

NOVENA in Honor of THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH



Monday, May 21, 2018, is Aquinas Academy's 12th Annual Walk-a-Thon.

In keeping with Walk-a-Thon tradition, we'll pray a novena to implore Our Lady's help for a safe, fun and successful Walk-a-Thon (with beautiful weather, of course!)

The first day of the novena is TODAY, SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018;

The 9th (and final) day of the novena is PENTECOST SUNDAY, May 20, 2018 (the day before the Walk-a-Thon).

The reason we've chosen a Novena in Honor of Mary, Mother of the Church, is that the Monday after Pentecost Sunday (which happens to be the day of our 12th Walk-a-Thon) is the first time the Church will officially celebrate the *Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church*. The Memorial will be observed annually and has been added to the General Roman Calendar, the Roman Missal, and the Liturgy of the Hours. The Holy Father's wishes for this new feast day is that it will foster Marian piety and the maternal sense of the Church. Also, many of us are in the midst of praying the "original" novena to the Holy Spirit, the nine-day period between the Solemnity of the Ascension and the Solemnity of Pentecost. It's a good fit!

Each school day during this nine-day period – in anticipation of the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary *and* Aquinas Academy's 12th Annual Walk-a-Thon – teachers and students will pray **Three Hail Marys** and the following novena petition...**For a safe, fun and successful Aquinas Academy Walk-a-Thon on May 21st, wrapped in beautiful weather. Amen."**

Families are encouraged to pray along with their children, especially this weekend and next weekend, when school is not in session.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!