



Stations of the Cross
Meditations & Prayer

1st Station

Jesus is condemned to death

Focus: We may at times be accused of doing or saying something that is not true.

Action: Pray for the grace to know and carry out God's will (not ours) in all things.



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

There may be times in our lives when people say things about us that aren't true, and these accusations can have varying degrees of consequence. In some situations a personal slight can leave us feeling sad, confused or maybe even angry. In other instances, the accusations could go beyond an emotional impact and be compounded by social and reputational consequences. Think of how many rifts among family and friends are the result of false accusations, or the people serving prison sentences for crimes they did not commit. Words are very powerful and can be used for good or bad - the choice is always ours. We need to be very careful never to say anything to, or about anyone that may be damaging, even if only in the slightest way.

Jesus was accused of sedition — a crime against the government, in part due to Judas' betrayal for 30 pieces of silver. And as we know, this trumped up charge against him resulted in a sentence of death by crucifixion. In the final days of His life, Jesus anticipated the worst, but nonetheless, in the Garden of Olives, after experiencing three degrees of agony, He prayed: *"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done"* (Luke 22:42). There is no one/single answer to how we should respond when we are accused of something we did not do, but seeking God's will in the situation will never be the wrong choice.

Prayer

Almighty Father, in good times and in bad, your will is always our best course of action. Give us the grace to understand it, to trust in it unconditionally, especially in difficult times, and the desire to see it through to completion for love of you. We join our prayers to those of Jesus who in his final hours said: *"not my will, but yours be done"* (Luke 22:42). We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

2nd Station

Jesus takes up his cross

Focus: As Catholics, we will face difficult situations throughout our lives.

Action: Trust in Jesus' promise to help us bear our crosses.



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

How many times throughout the course of our lives have we made the sign of the cross? How many of us have a cross or a crucifix in our home or on our person, and who has ever taken time to consider why we do so or what it means to us? A cross reminds us and proclaims to others that we are Christians, whereas a crucifix goes a step further. A crucifix is a visible sign that distinguishes us as Catholic Christians. The question then becomes: do we live what we profess to believe?

Immediately following Jesus' first prediction of his passion, he said to his disciples: *"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me"* (Luke 9:23). Jesus is telling us that following him will not always be easy. It will have its share of burdens, some more difficult than others, but knowing what to expect can make them easier to bear when they come. Jesus gave us an example to follow, and not only that, but a promise as well. He told us: *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves"* (Matt 11: 28-29). So, when faced with a difficult situation, remember the cross or crucifix around your neck or in your home, and know that Jesus understands. He will provide what you need to carry your cross.

Prayer

Almighty Father, in the last hours of his life, Jesus bore the weight of our sinfulness upon his shoulders, as demonstrated in the cross he carried. He told us that in following him, we too, would be called daily to bear our crosses. Help us to follow his example by lovingly taking up our crosses, trusting that Jesus will be there with us to help make our burden light. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

3rd Station

Jesus falls under the crushing weight of his cross

Focus: Jesus knows what it feels like to be exhausted from life's burdens.

Action: Ask the Lord for the grace to remain faithful and focused.



Reflection

The notion: 'only the strong survive,' was a concept derived from naturalist Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Looking back at the development of the human race, it seems his theory has merit. People, tribes, clans, and countries have long competed for dominance, and the strongest have indeed survived. In modern times, competition for dominance has become a way of life the world over. We see it in people, sports, education, in politics and business, and even in religion. Our culture is obsessed with 'winning,' of doing whatever it takes to be better than the other.

In this third station, we see Jesus, the Son of God, exhausted to the point of collapsing under the weight of the cross. To his followers, those who invested their time and their future in him, Jesus seemed an utter failure, while those who sought to crush him and the message he proclaimed, gloated in their success. It is important to recall, however, that although Jesus was the Son of God, he was also a man, subject to the same limitations as ours. He suffered terribly in the end, and at this point along the way, it sapped what little strength he had, causing him to collapse under the weight of the cross. But we know that this was not the end, not yet. Jesus had a mission to accomplish, and nothing was going to prevent him from finishing what he came to do.

Prayer

Almighty Father, in times of weakness, especially when the weight of our suffering is so great that we feel we can't go on, remind us that Jesus understands our feelings intimately, having experienced them himself. As he overcame his exhaustion, rose up and continued the way of the cross, help us to look to Jesus for strength, so that we too will rise from our weaknesses and carry on as your faithful disciples. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

4th Station

Jesus meets His Blessed Mother along the way of the cross

Focus: Our Blessed Mother is always by our side to assist us in our need.

Action: Mary is Our Blessed Mother, trust that she will assist you whenever you call on her.



Reflection

It's a sad commentary that the daily violence we witness in our communities is something we've come to expect. Seeing grieving mothers on television mourning the senseless killing of their children is reminiscent of Our Blessed Mother's encounter with Jesus along the way of the Cross. Her feelings of grief, desperation, helplessness, and perhaps even anger must have been overwhelming. Yet, she stuck by him throughout his entire passion and death. Mary knew sorrow all too well in her life, and she has proven herself as one who still looks benevolently upon and assists those who suffer for the sake of her son.

Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

There are numerous stories of martyrs who in their final hour sought Mary's intercession. Take for instance the Martyrs of Compiègne. In July of 1794, in the closing days of the "Reign of Terror," 16 Carmelite nuns were beheaded in Paris for crimes against the state. The first to ascend the scaffold was the youngest of the Carmelites, Sister Constance. Called by the executioners, she knelt before her Mother Superior, asked her blessing and permission to die, kissed a small statue of Mary holding the baby Jesus, then placed herself beneath the guillotine without any need of assistance or force. Each of the remaining nuns followed in exactly the same manner. Their devotion to Mary enabled them to exercise the greatest testimony of faith; to give their lives for the sake of Christ and his Church. Our Blessed Mother, like her Son, will never abandon us in our times of need. If we remain faithful to Christ, Mary will remain faithful to us.

Prayer

Almighty Father, you chose the Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, the one who along with Saint Joseph would be most influential in preparing him to carry out his mission as savior. You also knew that your Church would need her as a mother and as a role model, a person who would demonstrate what being a faithful disciple of Jesus entails. Help us to look to her for guidance and to remain confident in her desire to intercede for us, especially in moments of desperation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

5th Station

Simon of Cyrene is ordered to carry Jesus' cross

Focus: We make Jesus present when we exercise mercy.

Action: Be merciful, doing whatever you can to relieve the suffering of others.



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

Many people have been spared suffering by being born in times, places, and to people who live well-off, in free, democratic societies. Others unfortunately, are born into poverty or in countries that do not respect human rights, and who as a result live in fear, enduring grave suffering every day. The Gospels make it very clear that 'mercy' was one of the hallmarks of Jesus' ministry. He was totally 'other-focused,' doing all that he could to relieve peoples' suffering.

This same ministry of relieving suffering was and remains what Jesus asks of his disciples: to be merciful like his Father, and he promised those who show mercy, that they would inherit the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 25: 33-46). Simon of Cyrene did not take up the cross of Jesus out of compassion; rather, he was forced to do so by the soldiers who accompanied Jesus along the way of the cross. He is not, therefore, the best example of discipleship. Instead, Jesus asks us to imitate his example, doing all that we can to relieve the burdens of those who suffer.

Prayer

Almighty Father, Simon of Cyrene was given the privilege, albeit reluctantly, to help relieve Jesus of his suffering by shouldering his cross for a while. Grant us the desire and the grace to do whatever we can to be merciful, as you Father are merciful, thus enabling people to experience Jesus' healing presence in their lives. Help us also, to realize it's not how great our acts of mercy are, but rather, it's the love with which we do them that matters most. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

6th Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus with her veil

Focus: Being a Christian will at times require us to be courageously compassionate.

Action: Commit to performing at least one random act of kindness every day.



Reflection

According to Church tradition, a woman named Veronica was moved with pity when she saw Jesus carrying his cross and broke through the crowd to wipe his face with her veil. Jesus accepted her kindness and left an image of his face miraculously impressed upon it. There is no hard evidence to verify that Veronica was a real person. Regardless of whether or not the account of what happened is true, what matters is the example of courageous compassion described, compassion that disregards the risk of personal injury.

Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

We can imagine many people being horrified at what they were witnessing as Jesus made his way to Calvary. It is not unrealistic therefore, to believe this woman was so overcome by the sight of Jesus suffering, that regardless of the consequences, she was compelled to help him. Have you ever had someone, perhaps a stranger, reach out unexpectedly to help you, or have you ever witnessed someone performing what has come to be known as, a 'random act of kindness,' to a stranger? God did not create people to live in isolation from one another. We are social beings by nature. Our cooperative actions are what has enabled us to survive as a species, and what has allowed the Church to be the living presence of Christ in the world for over 2000 years. If every Christian performed just one random act of kindness each day, we would begin to reclaim the 'paradise' God intended for us from the beginning.

Prayer

Almighty Father, the woman Veronica, whose legacy we recall in this 6th Station, was a person who exercised courageous compassion. Without regard for her own safety, she reached out to wipe the face of Jesus. It was a small, yet powerful act of kindness. Jesus rewarded her by imprinting the image of his face on her veil. We implore you Father, to imprint his image upon our hearts, and may that impression overpower any fear that would prevent us from exercising mercy and compassion where it is needed. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

7th Station

Jesus falls to the ground a second time

Focus: Jesus endured tremendous suffering, in faithfulness and love for his Father and for us

Action: When I suffer, I will ask God for the grace to endure it without complaining, for love of Him



Reflection

In Saint Paul's letter to the people of Philippi, he says: *"though he was in the form of God, (Jesus) did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2: 6-8)*. Why? Why would God, the Almighty, the All-powerful, want to come to earth and experience poverty, rejection, suffering and death? The answer is simple, yet profound: because he loves us, and because, *"no one has greater love than this; to lay down one's life, for one's friends" (John 13-15)*.

Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

It was Jesus love for us that enabled him to bear the cross upon his shoulder. In taking on our human nature, he exposed himself to all the limits of the human condition, and this seventh station, it was the limits of physical endurance. Imagine having a weight cast upon your shoulder that was at least equal to your own weight, and having to carry it uphill for a quarter mile after having been beaten mercilessly. Imagine what it took Jesus to lift himself up again with the cross on his shoulder after collapsing to the cold, hard ground, amidst abuse of the onlookers. That is what love did for us!

Prayer

Almighty Father, Jesus' physical endurance and his tolerance for pain and suffering is inconceivable. Forgive us for ever having complained about anything we've suffered in life. It's clear that our sorrows pale in comparison to what Jesus freely chose to undergo for love for us. This knowledge is humbling, yet at the same time it inspires us to want to change. In your mercy Father, grant us the desire and the grace to become more and more like Jesus every day. When we suffer, give us strength to bear it without complaining, in return for the unconditional love he demonstrated throughout his passion, and continues to show us each day. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

8th Station

Jesus speaks with the grieving women of Jerusalem

Focus: Jesus was always other-focused, rather than being self-absorbed

Action: Reach out tenderly to those most in need of help or support



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

In Jesus' lifetime, Jewish law and culture limited what women could and could not do. They were second class citizens, considered inferior to men and forced to live under their authority. Ultimately their role in society was of little consequence. Jesus, however, did not subscribe to these and other oppressive rules imposed by the Jewish elite, which served to fuel their anger. The Gospels attest to this over and over. Take for instance the time when in a Nazarene synagogue, Jesus declared that the words the prophet Isaiah spoke long ago referred to him: "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor..., to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind..., to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord*" (Luke 4: 18). Denouncing this as blasphemy, from that moment, the Jewish leaders sought to kill him.

In this eighth station, we recall Jesus pausing to speak to a group of grieving women on the side of the road, some of whom he may have recognized as his followers. Keenly aware that he would no longer be present to advocate for them, and sensing the unstable political situation in Jerusalem and the imminent calamity that was fast approaching, he told them not to grieve for him but rather to pray, and to take care of themselves and their children. As always, Jesus' compassion for others outweighed his concern for himself.

Prayer

Almighty Father, over and over, we see Jesus reaching out to help others, especially those who were the least powerful in society. Never did he turn a blind eye to those who were oppressed and living on the fringes, instead he sought them out and did what he could to comfort them, to heal them and restore their dignity. Jesus was and remains a role model for his disciples, demonstrating the mercy and compassion that is expected of his followers. Father, so we can most effectively be the presence of Christ in the world, grant us from this moment forward, to see with his eyes, to understand with his mind, to speak with his voice, to work with his hands and to love with his heart, especially those who are most in need of love and mercy. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

9th Station

Jesus falls to the ground a third time

Focus: Life's burden can seem unbearable at times

Action: Ask forgiveness when we fall, remain faithful and charitable, but know your limits



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

Regardless of our chosen state in life, a Christian's primary duty is to carry out the great commission Jesus gave us before ascending to his Father: "*to make disciples of all nations*" (Matt 28:19). To be effective in this, we must exemplify what being a true disciple is all about, which is not an easy task, nor is it a part-time job. Being a follower of Christ is a lifetime commitment. In laying out the conditions of discipleship, Jesus said: "*If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me*" (Luke 9:23). A subtle, yet important point to keep in mind here is this: everyone will have his or her own share of crosses to bear in life, and we need to realize that although it's a disciple's duty to help people in need, we can't help everyone! If we take on crosses that are not meant for us, we not only run the risk of burning out, but we might end up preventing others from bearing the crosses meant for their salvation.

When we're worn out, sin can appear a harmless means of relief, and we may at times be tempted to give into this illusion and fall from grace. In those moments of weakness, recall this 9th station, and how Jesus after falling a third time, managed to pull himself up and continued on, not toward relief, but rather to his execution. He understands what it is to suffer, and will not abandon his faithful ones who need his help.

Prayer

Almighty Father, we recognize that being faithful Christians can be very challenging at times. Help us therefore to know our limits, and do what we can to help those in need, but not to the point of burning ourselves out. We recognize Lord, that society and cultural values constantly compete for our allegiance, and sometimes win out. So when we struggle, give us strength, and if we fall from grace, let us not give into despair, but rather seek your forgiveness and the help we need to rise up and carry on with our lives as you would have us do. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

10th Station

Jesus is publically stripped of his clothing

Focus: The naked, bruised and battered Jesus is an image of the poorest of the poor

Action: Share with those who are lacking a portion of our abundance



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

We live in a society that relentlessly seeks to accumulate material goods, and regardless of how much we acquire, we are seldom satisfied. We are bombarded with messages that convince us we are lacking: lacking the watch, the ring, the shoes, the jeans, the car, the medicine, etc., that will satisfy us and make us happy. How many times have we submitted to such messages, only to feel disappointment in the end? Saint Augustine was very much a consumer like you and me. In his famous work, *The Confessions*, he said this: "O Lord, you made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you!" After many years of acquiring literature, knowledge, prestige and inordinate amounts of sex, he came to the realization that the life he was leading was meaningless, and that only God could satisfy his deepest longings.

In this 10th station, we witness the humiliation Jesus endured in having been stripped naked in front of the callous onlookers. He was stripped of everything he owned—his friends, his prestige, and now his honor, and left with only a soiled cloak, which in turn was taken from him, leaving him naked in every sense of the word. He became an iconic image of the poorest of the poor, who like Jesus in this station, have nothing!

Prayer

Almighty Father, we are blessed to live in a free country where the majority of people do not lack the basic necessities of life. Help us to appreciate this gift and grant us the desire and grace to share with those who are lacking, a portion of what we've been given. Help us to fast from consumption and learn to live with less, so that we can appreciate what others lack, and make a conscious effort to develop a gracious spirit of generosity. In contemplating Jesus, battered, bruised and naked, may we be reminded of the poor and marginalized throughout the world and do what we can to alleviate their suffering. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

11th Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross

Focus: The unimaginable physical, emotional and spiritual suffering Jesus endured

Action: Develop the habit of recalling Jesus' passion and of thanking him for all he endured for our sake



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

We've arrived at the summit of Mount Calvary, reflecting on the worst of that which human beings are capable. Imagine if you can, what Jesus has been through up to this point. He likely hasn't slept for hours, nor has he eaten since the night before. He has been betrayed by one of his inner circle, abandoned by the rest, incarcerated, interrogated, abused, beaten, crowned with thorns and condemned to death by crucifixion. Exhausted, dehydrated, bleeding and broken, he has carried the cross upon which he will die a quarter mile or more uphill to the place of his execution. Amidst the jeers and abuse of the spectators, he collapsed three times, but somehow got up and continued on his way. Upon his arrival at the top, he was stripped naked, and now thrust down upon the cross in preparation for being affixed to it with iron spikes. Such barbarism even in the age of terrorism is hard to imagine, yet this is the truth of what Jesus endured. One by one, the spikes were hammered through each wrist and then through his feet. The pain, the agony must have been excruciating. If ever we doubt the depth of Jesus' love for us, we need only recall the suffering he endured to save us from sin and death.

Prayer

Almighty Father, we are people who would rather not look evil in the face, especially images of horrific violence. Such images make us so very uncomfortable for many reasons, and rightly so. In this case, however, meditating on Jesus being nailed to the cross is a meaningful way to acknowledge what he did for us and to pay him the homage he deserves for having endured such inexplicable violence. Let us never be so distracted as to forget what Jesus did, but rather, may the remembrance of his suffering, in particular him being nailed to the cross, give us strength to bear our own trials and agonies willingly, for love of him. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

12th Station

Jesus dies on the cross

Focus: The agony of Jesus' crucifixion

Action: Ask Jesus to never allow us to forget what he did for love of us, and for the grace to bear our sufferings courageously for love of him



St. John's drawing of 'Christ, Crucified', preserved in the convent of the Encarnación at Avila

Reflection

Saint John of the Cross sketched an image of Jesus' crucifixion from a vantage point above the cross, looking down at him. The image vividly portrays how the weight of his body hung from the nails that secured him to the cross. It is a disturbing perspective. If you consciously meditate on the image, it will conjure up a sense of just how agonizing the crucifixion must have been. Laying horizontally on the ground with nails hammered through his wrists and feet was bad enough, but think of the awful pain he endured as the cross was violently hoisted upright, intensifying the pain caused by the weight of his body hanging from the nails. Now imagine this agony lasting not just minutes, but hours, the intensity of which was so great that he felt God had abandoned him (Matt 27:46).

Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Medical experts tell us that with every minute Jesus hung on the cross, his breathing would have become increasingly difficult from the accumulation of fluid in his lungs. There was no relief for him whatsoever. The consensus among these experts is that in all likelihood, Jesus died from asphyxiation due to drowning in his own bodily fluids. If you have ever experienced not being able to breathe, and the resultant desperation of futilely trying to take in air, you'll have a sense of just how horrible were the final moments leading up to Jesus' death.

Prayer

Almighty Father, the amount of pain and suffering Jesus endured throughout his passion and crucifixion is incomprehensible. As we reflect on this sorrowful 12th station, help us to appreciate that it was his commitment to you and his love for us that enabled him to endure such horrific suffering. When we are called on to suffer, grant us the help of your grace so that we may do so willingly and without complaining, all for love of you. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



13th Station

Jesus is taken down from the cross

Focus: The helplessness we feel when there's nothing we can do to relieve the suffering of someone we love

Action: Be present to those who suffer, especially when our presence is all we have to offer



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

In Saint John's account of the Crucifixion, we are told that Our Blessed Mother, her sister and Saint Mary Magdalen were present, standing by the cross of Jesus (John 19: 25). Further on Saint John declares: *"An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may [come to] believe"* (John 19:35).

Anyone who has had first-hand experience witnessing the suffering of a loved one, can relate to what those who stood by the cross of Jesus throughout his crucifixion must have felt. Being unable to help someone in agony is truly a most exasperating experience on many levels; emotional, physical and even spiritual. It's a time when people most often feel, as Jesus did during his crucifixion, that God has abandoned them. We wonder how God could let this happen. We do not know precisely what the people standing by the cross said or felt, but, it's likely their empathy for Jesus caused them the same kinds of anguish any of us feel in similar circumstances. It would have been easier to avoid this scene altogether, but their love for Jesus won out, and they stood by him to the end. True love cares not so much for oneself, but willingly sacrifices for the good of others.

Prayer

Almighty Father, we recognize that suffering is part of the human condition. Help us, therefore, to be vigilant about and sensitive to the suffering of others. Grant us in turn, the grace and desire to stand by them, to offer whatever we can to ease their suffering, and thus validate in their minds and hearts, that their lives matter. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

14th Station

Jesus is laid to rest in a tomb

Focus: The price and the reward of witnessing for Christ

Action: Pray, fast and carry out works of mercy to express our faith in Jesus



Reflection

"After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes..., they took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices..., " (and laid him in a tomb—John 19: 38-40).

Associating oneself with Jesus became increasingly risky in the days leading up to his execution. The Apostles abandoned him, including Saint Peter who went as far as denying him not once, but three times. From what we can glean from the Gospels, only a few people risked public displays of allegiance to Jesus: Veronica who wiped his face with her veil, the women he spoke to along the way of the cross; His mother and her sister, Mary Magdalen, Saint John, and the two men mentioned in this station. Being a Christian today is not necessarily going to win us any popularity contests, and in some cases, it still can cost us our lives. Satan will remain relentless in his efforts to turn us away from Jesus, so we must never let down our guard. Prayer, fasting and works of mercy will release torrents of grace to strengthen our faith, sustain our hope and increase our love for Christ and for each other. Doing this will diminish Satan's influence over us and embolden us to proclaim what the Psalmist declared long ago: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge. Of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).*

Prayer

Almighty Father, help us to realize and always cherish the faith we profess. Although at times we might find it uncomfortable and even challenging to publically admit that we are Christian, make us bold nonetheless in giving witness, never for our own glory, but always with the intention of giving the glory to you, our loving and benevolent Father. Jesus died for us, help us to die to the selfish inclinations we have that we in turn may share in the glory of his resurrection. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.



Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank you for allowing me the privilege of walking beside you throughout these fourteen Stations of the Cross. You came to earth to do the will of your Father, but did not permit your equality with him to prevent you from experiencing all that is human. You emptied yourself instead, assuming the lowest place among us, becoming obedient to the point of dying a most horrific and agonizing death on the cross. The physical, emotional and spiritual agony you endured is unimaginable, and although it saddens me when I reflect on it, I am nonetheless inspired by the love that enabled you to suffer so selflessly on my behalf.

Holy women and men throughout the centuries have followed your way of love, many giving up their own lives in fidelity to you. You have not asked me to be a martyr, but you said in no uncertain terms that in following you, I would have my own cross to bear. You also said, however, that in you, I would find rest for my soul, and weak and sinful though I am, your love for me gives me comfort, courage and strength.

You Lord, are my light and my strength and without you, my life has no meaning. As I have walked with you today, please remain by my side so I can know you better and love you more, until such time when I shall pass from this life into your loving embrace for all eternity.

I ask all these things in your name, Jesus, my Lord and Savior, and thank you with all my heart. Amen.



About the Author Deacon Ernest Scrivani, T.O.C.

Deacon Ernest (Ernie) Scrivani was born in Bridgeport CT, and currently resides in North Haven, CT along with his wife and son. He was ordained to the Order of Deacons in the Archdiocese of Hartford on June 7, 2014 by the Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, and appointed Executive Director of Pastoral Services for the Archdiocese on July 15, 2014. He also serves as deacon at the parishes of St. Therese' and St. Frances Cabrini in North Haven.

In addition to his diaconal ministry, Deacon Ernie is a lay member of the Carmelites of the Ancient Observance, and has held the positions of Director of Formation as well as Chapter Director for two lay Carmelite communities.

Deacon Ernie is a graduate of both Saint Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT, where he earned a Certificate in Religious Studies prior to his ordination, and Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT, where he received a baccalaureate degree in Humanities, with a concentration in Religious Studies. His contact information follows.

Deacon Ernest Scrivani
Office of Pastoral Services
Archdiocese of Hartford
267 Bloomfield Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

dcn.ernest.scrivani@aohct.org
(860) 242-5573

Booklet design by Maura O'Brien Gianakos. Maura is a graphic designer and has been in the field for over 25 years. She is currently employed by Yale University and is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate on this project with Deacon Ernie.

About the Artist

All images except where noted by Eva Sydney Hone RHA (April 22, 1894–March 13, 1955). Usually known as Evie, she was an Irish painter and stained glass artist.

Hone was born at Roebuck Grove, County Dublin, on April 22, 1894. She was the youngest daughter of Joseph Hone, of the Hone family, and Eva Eleanor, *née* Robinson, daughter of Sir Henry Robinson and granddaughter of the 10th Viscount Valentia. She was related to Nathaniel Hone and Nathaniel Hone the Younger. Her most important works are probably the East Window for the Chapel at Eton College, Windsor (1949–1952) and *My Four Green Fields*, now located in Government Buildings. They were commissioned for the Irish Government's Pavilion at the 1939 New York World's Fair. They graced CIÉ's Head Office in O'Connell Street from 1960 to about 1983. From December 2005 to June 2006, an exhibition of her work was on display at the National Gallery of Ireland.

Hone studied at the Byam Shaw School of Art in London and then under Bernard Meninsky at the Central School of Arts and Crafts. She met Mainie Jellett when both were studying under Walter Sickert at the Westminster Technical Institute. She worked under André Lhote and Albert Gleizes in Paris before returning to become influential in the modern movement in Ireland and become one of the founders of the Irish Exhibition of Living Art. She is considered an early pioneer of Cubism but in the 1930s turned to stained glass, which she studied with Wilhelmina Geddes.

Evie Hone was extremely devout; she spent time in an Anglican Convent in 1925 and converted to Catholicism in 1937. This may have influenced her decision to begin working in stained glass. Initially she worked as a member of the An Túr Gloine stained glass co-operative before setting up a studio of her own in Rathfarnham.

Dedicated in loving memory to Tyler Gianakos (7/16/89–3/29/15)
and all souls who have departed before us.

Copyright © 2018 by Ernest Scrivani. All rights reserved.