

*The Way of the Cross  
for Families*



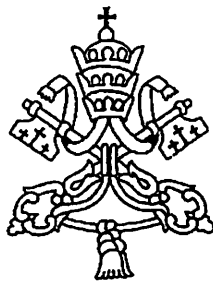


# The Way of the Cross

## during the Jubilee of Families

October 12, 2000  
in St. Peter's Square

*Pontifical Council for the Family*



*Published in conjunction with:*



©2001 Pontifical Council for the Family  
All rights reserved.

*The icons were created by*

Kiko Argüello, Initiator of the Neocatechumenal Way  
(Stations I, XII, XIII, XIV)

and by the Romanian artist, Claudio Ungureanu  
(Stations II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI).

*Photos courtesy of:*

“L’Osservatore Romano”

*On the cover:*

Icon of Kiko Argüello

*Cover design:*

Cheryl St. Marie

# *Contents*

Introduction . . . . .	4
The Holy Father's Prayer for the Family . . . . .	7
Via Crucis Introductory Prayer . . . . .	8
FIRST STATION: The Last Supper . . . . .	9
SECOND STATION: Peter Denies Jesus . . . . .	11
THIRD STATION: Jesus Is Condemned to Death . . . . .	13
FOURTH STATION: Jesus Carries His Cross . . . . .	15
FIFTH STATION: Jesus Falls His First Time . . . . .	18
SIXTH STATION: Jesus Meets His Mother . . . . .	20
SEVENTH STATION: Jesus Falls Under the Weight of the Cross . . . . .	22
EIGHTH STATION: Jesus Consols the Women of Jerusalem . . . . .	25
NINTH STATION: Simon of Cyrene . . . . .	27
TENTH STATION: Jesus Falls Again . . . . .	30
ELEVENTH STATION: The Women Follow Jesus. . . . .	33
TWELFTH STATION: Jesus Dies on the Cross . . . . .	36
THIRTEENTH STATION: The Descent from the Cross . . . . .	39
FOURTEENTH STATION: The Risen Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene . . . . .	41
Concluding Prayer . . . . .	44
Pater Noster . . . . .	46
Stabat Mater (Latin) . . . . .	47
Stabat Mater (English) . . . . .	49
Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of Life and Joys . . . . .	52
About Us . . . . .	54



## Introduction

# *The Way of the Cross and the Family*

This “Way of the Cross” is a special gift and blessing for families, and there is a deep connection between the mysteries of Our Lord's Passion and the mystery of the family.

The family is a communion of persons united in love, as well as a sanctuary of life. Both of these gifts are fruits of the Lord's Passion and Death. In the Way of the Cross, we come face to face with the very meaning of love. Love means “I sacrifice myself for the good of the other person.” St. John writes in his first letter, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers” (1Jn. 3:16). The Way of the Cross is a school of love, in which each member of the family can rediscover the call to give himself away in love for the others, just as Christ gave Himself away for us. “This is my body, given up for you.” These words, which foretell and explain the Passion, are also the words of spouse to spouse, parent to child, and each family member to all of the others.

For families to be strong, they must reject the lure of convenience, and the idea that we find fulfillment by

turning in on ourselves. Rather, as the Way of the Cross teaches, fulfillment is found by pushing ourselves out of the way and making room for the other person. As Pope John Paul II writes in "The Gospel of Life,"

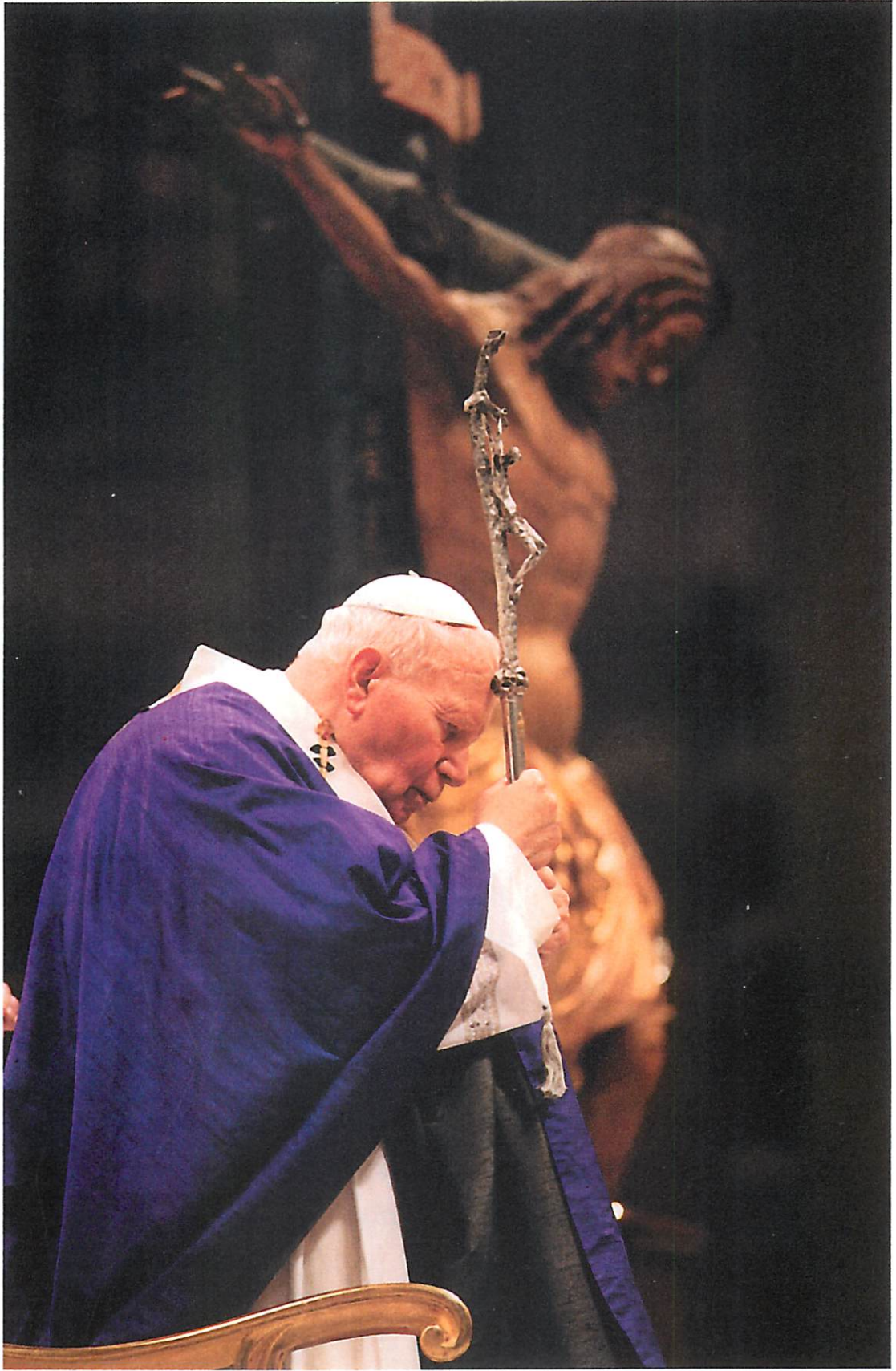
"He who had come 'not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many' (Mk 10:45), attains on the cross the heights of love: 'Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends' (Jn. 15:13)... In this way Jesus proclaims that life finds its center, its meaning, and its fulfillment when it is given up" (EV, n. 51).

The family is also the "sanctuary of life," and the love displayed in the Way of the Cross is precisely the source of life for the whole human family. Self-giving love is always open to life. The dignity of human life, already established in the creative act by which God made us in His own image, is deepened by the fact that the Son of God suffers and dies for us. In following the Way of the Cross, families will find even deeper motives to accept and nourish the gift of life.

By His Passion, Christ has redeemed the world. By living His Passion, may we rebuild the Culture of Life.

**FR. FRANK PAVONE.**





## *Prayer for the Family*

Lord God, from you every family  
in heaven and on earth takes its name.

Father, you are Love and Life. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love.

Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth  
Grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family.

Through Christ our Lord, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life for ever and ever.

Amen.

*Joannes Paulus II*



VIA CRUCIS\*

## *Introductory Prayer*

*(Announcement of the Passion)*

From the four corners of the earth, O Lord, we come before you. Look upon all of these families gathered here around our Holy Father to celebrate together the Great Jubilee of the 2,000 years since your birth.

To think that it all began in a home in Nazareth when the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would become the mother of the Savior. Then in Bethlehem, you wanted to be born into a human family where you took on the form of a child. Thirty years later, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter, Paul and their companions headed out for Rome. With their encouragement, countless families have become “small Christian churches.” We give you thanks, O Lord, for entrusting the same mission to our families today, a mission of witness and of proclamation of the Good News.

Yet, Lord, how can we celebrate the Great Jubilee without remembering the price of our salvation, the tears shed for our deliverance?

O Mary, Queen of the Family, take us by the hand and lead us, through the Passion and Cross of your Son, to the glory of his Resurrection. Amen

Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you!

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...

\* The text was composed by Msgr. Michel Schooyans,  
Consultor of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

## *First Station*

### THE LAST SUPPER

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



*The icons were created by*

Kiko Arguello, Initiator of the Neocatechumenal Way  
(Stations I, XII, XIII, XIV)

and by the Romanian artist, Claudio Ungureanu  
(Stations II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI).



## MEDITATION

In Cana (Jn 2:1-2) Jesus was present in the mutual commitment of the new spouses. The natural institution of marriage shines with new light.

But it is in the light of the Last Supper that the sacrament of marriage is fully revealed in its saving dimension. Marriage is a path to holiness because it signifies the new covenant between God and humanity, which is sealed by the institution of the Eucharist (Mt 26:17-35). The Eucharist is therefore the sacrament of families.

Before going out into the night, towards the agony in Gethsemane, Jesus left us his spiritual testament in a few burning words: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34). Love one another to the point of pardon; love one another to the point of reconciliation. May our homes give witness to the power of this love. From now on, there is no longer any excuse for our not loving enough, because our heart is called to love with the very love of the Heart of Jesus.

## PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for the gift of your Body and Blood. Our heart is overwhelmed with gratitude for the perpetual gift of yourself that you instituted during the Last Supper. Give our families the grace to be schools of generosity. May we receive your Word, both gentle and strong, your Pardon which will set us off again on our path in life, and the consecrated Bread and Wine which make us long for the hour of your return.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...

## *Second Station*

### **PETER DENIES JESUS**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.





## MEDITATION

Peter, who had been so impetuous just a moment before, so sure of himself, is on the point of breaking down. He can no longer maintain his fidelity. A servant picks him out and points to him. Poor Peter! You are really in trouble!

And the fisherman from Galilee gets more and more caught up in equivocating, in lying, in denying (Lk 22: 54-62). He completely forgets the commitment that he had made to follow Jesus wherever he might go. But soon, healed by his bitter tears and by being pardoned, he will find new life in hope and will receive his definitive mission: to witness to the empty tomb, to eat and drink with the Risen Jesus, to strengthen his brothers, and lastly, to give the supreme witness that will conclude the disciple's transformation into the image of his Master.

## PRAYER

*Lord, I hardly dare to say it, but I thank you for Peter's denial. First of all because you pardoned him and he repented. You who pardon me so often, give me the tears of true repentance. Pardon our infidelities to our commitments. The infidelities to our baptismal promises; the adulteries that take so many different forms, those in particular that lead us to neglect the family by letting ourselves be eaten up by our profession. Give me the grace, with Peter, to confess that you are the Son of God, the Lord whose gaze is so merciful.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...

## *Third Station*

### **JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.





## MEDITATION

Pilate was a strange man. He even managed to ask a disturbing question: "What is truth?" (Jn 18:38). Truth was there before him. But between Pilate and Jesus stood concern for his career, for his getting ahead in life. He had to please the emperor, and above all not make any waves and do everything possible to keep the crowd happy. In his heart, there was no longer any place for that truth which he claimed to be seeking. But he was still free, free to be a coward, the wounded freedom to allow the Innocent One to be put to death.

## PRAYER

*O Lord, we pray for all those who are in government, for politicians, for members of legislative bodies, for doctors, for lawyers, for opinion makers. Give them, O Lord, a heart which is open to truth and to justice. Give them the courage to protect life and to serve the family.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...



## *Fourth Station*

### **JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS**

(Mt 27: 27-32)

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



## MEDITATION

The cross that Jesus takes up is weighed down with all the sins of the world: social injustices, the scandalous abyss between the poor and the rich, hunger, unemployment, diseases, misery, ignorance, violence. Jesus sees the suffering of the little ones who die at such a tender age. He sees people who measure the worth of other persons by how much they can get out of them, by the pleasure that they can derive from them. It is as if men and women were mere merchandise.

So many sins directly affect the family: jealousy, arguments, egotism, scorn for the other, adultery, a lack of respect for sexuality, the refusal of life. And then there is indifference towards children, a lack of responsibility for their education, abandoning one's spouse. And then there are the children who abandon their parents to loneliness or accept without a second thought the offer of euthanasia for those who have given them life.

## PRAYER

*O Lord, you accepted to be crushed by the weight of your Cross, by the weight of the sins of the world. Help us to understand that our responsibility is seriously caught up in the many injustices and violences that affect society and the family. Help us to see these for what they are, to denounce them with courage, and to take the necessary steps to remedy them.*

*Enlighten all our leaders and give them the strength and courage not to reduce married life to a simple "pact" and the family to one*

*form of union among others. May they rediscover in marriage the fundamental unit of every human society. May they try to create the conditions that will allow couples, protected from all constraint, to exercise freely their responsibilities as parents in the transmission of life and the education of their children.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...



## *Fifth Station*

### **JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



## MEDITATION

Jesus takes up the cross that is imposed on him. He accepts it because he has known from all eternity that by taking it upon himself, he will bring forgiveness and joy to the world. But the cross is so heavy! It is so heavy after the humiliation of an unfair trial, the scourging at the pillar and the crowning with thorns! In the end, he falls. His divine glance implores the people's compassion, not so that they will end this suffering, but so that they will understand the monstrous act they are about to commit. At this time Jesus remembers what John the Baptist said when he began his public life: "This is the Lamb of God. This is He who bears the sins of the world." Then Jesus gets up, takes up his cross and continues along his way followed by the sinners whom he carries, one might say despite themselves, along the path of salvation.

## PRAYER

*Lord, you made known to St. Paul that it was in human weakness that the whole power of God was revealed. In falling under the weight of the cross, you, God made man, manifested the greatness and profoundness of God's mercy. Lord, grant us the grace to recognize our weakness. Give us the strength to confess. Give us the grace to embrace the instrument of your suffering so that after passing through your passion and cross with you, you will lead us to the glory of the resurrection.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...



## *Sixth Station*

### **JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



## MEDITATION

Simeon had already told her: “A sword will pierce your own soul” (Lk 2:35), and Mary knew that her Son’s hour would be the hour for testing her faith. Mary’s greatness is her having said “yes” to God’s will in the most profound and strongest faith possible.

Mary offered the Father the most precious thing that she had, Jesus, the blessed fruit of her womb, the one whom she had nourished, cradled, presented in the Temple, sought among the doctors. He is also the one whom she offers to the world.

## PRAYER

*O Mary, so often we do not know what to say when faced with suffering.*

*What can we say to a mother who has just lost her child? And to a wife whose husband will be paralyzed permanently? What words can we find to say to a sick person on the point of dying? What will we say to a grandfather when his children and grandchildren never come to see him? Tell us what you said to your Son. Teach us to be close to those who are suffering so that we may share in their suffering, tell them that they are not alone in bearing the cross, and assure them that their trials in no way lessen their dignity as persons. On the contrary, they are precious in the eyes of God.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...



## *Seventh Station*

### **JESUS FALLS UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



## MEDITATION

The cross is heavy, rough, harsh. And then there are the gibes, the jeers, the whip lashes. There is also the terrible solitude, the betrayal, the total abandonment, all the vileness and cowardliness of the human heart. Jesus can no longer bear it and falters under the Cross.

Yet, when the world was created, people were not so privileged: they are made in the image and likeness of God, endowed with reason and free will, as well as with a heart with which to love and be loved. But they used their intelligence to exploit others. They abandoned their reason to follow their instincts. They preferred the easy way out of lying to the demands of the truth. They are able to admit, without the least sense of horror, that every year there are some fifty million abortions, that the illiterate and handicapped are routinely sterilized, that older people and other “nuisances” that cost too much to keep alive are the victims of euthanasia.

For the Heart of Jesus, the wood that tortures him so is nothing compared to the sins of the world.

## PRAYER

*Lord, fill our hearts with the need to seek the truth. Make us capable of forgetting our egotism and our tranquility so that we may dedicate ourselves to your service in the service of others.*

*Bring an end to the scandal of so many people who die in silence from a lack of food or safe drinking water, or from any other sicknesses that strike the poor.*

(continued)



*Teach our society to face honestly their responsibility for the spread of AIDS. Help us to find the appropriate words to comfort those who are suffering from this illness.*

*Teach us also to assume our responsibilities before the suicide of young people. They too are the victims of the culture of death. They are wounded by the divisions in our families; they suffer from the physical or moral absence of their parents; they are defenseless before the allure of our media. Give us a heart ready to listen to them. May they find in our communities the light of hope and the creative efficacy of love.*

*Help us to change this merciless world where there is no place for the weak simply because they are in the way and therefore must be prevented from being born and from living.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

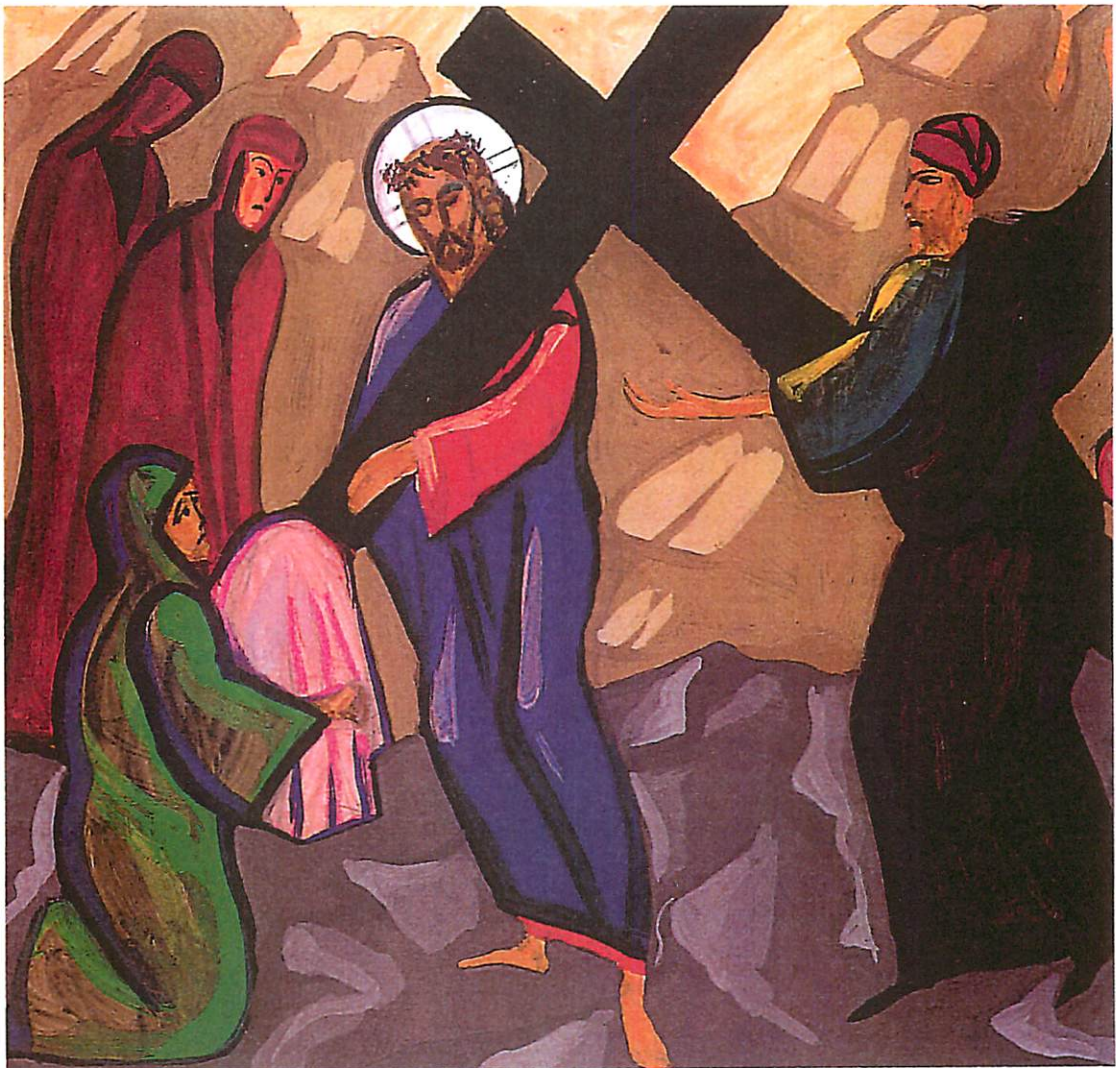
PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...

## *Eighth Station*

### **JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.





## MEDITATION

St. Luke tells us that a group of women beat their breast when they saw Jesus carrying his cross (Lk 23:27-31). Jesus invites them to go further still and to discover their share of responsibility in this condemnation. He inverts the relationship of compassion because he reads in their hearts, as he had in the heart of the woman taken in adultery and in that of the judges who wanted to condemn her. At the very hour when he comes face to face with death, Jesus makes a last and solemn appeal to these women to repent. An invitation which is addressed across the centuries to the prodigal children that we are, and which makes us truly experience the infinite patience of God.

## PRAYER

*O Lord, you scrutinize the depths of the heart. You know that our families bear crosses of all kinds and are wounded by sin. You who never cease to offer us mercy, give the strength of a liberating pardon to all spouses. You who have been abandoned, comfort by your word and sacraments those who have been unjustly abandoned. Give them, O Lord, the strength to raise their children in respect for your Holy Name.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

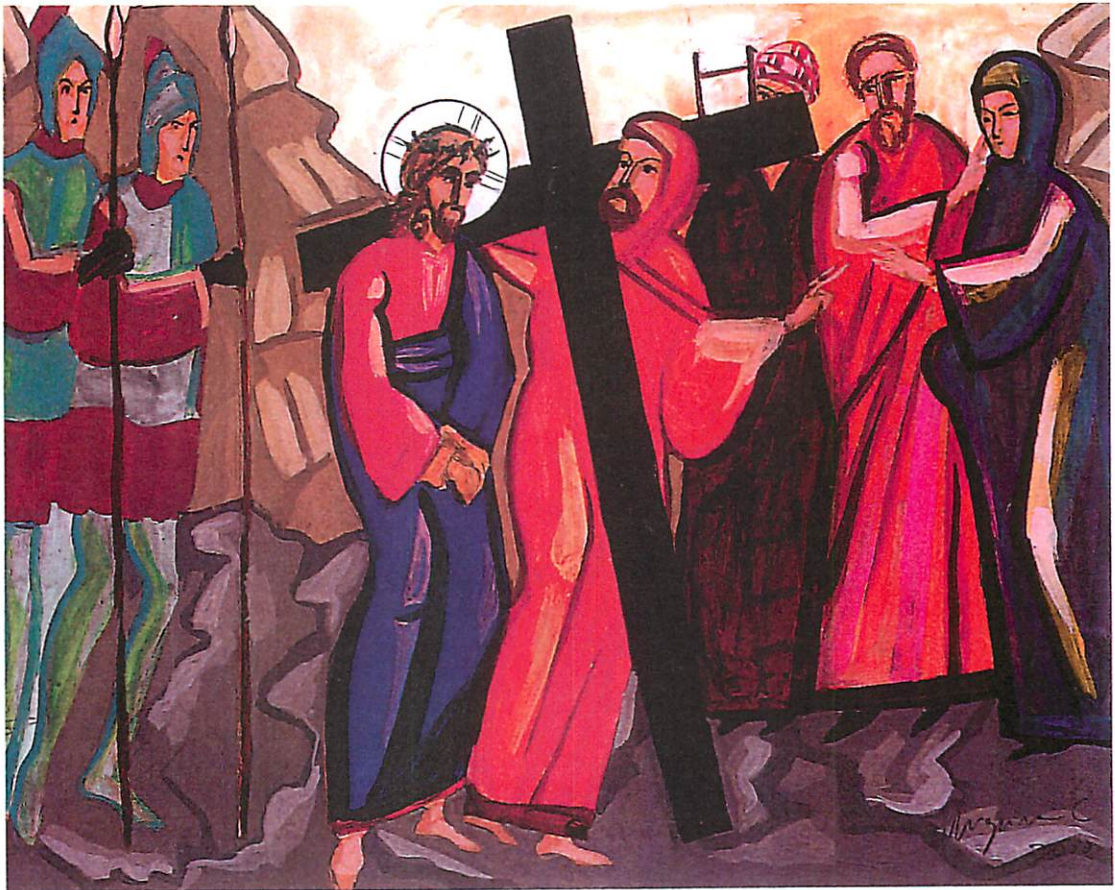
STABAT MATER...

## *Ninth Station*

### **SIMON OF CYRENE**

(Mt 27, 32)

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.





## MEDITATION

As usual, Simon of Cyrene had had a hard day. He had worked his little plot of land to make it produce; he had borne the weight and heat of the day. He had dug, hoed and weeded under the blazing sun. He was exhausted; his feet hurt and his hands were calloused.

And all at once, a man stopped him and growled, "You there, Simon, get going!" There was no way of escaping by disappearing down the narrow streets. He was caught, requisitioned: it always happens to the same people! To the poor and defenseless, to those who are scorned and who are devoid of honor! Where are you, Lord? Could it be that you are the God of the rich and the fortunate, of those who live an easy life in the palaces of kings? Where is your justice?

But Simon stops, his hand on his mouth. He has just seen Jesus, there, under the weight of the cross, like a living answer to his cursing. What a strange face to face meeting between this rough and ready man and the King, crowned with thorns, whose partner he had suddenly become! Simon no longer retreats before the cross, before this cross. He will help Jesus to the very end of the way.

## PRAYER

*Lord, through the example of Simon of Cyrene, you invite us to unite our cross to yours. What an honor to associate us in this way in the redemption of the world.*

*Help us, O Lord, to know how to help others to bear their cross. Make our families sensitive to the needs of their sick relatives; help*

*us to know how to surround widows and widowers and orphans with a concern which will make their suffering less difficult to bear. Open our hearts to the distress of children who have been abandoned. Help us to discover what our responsibilities are for those orphans of living parents and before all those, young and old, who suffer from divisions within their family.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

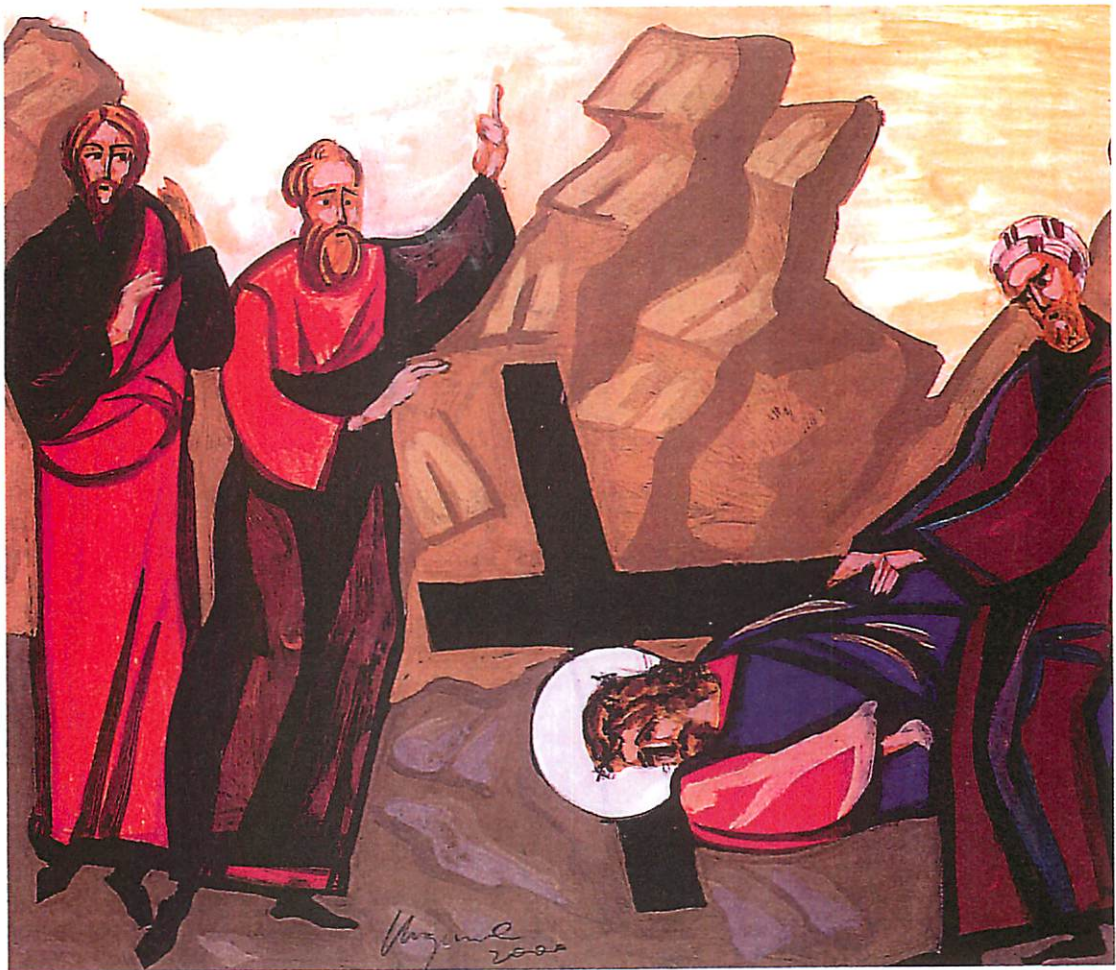
STABAT MATER...



## *Tenth Station*

### **JESUS FALLS AGAIN**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



## MEDITATION

Since he was sent to re-establish in a wondrous way the Covenant wounded by sin, this Great Father, as the Letter to the Hebrews states, is not incapable of being compassionate of our infirmities. He himself experienced them all, like us, except for sin (cf. Hebrews 4:14-16). When Jesus falls again, he thinks of all the miseries that weigh down on people. Like them he is confronted with the question that we come up against every day: Why is there evil? Why suffering? Why so much injustice and violence? Why so many lies? The answer comes to us from his body lying on the ground, the meeting point for all human suffering. For us, Jesus became sin (2 Cor 5:21); he took on our suffering. He knows that we are oppressed by the weight of evil and sin and he invites us to go to him because he has come to comfort us (cf. Mt 11:28), to heal us (Lk 4:18) and to save us (Mt 18:11).

## PRAYER

*Lord, in going up the little roads that lead to Calvary, you measured the weight of the evil in our human lives. You have taken on that weight with your cross. This cross has become too heavy for your shoulders after along with our sins, you took on all our tears and our infirmities, those of our hearts and our bodies: Thank you, Lord, for accepting to be touched by despair, as we are at times tempted to do. "Father, you have the power to do all things. Take this cup away from me." Thank you above all for rejecting this last temptation by confessing, as you have invited us*



*to do, your total confidence in the Father. "But let it be as you would have it, not as I" (Mk 14:36).*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

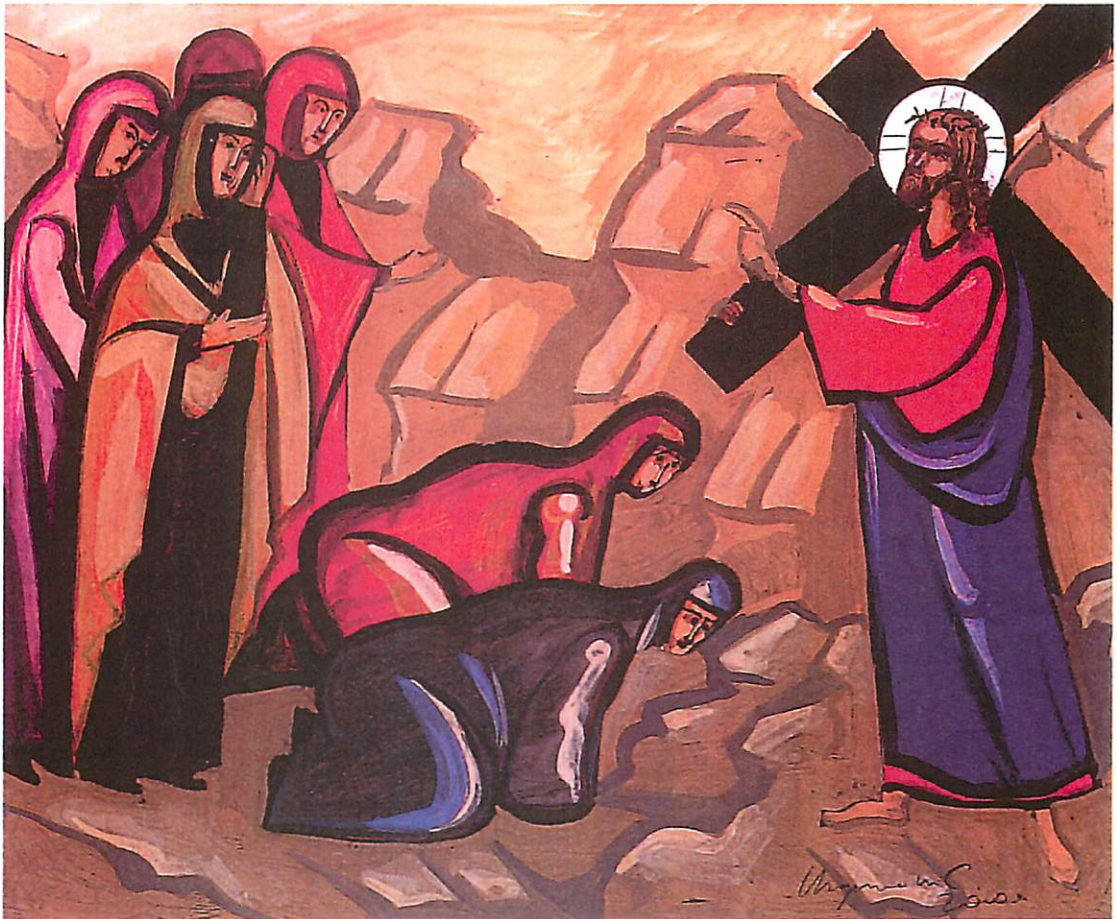
STABAT MATER...

## *Eleventh Station*

### **THE WOMEN FOLLOW JESUS**

(Lk 23:27-32)

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.





## MEDITATION

As Jesus turned a corner, there they were, a gentle but determined group of women. The Gospel does not say how many they were, nor who they were (Cf. Lk 23:27). But Scripture leaves no doubt about how determined they were.

Undaunted by the crowd, these steadfast women resolved to break through the line of soldiers to stop this procession which was heading for the scaffold. With what astonishing liberty these women acted! They took endless risks and nothing could intimidate them! ... "I sought the one whom my heart loves" (Song of Solomon 3:1).

Tradition tells us that one of them was called Veronica. On the linen cloth with which she wiped the face of Jesus were left the features of the One to whom they had listened so many times, whom they had so often followed, and whom they loved.

## PRAYER

*Lord, may our sisters be vessels of tenderness and of love in a world marked by so much violence. You made them both loveable and loving so that they could welcome life in their heart and in their body. You made them compassionate and strong so that they could open their arms to human suffering and accompany and console the ones who are suffering.*

*Protect them, O Lord, against all those efforts aimed at turning to ice within them the very fiber of their love. Do not let them be stripped of their incomparable dignity as women and mothers.*

*And show, O Lord, your face of mercy to those who have rejected that life which had just begun within them and give them the hope to see one day the child for whom you were the first to open your arms.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...

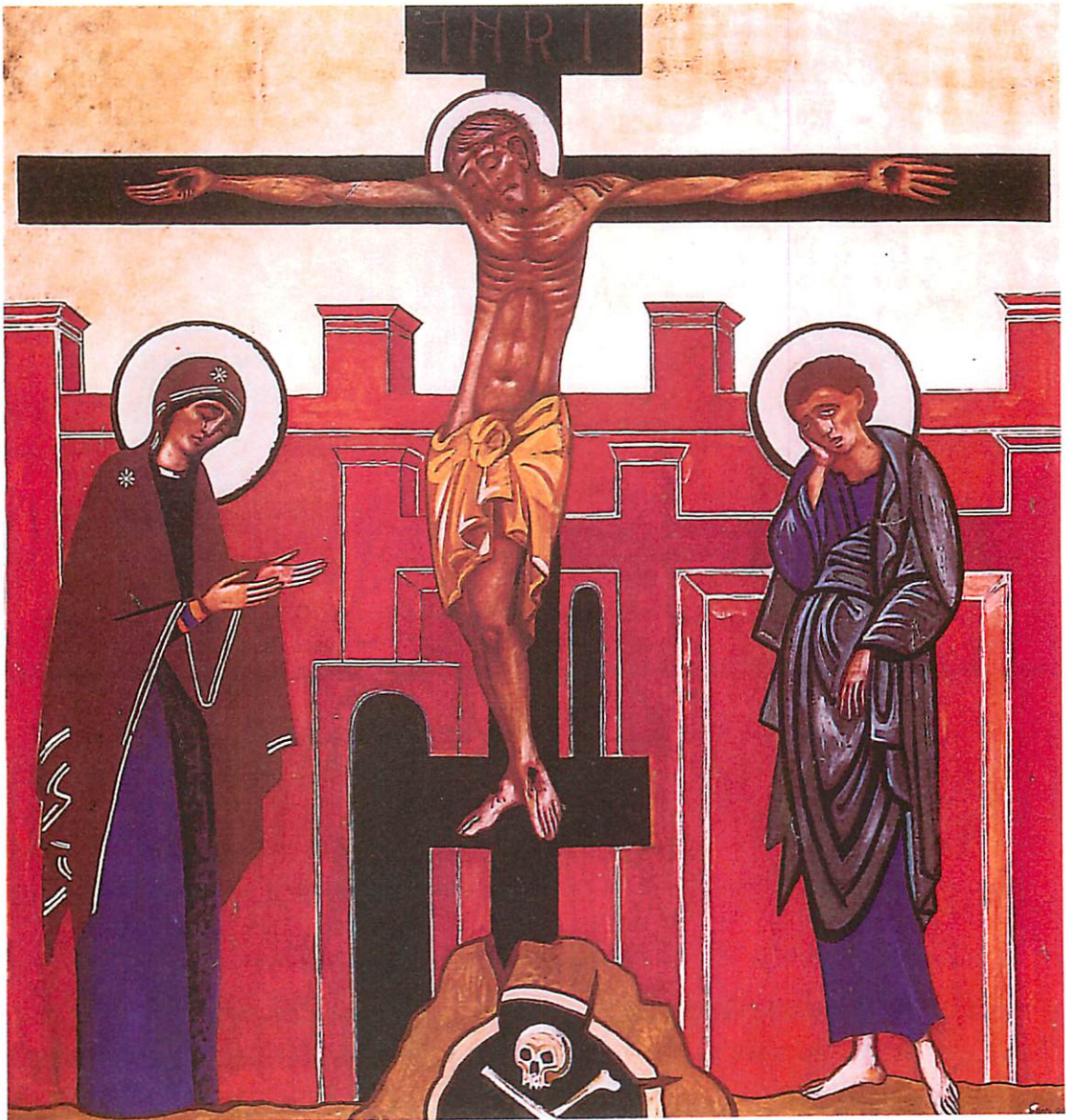


## *Twelfth Station*

### **JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

(Mt 27:35-50)

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



## MEDITATION

The procession has arrived. The lugubrious ritual is picking up speed. Those who are condemned to death are attached to the gallows. The crosses stand out against the sky. Human “justice” has been fulfilled. From the contemptuous throne of the cross, Jesus embraces all the miseries of the world. A thief on his right; a bandit on his left.

Mary is at the foot of the Cross: standing as ‘Stabat Mater’. She knows that she must remain strong until the very end just as her Son would remain strong to the bitter end. She is the New Eve, the Mother of the Living, associated forever with the work of the New Adam. Mary, Mother of the Church, is here confirmed in the mission that her Son entrusted to her: to reveal the maternal face of God.

And Jesus says to John “Behold your Mother” (Jn 19:27) so that all would know how close God has become to all of humanity through Mary. Through the Heart of Mary, we are invited to enter the Heart of God.

And then Jesus said “It is finished” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit (Jn 19:30).

## PRAYER

*Lord, by your Cross, you conquered death and you gave to all the grace of freely enjoying the fruits of your victorious passion. In our countries and at times in our families, however, the drama of Good Friday is still played out by the furtive elimination of the Holy Innocents. Give us the grace to recognize our lack of courage and our omissions that make us accomplices in the culture of death.*



*Through the intercession of Mary, your Mother and our Mother,  
grant us the courage so that we may be, as you were, bold signs of  
contradiction in proclaiming and giving witness to the truth of the  
gift of your life for our lives.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

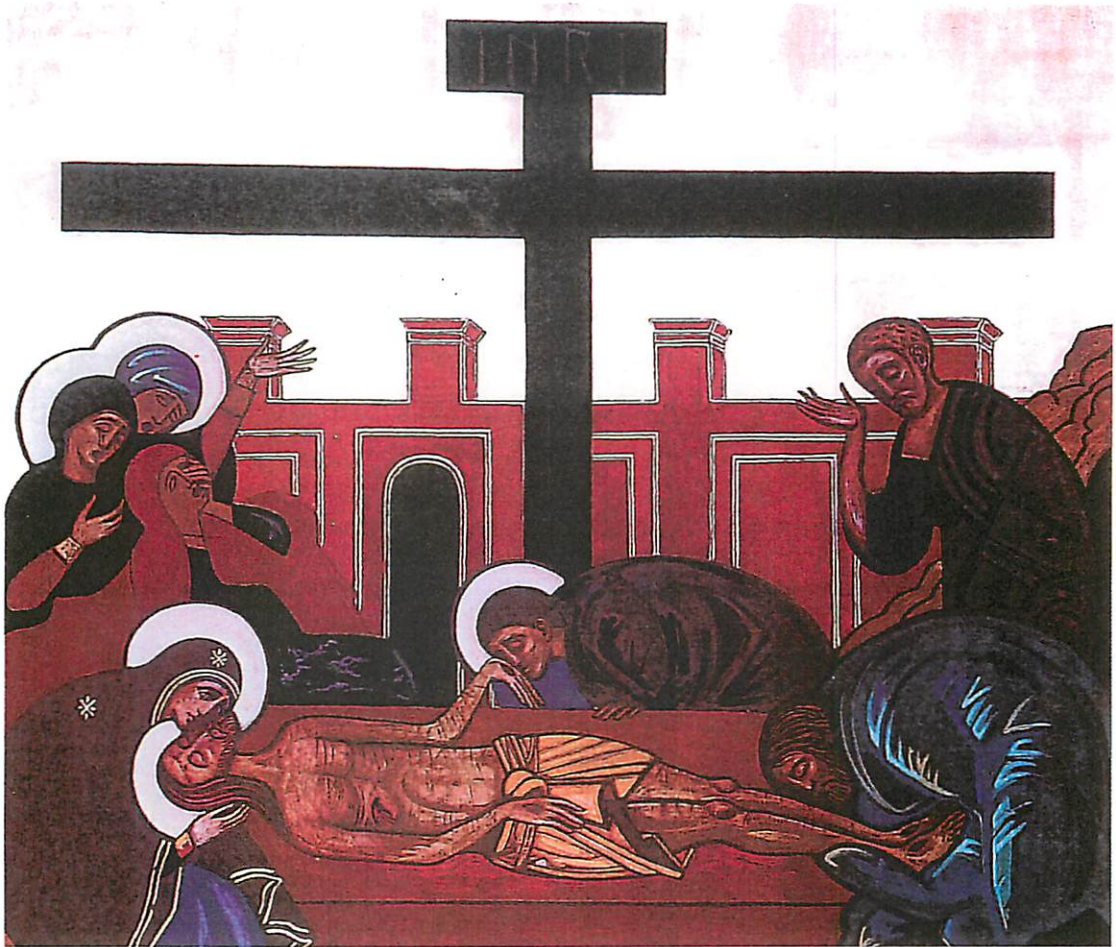
STABAT MATER...

## *Thirteenth Station*

### **THE DESCENT FROM THE CROSS**

(Mk 15:39; Lk 23:47)

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



## MEDITATION

The nearer Calvary became, the more the Centurion asked himself questions. He had, however, to wait until all justice had been accomplished before the truth flashed before his eyes. A truth that was, so to say, on two levels. First, the truth of a fact: he had just cooperated in an unjust condemnation. Then, the truth on the level of faith: The Evangelist says that the Centurion glorified God saying, "Certainly, this man was innocent" (Lk 23:47).

As for the executioners, they still had one task to complete. "One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear and at once water and blood came out" (Jn 19:34). From the Heart of Jesus, these pagans therefore made spring forth the living water of baptism which has made us forever the children of God, and the blood that we receive in the Eucharist and which comforts the pilgrims en route to eternity. Shed for the salvation of the world, this water and blood are the signs of the New Covenant between Heaven and Earth, sealed by Jesus on Golgotha.

## PRAYER

*Lord, you had us participate in your death so that we could be reborn to life. We thank you, Lord, for the grace of our baptism. Thank you for all the fathers and mothers who transmit life to the full to their children. Give us the grace to "put off the old nature with its practices and put on the new nature, which is being renewed after the image of its creator" (Col 3:9-10).*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...

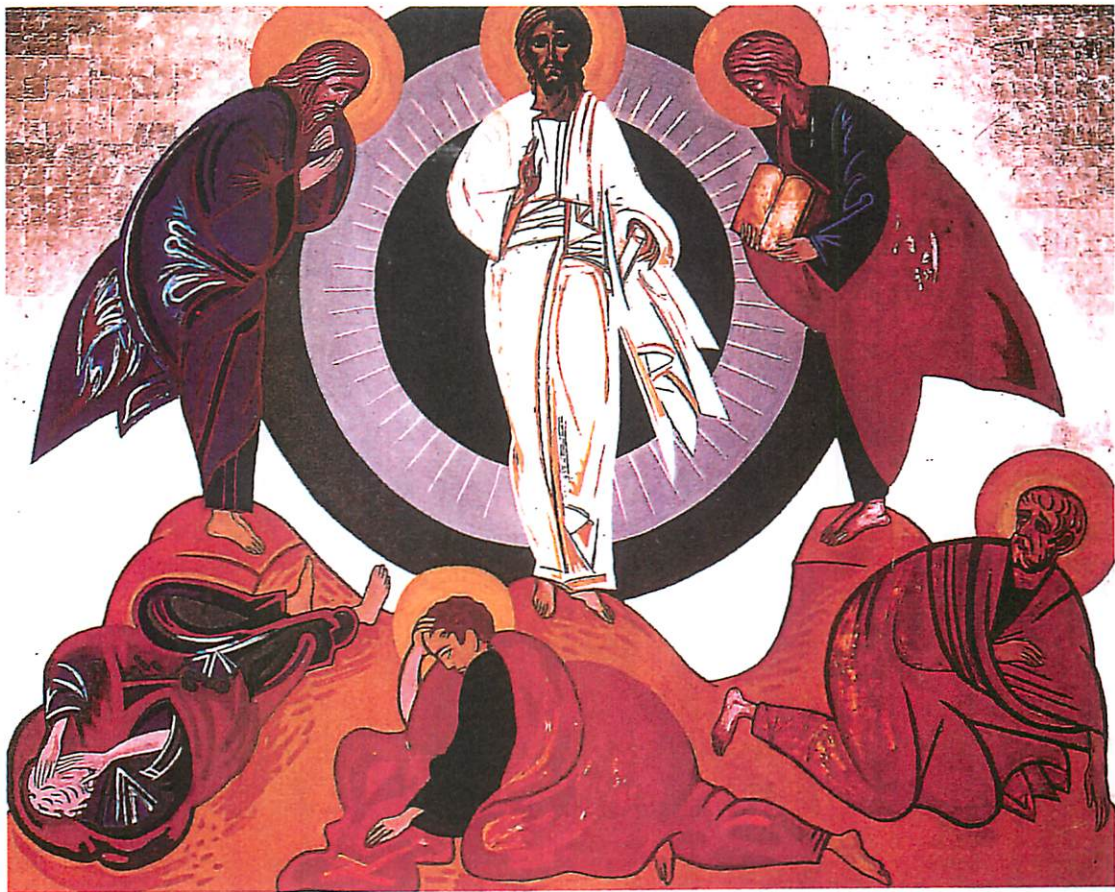


## *Fourteenth Station*

---

### **THE RISEN JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE (Jn 20:1-2)**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.



## MEDITATION

The most important event in the history of the world has just taken place with the most complete discretion: “Magnalia Dei,” the “great Works of God.” Early in the morning of Easter, as the Sun was rising, the tomb is open, empty: He has risen! Do not be afraid! Death has been conquered, evil has been conquered, sin has been conquered! Alleluia!

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb. She neither sees nor hears anything; she is crying. Note how sensitive Jesus is: he places two angels, that is two divine messengers, in front of her. They are clothed in white, a sign that they are there to tell her the Good News that she cannot even conceive of: Jesus is alive.. Jesus himself calls her by her name and sends her to tell the disciples: “I have seen the Lord, he spoke to me.”

Because of her faith, this woman has become the first witness to the Resurrection, with an immediate mission to go and awaken the faith and courage of the Apostles, who had withdrawn to a hidden place.

## PRAYER

*Lord, we recognize ourselves in Mary Magdalene in the sad experience of sin, but we have also experienced your pardon. Sins against life; sins against love; sins against truth, rejected in the name of liberty.*

*Help us, Lord, to give witness to your mercy and to find in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the way that leads back to you. Show*

*us, O Lord, that despair has no place in the heart of the Christian. Give us, O Risen Lord, the gift of healing that you offered to Mary Magdalene. Give us, above all a new way of seeing things, that of a child, so that after having recognized you as the Risen One in the garden of your Church, we may set out on the ways of the world with renewed enthusiasm to proclaim the Gospel of Life.*

*Come, Lord Jesus!*

PATER NOSTER...

STABAT MATER...



# *Concluding Prayer*

## **FIRST READER**

Thank you, Lord, for the consecrated bread and wine,  
which are the body and blood of the Risen Jesus.

Thank you for giving us this mysterious link between earth  
and heaven.

Thank you, Lord, for already having given us such a  
precious pledge of the glory with which we hope to be  
associated.

## **SECOND READER**

Thank you, Lord, for having entrusted these children to  
our care. In the first place, they are yours. It is from  
among these shafts of wheat that you will raise up  
workers for the coming harvest. This is why we offer  
them to you; we consecrate them to you; we ask you to  
bless them and to protect them from all evil.

## **THIRD READER**

Lord, give to spouses the audacity to bear witness by their  
entire life to the great mystery of the spousal relationship  
of Christ and the Church.

Give mothers and fathers the gift of welcoming their  
children with joy, as Mary welcomed Jesus on the blessed  
day of the Annunciation.

Give to our families the grace to reflect before the eyes of all the splendor of your Trinitarian mystery of love.

#### FOURTH READER

Lord, you have warned us that the disciple will not be treated any better than the master. We know that as we advance along the ways of this earth, we will have to share in your passion if we are to reach, one day, the glory of your resurrection.

Strengthen our hearts so that we will know how to bear witness to our hope through the trials of this life.

Holy Virgin Mary, hold us tightly by the hand. If evil lurks around us, if our steps falter, show us your Son. Guided by you, at the end of our pilgrimage, we will have reached your Risen Son in the eternal Glory of the Father and in union with the Holy Spirit.

## *Pater noster*

*Pater noster,  
qui es in caelis,  
sanctificetur nomen tuum.  
Adveniat regnum tuum.  
Fiat voluntas tua,  
sicut in caelo et in terra.  
Panem nostrum quotidianum da nobis hodie.  
Et dimitte nobis debita nostra,  
sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris.  
Et ne nos inducas in tentationem,  
sed libera nos a malo.*

*Amen.*



PLANCTUS BEATAE MARIAE VIRGINIS

*Stabat Mater*

(Latin)

*S*tabat Mater dolorosa  
Iuxta crucem lacrimosa  
Dum pendebat Filius

*Vidit suum dulcem natum  
Moriendo desolatum  
Dum emisit spiritum*

*Cuius animam gementem  
Contristatam et dolentem  
Pertransiuit gladius*

*Eia Mater, fons amoris  
Me sentire vim doloris  
Fac, ut tecum lugeam*

*O quam tristis et afflicta  
Fuit illa benedicta  
Mater unigeniti!*

*Fac, ut ardeat cor meum  
In amando Christum Deum  
Ut sibi complaceam*

*Quae moerebat et dolebat,  
Pia Mater, dum videbat  
Nati poenas incliti*

*Sancta Mater, istud agas,  
Crucifixi fige plagas  
Cordi meo valide.*

*Quis est homo qui non fleret,  
Matrem Christi si videret  
In tanto supplicio?*

*Tui nati vulnerati,  
Tam dignati pro me pati,  
Poenas mecum divide.*

*Quis non posset contristari,  
Christi Matrem contemplari  
Dolentem cum Filio?*

*Fac me tecum, pie, flere,  
Crucifixo condolere,  
Donec ego vixero.*

*Pro peccatis suae gentis  
Vidit Iesum in tormentis,  
Et flagellis subditum.*

*Iuxta crucem tecum stare,  
Et me tibi sociare  
In planctu desidero*

PLANCTUS BEATAE MARIAE VIRGINIS

*Stabat Mater*

*(Latin, continued)*

*Virgo virginum praeclara,  
Mihi iam non sis amara  
Fac me tecum plangere*

*Fac, ut portem Christi mortem  
Passionis fac consortem,  
Et plagas recolere.*

*Fac me plagis vulnerari,  
Fac me cruce inebriari,  
Et cruore Filii*

*Flammis ne urrar succensus  
Per Te, Virgo, sim defensus  
In die iudicii*

*Christe, cum sit hinc exire,  
Da per Matrem me venire  
Ad palmam victoriae*

*Quando corpus morietur,  
Fac, ut animae donetur  
Paradisi gloria. Amen.*

# *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*

*(English)*

*A*t the cross, her station keeping,  
stood the mournful mother weeping,  
close to Jesus to the last.

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

*Oh, how sad and sore distressed  
was that mother highly blessed  
of the sole begotten One!*

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

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

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

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

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



# *Stabat Mater Dolorosa*

*(English, continued)*

*O sweet mother! Font of love,  
touch my spirit from above,  
make my heart with yours accord.*

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

*Holy mother, pierce me through,  
in my heart each wound renew  
of my Savior crucified.*

*Let me share with you his pain  
who for all our sins was slain  
who for me in torments died.*

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

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

*Virgin of all virgins blest!  
Listen to my fond request:  
let me share your grief divine.*

*Let me to my latest breath,  
in my body bear the death  
of that dying Son of thine.*

*Wounded with his every wound,  
steep my soul till it has swooned  
in his very blood away.*

*Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,  
lest in flames I burn and die,  
in his awful judgement day.*

*Christ, when you shall call me  
hence,  
be your mother my defense,  
be your cross my victory.*

*While my body here decays,  
may my soul your goodness praise  
safe in heaven eternally.  
AMEN.*





# *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

## **MOTHER OF LIFE AND JOYS**

[Prayer recited by H.E. Card. Alfonso López Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the occasion of "The Guadalupan Appeal," October 30, 1999]

*Beloved Lady and Mother,  
you who carry in your virginal womb  
the Word made flesh, the Lord of life,  
Oh Ark of the Alliance in which the Savior of the world breathes,  
in whose presence John the Baptist exulted  
from the depth of Elizabeth's womb,  
fill all mothers with joy and hope,  
give them the courage and strength necessary  
to protect the fruit of their wombs, their offspring,  
who, once conceived, have a right to live, to grow in love,  
a love similar to that of the eternal Father  
who loves us always and everywhere,  
in all conditions and situations of life.  
Preserve all from the abominable crime of abortion.  
To those who have been violently uprooted  
from their mother's womb,  
and now await the resurrection of the dead,  
grant that they may not be denied a pious funeral and burial,  
accompanied by the prayers of all who believe in Christ,  
the Resurrection and the Life.  
We confide our petitions to you our tender Mother,  
through Christ your Son, the Lord of Life. Amen!*





The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, extending greetings to Alfonso Cardinal López Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family

## *Priests for Life*

Priests for Life is a national pro-life organization which is recognized under the Canon Law of the Catholic Church and maintains close contact with the bishops' pro-life office and diocesan respect life coordinators. The goal of Priests for Life is to unite, educate, and encourage all priests and deacons who give a special emphasis to the life issues in their ministry. It also seeks to motivate every priest and deacon to take a more vocal and active role in the pro-life movement, with predominant emphasis on the most urgent moral injustices of our day, abortion and euthanasia.

Priests for Life publishes a regular newsletter and offers a wide range of educational materials, including pro-life brochures, video tapes and audio tapes. Pro-life training seminars are also offered to clergy and laity.



### **PRIESTS FOR LIFE**

PO Box 141172

Staten Island, NY 10314

Tel. 888-PFL-3448, (718) 980-4400

Fax 718-980-6515

[mail@priestsforlife.org](mailto:mail@priestsforlife.org)

[www.priestsforlife.org](http://www.priestsforlife.org)

Subscribe to Fr. Frank's bi-weekly prolife column (free):  
[subscribe@priestsforlife.org](mailto:subscribe@priestsforlife.org)



## *The Pontifical Council for the Family*

The Pontifical Council for the Family, dedicated to the pastoral care of the family and the defense of human life, was created by His Holiness John Paul II on May 9, 1981. “[I]t promotes pastoral attention to families and favors their rights and dignity in the Church and in civil society so that they can better fulfill their own functions ...[I]t also supports and coordinates initiatives for the defense of human life from conception, and in favor of responsible procreation” (Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus*).

The Pontifical Council for the Family is devoted to the theology and catechesis of the family, conjugal and family spirituality, the rights of children and the elderly, support for pastoral care of the family, marriage preparation courses, sex education, responsible procreation and the natural methods of regulating fertility. The Council addresses issues such as contraception, abortion, sterilization, genetic engineering, embryo manipulation, and euthanasia.

It disseminates and provides reflections on the documents of the Magisterium (Encyclicals “*Humanae Vitae*,” “*Evangelium Vitae*,” Apostolic Exhortation “*Familiaris Consortio*”). Every three years, the Pontifical Council for the Family coordinates a World Gathering of Families with the Holy Father. It follows the activities of pro-life and pro-family organizations throughout the world and assists them with the help of the staff based in Rome as well as members and consultants throughout the world, including married couples.





*Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director of Priests for Life and Alfonso  
Cardinal López Trujillo, President of the Pontifical Council for the Family*

## **PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE FAMILY**

Palazzo San Calisto, Piazza San Calisto 16  
00120 Citta del Vaticano

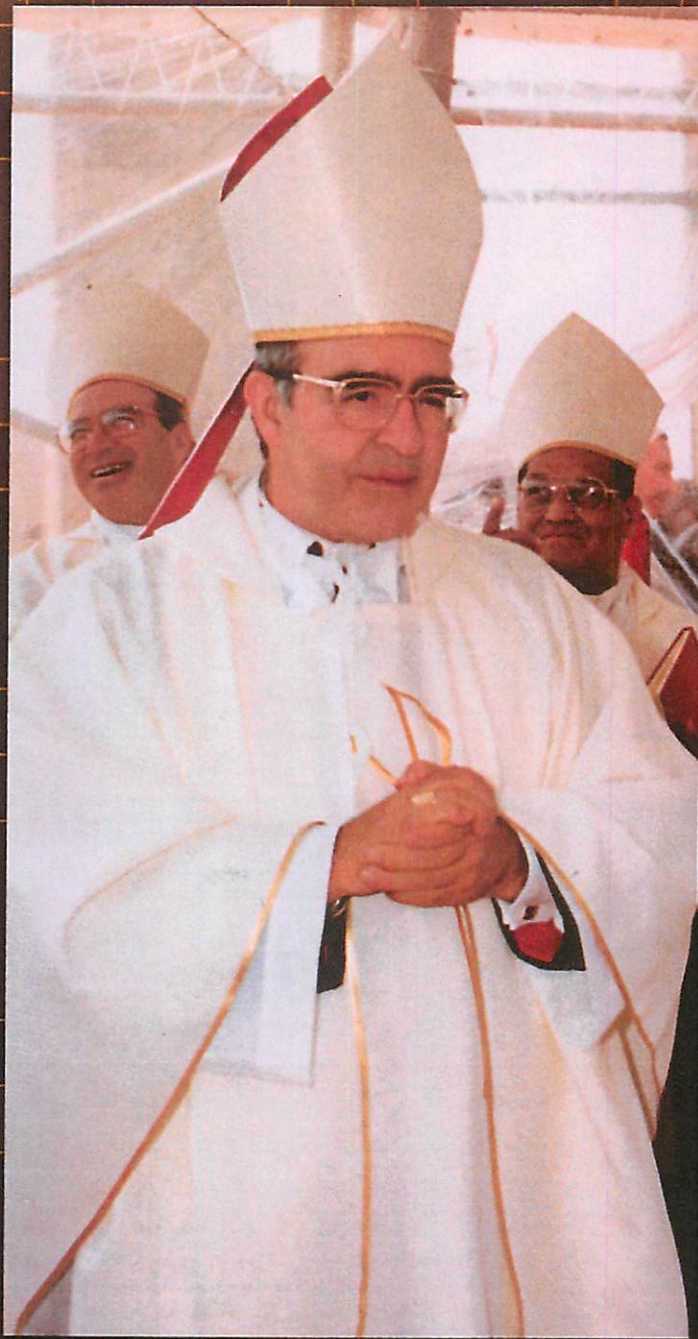
Tel: 39.06.69.88.72.43

Fax: 39.06.69.88.72.72

Email: [pcf@family.va](mailto:pcf@family.va)

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)





*Alfonso Cardinal López Trujillo, President,  
Pontifical Council for the Family*



*Pontifical Council for the Family*

