

Stations of The Cross for Vocations

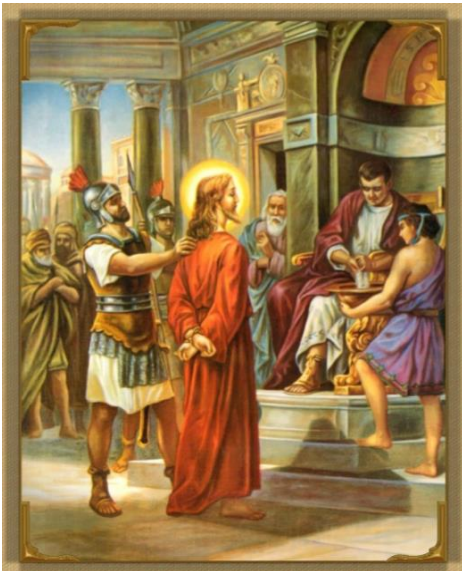


An Act of Contrition:

My Lord Jesus Christ, you have made this journey to die for me with love unutterable, and I have so many times unworthily abandoned you; but now I love you with my whole heart, and because I love you I repent sincerely for having ever offended you. Pardon me, my God, and permit me to accompany you on this journey. You go to die for love of me; I wish also, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of you. My Jesus, I will live and die always united to you.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, each of us is called to discipleship with your Son Jesus through the sacrament of Baptism. We are sent to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, to share the Good News of God's saving love. Hear our prayer as we ponder the redemptive vocation of Jesus who continues to call men and women to walk in His way, renewing His Church and caring for His people. We give you thanks for the mystery of every vocation and we pray for all who have answered your call. Send forth your Holy Spirit upon the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love, drawing many young men and women to dedicate themselves with an undivided heart to the love of Christ and His Kingdom. Amen.



THE FIRST STATION - Jesus is Condemned to Death

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.
(Genuflect)

Leader: Consider that Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the cross. (Kneel)

All: Jesus, we ask that you call young men and women today to publicly accept your invitation to follow you, despite others may think or say. Give them a passion for reaching out through your love to the needs of your brothers and sisters.

Reflection: *Lord, grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by you, always follow your plans, and perfectly accomplish your holy will. Grant that in all things, great and small, today and all the days of my life, I may do whatever you may require of me. Help me respond to the slightest prompting of your grace, so that I may be your trustworthy instrument of your honor. May your will be done in time and eternity – by me, in me, and through me. Amen.* St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Antiphon: *Through her heart, His sorrow sharing / All His bitter anguish bearing / now at length the sword had passed.*



THE SECOND STATION - Jesus is Made to Bear His Cross

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

R: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider that Jesus, in making this journey with the cross on His shoulders, thinking of us, and offering for us, to His Father, the death that He was about to undergo. (kneel).

R: **Jesus, help those you call to see in the cross the symbol of union with you. Give to them the zeal and talent to minister to those who are burdened with pain, sorrow, confusion, and alienation. Let them see that in the cross is life.**

Reflection: *God has created me to do him some definite service, he has committed some work to me which he has not committed to another. I have my mission – I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next...I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do his work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep his commandments and serve him in my calling. Therefore, I will trust him... He does nothing in vain.*
Bl. John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

Antiphon: *Oh, how sad and sore distressed / was that Mother highly blessed / of the sole-begotten One!*



THE THIRD STATION - 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.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider this first fall of Jesus under His cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, His head crowned with thorns, and He had lost a great quantity of blood. He was so weakened that He could scarcely walk, and yet He had to carry this great load upon His shoulders. The soldiers struck Him rudely, and thus He fell several times in His journey. (kneel)

R: **Jesus, let those you call know that they don't have to be perfect. Let them be open to your transforming grace that can accomplish more than anyone could imagine. Give to those who responded to**

your call to the priesthood and consecrated life, a deep trust that you will complete what you have begun in them.

Reflection: *Steer the ship of my life, Lord, to your quiet harbor, where I can be safe from the storms of sin and conflict. Show me the course I should take. Renew in me the gift of discernment, so that I can see the right direction in which I should go. And give me the strength and the courage to choose the right course, even when the sea is rough and the waves are high, knowing that through enduring hardship and danger in your name we shall find comfort and peace.* *Amen.* *St. Basil the Great (ca. 330-379)*

Antiphon: *Christ above in torment hangs / she beneath beholds the pangs / of her dying, glorious Son.*



THE FOURTH STATION - Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

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

R: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider the meeting of the Son and the Mother, which took place on this journey. Jesus and Mary looked at each other, and their looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, instill in young men and women the desire to come to know your Mother and find in their prayerful reflection of the scriptures, a woman of faith, hope and love whose vocation is an example for all. Help parents to promote and support vocations among their children, families, and church communities.**

Reflection: *Give me, O Lord, an ever-watchful heart which no subtle speculation may ever lure from you. Give me a noble heart that no unworthy affection shall ever draw downward to earth. Give me a heart of honesty that no insincerity shall warp. Give me a heart of courage that no distress shall ever crush or quench. Give me a heart so free that no perverted or impetuous affection shall ever claim it for its own. Amen.*
St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

Antiphon: *Is there one who would not weep / whelmed in miseries so deep / Christ's dear Mother to behold?*



THE FIFTH STATION - Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross

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

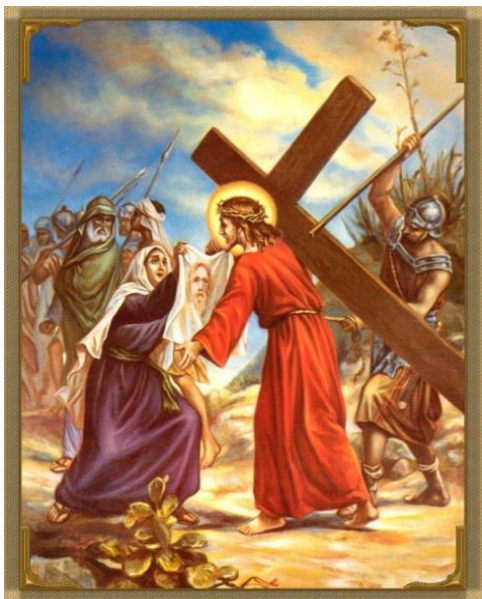
R: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider that His enemies, seeing that at each step Jesus, from weakness, was on the point of expiring, and fearing that He would die on the way when they wished Him to die the ignominious death of the cross, compelled Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross behind our Lord. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, send forth your grace upon those you call to church leadership. Help them accept and affirm others' gifts in the building of community, in proclaiming the message and in reaching out in service.**

Reflection: *Make us worthy, Lord, to serve other fellow men throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.*
St. Paul VI (1897-1978)

Antiphon: *Can the human heart refrain / from partaking in her pain, / in that Mother's pain untold?*



THE SIXTH STATION - 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.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider that the holy woman Veronica, seeing Jesus so afflicted, and His face bathed in sweat and blood, presented Him with a towel with which He wiped His adorable face, leaving on it the impression of His holy countenance. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, call numerous men and women to see your face on all whom they meet. Help your servants to truly understand that whatever good is done to the least of your brothers and sisters is done to you.**

Reflection: *Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous, teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to seek reward, except that of knowing that I do your will. Amen. St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)*

Antiphon: *Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled, /she beheld her tender Child, /all with bloody scourges rent.*



THE SEVENTH STATION - 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.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider the second fall of Jesus under the cross—a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds of the head and members of our afflicted Lord. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, teach those you call to the priesthood and consecrated life to accept their own limitations, and that of others, relying on God's merciful grace. Help them in this time of darkness to reach out especially to those whom the world calls "fallen" – persons who are addicted, imprisoned, poor, aged or of ill health.**

Reflection: *Almighty and eternal God, may your grace enkindle in all of us a love for the many unfortunate people whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life unworthy of human beings. Arouse in the hearts of those who call you Father a hunger for justice and peace, and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth. Grant, O Lord, peace in our days, peace to soul, peace to families, peace to our country, and peace among nations. Amen. Pope Pius XI (1876-1958)*

Antiphon: *For the sins of His own nation /she saw Him hang in desolation /till His spirit forth He sent.*



THE EIGHTH STATION - Jesus Speaks to the Daughters of Jerusalem

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

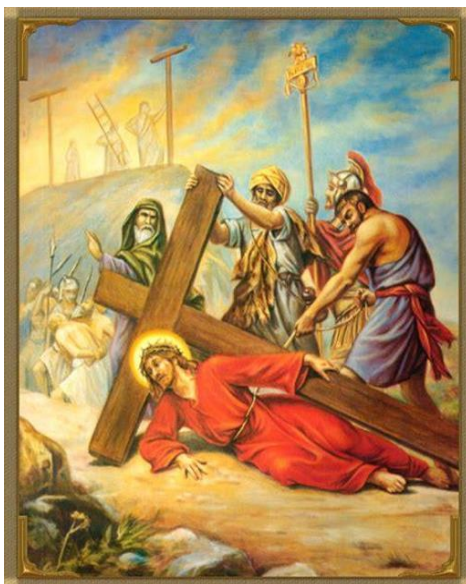
R: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider that those women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus in so pitiable a state, streaming with blood, as He walked along. But Jesus said to them, "Weep not for Me but for your children." (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, remove any prejudices or biases from all whom you call to walk with you as priests or in the consecrated life. Let those who follow you see that all God's people are created equal, male, and female, regardless of race or culture, and that our heavenly Father has no favorites. Let their words and examples speak of Christ's justice, peace, and joy.**

Reflection: *Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of peace, who yourself are our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you", grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses to the truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish in their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlightens our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all the people on earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. Amen. St. John XXIII (1881-1963)*

Antiphon: *O sweet Mother fount of love, /touch my spirit from above /make my heart with yours accord.*



THE NINTH STATION - Jesus Falls the Third Time

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

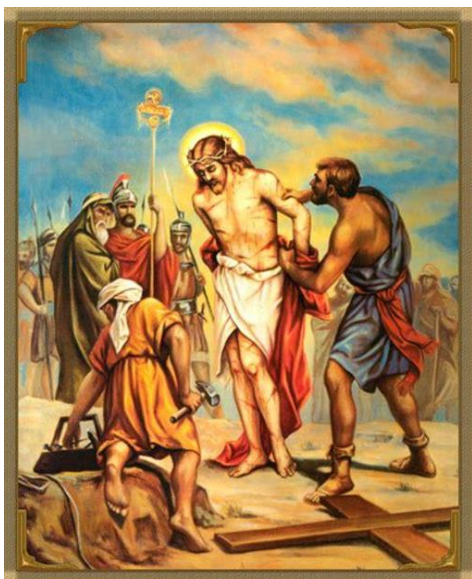
R: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
(Genuflect)

V: 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 had scarcely strength to move. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, help those you call to know that all vocations are grace-filled; that priests, deacons, religious, seminarians, consecrated men, and women, married and single are all favored by God. Instill in them the understanding that nothing can separate them from the love of God, actively present in good times and in bad.**

Reflection: *Awaken and enlighten us, my Lord, that we might know and love the gifts you are always pouring out in us, and that we will come to understand that you have moved to bestow favors on us and have remembered us. Amen. St. John of the Cross (1542 -1591)*

Antiphon: *Make me feel as you have felt /make my soul to glow and melt /with the love of Christ, my Lord.*



THE TENTH STATION - 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.**
(Genuflect)

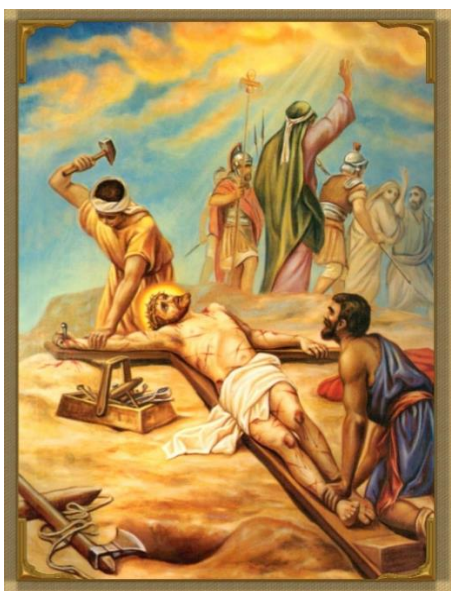
V: Consider the violence with which the executioners stripped Jesus. His inner garments adhered to His torn flesh and they dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, grant that those being called to the priesthood and consecrated life will clothe themselves with sincere compassion, humility, kindness, gentleness and patience, forgiveness, and thankfulness...and over all these virtues, let them put on love. May they understand that living their life's vocation is their deepest**

response to your love.

Reflection: *Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours, do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me. Amen. St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491 – 1556)*

Antiphon: *Holy Mother pierce me through /in my heart each wound renew /of my Savior crucified.*



THE ELEVENTH STATION - 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.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider that Jesus, after being thrown on the cross, extended His hands, and offered to His eternal Father the sacrifice of His life for our salvation. These barbarians fastened Him with nails; and then, raising the cross, left Him to die with anguish on this infamous gibbet. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, instill in the youth of today a deep desire to make a difference in the world no matter what the costs. Let the courageous example of modern martyrs inspire them to meet all challenges with faith, hope and love. Fill them with your presence and the grace to**

respond to the call to go out to all the world."

Reflection: *Father, I abandon myself into your hands, do with me what you will. Whatever you may do. I thank you. I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you. Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father. Amen. Bl. Charles de Foucauld (1858 – 1916)*

Antiphon: *Let me share with you His pain /who for all our sins was slain /who for me in torments died.*



THE TWELFTH STATION - 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.**
(Genuflect)

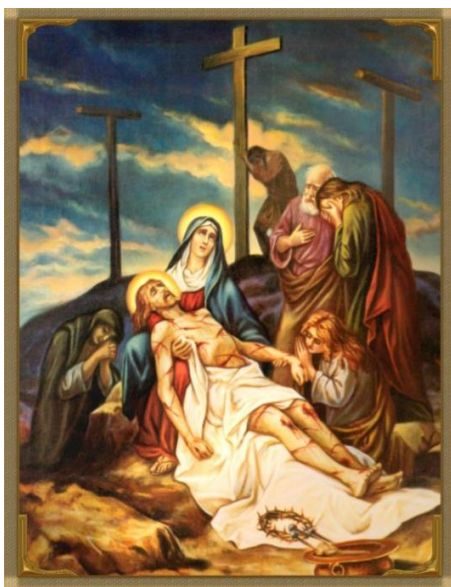
V: Consider how Jesus, after three hours of agony on the cross, consumed at length with anguish, abandons Himself to the weight of His body, bows His head, and dies. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, give to all who are considering their vocation a deep love of the Eucharist, the Most Holy Sacrament of your Passion, Death and Resurrection. Let them find in the Mass a daily renewal of your invitation to live their lives through you, with you, and in you, giving glory and honor to God our Father.**

Reflection: *Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that all my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.*

Prayer of St. Augustine (354-430)

Antiphon: *Let me mingle tears with you /mourning Him who mourned for me /all the days that I may live.*



THE THIRTEENTH STATION - 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.**
(Genuflect)

V: Consider that, our Lord having expired, two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, took Him down from the cross, and placed Him in the arms of His afflicted Mother, who received Him with unutterable tenderness, and pressed Him to her bosom. (Kneel)

R: **Jesus, touch the minds, hearts, and spirits of those you call to serve the people of God. Fill them with the assurance of our Blessed**

Mother's love and care for them, especially as they grow to embrace their vocations. Enable them to respond to your call to bring your redeeming presence to a world grieving, fearful and hungry for your truth through prayer and service.

Reflection: *Grant me, O Lord, to know what is worth knowing, to love what is worth loving, to praise what delights you most, to value what is precious to you, and to reject whatever is evil in your eyes. Amen.*

Thomas Kempis (1380 – 1471)

Antiphon: *By the cross with you to stay /there with you to weep and pray /is all I ask of you to give.*



THE FOURTEENTH STATION - Jesus is Placed in the Sepulcher

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

R: **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**
(Genuflect)

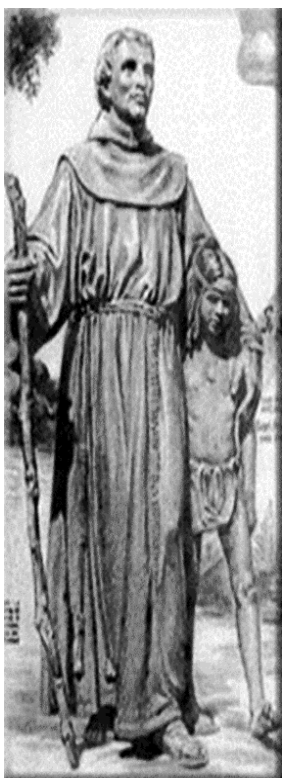
V: Consider that the disciples carried the body of Jesus to bury it, accompanied by His Holy Mother, who arranged it in the sepulcher with her own hands. They then closed the tomb, and all departed. (Silence)

R: **We thank you, Jesus, for the infinite power of your death and Resurrection which brought salvation and healing to the world. We thank you for all whom you have called to follow you in the past 2000 years, men and women formally dedicating their lives to building up your Church. We pray for all seminarians and novices in formation. Let**

all young men and women today reflect on the lives of the saints, and let them come to meet and know priests, religious, and lay ministers in our times who continue to respond to Christ's call, "Come, follow Me."

Reflection: *I love you, O my God, and my only desire is to love you until the last breath of my life. I love you, O my infinitely lovable God, I would rather die loving you than live without loving you. I love you, Lord, and the only grace I ask is to love you eternally, My God, if my tongue cannot say in every moment that I love you, I want my heart to repeat it to you as often as I draw breath. Amen.* *St. John Vianney (1786 -1859)*

Antiphon: *Virgin of all virgins best / listen to my fond request / let me share your grief divine.*



THANKSGIVING for Vocations

"In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus". – 1 Th. 5:18

Father, we praise and thank You for choosing Your anointed priests from among us to share in the one Priesthood of Your Son. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for accompanying Your priests and religious in finishing the good work to which You have called them. O Holy Spirit, thank You for filling their hearts with Your love. Mary, Mother of God, thank you for inspiring our young generation to willingly serve God and His people and for imploring for us numerous holy vocations for the priesthood and religious life. Dear Mother, bless us all and assist us by your prayers that we may live effectively the vocations to which we have been called. **Amen.**



Pray: Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.

