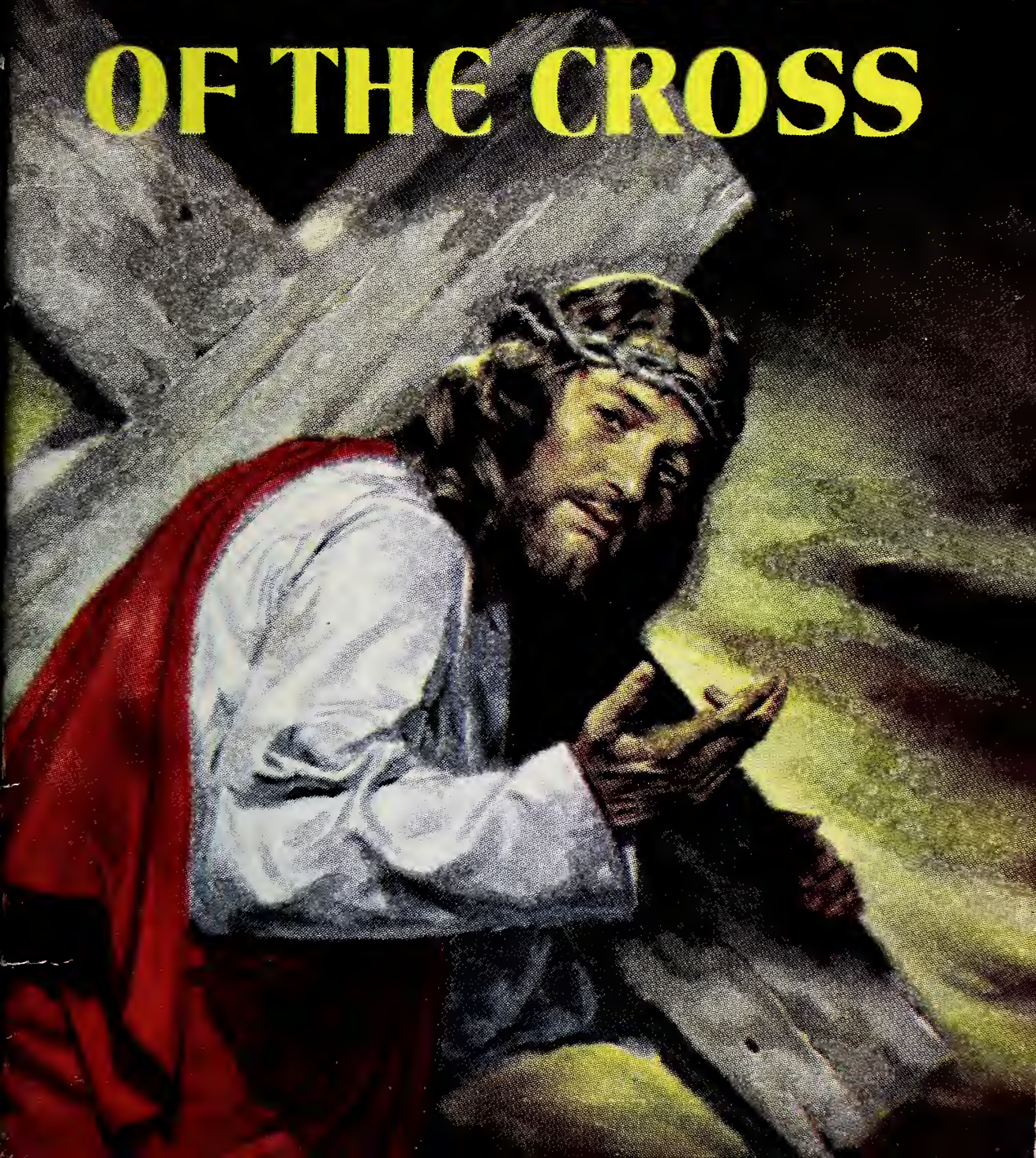


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STATIONS OF THE CROSS



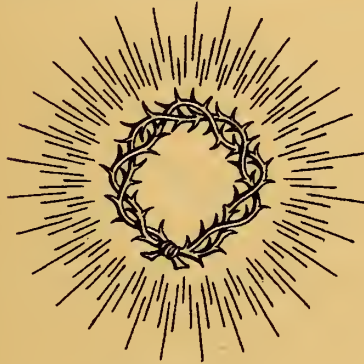


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The
STATIONS
of the
CROSS

By St. Alphonsus



Imprimatur:

✠ FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN
Archbishop of New York

November 3, 1954

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St. Paul, Minn.

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THE DEVOUT exercise of the STATIONS OF THE CROSS commemorates the Passion of our Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ and His journey from the Praetorium to Calvary. This devotion, practiced everywhere in the Church from the early centuries, has been enriched by the Supreme Pontiffs with many indulgences. But, in the course of time, the documentary authentication of these indulgences has been lost and their exact nature and extent cannot be determined with certainty. In order to remove all doubt for the future, Pope Pius XI abrogated by his supreme authority each and every indulgence granted in the past. He then decreed that all the faithful who, either singly or in groups, shall perform with a contrite heart the devout exercise of the STATIONS OF THE CROSS, lawfully erected, according to the requirements of the Holy See, may gain: (a) a plenary indulgence as often as they complete the devout exercise; (b) a further plenary indulgence if they receive Holy Communion on the day the exercise was performed or if they communicate within a month after completing the Stations ten times; (c) an indulgence of ten years for each single station if they are unable for some reasonable cause to complete the exercise. (*Preces et Pia Opera Indulgentiis ditata 1938*).

These indulgences are extended to sick persons

and others who are prevented from visiting the Stations erected in a church, provided they use a Crucifix specially blessed for this purpose and recite twenty times the OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY, AND GLORY BE. If the sick are unable to recite these prayers, a short prayer or ejaculation in memory of Christ's passion and death suffices. If they are unable to recite a prayer, it suffices to kiss or look upon this Crucifix.

PRAYER BEFORE THE STATIONS

O JESUS CHRIST, my Lord, with what great love didst Thou pass over the painful road which led Thee to death; and I, how often have I abandoned Thee! But now I love Thee with my whole soul, and because I love Thee I am sincerely sorry for having offended Thee.

My Jesus, pardon me, and permit me to accompany Thee in this journey. Thou art going to die for love of me, and it is my wish also, O my dearest Redeemer, to die for love of Thee. Oh, yes, my Jesus, in Thy love I wish to live. In Thy love I wish to die.

O Jesus, who for love of me
Didst bear Thy Cross to Calvary,
In Thy sweet mercy grant to me
To suffer and to die with Thee.

FIRST STATION



Jesus is condemned to Death

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how Jesus, after having been scourged and crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate to die on the Cross.

My loving Jesus, it was not Pilate; no, it was my sins that condemned Thee to die. I beseech Thee, by the merits of this sorrowful journey, to assist my

soul in its journey towards eternity. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be, *etc.*

Stabat Mater

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

SECOND STATION



Jesus receives the Cross

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how Jesus, in making this journey with the Cross on His shoulders, thought of us, and offered for us to His Father the death He was about to undergo.

My most beloved Jesus! I embrace all the tribulations Thou hast destined for me until death. I beseech Thee, by the merit of the pain Thou didst suffer in carrying Thy Cross, to

give me the necessary help to carry mine with perfect patience and resignation. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

Through her heart His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.

THIRD STATION



Jesus falls the first time

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER this first fall of Jesus under His Cross. His flesh was torn by the scourges, His head crowned with thorns, and He had lost a great quantity of blood. He was so weakened He could scarcely walk, and yet He had to carry this great load upon His shoulders. The soldiers struck Him rudely, and thus He fell several times.

My Jesus, it is the weight, not of the Cross, but of my sins, which

has made Thee suffer so much pain. Ah, by the merits of this first fall, deliver me from the misfortune of falling into mortal sin. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as *before*.

Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the sole-begotten One!

FOURTH STATION



Jesus meets His afflicted Mother

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER the meeting of the Son and the Mother which took place on this journey. Their looks became like so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly.

My sweet Jesus, by the sorrow Thou didst experience in this meeting, grant me the grace of a truly devoted love for Thy most holy Mother. And thou, my Queen, who wast over-

whelmed with sorrow, obtain for me, by thine intercession, a continual and tender remembrance of the passion of thy Son. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

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

FIFTH STATION



The Cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how the Jews, seeing that at each step Jesus was on the point of expiring, and fearing He would die on the way, whereas they wished Him to die the ignominious death of the Cross, constrained Simon the Cyrenean to carry the Cross behind Our Lord.

My most beloved Jesus, by Thy grace I will not refuse to carry the Cross; I accept it, I embrace it. I accept in particular the death Thou hast destined for

me, with all the pains which may accompany it: I unite it to Thy death, I offer it to Thee. Thou hast died for love of me; I will die for love of Thee. Help me by Thy grace. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

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

SIXTH STATION



Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how the Holy woman named Veronica, seeing Jesus so ill-used, and His face bathed in sweat and blood, presented Him with a towel, with which He wiped His adorable face, leaving on it the impression of His holy countenance.

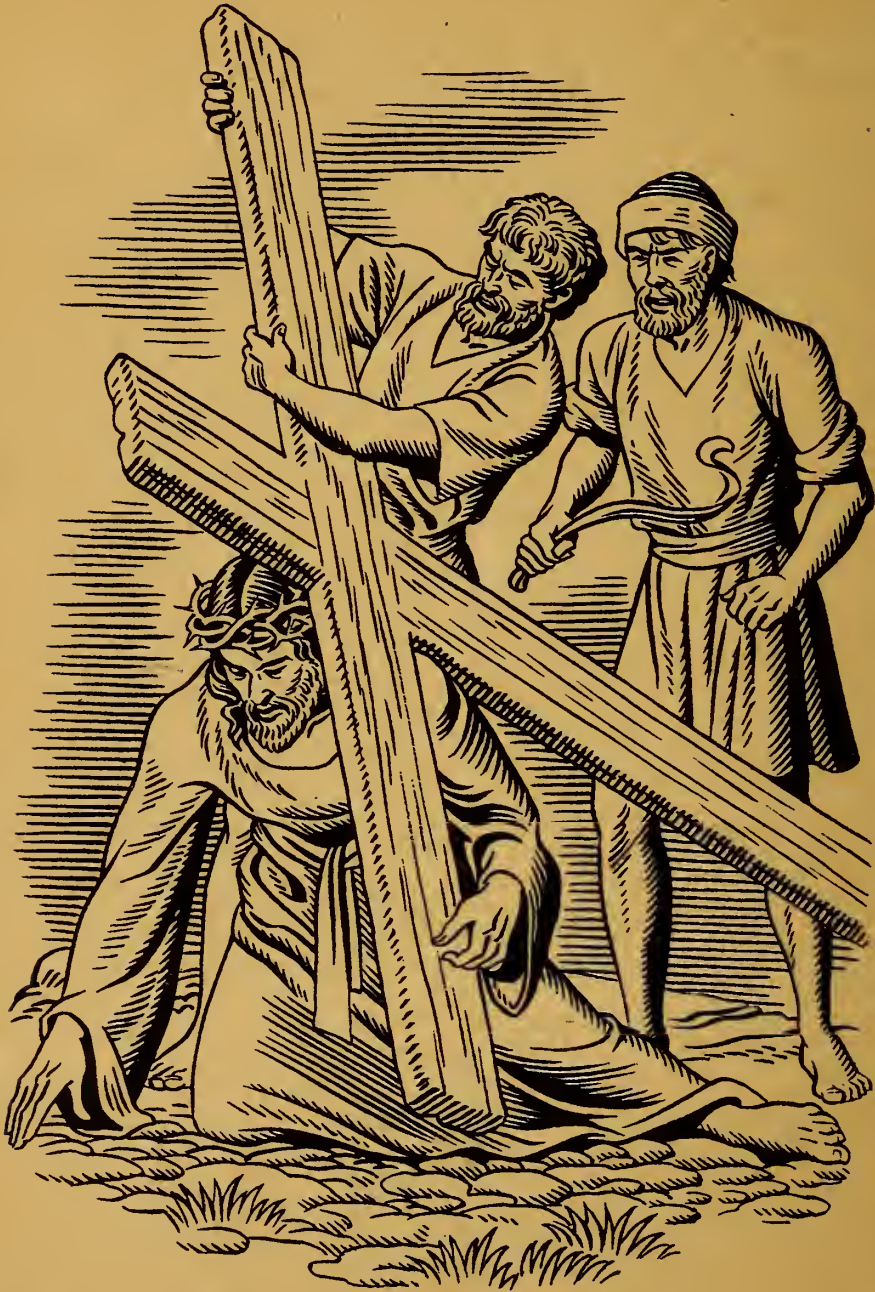
My most beloved Jesus! Thy face was beautiful before, but in this journey it has lost all its beauty, and wounds and blood have disfigured it. Alas! my soul also was once beautiful, when it re-

ceived Thy grace in baptism; but I have disfigured it by my sins; Thou alone, my Redeemer, canst restore it to its former beauty. Do this by Thy passion, O Jesus! I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

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

SEVENTH STATION



Jesus falls the second time

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER the second fall of Jesus Christ under the Cross; a fall which renews the pain of all the wounds in His head and members.

My most sweet Jesus, how many times hast Thou pardoned me, and how many times have I fallen again, and begun again to offend Thee. Oh! by the merits of this second fall, give me the necessary helps to persevere in Thy grace

until death. Grant that in all temptations which assail me I may always commend myself to Thee. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child
All with bloody scourges rent.

EIGHTH STATION



Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how these women wept with compassion at seeing Jesus in such a pitiable state, streaming with blood as He walked along. "Daughters of Jerusalem," said He, "weep not over Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

My Jesus, laden with sorrows! I weep for the offenses I have committed against Thee, because of the pains they have deserved, and still more because of the dis-

pleasure they have caused Thee, who hast loved me so much. It is Thy love more than the fear of hell, which causes me to weep for my sins. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

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

NINTH STATION



Jesus falls the third time

Ÿ. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER the third fall of Jesus Christ. His weakness was extreme, and the cruelty of His executioners excessive, who tried to hasten His steps when He could scarcely move.

Ah, my outraged Jesus, by the merits of the weakness Thou didst suffer in going to Calvary, give me strength sufficient to conquer all human re-

spect, and all my wicked passions, which have led me to despise Thy friendship. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

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

TENTH STATION



Jesus is stripped of His garment

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER the violence with which Jesus was stripped by the executioners. His inner garments adhered to His torn flesh, and they dragged them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Compassionate your Saviour thus cruelly treated.

My most innocent Jesus! by the merits of the torment Thou hast felt, help me to strip myself of all affection

to things of earth, that I may place all my love in Thee, who art so worthy of my love. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

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

ELEVENTH STATION



Jesus is nailed to the Cross

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how Jesus, having been placed upon the Cross, extended His hands, and offered to His Eternal Father the sacrifice of His life for our salvation. Those barbarians fastened Him with nails, and then, securing the Cross, allowed Him to die with anguish on this infamous gibbet.

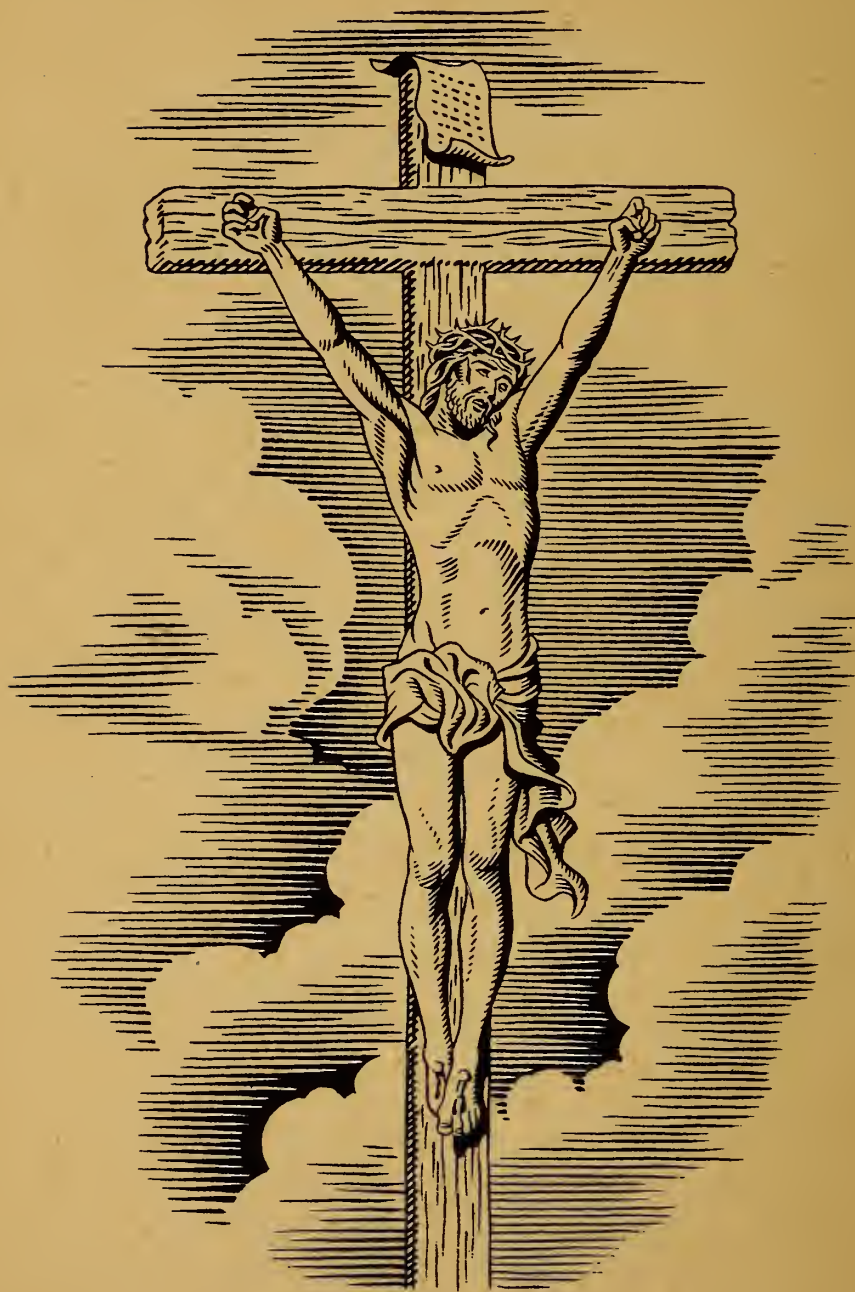
My Jesus, loaded with contempt, nail my heart to Thy feet, that

it may ever remain there to love Thee, and never quit Thee again. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

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

TWELFTH STATION



Jesus dies on the Cross

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

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

CONSIDER how Jesus, after three hours' agony on the Cross, being consumed with anguish, abandoned Himself to the weight of His body, bowed His head and died.

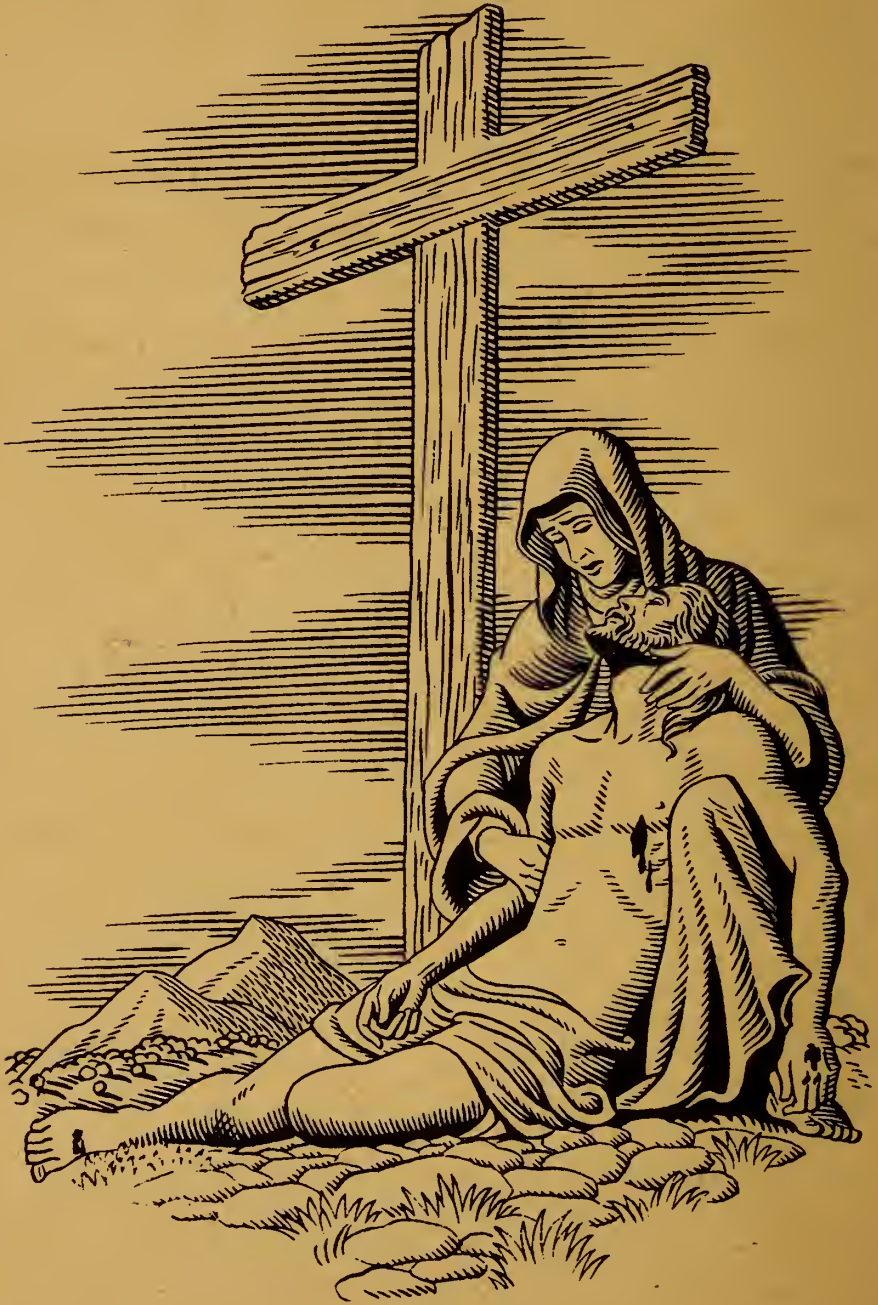
O my dying Jesus! I kiss devoutly the Cross on which Thou didst die for love of me. I have merited by my sins to die a miserable death, but Thy death is my hope. Ah! by the merits of Thy death, give me

grace to die embracing Thy feet, and burning with love for Thee. I commit my soul into Thy hands. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as *before.*

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

THIRTEENTH STATION



Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Ÿ. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

R̄. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how, after Our Lord had expired, two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, took Him down from the Cross, and placed Him in the arms of His afflicted Mother who received Him with unutterable tenderness, and pressed Him to her bosom.

O Mother of Sorrow, for the love of this Son, accept me for thy servant, and pray for me. And Thou, my Redeem-

er, since Thou hast died for me, permit me to love Thee: for I wish but Thee, and nothing more. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as before.

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

FOURTEENTH STATION



Jesus is laid in the Sepulchre

℣. We adore Thee, O Christ, and praise Thee.

℞. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

CONSIDER how the disciples carried the body of Jesus to bury it, accompanied by His holy Mother, who arranged it in the sepulchre with her own hands. They then closed the tomb, and all withdrew.

Ah, my buried Jesus! I kiss the stone that encloses Thee. But Thou didst rise again the third day. I beseech Thee, by Thy resurrection, to make me rise in

glory with Thee at the last day, to be always united with Thee in heaven, to praise Thee and love Thee for ever. I love Thee, Jesus, my love, above all things; I repent with my whole heart of having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again. Grant that I may love Thee always; and then do with me what Thou wilt.

Our Father, *etc.*, as
before.

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

Virgin of all virgins blest!
Listen to my fond request;
Let me share thy grief divine.

Let me, to my latest breath,
In my body bear the death
Of that dying Son of thine.

Wounded with His every wound,
Steep my soul till it has swoon'd
In His very blood away.

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
Lest in flames I burn and die,
In His awful judgment-day.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,
Be Thy Mother my defense,
Be Thy Cross my victory.

While my body here decays,
May my soul Thy goodness praise,
Safe in Paradise with Thee.

Amen.

In conclusion say one *Our Father*, *Hail Mary*,
and *Glory be*, for the intention of the Sovereign
Pontiff.

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