

Reuss, Basil R.

— Pray the stations

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Pray

the

Stations



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*Pray
the
Stations*

By

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Nihil obstat:

Jos. A. Bartelme
Censor Librorum.

Cum permissu superiorum,

Imprimi potest:

B. H. Pennings, Ord. Praem.
Abbas, Abbatiae Sancti Norberti

Imprimatur:

†Stanislaus V. Bona
Episcopus Sinus Viridis.

Sept. 20, 1950

Green Bay, Wis.

Eighth Printing
January, 1962

— FOREWORD —

The catechism definition of "prayer" is clear: "to lift the **mind** and **heart** to God." The words uttered vocally are unimportant except insofar as they correspond to and describe what is actually taking place in the **mind** and the **heart**, or perhaps, incite the mind and heart. Our Lord condemned the Pharisees precisely because they did not comprehend this fundamental truth: "These men," He said, "honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me."

The traditional devotion of the Way of the Cross has been for centuries a powerful aid to real prayer: the imagination quickly and with ease recalls and pictures the scenes of His sacred passion, the mind reflects on the great truths of the Redemption of mankind, the heart is drawn to respond to His great love, and thus the human will is urged to demonstrate love and gratitude by concrete practice in the daily lives of those who generously and sincerely follow the "Stations."

The brief meditations which follow are suggestive — not definitive. The main thing is to put heart, mind and will into an earnest, honest, industrious effort to

PRAY

THE

STATIONS

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(Priest and People)

O my God, * I am heartily sorry * for having offended Thee; I detest all my sins * because I dread the loss of heaven * and the pains of hell, * but most of all * because by them * I have offended Thee, * Who are so good * and deserving of all my love.

I beg of Thee * the grace to pray this Way of the Cross * so that I may more deeply appreciate * Thy love for me; * so that I may come * more and more * to have a horror and hatred for sin; * so that I may strive harder and harder to manifest in my own life * the virtues exemplified by my suffering Jesus * so that I may be moved * to love Thee with all my heart.

I desire to gain * the rich indulgences of this devotion * and offer them for the Poor Souls, * especially for N.

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping
Close to Jesus to the last.

The First Station:

**JESUS IS CONDEMNED BY PILATE
TO DIE ON THE CROSS**

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus * standing silent before
Pilate, * in the face of unjust accusa-
tions, * false witnesses, * malice and
venom; * while Pilate excuses himself
for his cowardly condemnation * of the
One Whom he himself calls * a "Just
Man"!

O Lord, help me * to be more like
Thee * and less like Pilate. * God, grant
me the grace * to control my tongue.
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had pass'd.

The Second Station:
**JESUS IS MADE TO CARRY
THE CROSS**

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see the heavy cross * placed on the
shoulders of Jesus, * and still He re-
mains silent * and uncomplaining. * I
remember my own impatience and re-
bellion * against comparatively trifling
difficulties * and the little trials * I
have been permitted to bear.

O Lord, help me * to be more like
Thee * and less like my weak self. *
Grant me the grace * to be patient in
adversity.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

Oh, how sad and sore distress'd
Was that Mother, highly blest
Of the sole-begotten One!

The Third Station:

**JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME UNDER
THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS**

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus * fall under the burden of
His cross * and remember that He is
carrying * "the weight of the sins of the
world." * I think now of how remiss *
and careless * I have been in thought-
lessly falling * again and again * into
sin * as though it were of no conse-
quence.

O Lord, help me * to remember al-
ways * how terrible every sin really is.
* Grant me the grace to have a keen
horror * of all wrong-doing.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

Christ above in torment hangs;
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.

The Fourth Station:
**JESUS MEETS HIS AFFLICTED
MOTHER**

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus meeting His sorrowful
mother * and notice especially * how
deep is the understanding between
Them * — so profound that no words *
or assurances are necessary * for either
of Them.

O Lord, help me * to be like Thee *
in my family relationship. * Grant me
the grace * to be gentle, * sympathetic,
* loving * and understanding * in my
home.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

Is there one who would not weep
Whelm'd in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

The Fifth Station:

**SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO
CARRY HIS CROSS**

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Simon of Cyrene * **forced** to
help Jesus * and recall how reluctant, *
resentful * and unwilling * I, too, have
been * in serving my Creator.

O Lord, help me * to be more like
Thee, * especially willing and gener-
ous. * Grant me the grace * to be
cheerful * in my service of Thee.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

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

The Sixth Station:

**VERONICA WIPES THE FACE
OF JESUS**

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Veronica * rewarded for her
thoughtful kindness * by having His
likeness * imprinted on her towel.

O Lord, help me * to be more like
Thee. * Good, * generous, * loving
Jesus, * help me to respond to Thy
graces * and mercies * with genuine
gratitude. * Grant me the grace * nev-
er to fall into the sin of ingratitude *
either of Thee * or to man.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

Bruis'd, derided, curs'd, defil'd
She beheld her tender child:
All with bloody scourges rent.

The Seventh Station:

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus * fall the **second** time * and remember how often * I have fallen again and again * into the same offences, * increasing the weight of His Cross.

O Lord, help me * to be more like Thee, * self-controlled and mortified. * Grant me the grace * to discipline my unruly will.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

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

The Eighth Station:
JESUS MEETS THE WEeping
WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I hear Jesus * speak to the weeping women; * the only words uttered by Him * on this journey from Pilate's court to Calvary, * and they are a call to penance: * "Weep not for Me, * but for yourselves and your children." *

O Lord, help me * to avoid sentimentality * and emotionalism * and to engender a deep, * profound, * serious * spirit of penance. * Grant me the grace * to persevere in sorrow for my offences against Thee.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

O thou Mother! fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above;
Make my heart with thine accord.

The Ninth Station:

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus * fall for the **third** time * and remember the crushing burden * was not the weight of His cross * but the sins of mankind.

O Lord, grant me * the strength to continue my fight for virtue. * Please help me especially * in my efforts to overcome * habitual sins.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

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

The Tenth Station:
**JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS
GARMENTS**

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus * stripped of His gar-
ments. * It was as though He wanted
us * to see that no material thing *
could mount the Cross with Him.

O Lord, * free me from all sinful
attachment to created things. * Help
me to avoid * searching after human
consolations * and let me find my
strength in Thee.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

Holy Mother! pierce me through;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Saviour crucified.

The Eleventh Station:

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus * nailed to the cross * and I am trying to appreciate * the painful, * agonizing * suffering of His Passion.

O Lord, Jesus, * help me to be like Thee * in courageously bearing with trials and grievances. * Teach me to cease all resentment * complaint * and rebellion. * Let me learn to say * from the bottom of my heart, * "Thy will be done."

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

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

The Twelfth Station:

JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus, * dead on the cross. *
His work as True Man is completed, *
the redemption of fallen man has been
achieved, * but the price of our salva-
tion * has been the last drop of His
Precious Blood.

O Lord, grant me * the grace to be
constantly aware * of my continuing
debt to Thee. * Fill me * with such a
clear understanding of Thy goodness *
that I may love Thee * even more than
life itself.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

Let me mingle tears with thee
Mourning Him who mourn'd for me,
All the days that I may live.

The Thirteenth Station:

**JESUS IS LAID IN THE ARMS OF HIS
BLESSED MOTHER**

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and
we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross,
Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see the lifeless body of Jesus *
placed in the arms of His Mother * and
the realization comes home to me *
that I, too, * hold and carry this Precious
Burden * at every Holy Communion *
not His lifeless body, * but the Real, *
Actual, * True, * Substance of my
Saviour.

O Lord, let me never forget * the
reality of Thy Eucharistic Presence. *
Dear God, * enkindle a flame of fervor
* in my heart * especially at every
Communion with Thee.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the
Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

By the cross with thee to stay,
There with thee to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of thee to give.

The Fourteenth Station:

JESUS IS LAID IN THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

(Priest) We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

(People) Because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

(Priest and People)

I see Jesus * laid in the tomb, * the earthly terminus * of every human body * but only to await there * the glory of His Resurrection.

O Lord, teach me * to think deeply * on the great truths * which Thou has graciously revealed; * let my faith in Thee be profound, * intelligent, * dynamic. * Please help me to live * so that my faith will motivate my conduct always * until I too, * am laid to rest * to await the resurrection of my body; * Let me live in, * by, * and with Thee * for all eternity.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

(Priest) Lord Jesus Crucified!

(People) Have Mercy on us!

Virgin of all virgins best,
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.

PRAYER BEFORE THE TABERNACLE

O Lord Jesus, I thank Thee * for the
opportunity * of praying these Stations.
* Help me to remember * the inspira-
tions which Thou has permitted me to
experience. * Let me live exemplifying *
the spirit and virtues of Thy Passion: * in
control of my tongue, * in patience, *
mortification, * self-discipline, * unself-
ishly gentle * and understanding. *
Keep me close to Thee!

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust
in Thee.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, help me.

May the Divine Assistance remain al-
ways with us.

May the souls of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God, rest in
peace. Amen.

— AFTERWORD —

Especially during the holy Lenten Season, generous souls may be anxious to "practice" some particular exercise of virtue. It is in order, therefore, to suggest methodical, systematic, concentrated effort to acquire the virtues of the Passion: —

1st week — Patience and cheerfulness.

2nd week — Gentleness. Sympathetic understanding in dealing with others.

3rd week — Control of the tongue.

4th week — Detachment and unselfishness.

5th week — Humility. Resignation to God's Holy Will.

6th week — Mortification of the flesh — purity.

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

O salutaris Hostia,
Quae coeli pandis ostium,
Bella premunt hostilia;
Da robur fer auxilium.

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.

TANTUM ERGO

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui;
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui:
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.

Genitori Genitoque
Laus et jubilatio,
Salus honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.

Priest: Panem de coelo praestitisti eis,
People: Omne delectamentum in se habentem.

THE DIVINE PRAISES

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and
true Man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacra-
ment of the Altar.

Blessed be the great Mother of God,
Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate
Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin
and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste
Spouse.

Blessed be God in His Angels and in
His Saints.

PRAYERS TO JESUS CRUCIFIED

O God, Who for our sake didst will Thy Son to undergo the torments of the Cross, that Thou mightest drive far from us the power of the enemy; grant unto us Thy servants that we may attain to the grace of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

(Roman Missal)

An indulgence of 5 years.

A plenary indulgence once a month under the usual conditions for the daily recitation of this prayer (S. P. Ap., Nov. 22, 1934).

O God, Who didst will to hallow the standard of the life-giving Cross by the Precious Blood of Thine only-begotten Son; grant, we beseech Thee, that they who rejoice in honoring the same holy Cross, may rejoice also in Thine ever-present protection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Roman Missal)

An indulgence of 5 years.

A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions when this prayer has been devoutly said every day for a month (S. P. Ap., Feb. 7, 1935).

Assist us, O Lord our God; and defend us evermore by the might of Thy holy Cross, in whose honor Thou makest us to rejoice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Roman Missal)

An indulgence of 5 years.

A plenary indulgence once a month under the usual conditions, when it has been recited daily with devout dispositions (S. P. Ap., Sept. 14, 1934).

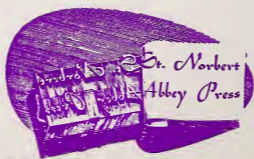
O God, Who for the redemption of the world didst will to be born amongst men, to be circumcised, to be rejected by the Jews, to be betrayed by the traitor Judas with a kiss, to be bound with cords, to be led to slaughter as an innocent lamb, to be shamelessly exposed to the gaze of Annas, Caiphas, Pilate and Herod, to be accused by false witnesses, to be tormented by scourges and insults, defiled with spitting, crowned with thorns, smitten with blows, struck with a reed, blind-folded, stripped of Thy garments, fastened to the Cross with nails, lifted on the Cross, reckoned among thieves, given gall and vinegar to drink and wounded with a spear; do Thou, O Lord, by these Thy most holy sufferings, upon which I unworthily meditate, and by Thy holy Cross and death, deliver me from the pains of hell, and vouchsafe to bring me where Thou didst bring the penitent thief who was crucified with Thee, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

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

An indulgence of 3 years.

A plenary indulgence under the usual conditions, if this prayer is said with devotion daily for an entire month (S. C. Ind., Aug. 25, 1820; S. P. Ap., Oct. 6, 1933).





St. Norbert
Abbey Press