

PRAYER TO OBTAIN GRACES THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF FR. JOSEPH AVENI

God our Father, we give you thanks for the gifts you granted to your priest, Joseph Aveni, configuring him to Jesus, the Master who is gentle and humble of heart. With trusting humility he found in your merciful love the joy of his life, the zeal for the salvation of souls, and the light for his service of spiritual guidance. He loved You in his neighbor and his neighbor in You, and dedicated his life to obtain holy workers particularly to the Asian continent.

Glorify, O Father, this zealous priest, for the praise of your Name so that he may be for the Church an effective sign of your Kingdom.

Through his intercession pour out your Spirit upon all the candidates to the priesthood and consecrated life that they may have the same sentiments of Christ and announce the Gospel of joy with their life.

Through his intercession, grant light to the young people, health to the sick who turn to him, and to us, grant the grace we long for ... (*mention your personal intention here*), so that we may also find our joy in fulfilling your Will. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

With ecclesiastical approval:

Nihil Obstat: Rev. Fr. Genaro O. Diwa

Censor & Commissioner, Commission on Liturgy

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Archbishop of Manila

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“There is
nothing
better
than doing
God’s will
because
He is our
Father”

(Fr. Joseph)

A portrait of Father Joseph Aveni, RCJ, a middle-aged man with short grey hair, wearing glasses and a white clerical shirt. He is smiling warmly at the camera.

Father Joseph Aveni, RCJ

(Tripi 1918 – Parañaque 2010)
Rogationist Priest

Joseph Aveni was born on December 5, 1918 in Tripi (Messina - Italy). He entered the Congregation of the Rogationists of the Heart of Jesus on September 1931 in the Avignone District, in Messina, where he spent his formative years and was ordained priest in the Church of Montevergine on July 15, 1945.

His Superiors immediately saw in Fr. Joseph the charism of a formator so much so that, in 1947, though not even thirty years old, he was appointed as Novice Master in Trani. After nine years he was called to Rome to be the Director of the Theology Students; in 1959, he resumed the office of Novice Master in Florence and then in Zagarolo, until 1972, when he was assigned as Spiritual Father in “Christ the King” Seminary in Messina.

In the 1974 General Chapter he was elected Vicar General and Councilor for Religious Life. At the end of the mandate, in 1980, he was assigned to the mission in the Philippines, where he resumed the office of Novice Master.

While faithfully carrying out his assignment, he dedicated himself also to the ministry of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual direction of seminarians and sisters of

the numerous congregations in the area. From 1991, when he left the office of Novice Master, he totally devoted himself to hearing confessions and spiritual direction, nourishing his spirit with constant prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

His health, which had always been delicate, progressively deteriorated over the last decade due to poor blood circulation. In April 2009 he was diagnosed with a malignant tumor which he overcame with patience and through a new “gene therapy”. He endured the pain with serenity entrusting himself completely in the hands of the will of God, as he had always recommended to his spiritual children. During his illness, he lovingly welcomed patients, doctors and those who wanted to hear a word of comfort or simply receive his blessing.

Remaining faithful to the rhythms of community life until the end, always smiling, centered on the Lord, and concerned for his confreres and for his “beloved Congregation”, Fr. Joseph was widely acknowledged as a highly spiritual person. He spent his life in an unceasing prayer for vocations.

He fell asleep in the Lord on July 24, 2010.