

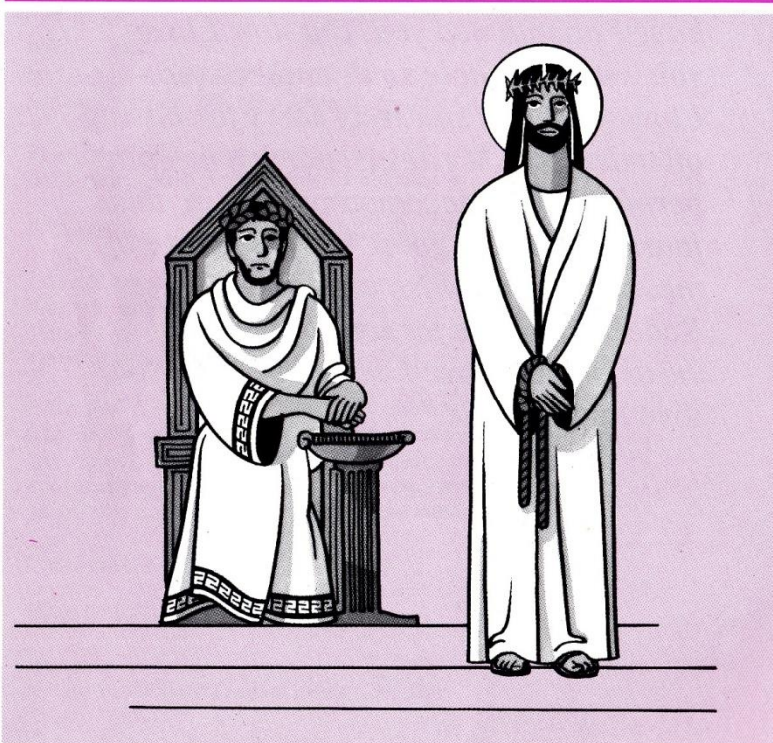
PRAYER BEFORE THE ALTAR

O Jesus Christ my Lord,
with what great love
you passed over the painful road
which led you to death;
and I, how often have I abandoned you.
But now I love you with my whole soul,
and because I love you I am sincerely
sorry for having offended you.

My Jesus, pardon ,me,
and permit me to accompany you in this journey.
You are going to die for love of me,
and it is my wish also,
my dearest Redeemer, to die for love of you.
My Jesus, in your love I wish to live,
in your love I wish to die.

FIRST STATION

Consider how Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross.



JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

- V.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Our Lord stands in silence condemned to death. False witnesses have accused him; judges in bad faith have condemned him; a friend has betrayed him, still he remains silent. "Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly, never opening his mouth; like a lamb before its shearer never opening its mouth."

Lord, it was not Pilate; no, it was my sins that condemned you to die. I beseech you by the merits of this sorrowful journey, to assist me in my journey towards eternity.

- R.** I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

*At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping
close to Jesus to the last;*

SECOND STATION

Consider how Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on his shoulders, thought of us, and offered for us to his Father the death he was about to undergo.



JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS

- V.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus begins his sorrowful journey. Burdened with the world's sin, still he thinks of each one of us. Embracing the Cross he does not complain of his fate. But as scripture says, "For my part I made no resistance, I offered my back to those who struck me, I did not cover my face against insult and spittle."

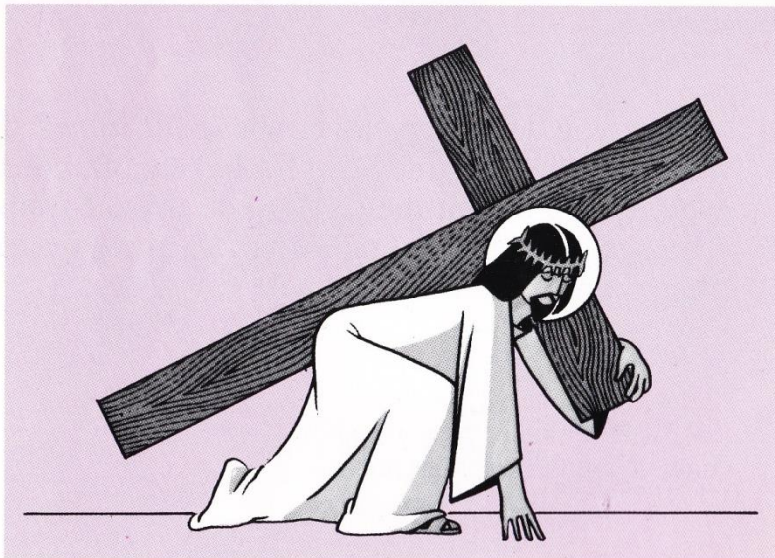
My loving Jesus, by the merits of carrying your Cross, give me the necessary help to carry mine with perfect patience and resignation.

- R.** I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

*Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
all his bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword has pass'd.*

THIRD STATION

Consider this first fall of Jesus under his Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, his head was crowned with thorns; he had lost a great quantity of blood. So weakened he could scarcely walk, he yet had to carry this great load upon his shoulders. The guards struck him violently and he fell several times.



JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

- V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus falls at the feet of his tormentors. Yet his longing for our salvation drives him on. He did not need the blows of the soldiery to flog him to Calvary. The love of his Sacred Heart drove him on; the Holy Spirit drove him on; the longing of the eternal Father to win us to heaven drove him on.

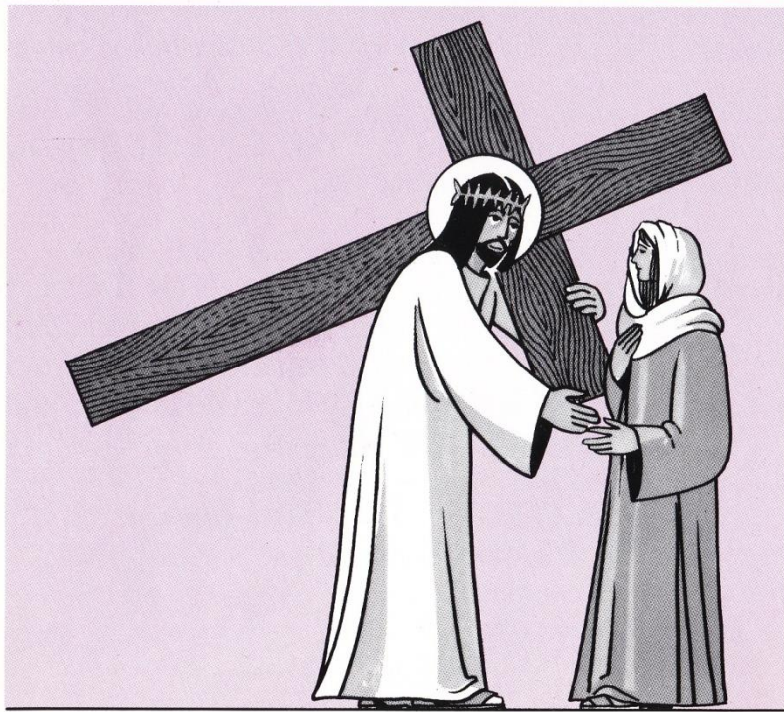
Lord, how heavily my sins must weigh upon your Sacred Heart. By the merits of this first fall, deliver me from the misfortune of falling into mortal sin.

- R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

Oh, how sad and sore distress'd
was that mother highly blest,
of the sole-begotten One.

FOURTH STATION

Consider the meeting of the Son and the Mother, which took place on this journey. Their looks became like so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly.



JESUS IS MET BY HIS BLESSED MOTHER

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus beholds the loving face of Mary amidst the mockeries around him. But now he is hardly recognizable, so disfigured did he look. Without beauty, without majesty she saw him, "A thing despised and rejected by men, and the Lord has laid upon him the sins of us all."

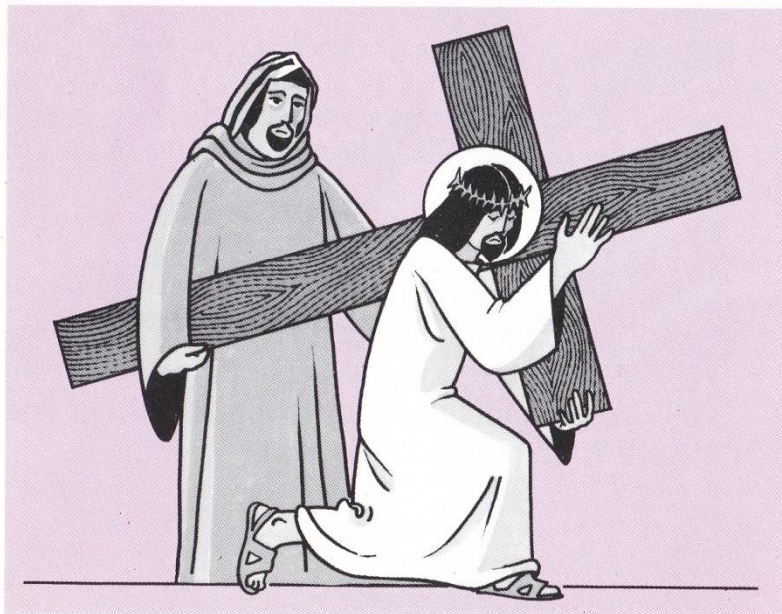
My Jesus, by the sorrow you experienced in this meeting, grant me the grace of a devoted love for your Holy Mother. And do you my Queen, who were overwhelmed with sorrow, obtain for me a continual and tender remembrance of the Passion of your Son.

R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

*Christ above in torment hangs;
she beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.*

FIFTH STATION

Consider how his cruel tormentors, seeing Jesus was on the point of expiring, and fearing he would die on the way, whereas they wished him to die the shameful death of the Cross, constrained Simon of Cyrene to carry the Cross behind our Lord.



THE CROSS IS LAID UPON SIMON OF CYRENE

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

A stranger is forced to carry the Cross of Jesus. And yet in doing so, faith came to Simon and his family, for scripture names him, "Simon the father of Alexander and Rufus" who became well known to Christ's followers.

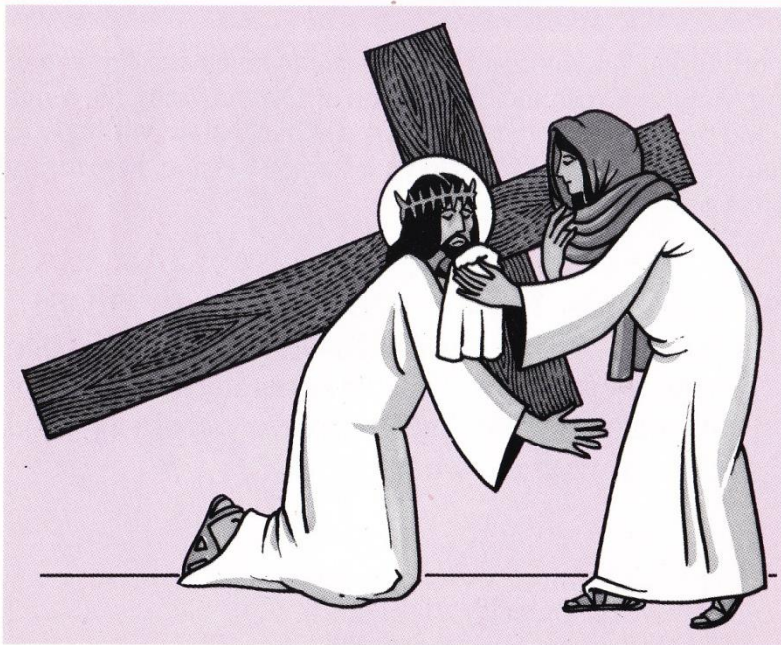
Lord Jesus, you invite all your people to take part with you in carrying the Cross and, like Simon of Cyrene, bring blessings upon themselves and upon others. I will try more willingly to unite my crosses and trials to your Sacred Passion; help me by your grace.

R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

*Is there one who would not weep,
whelm'd in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear mother to behold?*

SIXTH STATION

Consider how the holy woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus so ill-used, and bathed in sweat and blood, wiped his face with a towel, on which was left the impression of his holy countenance.



VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

This was indeed a gracious reward for Veronica's compassion. Yet in this meeting there is a lesson for us all. For whenever out of love we minister to the needy, we receive an increase of grace, and the image and likeness of Christ grows in our souls.

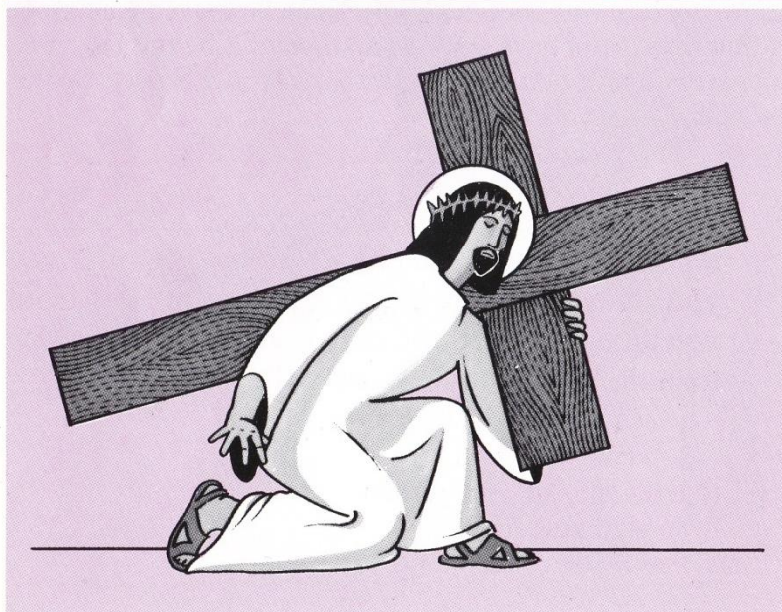
Lord, my soul was once beautiful, when I received your grace in Baptism. But I have so often disfigured it by my sins. You alone, my Redeemer, can restore it to its former beauty. Do this by your Passion, O Jesus.

R. I love you Jesus, my Love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

*Can the human heart refrain
from partaking in her pain,
in that mother's pain untold?*

SEVENTH STATION

Consider the second fall of Jesus under the Cross: a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds in his head and body.



JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

- V.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Again, Jesus falls beneath the weight of the Cross. Yet again he staggers to his feet and continues along the road to Calvary.

Lord, how many times have you pardoned me, and how many times have I fallen again and begun again to offend you. By the merits of this second fall, give me the help necessary to persevere in your grace until death. Grant that in all temptations which assail me I may always commend myself to you.

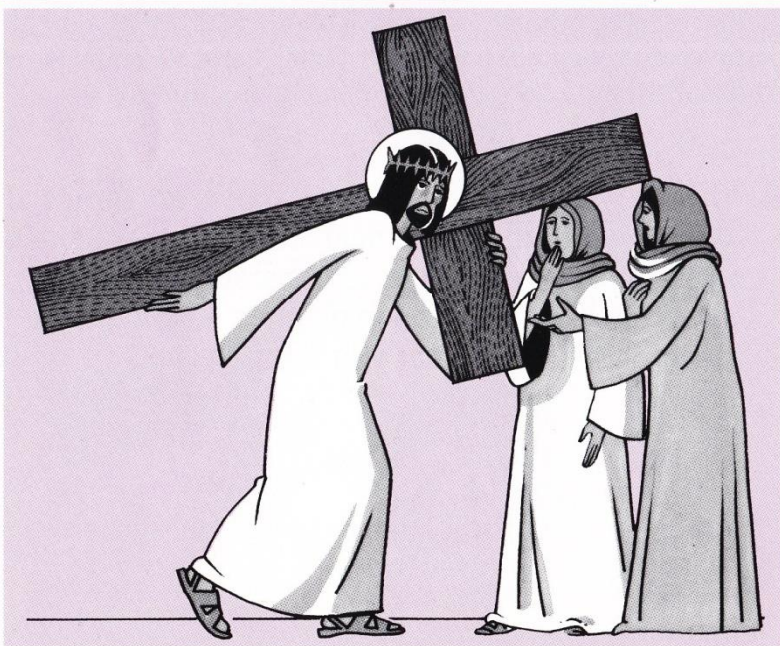
- R.** I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
she beheld her tender child,
all with bloody scourges rent.

EIGHTH STATION

Consider how these women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus in such a pitiable state, streaming with blood as he walked along.

"Daughters of Jerusalem," said he, "Weep not for me, but for yourselves and for your children."



THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM MOURN FOR OUR LORD

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

These courageous women mourned for him as he passed by. And supporting him in their grief they openly confessed their faith in his name, fearless of what might happen to them.

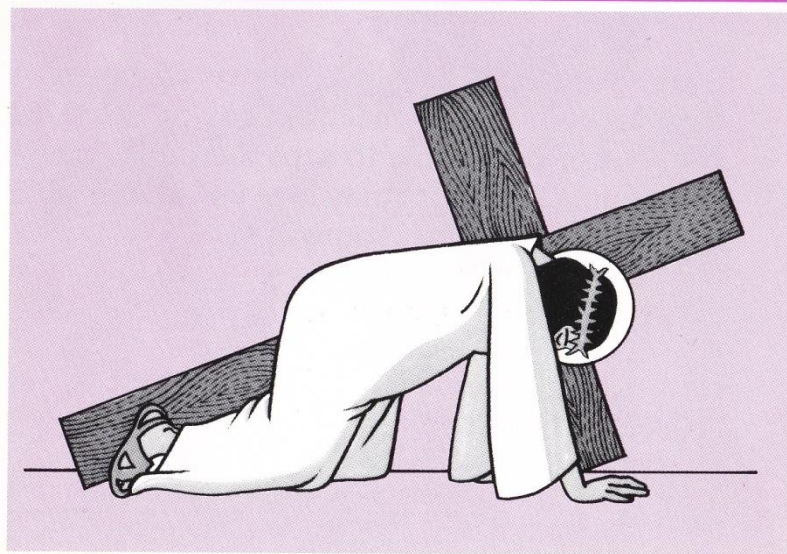
Lord Jesus, by the example of this meeting, let me always confess my faith in you as my Lord and my God, careless of any danger or derision it may bring me.

R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

*For the sins of his own nation,
saw him hang in desolation,
till his spirit forth he sent.*

NINTH STATION

Consider the third fall of Jesus Christ. His weakness was extreme, and the cruelty of his executioners excessive, who tried to hasten his steps when he could scarcely move.



JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

- V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Jesus was but a few steps from Calvary. Yet before he gained the very spot where he was to be crucified, again he fell to the ground. As scripture says of our Holy Redeemer, "My throat is dried up as parched clay, and in the dust of death you have laid me."

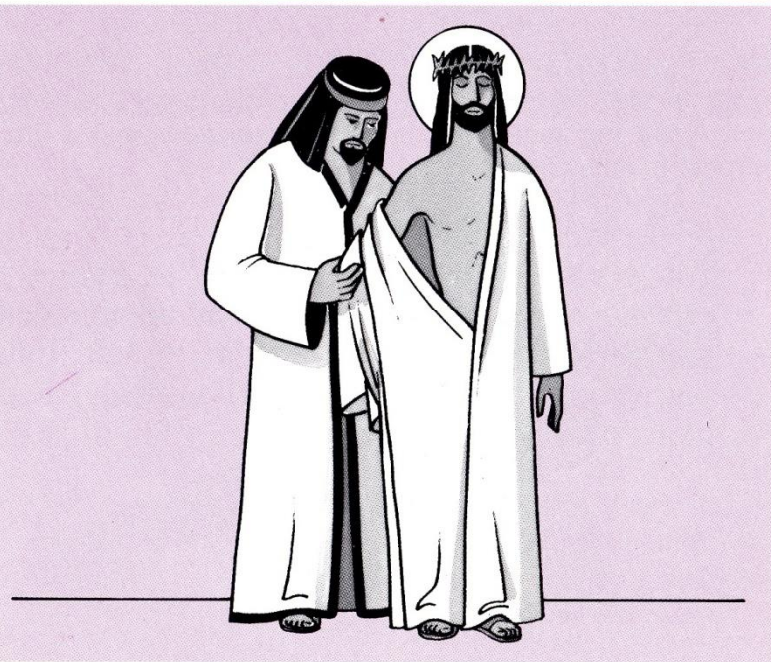
My loving Jesus, by the merits of this third fall, never allow me to remain discouraged beneath the weight and repetition of my sins. Grant me confidence in your forgiveness, and a firm purpose of amendment.

- R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

O thou mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with thine accord.

TENTH STATION

Consider the violence with which Jesus was stripped by the executioners. His inner garments adhered to his torn flesh, and they dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Pity your Saviour so cruelly treated.



JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

- V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Our Lord stands exposed to the gaze of the jeering crowd. He is made to look a fool for my sake. He who as God's creating Word rightly possesses all things, now possesses nothing.

My most innocent Jesus, by the merits of the ridicule that you bore, grant me readiness to be considered a fool for your sake. Strip me of all sinful desires for worldly things. But above all, never allow me to be stripped of your grace.

- R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

*Make me feel as thou has felt;
make my soul to glow and melt
with the love of Christ my Lord.*

ELEVENTH STATION

Consider how Jesus, having been placed upon the Cross, extended his hands, and offered to his Eternal Father the sacrifice of his life for our salvation.



JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

- V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Our Saviour is crucified, and in the company of two thieves. As scripture had foretold, he was taken for a sinner, while he was praying all the time for sinners. As they fastened him with nails, he prayed for us all: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Lord, by the merits of your prayer on Calvary, grant me real sorrow for all my sins. Not only because of the punishment they deserve, but still more because of the suffering they have caused you, who love me so much.

- R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always and then do with me what you will.

*Holy Mother, pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my Saviour crucified.*

TWELFTH STATION

Consider how Jesus, being consumed with anguish after three hours agony on the Cross, abandoned himself to the weight of his body, bowed his head and died.



JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

- V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
- R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

How completely dependent we are on that holy Cross: for the grace of God's friendship; for forgiveness of sins; for hope of heaven hereafter. On Calvary, his life of sacrifice has reached its conclusion, "It is finished; Father into your hands I commit my spirit."

My dying Jesus, since you are so deserving of all my love, may your love henceforward be my first concern. By the merits of your Cross, unite my heart more firmly to your holy will. I commit my life into your hands.

- R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

Let me share with thee his pain
who for all my sins was slain,
who for me in torments died.

THIRTEENTH STATION

Consider how, after our Lord had died, two of his disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, took him down from the Cross, and placed him in the arms of his sorrowful Mother.



JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

- V.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Mary at last has possession of her Son. Now when his enemies can do no more, they leave him to her in contempt. How deeply now she felt the force of Simeon's words, "And your own soul a sword shall pierce."

O Mother of sorrows, for the love of your Son, accept me as your servant and pray for me. And do you my Redeemer, since you have died for me, grant that I may love you always, for I wish but you and nothing more.

- R.** I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

*Let me mingle tears with thee,
mourning him who mourn'd for me,
all the days that I may live.*

FOURTEENTH STATION

*Consider how the disciples,
accompanied by his holy Mother,
carried the body of Jesus to bury it.
They closed the tomb, and all came
sorrowfully away.*



JESUS IS PLACED IN THE SEPULCHRE

- V.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed
the world.

Jesus is left alone to rest in peace. And yet he is not alone, for the Father is always with him. He came from the Father into the world, and now he has left the world and gone to the Father.

My buried Jesus, grant that I too may find your peace at life's end. And by the merits of your own resurrection on the third day, make me rise in glory with you at the last day, to be always united with you in heaven, to praise you and love you forever.

- R.** I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I
repent with my whole heart for having offended
you. Never permit me to separate myself from
you again. Grant that I may love you always, and
then do with me what you will.

*By the cross with thee to stay,
there with thee to weep and pray,
is all I ask of thee to give.*

FIFTEENTH STATION

*Consider how Our Lord
triumphed gloriously over death
and rose again on the third day*



JESUS RISES FROM THE DEAD

- V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
R. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

“The contemplation of Christ’s face cannot stop at the image of the Crucified One. He is the Risen One! “ This knowledge is born of faith and invites us believers to pass beyond the darkness of the Passion in order to gaze upon Christ’s glory in the Resurrection and Ascension.

Lord as we contemplate you risen from the dead, we rediscover the reasons for our own faith and relive the joy not only of those to whom you appeared but also the joy of Mary, who must have had an equally intense experience of the new life of her glorified Son.

- R. I love you Jesus, my love, above all things: I repent with my whole heart for having offended you. Never permit me to separate myself from you again. Grant that I may love you always, and then do with me what you will.

**Christ, when thou shalt call me hence,
be thy mother my defence,
be thy cross my victory.**

THE ENDING OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

For the Holy Father's Intention

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Hail Mary Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death.

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Eternal Rest Give on to them O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon
them, may they rest in peace Amen.

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

Amen