the house sells for.**