

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.