



WAY OF THE CROSS

FOR THE SISTER

OF CHARITY

HYMN *Ref. We hail Thee Savior and Lord
Thy Cross ever be adored.*

*O Cross thou art the fountain
of love, and of liberty
shine down upon the millions
who search for the light of Truth. Ref.*

*Look down upon the needy,
confirm them in love and grace.
Thou art our true salvation
in Thee all our hope we place. Ref.*

LEADER In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL **Amen.**

LEADER Lord Jesus,
walking through these stations of this Way of the Cross,
we ask you forgiveness for all our sins
especially for those sins against fraternal life
that tarnish the name we bear: sisters of charity.
Divine heart of Jesus, from which gushed forth blood and water
as font of mercy, we trust in you.

ALL **Amen.**

FIRST STATION: Jesus is condemned to death

Guide We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *The chief priests and the leaders and the people kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that Jesus should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. (Lk 23, 23-24).*

READ. 2 *By the humiliation suffered in the unjust death sentence, grant us Lord the grace to stop readily every negative judgment upon the sisters.*

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, you are the way and we desire to follow you even when we have to go through arduous paths. Teach us to accept our daily little suffering with the spirit of faith and love with which you embraced the cross.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

SECOND STATION: Jesus is laden with the Cross

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *And carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. (Jn 19,17).*

READ. 2 By the ardor with which the Lord embraced the instrument of our salvation, may he grant us the grace to welcome serenely the cross we encounter in our living together due to diversity in character, the way of seeing, and particular inclinations of each one.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, grant us the wisdom of the cross. Make us to see in every suffering a sign of your predilection and a fruitful means to cooperate in the salvation of humanity.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

THIRD STATION: Jesus falls for the first time

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. (Lk 9,23).*

READ. 2 Let us adore the Lord fallen to the ground. By the mystery of his first fall under the cross, let us ask for the grace to know how to suffer with and excuse the falls of our sisters, well aware of our own fragility.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, help us to accept pain even when it seems to be beyond our strength. Raise us up when we fall, fortify us in patience; instill in us a new strength to begin our journey again in your footsteps.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

FOURTH STATION. Jesus meets his Blessed Mother

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *Simeon said to his mother, Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” (Lk 2, 34-35).*

READ. 2 May the sacrifice that Mary shares with Jesus obtain for us the strength to go to help the sisters towards whom we feel some kind of coldness and dislike through some small services or acts of love.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, we thank you for giving us Mary as a Mother who comes to meet us on the way of life with her silent presence. Grant us the grace to love her truly by imitating her.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

FIFTH STATION. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Lk 23, 26).*

READ. 2 Let us also desire to help Jesus just as Simeon of Cyrene did by helping him carry the cross, by committing ourselves to whatever service, even hidden, to give some comfort and make ourselves useful in our community.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, teach us to see your face in those who pass by us, and to be always ready with a serene availability to every need, without expecting any reward.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

SIXTH STATION. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *A Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (Lk 10, 33-34).*

READ. 2 By the gratitude with which the Lord accepted the compassionate act of Veronica, may he grant us the grace to leave his imprint in those whom we draw near and in those places where we pass.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, make us to learn from you the most delicate ways of charity. Instill in us a constant feeling of thankfulness for all your graces. Pardon our ingratitude and accept now our thanks for all the times we should have thanked you and have failed to do.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

SEVENTH STATION: Jesus falls beneath His cross, the second time

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. (Is 53, 4-5).*

READ. 2 The stones and the harshness of the way to Calvary made Jesus fall to the ground again. By the mystery of this his second fall, may he grant us the grace to avoid all occasions that may make our sisters to be impatient or lament.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, grant us the wisdom of humiliation, so that the moments of failure, dishonor, forgetfulness on the part of others may be accepted by us and surrendered to you for our salvation and that of the whole humanity.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

EIGHTH STATION: Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. (Lk 23, 27).*

READ. 2 Jesus has consoled the women without thinking of himself. May he grant us also the grace to free ourselves from our egoism that makes us to think about ourselves, and may he make us attentive to the sufferings of our sisters and grant us the grace to be the reasons of comfort and joy for one another.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, teach us to forget ourselves when we tend to close in on ourselves to brood over our bitterness. Communicate to us the nobility of your way of feeling in order to accept with gratitude every gesture of goodness from our neighbour.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

NINETH STATION: Jesus falls beneath His cross the third time

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame (Is 50, 6-7).*

READ. 2 Let us contemplate once more Jesus lying on the ground under the weight of the cross. By the mystery of this third fall, let us plead him never to let us become a stumbling stone to those whom we draw near.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, grant us a deep awareness of our sins. Defend us from temptations. Be close to us in those moments when passions darken our minds. Make us resolute in resisting, trusting in your grace.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

TENTH STATION: Jesus is stripped of His garments

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *And when they came to a place called Golgotha they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots (Mt 27, 33-35).*

READ. 2 For the spasm felt by Jesus while being stripped off his clothes, may he grant us the grace never to expose the defects and the errors of our sisters, by gossiping about it with others.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, who in silence remained naked and exposed to the people's gaze, grant us the grace to know how to be silent in respect for the dignity of every sister and every person.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

ELEVENTH STATION: Jesus is nailed to the cross

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." (Lk 23, 33-34).*

READ. 2 Jesus is laid on the cross with the hands and feet pierced by the nails. By his wounds may he grant us the grace to avoid every gesture, word or act that could wound the sentiments of the sisters.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, crucified for love, tell us continually that true love is always proved in actions. Help us to direct our steps in your footsteps, so that our life be a testimony and reflection of you.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

TWELFTH STATION: Jesus dies on the cross

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Lk 23, 44-46).*

Short pause in silence

READ. 2 Jesus dies on the cross for our salvation. May he grant us the grace to know how to rejoice over the gifts and virtues of the sisters and recognize and accept our limitations.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, we thank you for having called us to follow you more closely. Help us to live our vocation intensely, without hesitations and without distractions, so that our offering be united to your redeeming sacrifice.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

THIRTEENTH STATION: Jesus is taken down from the cross

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. (Mt 27, 57-58).*

READ. 2 Mary receives in her arms the body of Jesus taken down from the cross with great tenderness. May she obtain for us the grace to welcome with love each sister who asks for a help or a gesture of kindness.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, grant us an enlightened knowledge of the presence of Mary in the plan of redemption. Help us to experience her as a Mother and grant that in the light of her wise pedagogy we may direct ourselves decisively towards eternal values.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

FORTEENTH STATION: Jesus is laid in the Holy Sepulchre

GUIDE We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You.

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

READ. 1 *So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. (Mt 27, 59-60).*

READ. 2 Let us adore the body of Jesus laid in the tomb. By the mystery of his passion and death, let us ask the grace to bury forever the wrongdoing and offences received and to pardon whole-heartedly, as we desire to be pardoned by Lord Jesus.

GUIDE Let us pray.

ALL Lord Jesus, with the very light of your resurrection in our heart, grant that our path may be illuminated by a constant vision of heaven. Give us the grace to feel an intense longing to strive each day towards eternal things of above.

GUIDE Have mercy on us, Lord

ALL **Have mercy on us.**

PRAYER **Holy Mother pierce me through,
in my heart each wound renew
of my saviour crucified.**

Conclusion

LEADER O Christ, crucified King
give us a true knowledge of you,
the joy for which we long,
the love that fills our hearts
thirsting for infinity.
So we pray, Jesus, Son of God,
died for us on the cross
and risen on the third day.

ALL **Amen!**

HYMN **Sing glory to the cross of Christ,
Sing glory, sing glory, sing glory.**

Sign of peace and sign of love,
Glory to the cross of Christ!
Sign of shame to glory raised,
Glory to the cross of Christ!