

THE WAY OF THE CROSS FOR PRIESTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING PERSECUTION

INTENTION:

0 dearest Lord Jesus, I offer Thee the way of the Cross which I am about to make for Thy honor and glory and for all Thy priests, especially those who are suffering persecution for Thy sake.

STATION I

Jesus is Condemned to Death.

We adore Thee, 0 Christ, and we bless Thee.
Because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the World.

Dearest Lord Jesus, I thank Thee for permitting thyself to be unjustly condemned to death for our sakes.(Pause for reflection.) By this outrage I beg of Thee to grant to all priests the grace to condemn themselves by dying to the world while they are still on earth, that it may not be necessary for Thee to condemn them when they come to die. I also beg of Thee through this indignity to aid those priests who are suffering unjust condemnation for Thy sake, that they may bear their sufferings patiently in union with thine.

STATION II

Jesus is Made to Bear His Cross.

We adore Thee, 0 Christ, and we bless Thee.
because by Thy holy Cross, Thou hast redeemed the World.

Dearest Lord Jesus, I thank Thee for taking the rough cross upon Thy wounded shoulders and bearing it to Calvary. (Pause for reflection.) By Thy humble acceptance of the cross I beg of Thee to grant to priests the grace to accept humbly the crosses of their vocation. I ask of Thee also to grant to those priests, who are forced by Thy enemies and theirs to bear the many crosses of persecution, to follow courageously in Thy bloody footprints.

STATION III

Jesus Falls the First time.

We adore Thee...

My dearest Jesus, I thank Thee for this first time when Thou didst stumble and fall beneath Thy cross.(Pause for reflection.) By the humiliation Thou didst suffer here I beg of Thee to grant to priests the grace of avoiding all deliberate sin and, should they be so unfortunate as to fall, to rise at once and continue following after Thee. Grant also, dearest Jesus, to those who suffer persecution for thy sake the grace to follow Thee unceasingly without regard to human respect.

STATION IV

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother.

We adore Thee...

My dearest Lord Jesus, I thank Thee for this heart-rending meeting on thy journey to Calvary. (Pause for reflection.) Through the union of Thy Most Sacred Heart with the Heart of Thy Immaculate Mother I beg of Thee to give Thy priests the grace to have Mary as their most powerful aid and comfort in life and at the hour of death. Grant also, O dearest Jesus, that Thy sweetest Mother may, in a special manner, be with those priests who are suffering persecution for Thy sake. May she comfort them in their hour of trial and darkness as she comforted Thee on Thy way to execution.

STATION V

Jesus Is Assisted By Simon of Cyrene.

We adore Thee...

Dearest Lord Jesus, I thank Thee for permitting this small aid to be given Thee, even by one who was unwilling to render Thee a service. (Pause for reflection.) By the help Thou didst accept from Simon, I beseech Thee to send to Thy priests someone to advise, encourage and support them, someone to aid them in moments of suffering, when the crosses of their vocation become almost too heavy to bear alone. Give also to those priests who bear the cross of persecution and torture the grace of a helping hand, a consoling voice, a deed of kindness, that in their most discouraged moments they may know that Thou art with them, sharing their crosses as they share Thine.

STATION VI

Veronica Wipes The Face of Jesus.

We adore Thee...

My sweetest Lord, I thank Thee for leaving the image of thy most holy and adorable face upon Veronica's veil. (Pause for reflection.) By this most gracious reward to Veronica, I beg of Thee to grant to all priests the grace of recognizing Thy holy image in themselves and in those entrusted to their care. I beg of Thee also, O most sweet Jesus, to grant to those priests who are suffering persecution to recognize Thy image, however disfigured, in their persecutors that they, too, may develop Thy image in themselves by dying with a prayer of forgiveness and love for their enemies on their lips.

STATION VII

Jesus Falls the Second Time.

We adore Thee...

My dearest Lord Jesus, I thank Thee for this second most painful fall. (Pause for reflection.) By the bruises Thou didst suffer when for the second time the cross bore Thee to the ground, I beseech Thee to grant to all priests the grace of fidelity to their duty as shepherds of souls. Let such as fall from the ideals of their state of life, O Lord, profit by Thy rising from Thy second fall, and rising, too, continue to follow after Thee. Grant also, O my Jesus, to those who are tempted to shirk their priestly duties for fear of persecution, to take courage from Thy falls and bear their crosses faithfully in union with Thee.

STATION VIII

Jesus Comforts Jerusalem's Women.

We adore Thee...

My dearest Jesus, I thank Thee for the consolation Thou didst give to these women who bewailed Thy sufferings. (Pause for reflection.) Grant, O dearest Lord, to all Thy priests, the grace of being merciful and kind to all who need their aid. Give them patience, understanding, and sympathy with all who suffer that their priestly hearts may reflect the virtues of Thy Own great Heart. To those who suffer trials and torments for Thy sake, give O Lord, the grace to keep their sufferings to themselves alone, so that, in imitation of Thee, they may not permit their pains to make them unmindful of the pains of others.

STATION IX

Jesus Falls the Third Time.

We adore Thee...

I thank Thee, dear Lord Jesus, for the third time when Thy sacred Body was pressed to the earth through the weight of Thy sufferings. (Pause for reflection.) By Thy fearless courage in rising from this third most painful fall, grant, O Jesus, to all Thy priests the grace to be faithful to their vocations forever, and to those who have turned their backs on Thee, give the humility to return to Thee, rising from their fall, assured that Thou wilt receive them once again into Thy friendship. I beg especially, O blessed Jesus, the grace of fortitude for those priests who live in danger of persecution. Give them the courage to adhere to Thee regardless of threats or violence; keep them for Thyself alone, and move the hearts of the apostates to rise from their defection and once more take up their crosses and follow after Thee.

STATION X

Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments.

We adore Thee...

O dearest Lord, I thank Thee for the shame and humiliation which Thou didst endure when Thou didst permit Thyself to be stripped of Thy clothing on Calvary. (Pause for reflection.) My purest Jesus, by this great indignity, I beseech Thee to give to Thy priests great purity of heart and intention in serving Thee, and likewise the grace and courage to strip themselves of all things which are in any way displeasing to thee. Look in pity, also, on those priests, who, like Thee, are stripped of all their possessions and whose dignity and sanctity of person are disregarded by their persecutors. Help them, O loving Jesus, to unite their humiliations to Thee.

STATION XI

Jesus Is Nailed to The Cross.

We adore Thee...

Dearest Lord Jesus, I thank thee for giving Thyself into the hands of Thy executioners to be crucified and for the example of heroic patience which Thou didst give us in Thy terrible agony. (Pause for reflection.) I beg of Thee,

my sweetest Lord, by Thy great pains to grant to all of Thy priests the grace of patience in time of trial and adversity. Especially to those chosen sons of Thine who share in the fullest sense in Thy crucifixion grant, O Lord, the grace to unite their spiritual, mental, and physical sufferings to Thine on the cross.

STATION XII

Jesus Dies On The Cross.

We adore Thee...

My Lord and my God! I love Thee with all my heart and I thank Thee for redeeming the world by giving Thy life — Thy All — for us. (Pause for reflection.) Jesus! I beg Thee to grant to Thy priests the grace to share in Thy all-embracing charity and to be ready to sacrifice themselves in imitation of Thee in order to further Thy Kingdom upon earth. Grant, O Jesus, that those priests who are suffering persecution for Thy sake, may ever keep in mind Thy crucifixion and death. May their love for Thee and Thine for them sustain them in their trials that they may share with Thee, not only Thy pains and sufferings, but also the triumph of Thy Resurrection!

STATION XIII

Jesus Is Taken Down From The Cross And Placed In His Mother's Arms.

We adore Thee...

My dearest Lord, I thank Thee for resting, at Thy death as at Thy birth, in the holy arms of the Immaculate Virgin Mary. (Pause for reflection.) Dear Jesus, by the embrace which Thy Mother gave Thy tireless Body, grant that all Thy priests may so live as to merit being presented to Thee at the hour or their death in the arms of Thy priceless Mother. O Jesus and Mary, be at the side of all those priests who are suffering for the Faith. Grant that their torments and deaths may be but the planting of the seed from which the Church shall grow stronger and holier day by day.

STATION XIV

Jesus Is Placed In The Sepulchre.

We adore Thee...

O Jesus, I thank Thee for the lessons Thou didst teach us in Thy life and by Thy death, and for the glorious Resurrection from this tomb to a life in Heaven, which we, too, hope, by Thy grace to share one day with thee. (Pause for reflection.) For all thy priests, O sweetest Lord, I beg the grace, through Thy burial to keep themselves, apart from the spirit of the world even while they live in the midst of the world, and the gift, at their life's end, of final perseverance. Grant, O Lord, to all, and in a special manner to those priests who have descended for Thy sake into the dark tomb of persecution, unending happiness with Thee in Heaven. May their wounds shine resplendently in Heaven. May they be united to Thee in the perfect union of the Beatific Vision - Thy promised reward to them for sharing Thy cross hereon earth.

Thank Thee, dearest Lord Jesus, for permitting, me to accompany Thee on Thy sorrowful journey to Calvary. Bless me from Thy cross and help me to love Thee more and more so that I, too, may share Heaven with Thee and with all those for whom I have prayed.