

The Tenth Station

Jesus is Stripped of his Garments

Jesus had nothing, not even his clothes—he was stripped of everything in the end. He willed it for love of you and me. Until the end of time, we will gaze upon the One who allowed himself to be stripped naked.

Eternal Father, your Son's nakedness covered ours. His Blood became our imperishable garment of salvation. We hurt when we are stripped of anything but Jesus was stripped of everything. For all priests we beg for the grace of spiritual poverty, simplicity, purity and hearts willing to be vulnerable.

The Eleventh Station

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

The pain intensified with each blow of the hammer to the nail that pierced His sacred hands and feet. Each blow is a vivid reminder of the sin of the world that weighs upon Him. He took it upon Himself because He loves. This is the fire He longed to start.

Eternal Father, you so loved the world that you sent your Son Jesus to save us. How can we possibly thank you for such an ineffable Gift? Graciously help our priests to be lifted up with Jesus onto the wooden bed of divine love with arms outstretched to embrace the whole Church with mercy.

The Twelfth Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross

It is finished. He suffered inestimable, complete torment on the cross. He surrendered all: "Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit." Yet, he extended mercy, full pardon, and forgiveness to those who condemned and crucified Him. He even promised Paradise to the "good thief" before he breathed his last.

Eternal Father, graciously grant our priests and us the grace to forgive as Christ forgives. For all priests, we implore the grace of surrender to the divine. Help them to echo the words of Jesus, "Father, Into Your hands..." Guide priests to place everything into your hands and hang onto Jesus only.

The Thirteenth Station

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

The Lord's lifeless, battered body was laid in his Mother's arms. Imagine the perfect sorrow of Mary as she embraced and kissed her Son, bone of her bone and flesh of her flesh. The sword of Simeon's prophecy had thoroughly pierced her Immaculate Heart. Did she despair? No! Yet, what perfect maternal sorrow and faith!

Eternal Father, please bless our priests and us with a new awareness of the inestimable value of Marian devotion and consecration. For all priests, we implore that they take Mary as their spiritual mother and consecrate their priesthood to her. Grant that priests are held in Mary's protective, maternal love.

The Fourteenth Station

Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Then, the earth quaked. Silence ensues and darkness engulfs. For Jesus, the tomb was a place of transition – a place between death and new life. He was doing a new thing since nothing would ever be the same again.

Eternal Father, sometimes we feel lost and afraid when we are in a place between darkness and light, between death and new life. Shake us up and out of our self-made tombs so that we can become a new creation in Christ. For all priests, we implore the gift of sanctifying transformation.

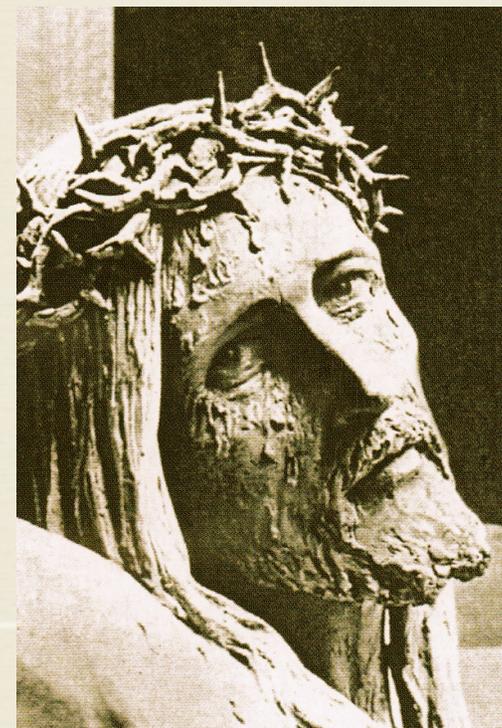


Foundation of Prayer for Priests
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AN ACT OF LOVE



STATIONS OF
THE CROSS
FOR
PRIESTS & LAITY



The First Station

Jesus is Condemned to Death

Jesus stood before Pilate an innocent man yet he was condemned to death. The pure Lamb of God is led to the slaughter and remained silent. He is intent on the mission and does not count the cost.

Eternal Father, graciously help our priests and us to avoid false judgments that are hurtful to your Church. Grant that we never wash our hands of innocence, as did Pilate. We ask for the gift of courage for all priests. Please grant priests the grace to be faithful to their lofty mission.

The Second Station

Jesus Carries his Cross

Jesus, already tired and broken, picked up the heavy cross to begin the journey to Calvary. Love compels him. The weight of love is heavier than the cross that tears into his shoulder.

Eternal Father, please help our priests and us when we are exhausted and overwhelmed by life and by our respective duties. For all priests, we ask for the gift of personal holiness that they may radiate the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Grant that love and mercy flow freely from the heart of priests.

The Third Station

Jesus Falls the First Time

Jesus falls down under the weight of the heavy cross, yet he finds the strength to get up and begin again. His Heart is fixed on the goal but his broken body is in agony. Trembling, he perseveres, ever faithful to his yes.

Eternal Father, in your mercy please help our priests and us to keep going even when we feel we can't take another step because the weight of suffering presses upon us. May our yes to follow Christ be unwavering. For all priests we ask for the gift of perseverance, patience and prayer.

The Fourth Station

Jesus meets his Mother

Mother Mary was always there for her Son Jesus, especially in His darkest hour. Her maternal love strengthened Him each step of the way. Mother and Son, their two hearts beat in unison always.

Eternal Father, please help our priests and us to accompany others in their darkest hour. For all priests, we implore the gift of compassion, courage and patience toward all suffering people. Please grant that Mary strengthen priests in their hours of suffering too.

The Fifth Station

Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene

Simon was just one of the crowd, a man observing the horror and mystery that unfolded before him. He did not plan to become part of the drama that day. He was pressed into service. Imagine the transformation of his heart drawn into such an intimate encounter with the Suffering Servant.

Eternal Father, strengthen our priests and us to be ready and willing to help anyone who is struggling and in need of assistance. Please heal us of fear or indifference to the poor and grant us the grace of encountering Jesus in his suffering people. For priests, we pray for the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

The Sixth Station

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

At the time when Jesus was suffering intensely, the attentive Veronica reached out to the Lord, offering Him an act of kindness. Veronica consoled His aching heart. In the midst of the maddening scene, love prevailed.

Eternal Father, please help our priests and us to become vessels of divine mercy. We pray that priests are always willing to engage in acts of mercy, especially for people who are faltering on the way. In the midst of life's turmoil, grant that love prevail always.

The Seventh Station

Jesus Falls the Second Time

Jesus falls again but this time even harder. He gets up again, but it is more difficult because his physical strength is waning. Yet, He valiantly carries on. His Sacred Heart is engulfed in the vehemence of divine love. He came to save sinners.

Eternal Father, please bless our priests and us with hope that counteracts discouragement. All people fall and sometimes very often. Repeatedly getting up and starting again is difficult. For all priests, we pray for the grace of hope and joy that strengthens. Grant hearts to be engulfed in the passion of divine love.

The Eighth Station

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

In the midst of His excruciating pain, Jesus makes the effort to comfort the women who were weeping along the road to Calvary. They are the only ones with whom He speaks along the Via Dolorosa. He exercised a special esteem for all the women He met.

Eternal Father, please aid our priests and us not to be so absorbed in personal suffering that we miss the suffering of others in our midst. For all priests we pray that they never walk past those who are weeping along the wayside. Help priests to offer solace and speak words of encouragement whenever needed.

The Ninth Station

Jesus Falls the Third Time

The end of the journey is near and Jesus falls again. He struggles to get up and continues one last time. The finish line is in sight but the flesh is so very weak. Yet, He will drink the chalice.

Eternal Father, please help our priests and us to pick up our heavy crosses and to persevere when our struggles weigh us down. For all priests, we ask for the grace of complete dependence upon Christ's strength, and not their own. Please grant the clergy increasing trust in divine providence.