

The fourteen stations of  
the way of the Cross  
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# Master Book

OF

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

*Especially Printed in Large Type*

For the Use of the Religious and Clergy

With

**Franciscan Text**

ARRANGED FOR CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

## IMPORTANT

Way Of The Cross Book for the use  
of the LAITY corresponding to this MASTER  
is Franciscan Text No. 13.

— See Illustration on back Cover —

*Isabelle Palmer*

Nihil obstat.

ARTHUR J. SCANLAN, S.T.D.

*Censor Librorum.*

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The  
FOURTEEN STATIONS  
of the  
WAY OF THE CROSS  
with  
THE MEDITATIONS

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FRANCISCAN TEXT

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Arranged for Congregational Prayer



*(For the use of the Laity, use Franciscan Text, Book No. 13.)*



## Preparatory Prayer

**O** MOST merciful Jesus! \* With a contrite heart \* and a penitent spirit, \* I bow down \* in profound humility \* before Thy Divine Majesty. \* I adore Thee \* as my Supreme Lord and Master; \* I believe in Thee, \* I hope in Thee, \* I love Thee above all things. \* I am heartily sorry \* for having offended Thee, \* my supreme and only God. I resolve \* to amend my life; \* and although I am unworthy to obtain mercy, \* yet the sight \* of Thy holy Cross, \* on which Thou didst die, \* inspires me with hope \* and consolation. \* I will, therefore, \* meditate on Thy sufferings, \* and visit the stations \* of Thy bitter Passion \* in company \* with Thy sorrowful Mother \* and my Guardian Angel, \* with the intention \* of promoting Thy honour \* and saving my soul.

I desire to gain \* all the indulgences \* granted for this holy exercise \* for myself \* and for the suffering souls in purgatory. \* O merciful Redeemer, \* Who hast said: \* “And I, \* if I be lifted from earth, \* will draw all things \* to myself,” \* draw my heart \* and my love \* to Thee, \* that I may perform this devotion \* as perfectly as possible, \* and that I may live \* and die \* in union with Thee. \* Amen.



## FIRST STATION

### *Jesus is Condemned to Death*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*Jesus, most innocent, who neither did nor could commit a sin, was condemned to death, and moreover, to the most ignominious death of the cross. To remain a friend of Caesar, Pilate delivered Him into the hands of His enemies. A fearful crime — to condemn Innocence to death, and to offend God, in order not to displease men.*

#### PRAYER

O INNOCENT Jesus! \* Having sinned, \* I am guilty \* of eternal death, \* but Thou dost willingly accept \* the unjust sentence of death, \* that I might live. \* For whom, then, \* shall I henceforth live, \* if not for Thee, \* my Lord? \* Should I desire \* to please men, \* I could not be Thy servant. \* Let me, therefore, \* rather displease men, \* and all the world, \* than not please Thee, \* O Jesus.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

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





## SECOND STATION

### *Jesus Carries His Cross*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*When our divine Saviour beheld the cross, He most willingly stretched out His bleeding arms, lovingly embraced it, and tenderly kissed it and, placing it on His bruised shoulders, He, although almost exhausted, joyfully carried it.*

#### PRAYER

O MY Jesus! \* I cannot be Thy friend \* and follower, \* If I refuse \* to carry the Cross. \* O dearly beloved Cross! \* I embrace thee, \* I kiss thee, \* I joyfully accept thee \* from the hands of my God. \* Far be it from me \* to glory in anything, \* save in the Cross \* of my Lord \* and Redeemer. \* By it \* the world \* shall be crucified to me, \* and I \* to the world, \* that I may be Thine for ever.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,  
All His bitter anguish bearing,  
Lo! the piercing sword had passed!



## THIRD STATION

### *Jesus Falls the First Time*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*Our dear Saviour carrying the cross was so weakened by its heavy weight, as to fall exhausted to the ground. Our sins and misdeeds were the heavy burden which oppressed Him; the cross was to Him light and sweet, but our sins were galling and insupportable.*

#### PRAYER

O MY Jesus! \* Thou didst bear my burden \* and the heavy weight \* of my sins. \* Should I not then \* bear, in union with Thee, \* my easy burden of suffering, \* and accept the sweet yoke \* of Thy commandments? \* Thy yoke is sweet \* and Thy burden is light: \* I therefore \* willingly accept it, \* and I will take up my Cross \* and follow Thee.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

O, how sad, and sore distressed,  
Now was she, that Mother Blessed  
Of the sole-begotten One.



## FOURTH STATION

### *Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*How painful and how sad it must have been for Mary, the sorrowful Mother, to behold her beloved Son laden with the burden of the cross! What unspeakable pangs her most tender heart experienced! How earnestly did she desire to die in place of Jesus, or at least with Him! Implore this sorrowful Mother that she assist you in the hour of your death.*

#### PRAYER

O JESUS! \* O Mary! \* I am the cause \* of the great and manifold pains \* which pierce \* your loving hearts. O that also my heart \* would feel and experience \* at least some \* of your sufferings! \* O Mother of Sorrows! \* Let me participate \* in the sufferings \* which thou \* and thy Son \* endured for me, \* and let me experience \* thy sorrow, \* that, afflicted with thee, \* I may enjoy thy assistance \* in the hour \* of my death.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

Woe-begone, with heart's prostration  
Mother meek, the bitter Passion  
Saw she of her glorious Son.





## FIFTH STATION

### *Simon Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross*

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*Simon of Cyrene was compelled to help Jesus carry His cross, and Jesus accepted his assistance. How willingly would He also permit you to carry the cross: He calls, but you hear Him not: He invites, but you decline. What a reproach to bear the cross reluctantly.*

#### PRAYER

O JESUS! \* Whosoever does not take up \* his cross \* and follow Thee, \* is not worthy of Thee. \* Behold, \* I join Thee \* in the Way of Thy Cross: \* I will be Thy assistant, \* following Thy bloody footsteps, \* that I may come to Thee \* in eternal life.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

*V. Lord Jesus, crucified:*

*R. Have mercy on us!*

---

Who could mark, from tears refraining,  
Christ's dear Mother uncomplaining,  
In so great a sorrow bowed?



## SIXTH STATION

### *Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*Veronica, impelled by devotion and compassion, presents her veil to Jesus to wipe His disfigured face. And Jesus imprints on it His holy countenance; a great recompense for so small a service. What return do you make to your Saviour for His great and manifold benefits?*

#### PRAYER

**M**OST merciful Jesus! \* What return \* shall I make \* for all the benefits \* Thou didst bestow \* upon me? \* Behold, \* I consecrate myself \* entirely to Thy service. \* I offer \* and consecrate \* to Thee \* my heart: \* imprint on it \* Thy sacred image, \* never again \* to be effaced by sin.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

Who, unmoved, behold her languish,  
Underneath His cross of anguish,  
'Mid the fierce, unpitying crowd?



## SEVENTH STATION

### *Jesus Falls the Second Time*

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.  
R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*The suffering Jesus, under the weight of His cross, again falls to the ground; but His cruel executioners do not permit Him to rest a moment. Pushing and striking Him, they urge Him onward. It is the frequent repetition of our sins which oppresses Jesus. Witnessing this, how can I continue to sin?*

#### PRAYER

**O** JESUS, \* Son of David, \* have mercy on me!  
\* Offer me \* Thy helping hand, \* and aid me,  
\* that I may not fall again \* into my former sins.  
\* From this very moment \* I will earnestly strive \*  
to reform; never more \* will I sin! \* Thou, O sole  
support \* of the weak, \* by Thy grace, \* without  
which \* I can do nothing, \* strengthen me \* to  
carry out faithfully \* this my resolution.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

*V. Lord Jesus, crucified:*

*R. Have mercy on us!*

---

For His people's sins rejected,  
She her Jesus, unprotected,  
Saw with thorns, with scourges rent.



## EIGHTH STATION

### *The Women of Jerusalem Weep Over Jesus*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*These devoted women, moved by compassion, weep over the suffering Saviour. But He turns to them, saying: "Weep not for me, who am innocent; but weep for yourselves and for your children." Weep thou also; for there is nothing more pleasing to our Lord, and nothing more profitable for thyself, than tears shed from contrition for thy sins.*

#### PRAYER

**O** JESUS! \* Who shall give to my eyes \* a torrent of tears, \* that day and night \* I may weep for my sins? \* I beseech Thee, \* through Thy bitter \* and bloody tears, \* to move my heart \* by Thy divine grace, \* so that from my eyes \* tears may flow abundantly, \* and that I may weep \* all my days \* over Thy sufferings, \* and still more \* over their cause, \* my sins.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

Saw her Son from judgment taken,  
Her belov'd in death forsaken  
Till His Spirit forth He sent.



## NINTH STATION

### *Jesus Falls the Third Time*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*Jesus arriving exhausted at the foot of Calvary, falls for the third time to the ground. His love for us, however, is not diminished, not extinguished. What a fearfully oppressive burden our sins must be to cause Jesus to fall so often! Had He, however, not taken them upon Himself, they would have plunged us into the abyss of hell.*

#### PRAYER

**M**OST merciful Jesus! \* I return Thee \* infinite thanks \* for not permitting me \* to continue in sin \* and to fall, \* as I have so often deserved, \* into the depths of hell. \* Enkindle in me \* an earnest desire \* of amendment; \* let me never again relapse, \* but vouchsafe me \* the grace to persevere \* in penance \* to the end of my life.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

Fount of love and holy sorrow,  
Mother, may my spirit borrow  
Somewhat of thy woe profound.





## TENTH STATION

### *Jesus is Stripped of His Garments*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*When our Saviour had arrived on Calvary He was cruelly despoiled of His garments. How painful must this have been, because they adhered to His wounded and torn body, and with them parts of His bloody skin were removed! All the wounds of Jesus are renewed. Jesus is despoiled of His garments that He might die possessed of nothing; how happy will I also die after laying aside my former self with all evil desires and sinful inclinations!*

#### PRAYER

**I**NDUCE me, \* O Jesus! \* to lay aside \* my former self \* and to be renewed \* according to Thy will \* and desire. \* I will not spare myself, \* however painful \* this should be for me; \* despoiled of things temporal, \* of my own will, \* I desire to die, \* in order to live \* for Thee forever.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

Unto Christ, with, pure emotion,  
Raise my contrite heart's devotion,  
Love to read in every wound.



## ELEVENTH STATION

### *Jesus is Nailed to the Cross*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*Jesus, being stripped of His garments, was violently thrown upon the cross, and His hands and feet were most cruelly nailed thereto. In such excruciating pains He remained silent, because it pleased His heavenly Father. He suffered patiently, because He suffered for me. How do I act in sufferings and in troubles? How fretful and impatient, how full of complaints I am!*

#### PRAYER

**O** JESUS! \* gracious Lamb of God! \* I renounce for ever my impatience. \* Crucify, \* O Lord, \* my flesh \* and its concupiscences; scourge, \* scathe, \* and punish me \* in this world; \* do but spare me \* in the next. \* I commit my destiny \* to Thee, \* resigning myself \* to Thy holy will: \* may it be done \* in all things!

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

*V. Lord Jesus, crucified:*

*R. Have mercy on us!*

---

Those five wounds on Jesus smitten.  
Mother! in my heart be written,  
Deep as in thine own they be.



## TWELFTH STATION

### *Jesus is Raised Upon the Cross, and Dies*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*Behold Jesus crucified! Behold His wounds, received for the love of you! His whole appearance betokens love: His head is bent to kiss you; His arms are extended to embrace you; His Heart is open to receive you. O super-abundance of love! Jesus, the Son of God, dies upon the cross, that man may live and be delivered from everlasting death.*

#### PRAYER

**O** MOST amiable Jesus! \* Who will grant me \* that I may die \* for love of Thee? \* I will endeavor \* at least \* to die to the world. \* How must I regard \* the world and its vanities, \* when I behold Thee \* hanging on the Cross, \* covered with wounds? \* O Jesus, \* receive me \* into Thy wounded Heart: \* I belong entirely to Thee; \* for Thee alone \* do I desire to live \* and to die.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

V. *Lord Jesus, crucified:*

R. *Have mercy on us!*

---

Thou, my Saviour's Cross who bearest,  
Thou thy Son's rebuke who sharest,  
Let me share them both with Thee!



## THIRTEENTH STATION

### *Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*Jesus did not descend from the cross, but remained on it until He died. And when taken down from it, He, in death as in life, rested on the bosom of His Mother. Persevere in your resolutions of reform, and do not part from the cross: he who persevereth to the end shall be saved. Consider how pure the heart should be that receives the body and blood of Christ in the adorable Sacrament of the Altar.*

#### PRAYER

**O** LORD Jesus! \* Thy lifeless body, \* mangled and torn, \* found a worthy resting place on the bosom \* of Thy Virgin Mother. \* Have I not often \* compelled Thee \* to dwell in my heart, \* full of sin \* and impurity \* as it was? \* Create in me \* a new heart, \* that I may worthily receive \* Thy most sacred body \* in Holy Communion, \* and that Thou mayest remain in me \* and I in Thee, \* for all eternity.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

*V. Lord Jesus, crucified:*

*R. Have mercy on us!*

---

In the Passion of my Maker,  
Be my sinful soul partaker,  
Weep till death, and keep with thee.



## FOURTEENTH STATION

### *Jesus is Laid in the Sepulchre*

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.

R. Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the world.

#### MEDITATION

*The body of Jesus is interred in a stranger's sepulchre. He who in this world had not whereupon to rest His head, would not even have a grave of His own, because He was not of this world. You, who are so attached to the world, henceforth despise it, that you may not perish with it.*

#### PRAYER

**O** JESUS! Thou hast set me \* apart from the world: \* what, then, \* shall I seek therein? \* Thou hast created me \* for heaven: \* what, then, \* have I to do \* with this world? \* Depart from me, \* deceitful world, \* with thy vanities! \* Henceforth, \* I will follow \* the Way of the Cross, \* traced out for me \* by my Redeemer, \* and journey onward \* to my heavenly home, \* there to dwell \* forever and ever.

*Our Father, &c. Hail Mary, &c.*

*V. Lord Jesus, crucified:*

*R. Have mercy on us!*

---

Mine with Thee be that sad station,  
There to watch the great Salvation  
Wrought upon th' atoning Tree.



## Conclusion

ALMIGHTY and Eternal God! \* Merciful Father! \* Who hast given \* to the human race \* Thy beloved Son \* as an example of humility, \* obedience, \* and patience, \* to precede us \* on the way of life, \* bearing the Cross; \* graciously grant us, \* that we, \* inflamed by His infinite love, may take up \* the sweet yoke of His Gospel \* together with \* the mortification of the Cross, \* and follow Him \* as His true disciples, \* so that we shall one day \* gloriously rise with Him \* and joyfully hear the final sentence: \* *“Come, ye blessed of My Father, \* and possess the kingdom \* which was prepared for you \* from the beginning,”* \* where Thou reignest \* with the Son \* and the Holy Ghost, \* and where \* we hope to reign \* with Thee, \* world without end. \* Amen.

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—*For the Use of the Laity*—

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