

## The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

**Introduction:** Last week as we reflected on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary and focused among other things on the Prayer of Thanksgiving.

This week, we will focus on the Prayer of Petition – the focus of which is on prayers for our own needs.

The Prayer of Petition is an intriguing prayer. In my book on Prayer, I have a chapter on this form of prayer which might be good to read or reread. In the chapter, I quote from an article, part of which states:

The prayer of petition is part of God's plan for man. When we say that God answers prayers we do not mean that prayer can cause God to change his mind. But it is part of God's plan that certain gifts will be given to us only in answer to prayer. We pray not to change God's plans, but in order to receive from God those things which he has planned to give us in answer to our prayers.

So as we reflect on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, we will also reflect and pray for general and special Prayers of Petition.

### *First Mystery: The Agony in the Garden*

During this decade, I usually pray for all who are in agony in body, mind and spirit and for all those who are trying to help them - so in this decade we are praying for millions of people. In terms of the prayer of petition, I state in my chapter on Petition Prayer that our first focus should be fidelity and the will of God. The psalmist prays: *"Incline my heart according to your will Lord."* So let us pray that we will always desire God's will more than our own.

### *Second Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar*

As we reflect on the terrible beating of Jesus by the soldiers, we remember all victims of violence. We also pray for the conversion of violent people.

In regards to the Prayer of Petition – prayer for our needs a second very important petition is to pray: "Lord help me to discover and become the person you created me to be." Or as Matthew Kelly says – help us to become the best version of ourselves.

### *Third Mystery. The Crowning with Thorns*

As we reflect on the head wounds Jesus experienced during this time, let us pray for all with head injuries, including all who frequently have to deal with migraine headaches and depression.

In terms of the Prayer of Petition for ourselves, let us pray for fidelity to our vocation as a married or single person or as a religious – priest, sister or religious brother.

### *Fourth Mystery: Jesus carries his Cross*

During this decade, we remember and pray for all carrying a particular cross be it connected to Covid-19 or some other thing. In terms of the Prayer of Petition, let us pause for a moment to see what specifically do we wish for during this decade – some specific request we have for our own wellbeing. So pause to think what need you have and what help you want from God.

### *Fifth Mystery: Jesus dies on the Cross*

During this decade, we pray for all who are dying at this time and for their grieving loved ones. In terms of the Prayer of Petition, we pray that when our time of departure from this world comes that we will receive the grace of a peaceful passage to everlasting life.