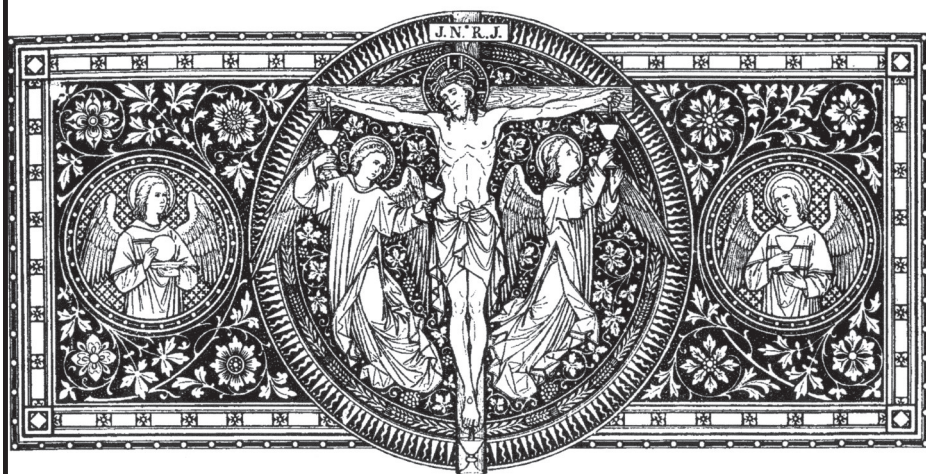


The Stations of the Cross for Vocations



"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

Matthew 16:24-25

The Stations of the Cross for Vocations

“No one can approach and touch the cross of Jesus without leaving something of himself or herself there, and without bringing something of the Cross of Jesus into his or her own life.”

Pope Francis, World Youth Day Brazil 2013

PREPARATORY PRAYER

ALL: 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, to share the Good News of Your saving love. Hear our prayer as we ponder the redemptive vocation of Christ who continues to call men and women to reconcile everyone and everything to You. We give You thanks for the mystery of every vocation and pray for all who have answered Your call. Send forth Your Holy Spirit upon all the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love. Draw many young men and women who will dedicate themselves with an undivided heart to the love of Christ and for His Church here on earth. Amen.

*At the cross her station keeping / Stood the mournful mother weeping /
Close to Jesus to the last.*

THE FIRST STATION: PILATE CONDEMNS JESUS TO DIE

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how Jesus Christ, after being scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the cross. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, we ask that You call the young men and women of today to publicly accept Your invitation to follow You more closely in spite of what others may think or say. Give them a passion for reaching out through Your love, to the needs of their brothers and sisters without counting the cost.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*Through her heart, His sorrow sharing / All His bitter anguish bearing /
Now at length the sword has passed*

THE SECOND STATION: JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider Jesus as He walked this road with the cross on His shoulders, thinking of us and offering to His Father on our behalf, the death He was about to suffer. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, help those You call to see the cross as the symbol of union with You. Give them the strength and zeal to minister to those who are burdened with pain, sorrow, confusion and alienation. Let them faithfully witness that through life's daily crosses, we attain new life rooted in You.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*O, how sad and sore depressed / 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. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider the first fall of Jesus. The loss of blood from the scourging and crowing with thorns had so weakened Him that He could hardly walk. As the soldiers struck Him cruelly, He fell under the weight of His cross. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, let those You call know that they do not have to be perfect. Let them be open to Your transforming grace that can accomplish more than anyone could imagine. Give to those who respond to Your call to the priesthood and consecrated life, a deep trust that You will complete what You have begun in them.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*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. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how the Son met His Mother on His way to Calvary. Jesus and Mary gazed at each other and their looks became like so many arrows that wounded those hearts which loved each other so much. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, instill in young men and women the desire to come to know Your Mother and find in their prayerful reflection of Sacred Scriptures a woman of faith, hope and love whose vocation is an example for all. Help parents to promote and support vocations within their own families and within their parishes.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

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

THE FIFTH STATION: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how weak and weary Jesus was. At each step He was at the point of expiring. Fearing that He would die on the way when they wished Him to die the infamous death of the cross, they forced Simon of Cyrene to help carry the cross after Our Lord. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, send forth Your grace upon those You call to positions of leadership within Your Church. Help them to accept and affirm the gifts of others in proclaiming Your truth and in reaching out in sacrificial service.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*Can the human heart refrain / From partaking in her pain /
In that Mother's pain untold?*

THE SIXTH STATION: VERONICA OFFERS HER VEIL TO JESUS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider the compassion of the holy woman, Veronica. Seeing Jesus in such distress, His face bathed in sweat and blood, she presented Him with her veil. Jesus wiped His face and left upon the cloth the image of His sacred countenance. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, call forth numerous men and women who are able to see Your face on all with 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.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*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. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how the second fall of Jesus renews the pain in all the wounds of the head and members of His body. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, help those You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to accept their own limitations and the limitations of others always relying on Your merciful grace. Help them, in these times of darkness, to reach out especially to those whom the world calls “fallen”—persons who are addicted, imprisoned, poor, elderly, or of ill health.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*For the sins of His own nation / Saw Him hang in desolation /
Till His spirit forth He sent.*

THE EIGHTH STATION: JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how the women wept with compassion seeing Jesus so distressed and dripping with blood as He walked along the way. Jesus said to them, “weep not so much for Me, but rather for Your children.” (Kneel)

R: Jesus, remove any prejudices or biases from all the faithful, especially those whom You call to walk with You as priests or consecrated religious. Let them see that all people are created in Your image and likeness, both male and female, regardless race or culture heritage. Let their words and example always speak of Christ’s justice, mercy and love.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*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. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how Jesus fell for the third time. He was extremely weak and the cruelty of His executioners was excessive. They tried to hasten His steps though He hardly had strength to move. (Kneel)

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

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*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. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how Jesus was stripped of His clothes. The inner garments adhered to his lacerated flesh and the soldiers tore them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Have pity for your Savior so cruelly treated. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, grant that all 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 their vocation discernment is their deepest response to Your love.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*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. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how Jesus stretched out His arms and offered to His eternal Father the sacrifice of His entire life for our salvation. They nailed His hands and feet, and then, raising the cross, left Him to die. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, instill in youth today a deep desire to make a difference in the world no matter what the cost. Let the courageous example of modern martyrs inspire them to meet life's challenges with faith, hope and love. Fill them with Your presence and the grace to respond to Your call to, "go out to all the world, and proclaim the Good News."

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

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 UPON THE CROSS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how Jesus, after three hours of agony on the cross, is finally overwhelmed with suffering and, abandoning 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.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

Let me mingle tears with thee / 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. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how, after Our Lord was taken down from the cross and placed in the arms of His afflicted Mother, she received Him with tenderness and pressed Him close to her bosom. Her sorrow was so great; it was as if a sword had pieced her heart as well. (Kneel)

R: Jesus, touch the minds and hearts 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 grieving and fearful world, that hungers for Your Truth.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*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. (Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how the disciples carried the Body of Jesus to its burial while His Holy Mother went with them and arranged it in the sepulcher with her own hands. They then closed the tomb and all departed. (Kneel)

R: We thank you, Jesus, for the infinite power that Your death and resurrection has brought to save and heal our souls. We thank You for those You have called these past 2000 years; men and women who formally dedicate their lives to the building up of Your Church. We pray for all seminarians and religious in formation. Let all young men and women sincerely reflect on the lives of the Saints and come to know heroic priests, religious and lay ministers who faithfully respond to Christ's invitation to "Come, follow me!"

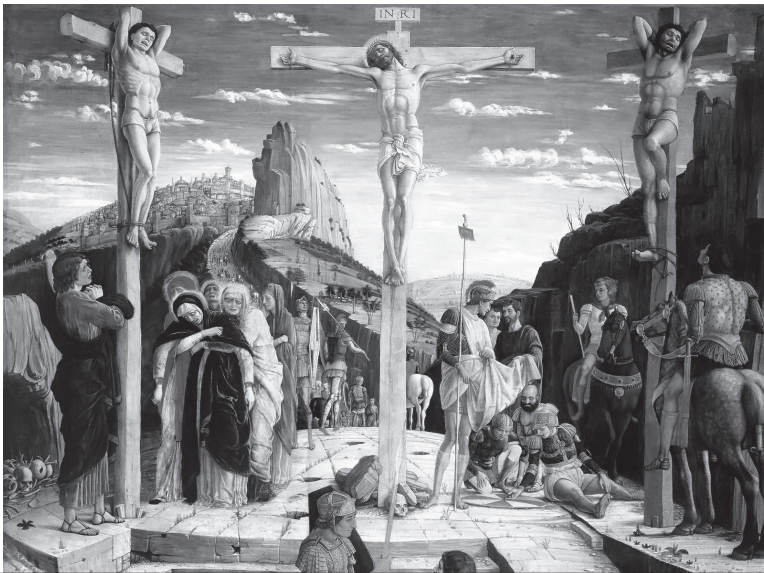
(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*Virgin of all virgins blest / Listen to my fond request / Let me share your
grief divine.*

PRAYER TO JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

My good and dear Jesus, I kneel before You asking You to most earnestly engrave upon my heart a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a firm purpose of amendment. As I reflect upon Your five wounds and dwell upon them with deep compassion and grief, I recall the words that David the Prophet spoke long ago concerning Yourself; “they have pierced My hands and My feet, they have numbered all of My bones.”

The faithful who, after receiving Communion, recite this prayer before a picture of Christ Crucified may gain a plenary indulgence on any Friday in Lent and a partial indulgence on other days of the year, with the addition of prayers for the Holy Father's intention. (Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, no. 22) A Plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who make the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross. Those who are impeded can gain the same indulgence if they spend at least one half an hour in pious reading and meditation on the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, no. 63)



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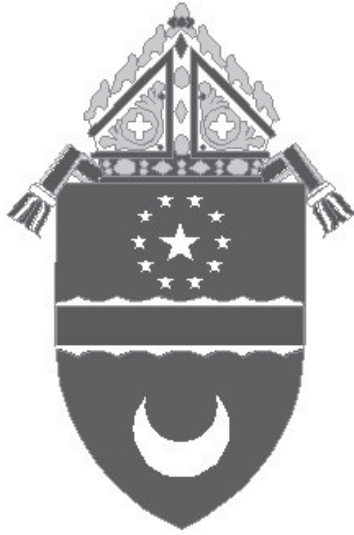
“What has the Cross given to those who have gazed upon it or touched it? What has it left in each one of us? It gives us a treasure that no one else can give: the certainty of the unshakable love which

God has for us. A love so great that it enters into our sin and forgives it, enters into our suffering and gives us the strength to bear it. It is a love which enters into death to conquer it and to save us. The Cross of Christ contains all the love of God, his immeasurable mercy. This is a love in which we can place all our trust, in which we can believe.

Dear young people, let us entrust ourselves to Jesus, let us give ourselves over entirely to him (cf. *Lumen Fidei*, 16)! Only in Christ crucified and risen can we find salvation and redemption. With him, evil, suffering, and death do not have the last word, because he gives us hope and life: he has transformed the Cross from an instrument of hate, defeat, and death into a sign of love, victory, and life.”

Pope Francis, World Youth Day Brazil 2013





If you think the Lord may be calling you to explore the possibility of becoming a priest or consecrated religious, or if you would like information on the Diocese of Arlington Men's or Women's Discernment Groups, please contact:

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