

PRAYER: I am wrapped in sacred silence as the stone closes across your tomb. In the silence I seek you. In the silence, guide me to be with you. Having put my sinful desires to death, now raise me up with you. Raise me to a new life in the vocation that you have marked out for me. Open my heart to give all for love.

Our Father...

Virgin of all virgins blest! / Listen to my fond request: / Let me share your grief divine.

CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

PRAYER: Lord, I walk this way of the cross in your footsteps. Lead me along this path according to your will. I ask your blessing on all people, bishops, priests, deacons, consecrated men and women, married, widowed, single, and parents. May I pour out my heart and my life in imitation of you, in a response of total love to you. Grant the Church many holy vocations to priesthood and consecrated life. Amen.

IF LED BY A PRIEST:

PRIEST: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

PRIEST: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

ALL: Now and forever.

PRIEST: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

ALL: Who made heaven and earth.

PRIEST: May almighty God bless you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

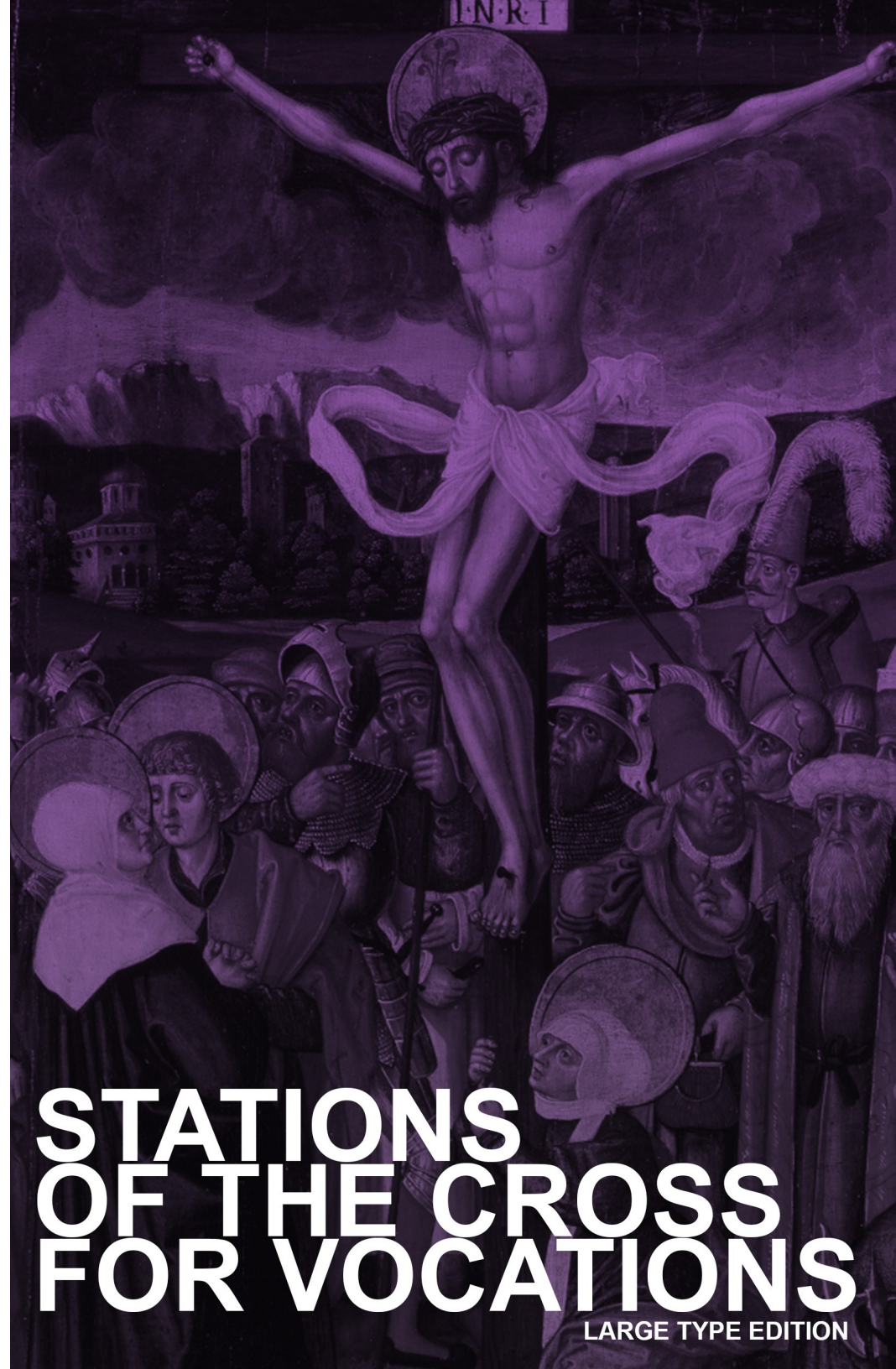
ALL: Amen.

PRIEST: Go in peace.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

A Plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who make the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross. Those who are impeded can gain the same indulgence if they spend at least one half an hour in pious reading and meditation on the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, no. 63

All Scriptures are taken from the Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition, unless otherwise indicated.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR VOCATIONS

LARGE TYPE EDITION

OPENING PRAYER

LEADER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, as I walk with you on this road to Calvary, help me to give myself fully to you and to your Father in heaven. Open my heart to receive your love, and to respond in love with all my heart, all my mind, and all my strength. By your Holy Spirit, guide me in my particular vocation to holiness. May your mother Mary, accompany me and intercede for me as I journey along your way of the cross.

*At the cross her station keeping / Stood the mournful
Mother weeping / Close to Jesus to the last*

I: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. (genuflect)
Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the
world.*

SCRIPTURE: Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ...Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him... Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" ... They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. (*Jn 18:33-38; 19:1,5,15-16*)

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, in perfect love, you abandoned yourself to the will of your heavenly Father—to suffer

*Let me mingle tears with thee / Mourning Him who
mourned for me / All the days that I may live.*

XIII: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. (*Mk 15:42-45*)

PRAYER: Jesus, your lifeless body is placed in the arms of your mother—she gave everything as you did. She gave her only Son. She gave to me the gift of your life and your death. Inspire mothers and fathers to live as Mary did. Encourage them to give as Mary gave. Grant the Church generous parents who lead their children along the pathways of holiness.

Our Father...

*By the cross with you to stay / There with you to weep
and pray / Is all I ask of you to give.*

XIV: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. (*Mk 15:46*)

side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O Good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds, hide me. Separated from you, let me never be. From the evil one, defend me. At the hour of my death, call me. Close to you, bid me, that with your saints I may praise you for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father...

Let me share with you His pain / Who for all our sins was slain / Who for me in torments died.

XII: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. (*Lk 23:44-45*) Jesus cried out in loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. (*Lk 23:46, NAB*) "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first-born. (*Zech 12:10*) Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord! (*Lam 2:19*)

PAUSE IN SILENCE

PRAYER: Poured out like water, you gave all so that I might live. You poured out your love, your compassion, your mercy, your forgiveness, your very life for me. Let me pour out my heart like water before you, offering myself to you in perfect love and charity.

Our Father...

and to die for me. For my part, I have condemned you to death—in every sin, in every failure to love. Today, I ask your mercy and forgiveness. I abandon myself with you to the will of the Father. You are my King. Show me the path for my life, and grant me the courage to follow it.

Our Father...

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing / All His bitter anguish bearing / Now at length the sword has passed

II: JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. (*Mt 27:27-31*)

PRAYER: For your beloved Bride, the Church, you endured the cross and despised its shame. You poured yourself out completely in love. My beloved Christ, Bridegroom and King, today I take up my cross to be in closer union with you. Show me how to pour myself out completely in love—to make of myself a complete and total gift for you and for others.

Our Father...

O, how sad and sore depressed / Was that Mother highly blessed / Of the sole Begotten One

III: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. (*Jn 12:24*)

PRAYER: In giving your life to me, you kept nothing for yourself. Draw me up into this love. Give me the grace to return my life as a free and total gift to you. Open my heart to the possibilities of your love—priesthood, consecrated life, married life—and let me hold nothing back. Allow me die to my selfishness so that your grace may bear abundant fruit in me.

Our Father...

Christ above in torment hangs / She beneath beholds the pangs / Of her dying, glorious Son

IV: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: But I am a worm and no man, scorned by men, despised by the people. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. "He trusted in the LORD, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend." Yes, it was you who took me from the womb, entrusted me to my mother's breast. To you I was committed from my birth, from my mother's womb you have been my God. (*Ps 22:7-11, Liturgy of the Hours, Friday Daytime Prayer Week III*) When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (*Jn 19:26-27*)

PRAYER: From the womb you called me. Open my heart to hear your call. Let my will be conformed to yours. Mary, pray for me and be my Mother. Intercede

disappointed. (*Ps 22:2-6, NAB*) They stare at me and gloat; they divide my garments among them; for my clothing they cast lots. But you, LORD, do not stay far off; my strength, come quickly to help me. (*Ps 22:18-20, NAB*)

PRAYER: Lord, as you were stripped of your garments, let me be stripped of all my selfish attachments. Make me ready to die for you. Grant the Church many holy married couples, priests, and consecrated men and women who willingly shed their selfish desires for the glory of your kingdom.

Our Father...

Holy Mother, pierce me through / In my heart each wound renew / Of my Savior crucified.

XI: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." (*Lk 23:33-34*) Do not leave me alone in my distress; come close, there is none else to help. Many bulls have surrounded me, fierce bulls of Bashan close me in. Against me they open wide their jaws, like lions, rending and roaring. Like water I am poured out, disjunct are all my bones. My heart has become like wax, it is melted within my breast. Parched as burnt clay is my throat, my tongue cleaves to my jaws. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet and lay me in the dust of death. I can count every one of my bones. (*Ps 22:11-16, Liturgy of the Hours, Friday Daytime Prayer Week III*)

PRAYER: Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the

not his mouth. ...And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him; he has put him to grief; when he makes himself an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand; he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied; ...he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (*Isa 53:6-12*)

PRAYER: Lord, you are the sheep before the shearer, the Lamb of God, the sacrificial victim offered for the forgiveness of my sins. You are also the priest who offers this perfect sacrifice to the eternal Father. Bless the shepherds of your Church. Grant us many holy priests willing to lay down their lives for their flock.

Our Father...

Make me feel as You have felt / Make my soul to glow and melt / With the love of Christ, my Lord.

X: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: ...they divided his garments among them by casting lots... (*Mt 27:35*) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why so far from my call for help, from my cries of anguish? My God, I call by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I have no relief. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the glory of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted and you rescued them. To you they cried out and they escaped; in you they trusted and were not

for all parents, so that they may lovingly guide their children to the will of God.

Our Father...

Is there one who would not weep / 'whelmed in miseries so deep / Christ's dear Mother to behold.

V: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyre'ne, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. (*Lk 23:26*)

PRAYER: Let me suffer with you, my Lord, let me help you to carry the cross as Simon did. I offer you my sins. I offer you my gifts and talents. I offer my life—everything is yours. In your hands everything is renewed, strengthened and brought to fulfillment. Grant your Church many holy priests and consecrated persons willing to offer everything for the sake of your kingdom.

Our Father...

Can the human heart refrain / From partaking in her pain / In that Mother's pain untold?

VI: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was

despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. (*Isa 53:1-5*)

PRAYER: In your passion you were despised and rejected, wounded and bruised. You had no beauty that I should desire to look upon you. Yet your beauty is deeper than I see. To this beauty, Veronica responded with generous and courageous love. As I gaze upon your face, help me to see your beauty and to respond, like Veronica, with courage and compassionate love.

Our Father...

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled / She beheld her tender Child / All with bloody scourges rent.

VII: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: "Come, all you who pass by the way, look and see / Whether there is any suffering like my suffering" (*Lam 1:12, NAB*)

PRAYER: What great love with which you suffered for me, O Lord! Help me to be ready to suffer for you, to offer my suffering with you, and to give all for love of you. Bring forth men and women willing to give their lives for you and for your Church. May I be ready to sacrifice all for your glory and the salvation of souls.

Our Father...

For the sins of His own nation / Saw Him hang in desolation / Till His spirit forth He sent.

VIII: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?" (*Lk 23:27-31*)

PRAYER: Father, you did not hesitate to offer your only Beloved Son for my salvation. Inspire all parents with the grace to offer their children to you. May they help their children discover the special and unique call which you have placed on their hearts. Grant the Church many holy married couples and parents who, within the domestic church of the home, will foster within their children the virtues of faith, hope, and love.

Our Father...

O sweet Mother! Fount of Love / Touch my spirit from above / Make my heart with yours accord.

IX: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

We adore you, O Christ...

SCRIPTURE: 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. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened