

Stations of the Cross for Vocations

Opening Prayer

O Jesus, we are about to walk with You through the stages of Your Agony and Death. As we walk, help us to understand more deeply your passion and while meditating on Your Cross, may we come to give more generously of ourselves. May we who are called to serve You be courageous in taking up our cross and may we lay down our lives in Your example of perfect love and sacrifice. We ask this in Your name through the generous intercession of Mary, your Virgin Mother. Amen



*At 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.*

1. Pilate Condemns Jesus to Die

V. We Adore You O Christ and we praise You.

R. Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

O Jesus, You are standing all alone. No friends are with You, no one to speak to You, no one to defend You. You spent your life helping others. You are calling others to come and follow You. As we look upon You who willingly give of Yourself, we ask that those who follow You may answer Your call wholeheartedly. Give them the courage You had, even in the face of death, and to say with You "Thy Will be done." Dear Lord of the Harvest, send laborers into Your harvest.

*O how sad and sore distressed
was that Mother, highly blest,
of the sole-begotten One.*

2. Jesus Accepts His Cross

V. We Adore You O Christ and we praise You.

R. Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

O Jesus, as the Cross is placed on Your shoulders, You realize that this is not going to be an easy journey. You have told us that unless we take up

our cross and follow You – even daily – we are not worthy to be Your disciples. Give us the strength to accept this challenging vocation that requires of us to work in the service of the church as priests, sisters and brothers, and to leave father and mother and all to follow You. Through Your Cross, give us the fervent determination to accept the cross of our vocation and follow You.

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

3. 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

The awful weight of the cross caused You to fall many times on Your journey to Calvary, dear Lord. Through Your falls, teach us to lift ourselves up again and again, when we fail to continue on our pilgrim journey. Give Your anointed servants the grace to recognize their weaknesses and to rely upon You. May they come to You in their trials. You have chosen us, weak as we are, to do Your will. Help us do it to the best of our ability.

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

4. Jesus Meets his Mother

V. We Adore You O Christ and we praise You.

R. Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

Knowing what is to happen to her son, Your mother, Mary, meets you on your journey to Golgotha. She does not stop you; she does not take the cross from you and hide you away; she doesn't even ask you to proclaim your innocence. Through her pain, she supports you and continues to be an example of unconditional love. May we, who are parents of those being called to the priesthood and religious life, take from her the example of perfect love and grant us the courage to allow our sons and daughters to do Your will. We pray, too, that those who are called gain the sure faith of Mary who responds with the belief that Your Father knows what is best for You and for the whole world.

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

5. Simon helps Carry the Cross

V. We Adore You O Christ and we praise You.

R. Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

Jesus, You needed help to carry Your cross and the soldiers forced someone to help You. How will we know what Simon said and did before helping you carry the cross! Undoubtedly, he was scared and maybe even angry to be joining in this journey of humility which You endured with great strength and patience. May we, as Simon did, gain the wisdom in understanding the important role we have in saving the souls of Your faithful. We are just ordinary people until you give us the grace to aid in Your service. May we have the courage to respond generously to Your plead for help.

*She beheld her tender Child,
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth He sent.*

6. 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

The journey to Calvary goes on. But from the crowd a woman steps forward – Veronica, a true image of a caring God. On the cloth she presents to You comes the impression of Your Face. What a great gift for such a small favor! Dear Lord, how many more gifts do You shower on those who offer You their whole beings to love and serve You and Your people! The sign of Your love is marked on them. Would that there would be more men and women like Veronica, to come forth and seek to imprint Your image on their very beings.

*For the sins of His own nation,
She saw Jesus wracked with torment,
All with scourges rent:*

7. 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

St. James writes that the just fall seven times a day. Through your struggles may we also become aware of our own failings. As you were human, You understand the frailties of our race and are, therefore, sympathetic to our needs. May we have the courage to come to You when we fall and ask for the grace that you are so willing to pour upon those who need it. Your servants have never been perfect, but you make them worthy. May we be willing to come to you with our imperfections and say, "Yes, I will follow you to the cross."

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

*O thou Mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with thine accord:*

8. Jesus Speaks to the Women

V. We Adore You O Christ and we praise You.

R. Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

As You walked the streets of Jerusalem, women watched, and You, o Lord, saw them crying. You stop to talk to them. You tell them that You are innocent, and that You are suffering all this for them and their children. They are to raise their children to follow You in the way of the cross, and be willing to walk with You on the road that leads to death. Dear Lord, grant that Your followers will be faithful – through sufferings and even death itself – and gain one day everlasting glory.

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

9. 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

You are nearly there, and yet your body cannot handle the weight of the cross for even the last few steps. You have been fighting pain, weakness and fatigue throughout this entire journey up to your place of execution and yet you are innocent. May this display make us keenly aware of the depth of your love for us. And may we also be reminded that your strength could not have come just from You; You, too, needed grace from Your Father to fulfill His will. May we not be so proud as to try to walk through our struggles alone. May we ask for Your grace and be willing to take these last few difficult steps with You.

*Holy Mother! pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my Savior crucified:*

10. 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

What a horrendous sight, dear Lord, as they tore Your clothing from Your body. But also, what excruciating pain you must have felt as your wounds which had been starting to heal were re-opened. But even through bitter humiliation and horrible pain of old wounds, You teach us to rid ourselves of those things which hinder us from giving all to You. Grant that those who are being called to Your service be willing to serve You with all that they are, allowing themselves to be completely vulnerable to Your will.

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

11. 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

Dear Lord, as You are nailed to the cross, Your compassion reaches high and wide like your stretched limbs. May those who have chosen to follow You most intimately, stretch out their whole being and all their energies to do Your will for the salvation of all. Grant them faithfulness, not counting the cost, trusting only in Your words, "Those who persevere to the end will be saved." Dear Lord, may all those who have left parents, brothers, sisters and all things, know Your love.

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

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

12. 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

Lord Jesus Crucified, lifted up on the Cross, draw all humankind to Yourself. How can we ever understand Your love for us? How can we ever appreciate the great gift You have given to us? What can we give you back in exchange for Your gift to us? May all who choose to be one with You, have the courage and strength to remain with You. With Peter, we say "To whom shall we go, Lord, for You have the words of eternal life." Grant that we be willing to lay down our lives in order that we may always live, live in You, live in time and for all eternity.

*Virgin of all virgins blest!,
Listen to my fond request:
let me share thy grief divine;*

*Wounded with His every wound,
steep my soul till it hath swooned,
in His very Blood away;*

13. 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

You laid down your life and you did it with courage and grace. Never did You pledge your innocence and attempt to quit, You walked the path to Your cross and You died, allowing us to live. Without Your death we would never have salvation. We thank You, Lord Jesus and we ask that you continue to call us to Your side that we might walk with You in paradise. Help us to see Your true essence as we see Your body, pierced and bleeding but unbroken, taken carefully and lovingly from the cross. Help us to be with you in Your death and to do Your will in order that we might be their in Your resurrection.

*Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
lest in flames I burn and die,
in His awful Judgment Day.*

14. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

V. We Adore You O Christ and we praise You.

R. Because by your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

Now You are laid in the tomb and the world is clothed in darkness. Your apostles go into hiding and yet you enter Hell, breaking the chains of death and sin and the power of Satan over those enslaved there. May we, too, receive the grace to break the chains that Satan has formed in our lives. May we be willing to stand up for you in Your death. May we continue to see the Christ we have followed to the Cross. You are the Savior of the world and may we have the courage to live lives dedicated to spreading that message.

*Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,
by Thy Mother my defense,
by Thy Cross my victory;*

*When my body dies,
let my soul be granted
the glory of Paradise. Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Christ Crucified and buried,
You show us the perfect example of love and sacrifice
through the grace given to You by Your Father
You were able to do His will,
May we too, receive the grace to do Your will
May we respond joyfully to Your call
to service and leadership in the Church
as missionaries and witnesses
of Your Word and Reign.
We ask You to send down Your Spirit upon us
So that we become more generous and courageous
in responding to Your call.
May those who are opening
their hearts and minds to Your call
be encouraged and strengthened
through our enthusiasm and faithfulness
to serving You and all Your people.
And may we all be willing to walk in the darkness
so that we may see more readily You who are the Light and the Way. Amen.