

Stations of the Cross – A Catholic Tradition

The Stations of the Cross, (also called Via Crucis, Via Dolorosa or the Way of the Cross), are a Catholic devotion which commemorates the Passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, consisting of prayers and meditations on fourteen occurrences experienced by Christ on His way to the crucifixion and burial. Some of the stations are non-scriptural, owing their existence to Catholic tradition (e.g. the three falls). During the time of the crusades (1095-1270), it became popular for pilgrims in the Holy Land to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to Calvary. Each of the fourteen stations represents an event which occurred during Jesus' Passion and death at Calvary on Good Friday.

The Stations were originally performed many centuries ago by Christian pilgrims who visited the Holy Land and the sites of Jesus' Passion. Promotion of the devotion to the Stations began in earnest with the Franciscans, who were given custody of the Holy Places in the Holy Land in the 1300s. Countless Catholics have all enriched their spiritual lives with this powerful devotion. It is speculated that the Stations of the Cross became a popular substitute pilgrimage throughout Europe after the Moslems recaptured the Holy Land (making pilgrimages there too dangerous). Devotional manuals about the Stations date from the 16th century although the actual origin of the devotion is uncertain. The popularity of the Stations of the Cross was fostered by the Franciscans, who obtained a special indulgence from Pope Innocent XI, in 1686, for those who performed the devotion. The Stations represented critical events from Scripture or tradition of Jesus' journey to Calvary. Originally done only outdoors, the Stations were allowed inside churches in the mid-18th century. Eventually fixed at fourteen, (By Pope Clement XII in 1731) the Stations soon became a familiar feature in all Catholic churches.

Devotion to the Stations of the Cross spread rapidly throughout the Roman Catholic world in the 18th century, largely as a result of the preaching of the Franciscan, St. Leonard of Port -Maurice, who erected stations and promoted the devotion in over five hundred churches and places throughout Italy. His work was supported by the popes of his time, who saw the devotion as a means of strengthening faith.

Another 18th century saint, St. Alphonsus Liguori, wrote a brief work on the stations that is still in use today. Religious communities like the Jesuits made the devotion part of their missions and retreats. By the 19th century, the Stations of the Cross had become a staple in Catholic prayer books and in churches throughout England, Ireland, and North America.

Variations on the stations - In recent years some variations have been introduced in the traditional devotion. One of these is the addition of a 15th station - the Resurrection of Jesus (c.1960). Another is a series of scriptural stations, which begin with the Agony of Jesus in Gethsemane and omit some of the traditional non-scriptural stations in favor of incidents mentioned in the gospels.

A series of scriptural stations was celebrated on Good Friday by Pope John Paul II in 1991, and again in 1994, in the Coliseum at Rome

Pope John Paul II in 1991, and again in 1994 officiated at a Scriptural Way of the Cross on Good Friday, in the Coliseum at Rome. They were as follows:

1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
2. Jesus betrayed by Judas
3. Jesus condemned by the Sanhedrin
4. Jesus denied by Peter
5. Jesus condemned by the people
6. Jesus speaks to his mother
7. Jesus dies on the cross
8. Jesus is buried

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The prayer of the Church venerates and honors the Heart of Jesus just as it invokes his most holy name. It adores the incarnate Word and his Heart which, out of love for men, he allowed to be pierced by our sins. Christian prayer loves to follow the way of the cross in the Savior's steps. The stations from the Praetorium to Golgotha and the tomb trace the way of Jesus, who by his holy Cross has redeemed the world." (2669).

Vincentians Way of the Cross

Foreword

The Stations of the Cross are for all of us. Each station, I believe must be a reality in our lives, in our own individual journeys. The Stations reflect our service and our journey as Christians who love Christ and seek to serve Him in the poor. This is our mission as Vincentians. This is our mission as Catholics. Please feel free to add your own traditional prayers before each station. We adore you O Christ and bless You. Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world.

Prayer of Preparation

Heavenly Father we come to ask you to look upon your Vincentian children gathered near the cross of your Son. We come to ask forgiveness for our role in your daily crucifixion and we come to share your love with the poor.

You sent us Your son as Redeemer of the world. He came to bring good news to the poor He came to die for each one of us and we know that we are called to love and serve all Your people, especially the poor. When we look into the eyes of the poor we see Your suffering Son, Your love and compassion. While meditating on each station, we call to mind those we serve, all we have alienated in any way. We seek reconciliation for the times we have failed to think of the suffering Your son endured and the love You have for all Your children.

May St. Vincent de Paul accompany us and Blessed Frederic Ozanam walk with us on this Way of the Cross. We lift all those we serve up to the healing power of Your Son at each station. We cry out to You in the name of Your son and ask You to open our hearts to the infinite love which He poured out to us in salvation by His passion, death and resurrection. Amen

Our Father Who Art in Heaven Amen

First Station

Jesus is condemned to die.

"For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So each of us shall give an account of himself to God. Then let us not no longer judge one another, but rather never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another". (Romans 14, 10-13)



On this early Friday morning it was not Pilate that condemned you Lord, it was me. They took you away and scourged You. They shouted, "Crucify Him!" That was me Lord, forgive me. This condemnation was unjust. You were beaten, mocked and condemned to die, for me and for the hundreds of million people around the world who are hungry; for the millions of children who are in poverty. I hold the lash, I placed the thorns on you and I shout "Crucify Him" each time I treat others unfairly. Each time I ignore the poor or treat them undignified I give another lash. I mock you when I allow the poor to suffer. I condemn You, when I do not see You in their eyes. In my tears of anguish for the poor, forgive me Jesus.

Prayer: *Lord through Your condemnation, help us to share our goods with those who have nothing. Help all of us to bring Your love to the poor. They need You, in us to keep them from the hunger pangs, the loneliness, the suffering and scourging they receive in their poverty. .Make our world a place where all people have adequate food, clean water, and access to medical needs. Amen*



Our Father who art in Heaven Amen.

Second Station

Jesus Takes His Cross

"I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord is my help, (therefore I am not disgraced)". Isaiah 50, 5-7)

I see you struggling with Your heavy cross Lord. I ignore you and walk with the crowds. The poor are all around, their hands are outstretched. I look at the guards laughing. I see the strain of Your cross. I see the heavy cross dropped on Your shoulders. I see them shoving and jeering. I see the poor carrying their cross. I see them mocked and jeered at and made to walk down that lonely road before the crowd. I see it and I watch silently for I know this had to be done. I want to take the cross from You, but I watch. You do this for me. I hear You calling "Feed my lambs, tend my sheep."

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I beg you to forgive me for all those times I have added to the weight of Your cross. Forgive me when I close my eyes to the pain of the poor and the weight of their cross. Help me to always see Your pain in their eyes. Forgive me Lord when I gossip and judge and find excuses not to serve and be present to the poor. Help me to lighten your load, to take the weight off your cross, by lightening the crosses of others. Forgive me Jesus. Amen.

Our Father Who art in Heaven Amen



Third Station

Jesus Falls the First Time

"God laid on him the sins of us all" (cf. Isaiah 53:6). "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

The weight is unbearable. As you stumble towards Calvary, I can feel every rock under your feet, every step and the pains from your beating. You stumble and fall under the weight of the cross. It struck you on the back. Oh the burden is too much Lord Jesus, You know how often I fall trying to help the poor and trying to follow You. Yet, You are always there to lift me up. Who is helping You? There You lay on the ground. You fell, O Jesus, because your human body was weak. I too am weak, so sometimes I fall. But I will always rise and keep trying to please you, because I love you. You fell because of me. The guards are now kicking You. You did this for me. You carried the weight of my sins with Your cross. Thank You, Jesus. I am sorry.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, so bloody was Your scourging that without a miracle, how could you carry the Cross to Calvary. The prophets foretold that You, our Saviour would hang from the wood. Such was God's plan: His beloved Son was to die crucified. Jesus You carried the weight of my sins with your Cross, help me to carry the weight of the cross the poor have to bear. Help me to be present to other Vincentians and we can carry their crosses together with Your help. Forgive me and help me to love more. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Fourth Station

Jesus Meets His Grieving Mother

"Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother: 'This Child is destined to be the Downfall and the Rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed — and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword — so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare.'" —Luke 2:34-35



Jesus, our brother, we are moved by Mary's love for you. We are amazed by Mary's love for us. Consider this meeting between mother and son ... their tender love for one another, their hearts torn asunder. Jesus and Mary looked at each other, and their looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts which loved each other so tenderly. The heart of Jesus remains united even in suffering with the heart of Mary. We sometimes suffer for the poor, too. We call on you to help us Jesus, as we serve you in the poor. We look for You in their eyes. We can't even imagine the pain that was in Mary's heart or in Yours. Help us to better serve the poor. Thank you, Jesus. I am sorry.

Prayer: Father, Mary's mission was to give Christ to the world. By my Christ like life, I show Christ to the world. I show Christ to the poor by my unselfish loving service. I serve Christ in the poor. Help me to do this, O Jesus. My sweet Jesus, by the compassion which You did feel for Your most holy Mother at this meeting, have compassion on me and grant me the grace of a truly devoted love for Her. O Mary, my Queen, overwhelmed with sorrow, intercede for me, that, through the sufferings endured by Your Son, I may obtain a continual and tender remembrance of the Passion of Jesus. My beloved Jesus, I love You above all things. I am truly sorry for having offended You, and I repent with my whole heart. Through the loving hear of Jesus. Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen



Fifth Station

Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

"As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus". (Luke 23:26) "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me". (Luke 9:23)

O how we can see the complete helplessness of our precious Jesus. How heavy the cross is and how much more pain can you endure as the crowd looks on. Simon did not want to carry your cross and I know that sometimes I do not want to do the work, I am called to do. Sometimes the load is heavy, the stairs long, and I just can't make it. I think of my dear Jesus and the load becomes lighter. Just as Simon picks up the end of Christ's cross, I too feel my load lightening. Jesus sometimes I am such a burden to You and I make Your cross so heavy. I love You Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: Father, I offer my life because of the Salvation of Jesus and to help complete this salvation in the work of the poor. So heavy was the cross of Christ. O my suffering Jesus, pour blessings and Your wisdom on me. Father bless me that I may help the poor with the strength of Simon, as he helped Christ carry His cross. Allow me to help Jesus serve the poor and allow me to serve the poor in Jesus. In Jesus' name Amen.

Our Father Who art in Heaven Amen

Sixth Station



Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." —Luke 2:34–35

In your suffering as the crowd watched, a woman pushed through the guards and sought to comfort You by wiping Your blood stained face with her veil. Veronica was so tender and brave. The guards were angry and beat you even more. You accepted this and thought not of yourself, but the women of Jerusalem. You left the imprint of Your face with Veronica. Your beautiful face is now bloody and mangled, yet you love and think of others. Help me to reach out to Your poor and wipe their faces. Give me the courage to help them in their pain. Let me wipe Your face in the poor. I love you Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: Father, I offer my service and love for You because of Your Son. O Jesus, I have hurt You so many times. I need Your strength and love to bring to the poor I serve. O my bleeding and suffering Jesus pour Your mercy on this humble Vincentian so that I may serve You in the poor. Veronica gave You the best she could, but I could give more and do not. I take and ask for more while Your poor suffer. Help me not let opportunities to serve You in the poor pass. Help me to give more, my Saviour. Help me to give all I have in Your name. Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Seventh Station:



Jesus Falls the Second Time

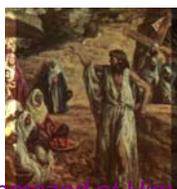
"Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the Lord lay upon him the guilt of us all". —Isaiah 53:4–6

O Jesus, fallen under the Cross. The soldiers fear that You may die under the weight and from the shedding of so much Blood. They continue to lash and kick you. The Cross with its heavy weight is crushing You, but still You love. Sometimes I crush You, Jesus and you still forgive my sins. Jesus, let me help You lift Your cross by serving and loving the poor. Let me carry this weight by serving You in them. I adore You O Christ, let me bear Your heavy cross, let me protect You from those continuous beatings. Let me no longer make more wounds. I love You Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: Our Father we Your people continue our search for a future and abiding city. The road is long and rugged, not always easy to follow. When we fall, we must rise again like our Savior on the way to Calvary. Lord how your Mother agonized when she saw you ripped and bleeding. How strong You were. How strong Mary was, never stopping in spite of the pain she felt for You. How many times have I turned from You Lord in my work with the poor, in my judgment of them and how many times have I caused others to turn away. Help me to pick myself up when I fall and send Your Holy Spirit to support me. In the Holy name of Jesus. Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Eighth Station



Jesus Speaks to the Daughters of Jerusalem

"Even as many were amazed at Him — so marred was His look beyond that of man, and His appearance beyond that of mortals — so shall He startle many nations, because of Him kings shall stand speechless." — Isaiah 52:14-15, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." (Luke 23:27-30.)

Even in His pain and agony He stopped. The women were crying and weeping. He thought not of Himself but of others. The women accepted Him and did not reject Him. He tried to tell them that He was dying for them and all of us. This was His role. We are the ones to be wept for as we reject Him when we do not love each other. We add to His pain when the poor are ignored, when we boast, gossip and forget to love. We should

always call Him and serve his poor and not turn from Him. He died for us. We turn from Him. I love you Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: My dear Lord and Saviour how long the walk was. How often I see other's faults and not my own. I am a sinner and I beg Your forgiveness. Lord, forgive me and teach me to forgive others. Heal my blindness, let me see the goodness and not always look for faults. Let me cry for my own sins and the pain I caused You and continue to cause. Help me to wipe the tears of the poor. Help me to wipe Your tears by serving You in them. Through Your loving presence and saving blood. Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Ninth Station



Jesus Falls a Third Time

Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong. —*1 Corinthians 12:8–10*

O Jesus, how much agony for you to fall again. You were close to the end of that rocky road and the weight of the cross once again collapsed on You. The weight of my sin is on You. Just a few more steps and they beat you and kicked at You. You suffered such extreme cruelty for me. Sometimes I am cruel to the poor whom you ask me to serve. You feel the pain when I do not serve You in them. I fumble and sometimes don't take those last steps. The poor suffer because of this. You were led like a sheep to the slaughter. By Your Passion You redeemed me. I love You Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: My beloved Jesus I love You more than myself. Yet even in that love, I cause You pain. Guide me and be with me so that I may never separate from You again. I have offered my hand to help the poor and sometimes it was inconvenient and I made excuses and complained. Help me to never take my hand away from those in need. Your blood has conquered evil. Wash me with Your blood so that I may be pure to serve You in the poor. Help me to carry Your cross and love more through Your cleansing power. Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of His garments.



"His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God, but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross"(Phil. 2).

This was the place of the skull, Golgotha. What was left of the condemned prisoner? Jesus is completely stripped of any pride. The wounds on his back are torn open again. Christ's garments are stripped away. His inner garments adhere to His torn flesh as they are roughly removed, causing excruciating pain. His honor was shattered in the courtyard by the soldiers' taunts; his strength was left behind in every step of the death-march. The thought of You in such pain, with blood clotted skin, exposed for those to taunt and laugh, while your mother watched in pain and we cry silently for Your suffering. I love You, Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: My innocent Jesus, You endured this shame for me. Help me to strip myself of all false shame, conceit, pride, and all affection of the things of earth, so that I may place all my love in You. Help me to humble myself to serve the poor; to clothe the naked. Help me, Jesus to strip away my self centeredness and clothe myself with Christ centeredness. My beloved Jesus, I love You above all things. Jesus I too, have stripped You, by gossiping about my fellow Vincentians, by my prejudice against the poor, other cultures, and by stripping others of their dignity and not accepting them as You do. I am truly sorry for having offended You, and I repent with my whole heart. Grant that I may never cease to love You, and do with me as You will. Amen

Our Father who are in heaven Amen

Eleventh Station



Jesus is nailed to the Cross

"He was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, upon Him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by His stripes we were healed." —Isaiah 53:5

Jesus willingly offers to His Eternal Father the sacrifice of His life for our salvation. He is thrown on the cross, pulled and stretched to make His body fit. He did this willingly for me. Can you feel the pain as they (we) puncture His hands and feet.

My suffering Jesus, what my sins have done to You! Nail my heart to Your feet, that it may be united to You until my death so that I will never offend You again.
My beloved Jesus, I love You above all things. I am truly sorry for having offended You, and I repent with my whole heart. May I never offend You again. I love You, Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: Dear Suffering Lord, what pain You endured for me. My sin is what made You suffer. You did all of this for me. If I was the only person on earth You my God would have done this for me. I am not worthy of such love. I am not worthy of the suffering You and Your mother Mary, whose heart must have been wrenched, endured for me. I love You Jesus and Mary. Help me to be worthy of this love. Help me to bring this love to the poor. Help me to help You in the poor. Let me serve You in the poor. You cry out to Abba, You forgive those who were there to inflict the pain. You forgave those two beside You. And you forgive me, whom You suffered and died for. Let me forgive all those who trespass against me. In Your Passion Lord. Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Twelfth Station



Jesus Dies on the Cross

*"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this he expired"(Lk. 23).
"My God, my God, why have you deserted me? How far from saving me, the words I groan! I call all day, my God, but you never answer, all night long I call and cannot rest. They have pierced my hands and my feet: I can count all my bones. They look on me and gloat. They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots"(Ps. 22).*

Jesus was crucified with two criminals. Pilate had a sign posted saying, "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews." The chief priests, the scribes and elders continued their mockery. "Here am I, now more worm than a man, scorn of mankind, jest of the people, all who see me jeer at me, they toss their heads and sneer, He relied on the Lord, let the Lord save him!...I am like water draining away, my bones are all disjointed, my heart is like wax, melting inside me; my palate is drier than a clay pot, and my tongue is stuck to my jaw"(Ps. 22). Jesus hangs on the Cross. His blood runs in streams down His torn and battered body. Finally, He says, "It is finished." Then he bows his head and dies for my sins. Mary and the faithful women stand in silence. **"Silence in the presence of the Lord God!" —Zephaniah 1:7.** Jesus, I love You. Forgive me.



Prayer: My dying Jesus, I happily kiss the honoured Cross on which You died for love of me. Have Mercy on me my Jesus for what my sins have done to You and others. Your death is my hope and salvation. Let Your holy Passion be a constant reminder to me to love and serve Your precious lambs, my Good Shepherd. Help me to live only for You and to serve You in the poor. And when I die, help me to die embracing Your feet and burning with love for You. My beloved Jesus, I love You above all things. Let me always be a friend and servant to the poor. Let me always do the will of the Father. May I never fail you again, Jesus. I bow before You in love and passion. Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Thirteenth Station



Jesus is Taken from the Cross

"And when evening had come, Joseph of Arimathea, prominent member of the Sanhedrin, arrived and boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate released the corpse to Joseph, who bought a shroud, and took Jesus down from the cross," (Mk. 15).

The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in His mother's arms. The crowd had gone. With boundless grief she receives the lifeless body of her Divine Son. It is very silent. Just one of Jesus' friends, mother and Son. She looked up and saw her dead Son and the men came to take Him down. His life ended so cruelly. He died for me. I am numb. How could it be? I am so unworthy and You died for me. I love you, Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: O Mother of Sorrow, give me a share in your most holy sorrow in the suffering of your Son that I may fully realize what my sins have caused. Lord, Your Passion has ended. I know it starts all over, Lord when I choose sin over

You. I inflict the pain when I say no to serving You in the poor. Accept me as your servant, and have compassion on my infirmities. Jesus, my Redeemer, You have died for love of me. In Your mercy permit me to love You, for I wish only You, nothing more. My beloved Jesus, I love You above all things. I am truly sorry for having offended You, and I repent with my whole heart. May I never offend You again. Grant that I may never cease to love You, and do with me as You will. Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Fourteenth Station

Jesus is Buried in the Tomb

"Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus -- the same one who had first come to Jesus at night -- took the body and wrapped it in linen cloths with spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes, following the Jewish burial custom. At the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in this garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. Since it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus there," (Jn. 19). "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, the mother of James and Joseph, were there, sitting opposite the tomb," (Mt. 27).



The lifeless body of Jesus is carried to the tomb. His mother arranges it with overwhelming sorrow. Then they all withdraw, and the tomb is sealed. This had to be. He died for me. It is done. It had to be. He could have completely destroyed those that battered, bruised and violently crucified Him, but He followed the will of the Father. He said, "Yes" and chose to die for me. Mary said, "Yes" too. Jesus poured out His loving mercy on the soldiers and on me. He wants us to pour our mercy on the poor. He wants us to say, "Yes" to Him who is in the poor. I love You, Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, give me Your merciful heart, so that I may forgive others, love others, and serve you in the poor. Help me to always forgive those who have done me wrong or offended me. Help me not to offend others. Protect my tongue which is so powerful; place Your loving breath on it so that I may only speak loving

words. Bless my hands so that they may serve you lovingly. My buried Jesus, devoutly I kiss the stone that encloses You. My sinful body will return one day to the dust from which it came. In Your great mercy, receive my immortal soul, so that on the last day I may rise in glory with You and join You in Your kingdom where I may love You and praise You forever. My beloved Jesus, I love You come into my life and give me courage, generosity, wisdom and self control. Jesus, You ransomed me with Your precious blood, purify my conscience from dead works, and help me to serve You in the poor and to worship the living God." Amen

Our Father who art in Heaven Amen

Fifteenth Station

Jesus is Raised from the Dead

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, though he should die, will come to life; and whoever is alive and believes in Me will never die." —John 11:25



We have joined you, O Jesus, on the Way of the Cross. The hours of suffering are over, "It is finished." From the hill of the Skull we move to the garden of burial. Hardly breathing, we wait for the Father's response to the loving and obedient gift of your life. I need You. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20). You died on the cross for me. You forgave my sins. I want You to control my life now and make me into the new creation You want me to be. I am Your servant. I love You Jesus. Forgive me.

Prayer: Father, in Jesus my old life is buried. Now all is new! (2 Cor 5:17) Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins. Thank you for offering me Your life. I now ask You to come into my heart as my Lord and Savior. Take control of my life and make me into the new creation You want me to be. I am Your Servant. Thank you for such endless love. Help me to always remember that love. Teach me to answer and resounding yes to You, as did Frederic Ozanam, St. Vincent de Paul, Sister Rosalie and Your dear Mother, Mary. Help me love others so that I may return Your love. Amen.