

## Let us accompany Jesus on His Way to the Cross

Walking the Stations of the Cross, we  
accompany Jesus on His Way to His Ultimate  
Self-Giving.

### I. Jesus is condemned.

Jesus is condemned because he has been faithful to his mission, because he has preached a reign of justice. Let us remember all those our world condemns to death or to an unjust life.

*Father, do not abandon our world to the power that condemned your Son and maintains the oppression and domination of your children. Give us faith to follow Jesus into a world where your love reigns.*

### II. Jesus carries his cross.

Jesus is scourged and bleeding to death, crowned with thorns and burdened with a cross. In that cross Christians see the love with which God loves us. Let us think of those people who have been burdened with a heavy and unjust cross. Jesus is with them.

*There are too many crosses in this world, Lord, and they are badly distributed; poor people are the ones who carry the heavier burden. Give us the wisdom not to reject the cross of Jesus. Give us the strength to struggle against human suffering.*

### III. Jesus falls for the first time.

When he sees what is coming to him, Jesus feels fear, sadness and anguish. His disciples fail him and fall asleep. Let us think of all the people who live forgotten, alone and helpless forsaken by all.

*You created us to live as brothers and sisters. But loneliness, abandonment, and lack of unity lead us to the gates of death. Through your Son, who knew the anguish of being forsaken, increase the love in our hearts.*



### IV. Jesus meets his mother.

When her eyes encounter those of Jesus, pain pierces Mary's heart. Let us think of the mothers and fathers who see their children suffer and are not able to do anything. They find their hope in Mary.

*Father, give us the grace to meet Jesus under the cross like Mary. Comfort and strengthen those who suffer for their children and feel helpless.*

### V. The Cyrenean carries the cross.

Simon thought he was carrying the cross of a condemned man, and he was helping God. Let us think of the times we are asked to help our brothers and sisters to carry the cross.

*Father, You want all of us to be truly free. Do not allow some people to dominate others by force. Free us from the ambition to have power, and make us friends and servants of one another.*

### VI. Veronica wipes Jesus' face.

To wipe the bloodied face of Jesus was to wipe the bloodied image of God. A courageous woman did it. In faces disfigured by pain, exploitation and injustice, we find the best image of God.

*Father, give us faith to discover and restore your image in the faces of immigrants, workers and those who are wounded by pain and injustice. Make your church into a new Veronica capable of taking risks to clean your disfigured image.*

### VII. Jesus falls for the second time.

Abandoned by everyone, Jesus goes to the Father. Dark omens of death are near the lives of many people who can't see their future clearly. Jesus is with those who are beaten and do not see their hunger for justice fulfilled. We have to be with them to be with Jesus.

*Father, teach us to pray like Jesus in Gethsemane, so that we learn to share the pain and sorrow of all the wounded and fallen people of the earth until Your will of love and life is accomplished.*

### VIII. Jesus speaks to the women.

The women of Jerusalem cry before the prisoner who has been condemned to death. But Jesus asks them to look at themselves. Jesus' words to the women are at once a threat and a call to conversion because it is still possible to change, to accept God's word, and to live in solidarity striving to build the reign of God in this world.

*Father, we ask you to open our hearts to your word so that, freed from selfishness, we may learn to live in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in this world.*

## IX. Jesus falls for the third time.

The blood of Jesus is mixed on the ground with so much innocent blood shed in the past and in the present. God cares about innocent blood caused by the sin of the person who wants to be god—slave of his or her own selfishness and murderer of his or her brothers and sisters. The earth, watered by blood, will bloom again.

*The blood shed by Jesus and so many brothers and sisters cries out to you, Father. We pray: let no one else shed the blood of a brother or sister; let no one else bleed your people to death.*

## X. Jesus is stripped.

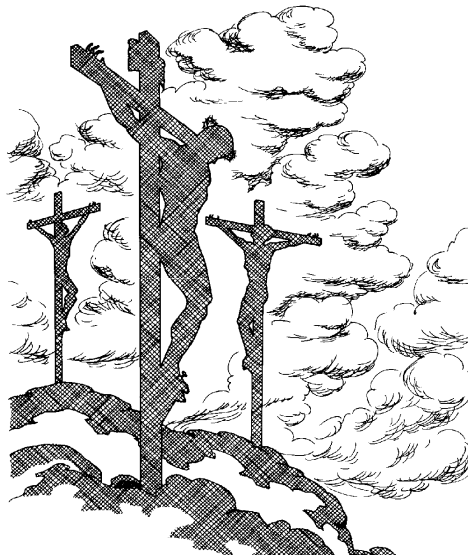
To strip someone in public means to degrade that person, to take away that person's dignity. That is what they do to Jesus. And that continues to be done to so many who are deprived of everything they have. Jesus, deprived of everything, place his trust in God alone, God is on his side.

*We find your Son, stripped of everything, among the impoverished people of the world. Father, in those who possess nothing, create new, generous and loving persons detached from material things. Teach us to share in solidarity what we have.*

## XI. Jesus is nailed to the cross.

Jesus is nailed through his hands and feet. But, Jesus is stronger in his weakness than those who condemn him. From the cross he is capable of asking for forgiveness for his torturers. This is a victory of mercy.

*Father, your Son was tortured. Many of your children are tortured today in many ways. With our hearts full of pain, we pray for the tortured people and for their torturers. Reconcile your children, who are brothers and sisters.*



## XII. Jesus dies on the cross.

Jesus of Nazareth, the great prophet who announced the new life of the reign of God, is executed outside the city. It is at this moment that Jesus' supreme faithfulness is manifest: He sacrifices his life for what he believed and announced. He dies trusting his Father, the God of love, who is stronger than death.

*Father, we believe that the crucified Jesus is your Son, our Savior. Through him we know that your strength is the love that suffers with those who suffer. With Jesus we want to fight against the sorrow that makes us suffer in this world.*

## XIII. Jesus is taken down from the cross.

Jesus' mother welcomes the body of her dead Son in her arms. She has placed her trust in God; from that dead flesh, God will recreate new life. Once again, Mary has to give birth to a new life in pain and hope. Like Mary, the Christian community welcomes all persons.

*Father, in Mary you have given us a model for the church. Give us Mary's faith to welcome into the church all those who suffer and to create with them a new family.*

## XIV. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

The tomb is the ultimate loneliness. Those who killed Jesus believed that once his body was buried, his memory would be totally erased. But, Jesus will be the seed that buried, breaks through the ground and blooms forth. Jesus' life is in God's hands, just as the lives of all God's children.

*Father, you made Jesus' tomb a place of transition to fullness of life. Make this earth welcome the dead in peace and be fruitful in hope and life for your people.*

**"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."**

-Luke 9:23 NRSV

