

STATIONS OF THE CROSS- Friday after Ash Wednesday

Introduction: Jesus Christ, we stay on the road - guide us on Golgotha Mountain. We desire to accompany You in these last experiences which penetrated Your Precious Heart before Your Passion. We come here with the petition for consolidation of our faith and the faith of members of our families. Grant that with Your help our prayer will reach our Father.

1. First Station – JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

O Lord, You are innocent and without a word You accepted the sentence of death. When I think about it, I experience the temptations of questioning.

Where was God the Father, the Defender of the innocent?

What kind of God is this who does not defend His chosen One?

O Lord, allow us to understand, that God, ignoring injustice and wrong, can fulfill His plan of salvation.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

2. Second Station – JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

The wood of the Cross – it is a sign of all difficulties that You brought from Nazareth. This is a sign of obligations which You bear here on earth from Your Loving Father. We often complain about our duties, that they are too heavy and too much. We experience the temptation to escape far from our duties. O Lord teach us to see the sense of our daily duties, especially when we are really tired.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

3. Third Station – JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

There are situations when everything is falling from our hands.

We alone cannot get up with our own power. At this time we experience the temptation of resignation. Nothing makes sense. It is difficult to see sense in our work, our job and life. O Lord, teach us to arise trusting in You.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

4. Fourth Station - JESUS MEETS HIS BLESSED MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

The sorrowful meeting of Mother and Son. The Son understood the sense of suffering. The Mother does not understand but She believes that this is the way to victory. She learned how to trust throughout Her whole life. She waits for the sorrowful sword which will penetrate Her Heart.

O Sorrowful Mother, be our guide on our way to trust God.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

5. Fifth St. -SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

Simon was forced to act and opened the gate of faith to the world.

His good deed brought fruit. His sons: Alexander and Rufus entered

into the world of faith. Whoever does good without self-interest, and under pressure – will receive his fruits. True goodness always bears fruit. Saint Simon with Your Saintly Sons, pray for us for the grace of faith, that it is always worth it to be kind.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

6. Sixth Station - VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

Veronica does not have time to consider this moment. She saw the face of Jesus, and came closer to Him and wiped the face of Jesus.

Veronica makes this most important moment to do a good deed. In a moment it could have been too late. Her act lasts several seconds but the fruit of this act, will last for ever.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

7. Seventh Station- JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

Discouragement – It is a very dangerous temptation on the way of faith.

It attacks a man, when purpose is still far away. A difficult road and its fruits we don't see. This bears the question: Is it worthwhile to demand more from ourselves? Jesus said: **Who abides to the end, will be saved.**

Now You, O Lord, teach us: what it means to abide to the end. You, tired, worn out, but You arise, & go on ahead. O Lord, teach us to defeat the temptation of

discouragement. **Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.**

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

8. Eighth St. - JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

O Lord, You reprimand the weeping women. Are they satisfied from your warning? Is it worthwhile to reprimand? Are You reprimanding to help them enter in the way of faith? Did they follow this step? We don't know that Your Word, O Lord, touched their hearts. You, O Lord, teach us to receive Your reprimands when we make mistakes and experience lack of courage. We ask You, O Lord, don't stop reprimanding us, but direct our ways.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

9. Ninth Station – JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

The heavy sin of doubt often drives us to despair. At this time a man separates himself from God. Despair appears when a man, before outgrowing difficulties, does not believe, and does not wait for help from God. Doubt appears also when a man forgets that You, O Lord, are our Guide. You chose the way and help us to defeat difficulties and obstacles which we find on our way. Lord Jesus, rescue us from doubt.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

10. Tenth Station – JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS.

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

Defamation. It is the ruin a good name. O Lord, people, in stripping You from Your garment, Your Father used this to make the world richer. In our life there are very difficult hours. If we want to pass it as a victory, we ought to catch Your hand firmly, and this Station can make our life more richer as well as others.

Lord Jesus, you stand naked before the crowd.

Guide us through difficult hours,
and grant us the grace of faith in You.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

11. Eleventh Station – JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

Suffering is always an hour of test of our faith. Thank You, Lord, for the example of suffering. We will never believe that You understand us in the hour of our suffering if not for the nails in Your hands and feet. Together with You it is easier for us to accept suffering, and that they can become very precious for strengthening our faith. O Lord, Be with us in the hours of our sufferings. **Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.**

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

12. Twelfth Station – JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

“Into Your Hands, O Lord, I commend my Spirit” Your death became an act of dedication to the Heavenly Father. Our whole life ought to be a process of perfection of our faith. May in the last moment of our life, make this act of dedication to our Heavenly Father. This is an entrance to the Mystery completely unknown to us. Faith says that in this Mystery waits the loving arms of our Heavenly Father.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

13. Thirteenth St.- JESUS IS LAID IN THE ARMS OF HIS MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

O Lord, under the Cross, Your Mother bears Your devastated Body. She perfected Her faith. Every meeting with the death of our neighbors can, and ought to perfect our faith. Only faith can see in death a new beginning of life. Sorrowful Mother teach us to make our faith deeper.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways.

He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us.

14. Fourteenth Station -JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB.

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise You.

- **Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.**

O Lord, Your tomb is the hope of the world. This empty tomb witnesses Your Resurrection. The Church builds Her whole faith on Your Resurrection. O Lord, teach us to make perfect our faith in which our Resurrection is also connected.

Teach me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your ways. *He who suffered for us all, Christ Jesus, have mercy upon us. (3x)*