

WAY OF THE CROSS

MEDITATIONS FOR THE DYING

Follow Jesus' Path to Golgotha



A new way to follow Our Savior's steps of infinite love

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Rescript

In accord with the Code of Canon Law, I grant the *Imprimatur* (“Permission to Publish”) for Way of the Cross for the Dying: Meditations for the Dying.

Most Reverend Joseph R. Binzer
Auxiliary Bishop
Vicar General
Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio
December 28, 2017

The Way of The Cross
Meditations
for the Dying

Follow Jesus' Path to Golgotha
A new way to follow Our Savior's Steps of infinite love

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Apostolate for the Dying

P. O. Box 38-9185

Cincinnati, OH 45238

Phone 513-922-0370

Please visit our website: apostolateforthedying.org

Email us at: holyhourdevotion@gmail.com

Editors: Maria Fernanda Moreira, Annamarie Short, Cyndy Hummer

Cover by: Paula Dudzinski

This book was reviewed by Rev. James Reutter and Rev. James Walsh, Cincinnati Archdiocese

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This Book is Dedicated to
Our Blessed Mother



Our Lady of Sorrows
Pray for us!

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Foreword

Praying the Stations of the Cross is a devotion with deep roots in our Catholic faith. Originally started in the Middle Ages by pilgrims traveling to Jerusalem literally to walk in the footsteps of the Passion of Our Lord and Savior's suffering and death, the Franciscan order and our holy fathers have extended that devotion so widely that it is now common to see those stations depicted in our parish churches. We don't have to travel to the Holy Land to share in Our Lord's Passion.

But as so often happens, the beautiful things that we see every day in the background sometimes become almost forgotten because of their familiarity.

In this beautiful prayer booklet, Fernanda Moreira has provided a fresh take on this timeless devotion by combining it with the apostolate to pray for those who are most spiritually vulnerable and those most in need of the graces and mercy that flows forth from Our Lord's Passion: those who are facing their own passion and death, whose eternal life hangs in the balance.

Thus, this prayer booklet helps us to meditate on that all-important of journey of Christ to the place of His crucifixion, in ways that help us understand why and how He suffered out of love for all of us. At the same time, it helps us to pray for the salvation of souls at the time they need that prayer the most.

When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His death so that we may attain eternal happiness with the Blessed Trinity.

May this prayer booklet help us to stay on that path, and offer that same assistance to our brothers and sisters in need.

- Fr. Reutter,
Pastor, Our Lady Victory Parish, Cincinnati, Ohio

Introduction

Can we possibly penetrate the most intimate thoughts and feelings that Our Beloved Savior experienced on His Way to Calvary?

“The Way of the Cross: “Follow Jesus’ Path to Golgotha” is a unique approach to the Stations of the Cross. The meditations will touch your heart in a profound and marvelous way. Jesus, who said “Pick up your cross and follow me,” wants us to not only follow Him, but to hear Him speaking to us. This book is also a sequel to “The Hidden Sufferings of Christ”, 31 Meditations on the Silent Sufferings of Christ that we published last year. It is our continued effort to acknowledge and honor His immense sufferings He so lovingly took upon himself for love of us. It is a wonderful opportunity to give comfort and solace to our Savior. Yes, it is even a blessing and another gift from the Lord, to have the desire to walk with Him on His way to Golgotha, giving Him some small measure of solace from His creatures. He loves us so much, that even though we are nothing compared to the Lord, He desires our efforts and blesses us for them.

This new approach to the Way of the Cross is so unique in that it gives the reader a versatile way to meditate and contemplate the sufferings of Jesus, whether in Church, in front of the Stations, or at Adoration. For those who are home bound, this is an excellent way to make the Stations at home!

May our time spent with our suffering Savior on His painful road to His crucifixion deepen our love for Him. We can only pray that He fills us with compassion for His sufferings and recognize Him in the sufferings of others.

The Divine Son of God has shown us the great mystery of His Cross: It is the way of LOVE! He carried His cross for love of us, to save us from hell and from the power of the devil. He asks us to

carry our crosses for love of Him, and to share in His sufferings by assisting others through our prayer and sacrifices. Jesus wants to reveal to us the immensity and wonders of His Love. By following in His footsteps, we will discover the value of redemptive suffering and the power of true love. With love, we can carry our crosses and help others to carry theirs. Let us then SURRENDER ourselves, and all our cares and sufferings to Him.

In our materialistic world, most people look for earthly comfort and pleasures, running away from their crosses, crosses carved with love for each one of us by God, Our Father, to purify us to make us worthy to be His children. The Father wants to see in each one of us the face of His Divine Son who suffered and died for our salvation.

***“Blessed is the one who perseveres
under trial because, having stood the test,
that person will receive the crown of life
that the Lord has promised
to those who love him”
(James 1:12).***

Preparatory Reflection and Prayer

*In the Name of the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit. Amen*

***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.***



Then Jesus said to his disciples, **“Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with His angels in His Father’s glory, and then He will repay everyone according to his conduct.”**
(Matthew 16:24-28)

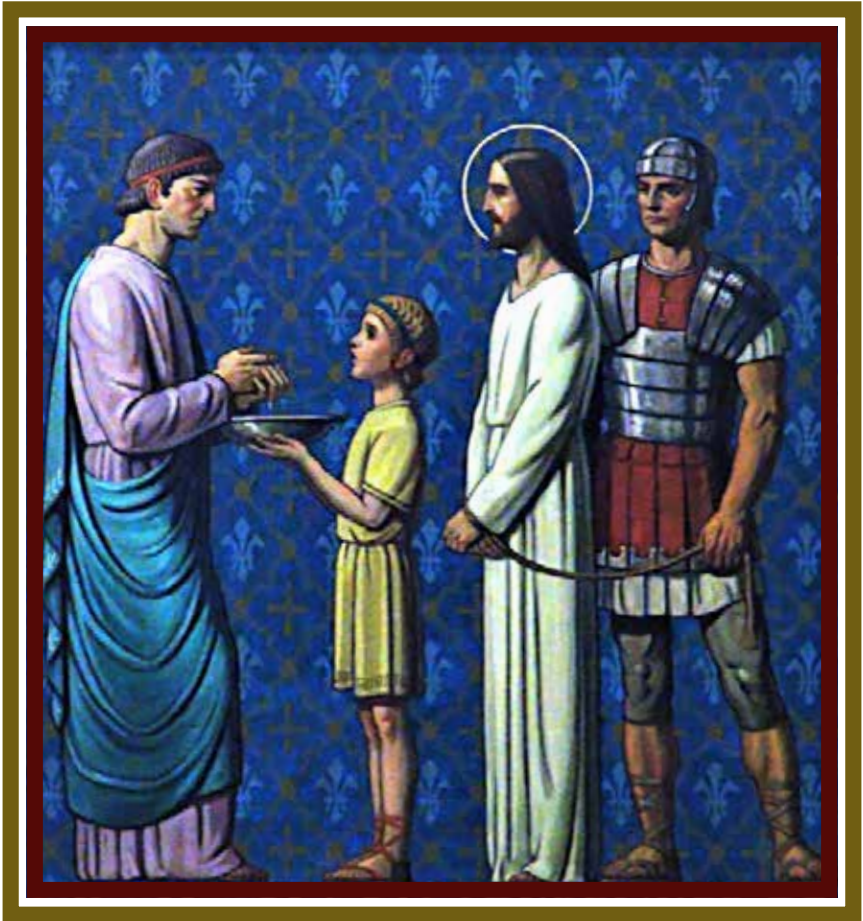
Lord Jesus Christ, You taught us that without the cross there is no salvation. Humbly we come before You with our crosses. You know our pains and sorrows, our weaknesses and sins. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may follow You, and learn the depth of Your great love, and the immense sufferings You endured for our salvation. With gratitude and love we unite all our sufferings and those of the whole world to Yours for the salvation of souls, and especially those who are dying. May Our Sorrowful Mother teach us Her perfect way to follow You, to love You, and to serve You. Amen

The Way of The Cross
Meditations for the Dying



Follow Jesus' Path to Golgotha
A new way to follow Our Savior's Steps of infinite love

The First Station



Jesus is condemned to death

“Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth.”

Isaiah 53:7

“And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, ‘Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?’ But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.”

Matthew 27:12-14

Reflection

Sorrowful Savior, in Your divine silence You teach us so much! You teach us humility and obedience to God's will. How many of our brothers and sisters are at this moment, in great sorrow, dying alone, suddenly and violently without being able to say a prayer or a single word. Merciful Jesus, speak for them before the Father. Obtain for them pardon for their sins and salvation for their souls.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

“In My silence, I was atoning for the poor sinners who throughout their lives have spoken countless blasphemies, ungrateful words, impure and useless words, words that will be their own condemnation if they do not repent. In My silence, I was obtaining for them God's infinite mercy and salvation. My children, meditate more often on your Savior's divine silence and it will teach you to speak more often words of kindness and compassion, words of wisdom and understanding for the salvation of your souls and the souls of many others. Remember that I did this for you; for love of you, with an infinite love.”

Prayer

Silent Jesus, help us to speak only words of kindness and wisdom, words of compassion and understanding to console Your Most Sacred Heart. By the merits of your Holy Cross and your Most Precious Blood, through the intercession of the Sorrowful Mother, save all those who are dying today in sin and despair.

Many times, silence can speak volumes.

The Second Station



The Carrying of the Cross

“...Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.”

Isaiah 53:12

“Then he handed him over to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross Himself he went to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.”

John 19:16-17

Reflection

Sorrowful Jesus, with infinite love for us poor sinners, silently You accepted the heavy cross. You knew this was the Father's will. How many times Lord, do we try to run away from our sufferings and abandon our crosses... Lord, forgive us our sins and the sins of those who are dying, who many times during their lifetime have rejected the crosses that You have chosen for them. May Your divine mercy be upon them in this final hour.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

“With great humility, I accepted carrying the cross. The cross that was so heavy and so precious! In it, I was carrying and atoning for the sins of the world, from the first sin of Adam and Eve to the last one until the end of the world. I was nearly exhausted but in My Sacred Heart the fire of My divine love for mankind was very strong, like a roaring fire that nothing and no one would be able to stop. My faithful children, with love meditate deeply on the mystery of the cross, the symbol of My great love for you. This way, you will learn to love Me, your Savior, to love your own crosses, and come to understand how much I loved you... My Cross, the Key to open Paradise, the way to heavenly glory.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

Humility opens our hearts to God.

The Third Station



Jesus Falls the First Time

“Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid upon him. Let him put his mouth to the dust; there may yet be hope. Let him offer his cheek to be struck, let him be filled with disgrace.”

Lamentations 3:28

“Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted.”

Isaiah 53:4

Reflection

Dear Savior, how heavy is the weight of our sins.... If we could only understand its weight and how much You suffered because of them! Lord, many who are dying today never knew how much you loved them and how much you suffered for their salvation. May the suffering of your first fall obtain for them the light of your truth and the pardon for their sins.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

“My children, I was exhausted when I fell under the weight of the cross. My body was so weak and bruised. My shoulders were raw from the scourging and the heavy cross was pressing hard on My bare bones. My Heart was agonizing, suffering because of love. With great difficulty I got up and in great pain I started walking again. Each step was a cry of My love for you, a pleading for your love for Me. I call each one of you to follow Me. With this fall, I was teaching you that no matter how many times you fall under the weight of your weaknesses and sins, you can always get up and begin anew. My love for you gave Me courage to get up; your love for Me should do the same because My grace is always with you. So, every time you fall remember Me, your Savior, and how much I suffered for love of you.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

Humbly let us pick up our crosses and follow Him.

The Fourth Station



Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

**"Bitterly she weeps at night, tears upon her cheeks,
with no one to console her of all her dear ones."**

**'Come, all you who pass by the way, look and see whether
there is any suffering like my suffering.'**

'Give heed to my groaning; there is no one to console me.'

Lamentations 1:2, 1:12, 1:21

Reflection

Dear Savior, no human heart can comprehend the agony of Your Two Sorrowful Hearts as you met your afflicted Mother, while carrying Your heavy cross! What an unspeakable sorrow that must have been! Yet, you both knew that this was the Father's holy will for the salvation of the world. Suffering Jesus, with what words could you both speak in this painful meeting when your eyes first met? Your Hearts though in great anguish and sorrow, were filled with love for the poor and sinful human race. May the immense suffering of Your two loving Hearts open our hearts to love and serve God more fervently.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

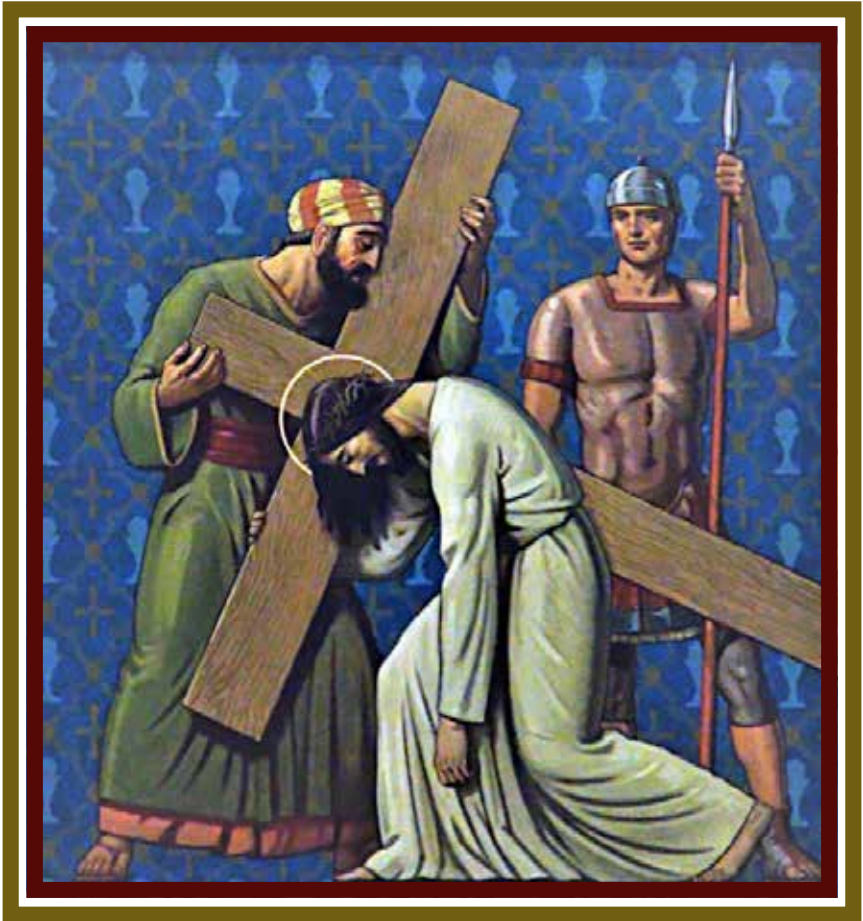
“*Our Hearts were one in sorrow and in love. Because of the stain of sin, no human heart can comprehend such pure and perfect love. In this unspeakable suffering, our eyes spoke more than thousands of words. Mine said, ‘Just a little longer dear Mother, and all will be accomplished,’ and Hers in loving silence said, ‘Do what you were born to do my Beloved Son, I am suffering your pain and your sorrow in my Immaculate Heart for the intentions of Your Divine Heart.’ My children, unite the suffering of your hearts, bodies and souls to our sufferings for the salvation of souls, for the salvation of the world. Great is the power of suffering united with ours. Therefore, offer us not only your sufferings, but those of the whole human race for the salvation of poor sinners.*”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

Do we meditate on the sufferings of our Sorrowful Mother?

The Fifth Station



Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

“Even as many were amazed at him—so marred was his look beyond that of a man, and his appearance beyond that of mortal.”

Isaiah 52:14

“As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.”

Luke 23:26

Reflection

Dear Savior, Your humility in accepting Simon's help teaches us so many precious lessons! Who are we Lord, that so many times we proudly think that we can do it alone, that we are sufficient unto ourselves, that we don't need Your help? And You, the God Man, in Your human nature, humbly accepted the help of the one Your own hands have created. Lord, by the merits of Your great humility and Most Precious Blood give that same humility to us and to those who are dying.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

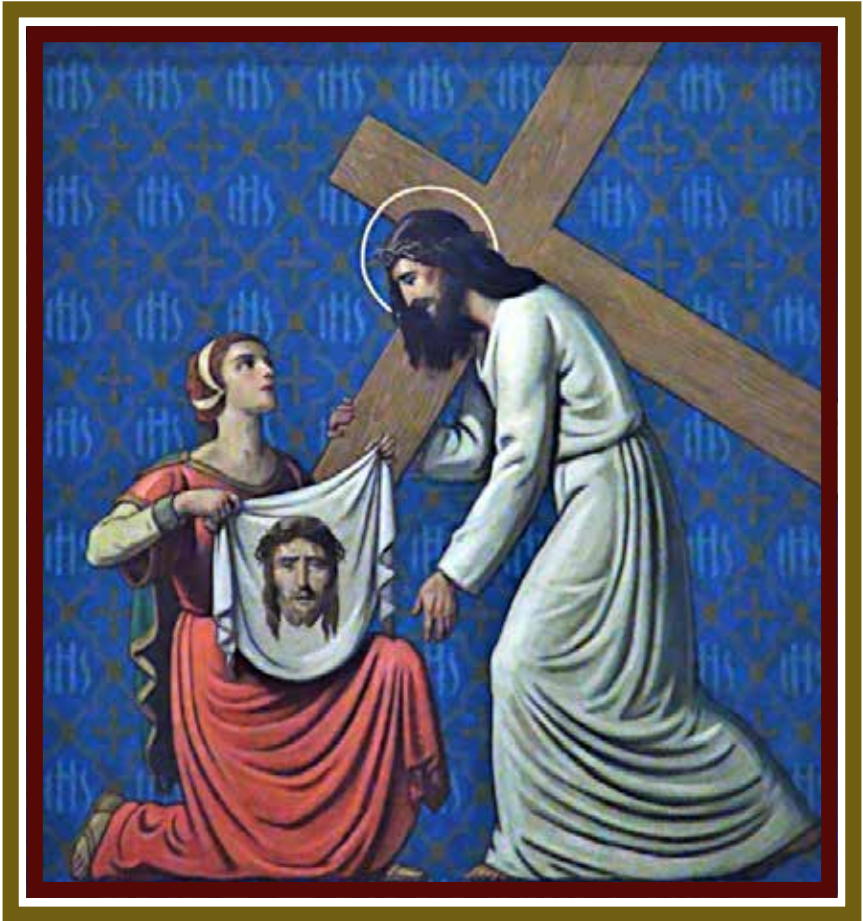
“It was not out of pity or compassion that the soldiers forced Simon to help Me. Though they were afraid that I would not reach Calvary, it was My Father's Will. This was to help me and to show you a marvelous example to follow. Each one of you, beloved children, are My brothers and sisters, and should always follow My example and be ready to help one another in humility and love. For as the Father has provided this help for Me so will I do for you. Remember that I am always with you, loving you and giving you all that you need. Turn to Me with trust and love. You never walk alone. Choose Me, your Savior and God, for your companion, for your friend, for your helper, and I will be with you until your last breath, giving you the graces to save your souls from eternal damnation. Remember what I suffered for love of you.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

*Let us be always looking for ways
to help those in need.*

The Sixth Station



Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

“He grew up like a sapling before him like a shoot from the parched earth. There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.”

Isaiah 53:2-3

Reflection

Dear Savior, what a wonderful courageous and marvelous example of love Veronica gave for us! She had no fear of what people might say, or worse yet, what the soldiers could do to her. She beheld your Holy Face so disfigured and bruised, and just wanted to give You some consolation and show You her love and devotion. What consolation that must have been for You, Lord! How many disfigured souls are dying today in great need of the consolation of Your mercy and compassion! Give us the grace to be other Veronicas for those who are suffering, and through our prayers and sacrifices obtain for them eternal salvation. This way, we too will comfort You.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

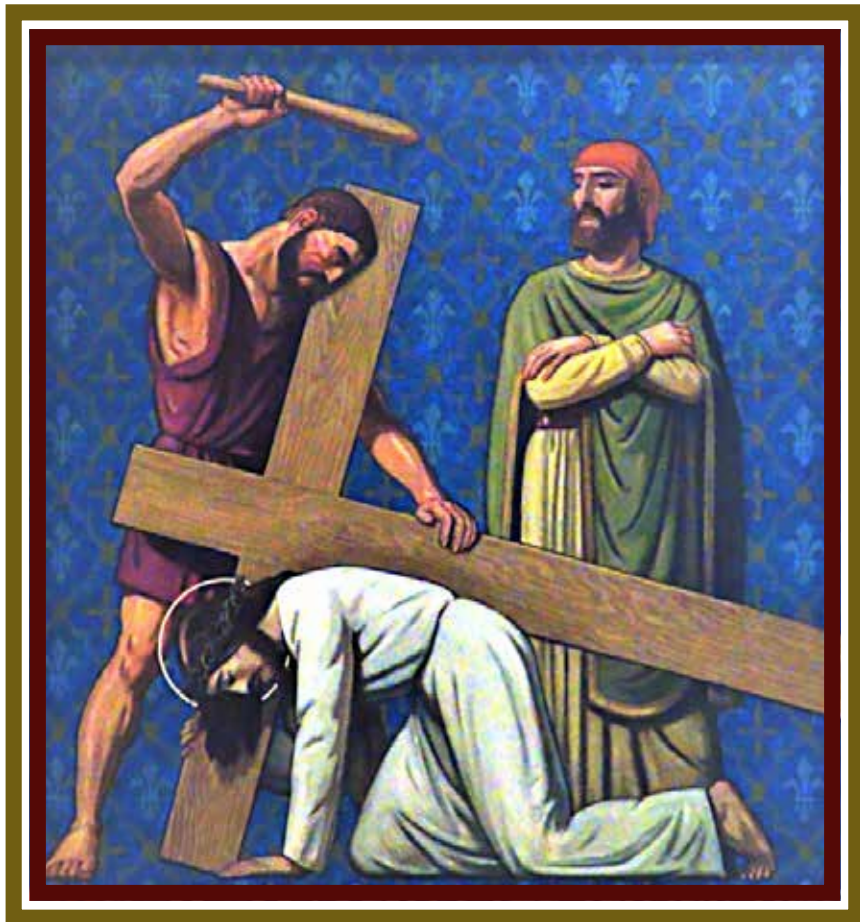
“My eyes were shut from being so bruised. Blood covered them. I could barely see anything in front of Me. My Sacred Face was disfigured from the beatings and brutal blows. They spit on My face. My body was being wasted away by suffering and pain. The soldiers kept striking Me like they do to animals of burden, pressing Me on to walk without any pity or compassion. What Veronica did for Me is what each one of you do when you pray and offer sacrifices for those who are in need: the poor, the homeless, the lonely, the sick, the dying. You bring Me such great consolation, for in them, you too wipe My bloody face and console My Sacred Heart. Many are they who are carrying very heavy crosses caused by the blindness of sin, ignorance and lack of love and faith. I knew why I was suffering, but most of My poor people know not the reason for their suffering, they just suffer alone and without hope. Pray My children, and sacrifice for them, that they may know the great value of their suffering.

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

We do not understand the value of our prayers.

The Seventh Station



Jesus Falls the Second Time

**“I am weary with crying out; my throat is parched.
My eyes have failed, looking for my God. More numerous than the
hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause.
Too many for my strength are my treacherous enemies.”**

Psalm 69:4-5, 8

Reflection

Dear Savior, Son of David, how great must your suffering be to cause You to fall again! Forgive us Lord, for it was our sins that made You fall. The sins of our great ignorance and ingratitude, the sins of our weak flesh, our selfishness and attachment to the things of this world: those things that blind us and prevent us from knowing Your truth. By the merits of such great suffering, give us the grace to repent, and the courage to raise our hearts and souls to You to understand how great is Your love for us. Help us to truly love You.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

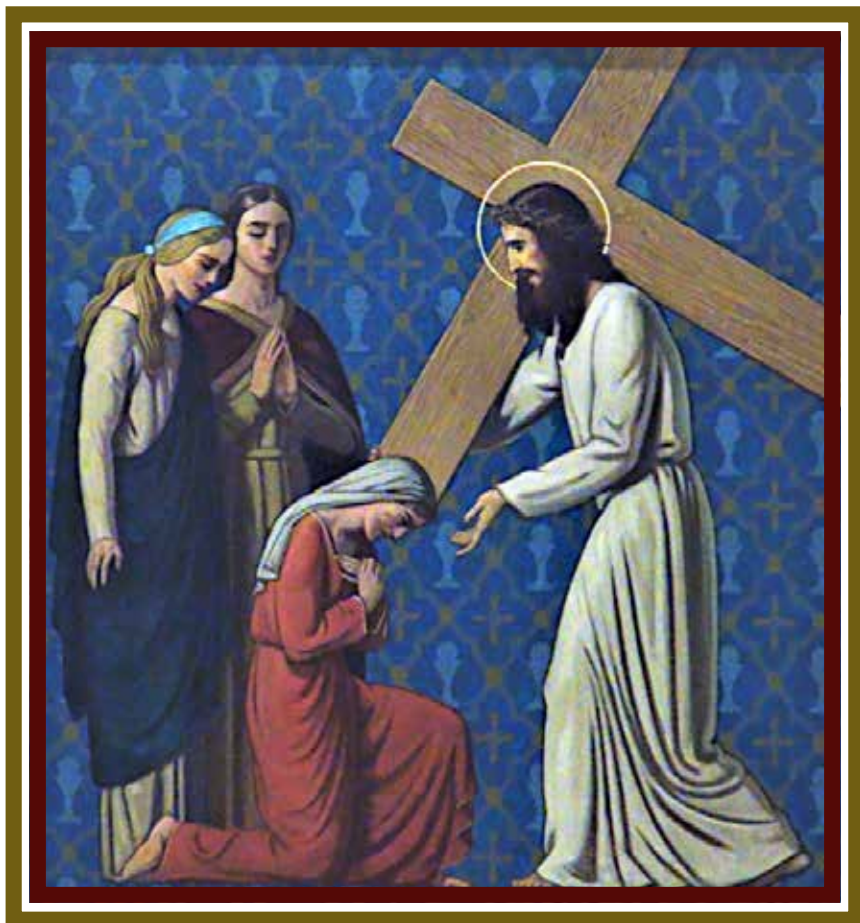
“My Body was getting weaker and weaker, I could barely walk any longer. With great difficulty, I got up once more. The soldiers, without mercy or compassion, kept striking Me, forcing Me to walk, and I, for love of you and the will of My Father, found the strength to get up and continue on My painful road. How infinitely great is My love for you, My poor sinful children! How many proofs of love have I shown you...What else can I do to make you understand? Don't you have any compassion seeing the sufferings of your Creator, who wants to save your souls from the eternal fires of hell? Out of love I created you to love Me and to be eternally happy in My kingdom. You are loved beyond your understanding. Ask Me to grant you the wisdom and the grace to understand My love for you, so then you may have the desire to love Me, to appreciate all that I suffered for love of you. I JUST want your love.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

*Let us meditate every day on how much
Jesus suffered for love of us.*

The Eighth Station



Jesus Consols the Holy Women

“If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the Lord will be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear.”
Isaiah 53:11-12

Reflection

Dear Savior, with unimaginable suffering You have just gotten up from a terrible fall. Very weak and full of pain, Your human strength is at the point of collapse. Slowly struggling to walk, You perceive the crying of the holy women whose hearts were full of sorrow, mourning and lamenting for You. They want to console You, they wish to help you; yet it is You who talk to them: **“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’”** O Lord! Have mercy on us and on those who are dying in the state of grave sin.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

“In those mothers’ hearts, I saw the pains and sorrows of an immense number of mothers who from the beginning of the world to the end, would suffer greatly for their sins and those of their children. ‘Do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children.’ I said. I wanted them to understand the reason for My great sorrow. I was inviting them to see the truth of My immense suffering. I saw also the Heart of My pure and innocent Mother. I gave Her to all of you, to be Her children too. Her Immaculate Heart was suffering for you, for Her pain was one with Mine. Our Hearts were united in the work of salvation. And how much She still suffers because of those who despise Me and Her maternal love! She suffers when she sees Me being rejected, ignored, and blasphemed. The gifts of My love and mercy that I give to the world through Her, are forgotten and despised. I suffered and died for the salvation of all. Mothers of the world, unite your sufferings to the sufferings of My Sorrowful Mother. Console Her loving Heart, so full of love for you and for the salvation of souls. Consoling Her, you console Me.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

Do we understand the great gift of Motherhood?

The Ninth Station



Jesus Falls the Third Time

“How long, Lord? Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I carry sorrow in my soul, grief in my heart day after day? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look upon me, answer me, Lord, my God! Give light to my eyes lest I sleep in death, lest my enemy say, I have prevailed, lest my foes rejoice at my downfall.”

Psalm 13:2-5

Reflection

Dear Savior, exhausted You fall the third time. Your suffering was reaching the summit; Calvary was getting closer. You felt abandoned and alone. The strength was leaving Your Sacred Body by the loss of Your Precious Blood. Just a little longer and salvation would be accomplished. How many of us have days when we don't want to go any further? Depression wants to take hold of us and we just want to give up. Help us remember Lord, that You have won the victory for us and the sufferings of this world cannot be compared to what You have waiting for us in Heaven. Give us strength to persevere for the salvation of our souls and for those who are dying.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

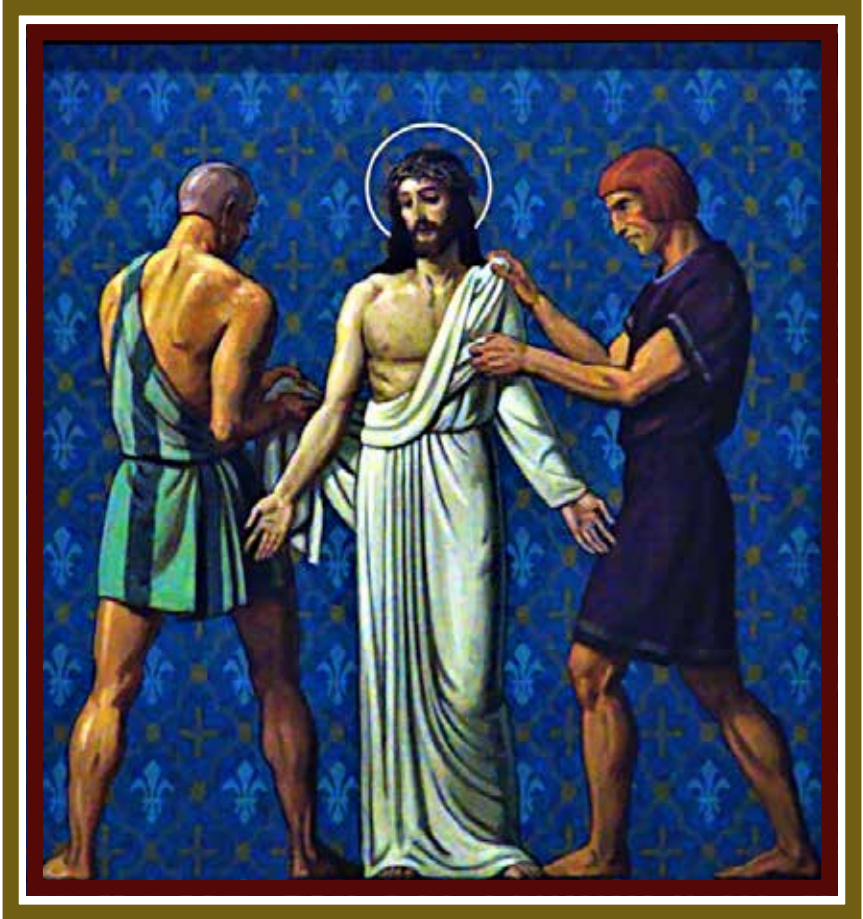
“To follow Me is to see the cross on My wounded shoulders, to see My strength leaving My human body, to see Me falling mercilessly to the ground. Though I was suffering for love, no one showed Me love or compassion. The soldiers kept striking and kicking Me, laughing at My fall. I was the Lamb of God led to be slaughtered to atone for the sins of the world, for the sins of My sinful children. Anxious to reach Calvary, and with My Heart filled with love for you, I found the strength to get up again knowing that soon your salvation would be won. Dear beloved children, I created you with infinite love. Consider now in your hearts how much I suffered for love of you. By meditating more often on My Passion, you will find the strength to carry your own painful crosses more patiently for love of Me, knowing that the glory of eternal life is worth every pain. Follow Me now in My sorrow, so you may share later in My glory.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

Do we really understand the value of suffering?

The Tenth Station



Jesus is stripped of His Garments

“For your sake I bear insult, shame covers my face. I have become an outcast, a stranger to my mother’s children. Because zeal for your house consumes me, I am scorned by those who scorn you.”

Psalm 9:5-8

**“They divided my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.”**

Psalm 22:19

Reflection

Dear Savior, how painful it must have been when the soldiers, without any mercy or compassion stripped You of your tunic! Your pure and undefiled Body was wounded beyond recognition. By the cruel stripping of Your garment, all Your wounds were open anew, causing You agonizing pain. You did not look like a man anymore; the sins of the whole world did this to You. The ugliness of our sins pierced You through and through, leaving its horrible signature on Your perfect body. Suffering Lord, help us to know how terrible sin is and grant us the grace to repent. In Your disfigured body, show us the wonders of Your love and how much You care for us.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

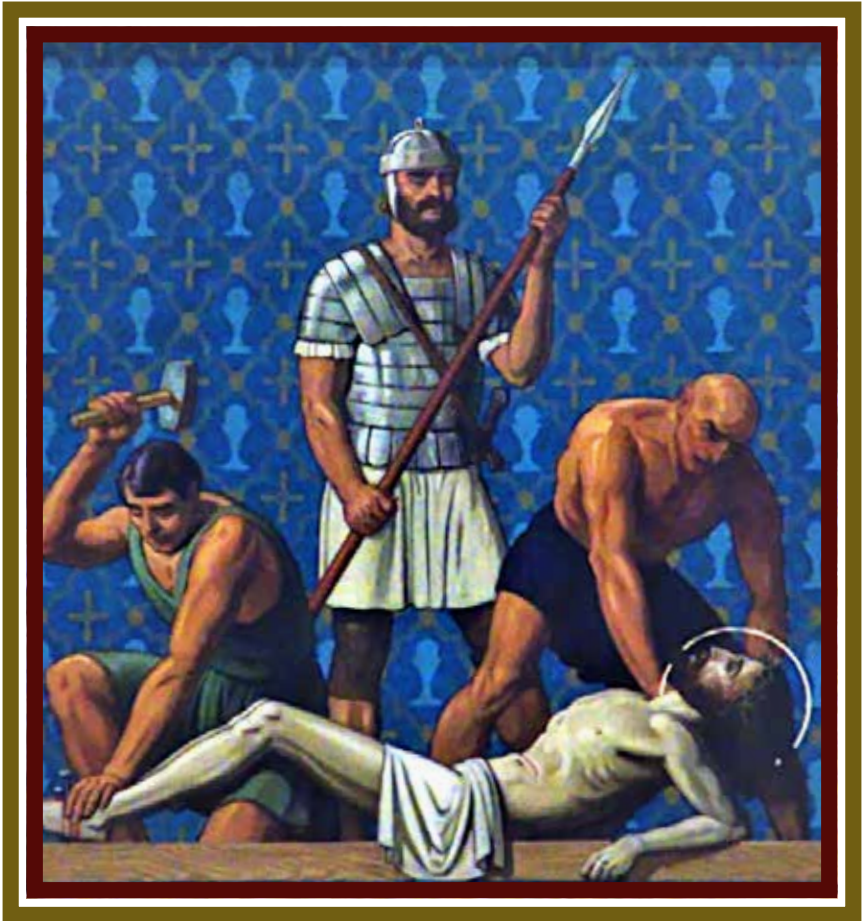
“Without compassion the soldiers pulled off My tunic, opening anew all the wounds and leaving My undefiled body completely exposed. In My great humiliation, I was redeeming the human body, the crown of all creation, so wonderfully made by the Hand of the Creator. You were made, My children, to honor and serve your Maker, He who is your God! Disobedience, greed, adultery, murder, hate, jealousy, laziness, gluttony, drunkenness and the great sin of impurity have marred its beauty and honor. For many, their bodies have become the tools they use to tempt and destroy souls as well as their own. In My wounded body, I was atoning for all sin and restoring in souls their primitive beauty. Therefore, see and reflect, how precious you are to Me, and what I did to redeem you. I suffered all for love of you, to save you from your sins, to give you strength to conquer them all.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

*How wonderfully our bodies were made!
Thank God for creating us.*

The Eleventh Station



Jesus is nailed to the Cross

“So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it.”

Isaiah 52:15

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.”

Luke 23:33

Reflection

Dear Savior, with what words can we express the gratitude we should have for You? In this most horrific hour, You showed us how immense is Your love for us. Who are we, Lord, but poor wretched sinners to merit such a sacrifice, such suffering? Your divine Hands and Feet were mercilessly nailed to a cross.... atoning for our many transgressions, for our great sins are so numerous! The sins we commit with our hands and our feet when walking the dark paths that lead us to sin and perdition. With the crown of thorns still on Your Sacred Head, You atoned for the sins of the mind where all sin begins. Lord Jesus crucified, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, for we do not know what we are doing when out of ignorance and weakness we offend You! Forgive us as You forgave those who crucified You.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

“My throat is dried up like clay, my tongue cleaves to my jaws; they have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.” (Isaiah, 53:11-12). Love was being crucified for the love of the beloved. You, My children, are My beloved! For you I let Myself be crucified and suffered torments and pains unimaginable to the human mind. This is not a fairy tale, this is more real than what you can see and touch. I suffered and died to save the human race from the power of the one who hates Me and all of you, because you were created in the image and likeness of God. All of this to save you from your sins, to give you back the dignity of the children of God, to save you from the fires of hell. And like many springs of pure water, My precious Blood was poured out from uncountable numbers of wounds in My Body. Through My Pierced Hands and Feet rivers of Merciful love flowed out for all of humankind to wash away the stains of sin. Freely I shed My Blood for you. Are you accepting My gift? My love? My sacrifice? Many do not, and that is more painful to My Sacred Heart than all the torments I suffered. Because of My infinite love that I have for you, I **THIRST and PINE for your love!**”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

*How amazing is Jesus' love for us!
Thank You Dear Savior!*

The Twelfth Station



Jesus Dies on The Cross

“From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,.....’My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?’”

Matthew 27:45-46

“Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us’ the other, however, rebuking him, said, ‘Have you no fear of God, for we are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus remember me when You come into your kingdom.’ He replied to him, ‘Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’.... Then the veil of the temple was torn down in the middle. Jesus cried in a loud voice, ‘Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit’, and when He had said this he breathed his last.”

Luke 23:39-46

“But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into His side, and blood and water flowed out.”

John 19:33-35

**“Above Him there was an inscription that read,
‘This is the King of the Jews.’”**

Luke 23:38

Reflection

Dear Savior, in silent adoration we ponder deeply in our hearts how immense is Your Love for us! Frequently, we look at the crucifix out of habit, not remembering that it represents the greatest love story the world has ever known: Your divine love for us! Crucified Lord, give us Your Holy Spirit that we may have the grace to live for You alone. You were crucified between two criminals... In them, all humankind was represented there, at Calvary. Both of these men were being saved by Your sacrifice, yet just one of them appreciated and believed. **'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom,'** he said; and because he humbled himself before You, he heard from Your divine lips these most beautiful words, **'Today you will be with Me in Paradise.'** Words, that we too long to hear on the day of our departure. How sad it must be for Your Agonizing Heart to see the other one rejecting Your love and sacrifice... In him, You saw the ingratitude of those who would reject and ignore You throughout the ages. Lord Jesus, our crucified King, thank You for paying the price we owe that we could never pay. Have mercy on us and on those who are dying. May Your Most Precious Blood wash away all their sins.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

“No king on this earth, sitting on his lofty throne, was lifted up so high as I on My Royal Cross! And no human king could have accomplished for the world what I accomplished from the Cross of Divine Love, My throne of sorrow and pain. There, I gave My life for you! I obtained for every man, woman and child redemption and eternal salvation. With My last breath, I gave new life to all creation. Long ago, through Moses and Joshua, the Red Sea and the Jordan River were opened for My chosen people to pass and enter the promised land. Now, My Sacred Side, the ocean of God’s Divine Love, was opened wider than the seas and the rivers. The depths of My Mercy,

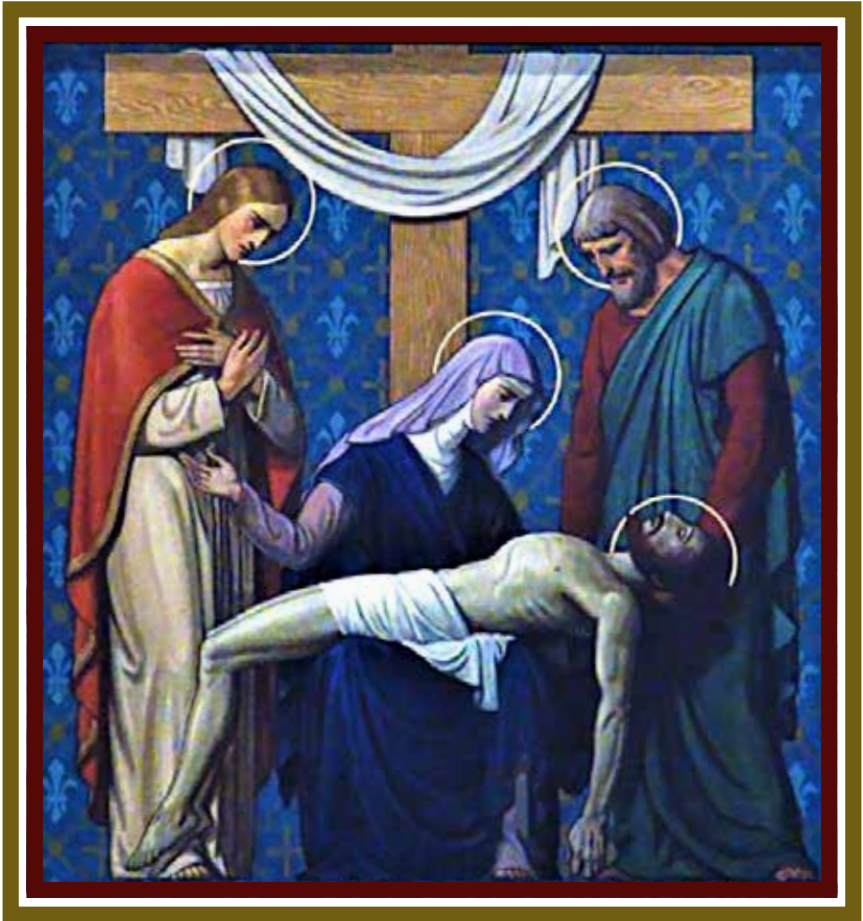
gushed forth freely flowing for the whole world, never to be closed again! It is open for all eternity and all My people are invited to come. Dear loved ones, cover yourselves with My Precious Blood. This will protect and lead you all, not to an earthly promised land, but to the eternal Paradise of the Kingdom of God. My beloved children, with your free will, you have the power to choose to accept or reject such an amazing gift. It is open for you by the power of My suffering and death. Remember the thief hanging on his cross, who, because he humbled himself before Me, won Paradise. My Father spoke to Moses from the burning bush. Now I speak to you from the burning furnace of My Sacred Heart. Come without fear and receive My love and Mercy. With My open arms I am waiting for you!"

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

*We adore you O Christ, and we Praise You!
Because by Your Holy Cross
You Have Redeemed the World.
You have saved our souls.
Thank You Lord!*

The Thirteenth Station



Jesus is Laid in His Mother's Arms

“When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over.”

Matthew 27:57-58

Reflection

Most Sweet and Sorrowful Mother, your Immaculate Heart was truly pierced through and through by a sword of great sorrow and pain. The days are gone when you held in your arms the most beautiful baby, the baby that became the most handsome of all men, the very Son of God! Three years before, Jesus left you to begin His work of salvation, you knew that this day would come. You saw Him suffer and die to save the world. Now the world is returning Him to you, His body cold and lifeless. Sorrowful Mother, you see many hearts cold and empty because of the horror and ugliness of sin are void of God's graces. How terrible sin is! It has marred the beauty and love with which God has made us. By the deep suffering of your sorrowful Heart, and those of your Divine Son, hold in your arms the souls of those who are dying, and obtain for them eternal salvation.



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

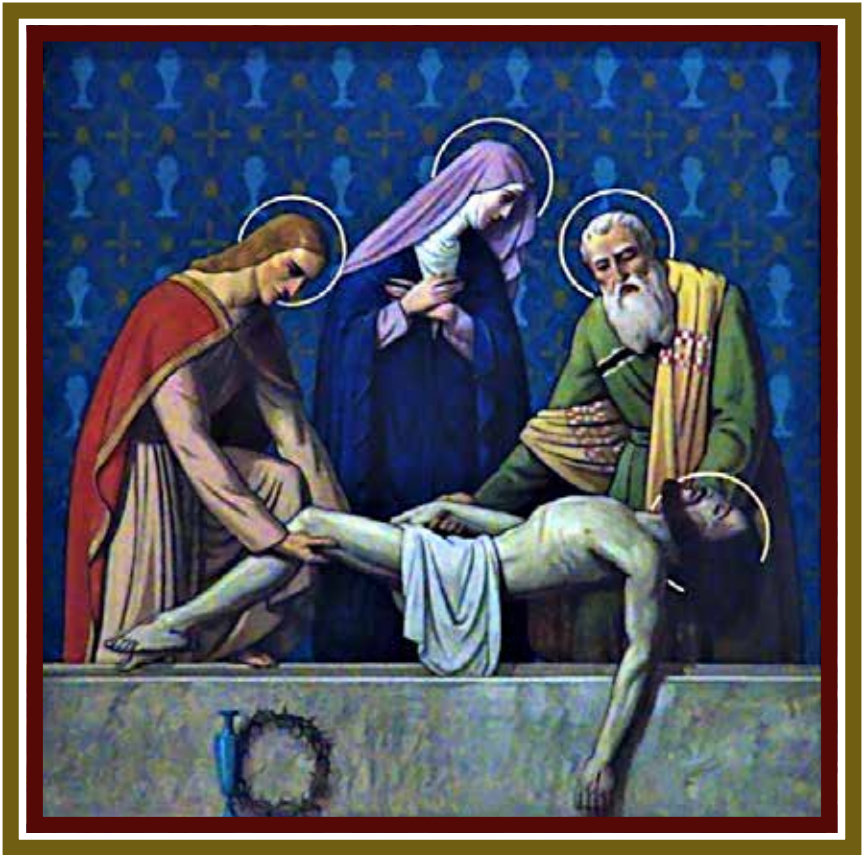
“My sweet and most innocent Mother suffered so much for love of you! In My cold, wounded body, she saw a multitude of cold human hearts, hearts who have closed themselves to My merciful love. Because of their weaknesses and stain of sin, they would ignore what I suffered for love of them. Dear children, at the foot of My Cross I gave you to My Mother. So now, She holds you in Her arms, She caress you, She presses you to Her Immaculate Heart. She longs for all of you to receive Her motherly love. She desires for you to receive the infinite love that I have for each one of you, the love of My Sacred Heart. How great is Her sorrow because of those who are on the road to perdition! She keeps calling you back to Me, but is ignored and ridiculed by many. Console Her Sorrowful Heart. Be Her loving children. She is constantly interceding for you! No mother on this earth could be compared with My Mother, for no other mother would love you as she does. You belong to The Mother of your Savior, the Mother of God! Love Her; She will lead you to Me and to eternal joy.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You, redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

Do we appreciate the love of our Heavenly Mother?

The Fourteenth Station



Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

“When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sins of his people, a grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood...Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear...And he shall take away the sins of many and win pardon for their offenses.”

Isaiah 53:8-10-12

“Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council...came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus... Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus watched where he was laid.”

Mark 15:43-46

Reflection

Dear Savior, Your Sacred Body was now laid to rest. The faithful Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus kept watch. Their hearts, so filled with sorrow, could not think about anything else but their Lord who died a most horrible death. His Precious Body was there in this dark tomb. They did not want to leave, they wanted to be there with you. Dear Jesus, may we have that same zeal and fervor to be with You and console You in all the Holy Tabernacles of the Catholic Church where You are night and day waiting for us!



We thank you beloved Savior, for Your great suffering on the way to Calvary. We honor each and every drop of Your Most Precious Blood, shed with so much pain and infinite love for us. We offer this price of our redemption to the Heavenly Father for our salvation, those of the whole world and especially those who are dying.

Imagine Jesus saying

“How precious are those who faithfully keep Me company in the Tabernacles of My Church! In adoration and thanksgiving, they come to console Me, to give Me their love. Like other Mary Magdalene’s waiting outside of My burial tomb, they believe that I am truly there, in each Tabernacle of the Catholic Church, night and day waiting for them. My beloved souls, how much I love you...I am here for all people, for I have said, ‘I will be with you until the end of the world.’ And, here I am, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, hidden in the white Host...Just for you My children, to comfort you, to sustain you, to give you My love and light. In this dark world of sin and sorrow, you can’t live without My grace, the grace that I give from My Eucharistic Presence. My Sacred Heart aches for those who believe in Me, yet never come to receive My graces, to keep Me company. Come to Me, tell Me about your sorrows and pains, about the crosses you are carrying. I carried My cross for you, I died for you. I want to comfort you. I want to give you the salvation I have won for you. I want to give you My Infinite love. And, when we are united in Holy Communion, I want you to be like Mary Magdalene, who after seeing that I was truly alive, believed, was filled with joy, and ran to tell the good news to everyone. My faithful ones, I need you to do the same. I need you to show the world that I am indeed resurrected and alive. Just let Me be in you. Let Me act through you by the way you live your lives. Your words will be My words and your actions will be My actions.”

Prayer

Most Merciful Lord Jesus, lover of souls, You, redeemed us by Your Most Precious Blood. Have mercy on us and on the whole world. Mother of Sorrows, pray for us and intercede for the dying.

*Praised be the Cross of Life,
the Cross of Majesty and Wonder!*

The Fifteenth Station

Halleluiah!



The Resurrection of Jesus

“But as day-break on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day.’ And they remembered his words.”

Luke 24:1-8

Reflection

“Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever.” Revelation 1:17-18

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, Awesome and Merciful Savior, by walking with You through the sorrowful Way of the Cross, we saw untold suffering and horrific pains. We saw You dying on the cross amidst two criminals and being treated like one of them. We saw how You died a most dreadful death. We saw You accomplish what You promised! -- **Our Salvation!** -- You redeemed us and conquered death forever. You opened wide the Gates of Paradise for all humanity! And to show us Your infinite love for sinners, You forgave those who killed You, and promised Paradise to the thief who implored Your mercy. O dear Savior, open our minds, hearts and souls, blinded by the darkness of sin. And by the power of Your Most Precious Blood, help us to die to ourselves, and thus live for You alone to give You honor and glory. With grateful hearts let us raise our voices in praise and offer You this most beautiful Psalm:

“Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing to His glorious name; give Him glorious praise. Say to God: How awesome Your deeds! Before Your great strength Your enemies cringe. All on earth fall in worship before You; they sing of Your name! Come and see the works of God, awesome in the deeds done for us.” Psalm 66:1-5

Imagine Jesus saying

“My dear ones, rejoice and be glad! I am Alive! I have won the victory over sin and death, all for love of you. You have walked with Me on the sorrowful way of the cross. I wanted you to know what the true Son of God has suffered for love of you and to teach you how to suffer for love of Him. Until the day of My return, and while on this earth, no one can escape the cross. Meanwhile, take refuge in My Most Precious Blood that I shed for you on the way to Calvary. And, have no fear in your hearts! Just follow Me. I am with you, and will be until the day I receive you in Paradise! I came to give life and to give it abundantly. The world is in great turmoil and the evil seems to be growing everywhere. But I say to you all: Be not afraid! I have conquered the world. You belong to Me, and no one can take you from My hands. Strive to follow Me with all your heart knowing that I have won the victory for you. Rejoice, I say again, always rejoice. Have peace in your heart, even in the midst of carrying your cross, even when suffering is all around you. Believe in My love for you. This life is just but a moment compared to eternity. Suffer all for love of Me, love all for love of Me, forgive all for love of Me. Do all good things for love of Me, for I did it all for love of you! I love you with an infinite love! Rejoice and be glad!”

“Behold Our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!” Isaiah 25:9

Halleluiah! Praise the Lord! Halleluiah!

Closing Prayer

Oh Jesus, Crucified!

You died for me.

What else do I need but to give You all my love and gratitude!

Oh, my Savior, I give all that I am and have to You.

May Your Holy Will be done in me always!

Help me to see and understand the nothingness of this world and
the greatness of eternal life.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, crucified, have mercy on me!

Abba Father



Our Father

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. Amen

Hail Mary

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 our death. Amen

Glory Be

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. Amen

Acknowledgments

I wish to express my deep gratitude to Father James Reutter and Father James Walsh, for their encouragement and guidance, for taking the time to read and correct these meditations.

To my dear friends, Annamarie Short and Cyndy Hummer for their help and spiritual support, and for spending much time reviewing these writings.

To my daughter Paula Dudzinski for designing the book cover.

And finally, I am most grateful to the Holy Spirit, the invisible guide to everything that is good.

May He bless and protect everyone with His love and radiant light.

These meditations on the Way of the Cross, bring back with love, that precious and ancient devotion, almost forgotten by many. Our Lord Jesus Christ invites us to not only follow Him, but to understand the immense love He has for us poor sinners. How easy it is for us to look at a Crucifix out of habit, not thinking that it represents the greatest story of Divine Love. Our Savior paid the price that we could never pay.....

This new approach to the Way of the Cross is unique and gives the reader a versatile way to meditate and contemplate the sufferings of Jesus, whether we are in Church, in front of the Stations, or at Adoration. This book makes it very convenient to meditate on one station at a time each day. For those who are home bound, this is an excellent way to make the Stations at home! As we go from station to station with Him, Our Sorrowful Mother is faithfully at our side helping us to follow Her Divine Son with love and gratitude. May Our Lord Jesus Christ, through these meditations, give us the grace to enter more deeply into the mystery of His Cross!

Apostolate for the Dying

P.O. Box 38-9185

Cincinnati, Ohio 45238

513-922-0370

Email: holyhourdevotion@gmail.com

Website: apostolateforthedying.org