

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

According to the method of

St. Francis of Assisi

From the text published by
Msgr. M. A. Schumacher, M.A.

Arranged for Congregational Prayer

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The Stations of the Cross

According to the Method of
St. Francis of Assisi

PREPARATORY PRAYER

Together: O most merciful Jesus, * with a contrite heart and penitent spirit, * I bow down in profound humility before Thy divine majesty. * I adore Thee as my supreme Lord and Master; * I believe in Thee, * I hope in Thee, * I love Thee above all things. * I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, * my Supreme and Only Good. * I resolve to amend my life, * and although I am unworthy to obtain mercy, * yet the sight of Thy holy cross, * on which Thou didst die, * inspires me with hope and consolation. * I will, therefore, meditate on Thy sufferings * and visit the stations of Thy Passion * in company with Thy sorrowful Mother and my guardian angel, * with the intention of promoting Thy honor * and saving my soul.

I desire to gain all the indulgences granted for this holy exercise * for myself and for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. * O merciful Redeemer, who hast said, * “And I, if I be lifted from earth, * will draw all things to Myself,” * draw my heart and my love to Thee, * that I may perform this devotion as perfectly as possible, * and that I may live * and die in union with Thee. *Amen.*



First Station

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.

*Stabat Mater dolorosa,
Juxta crucem lacrymosa,
Dum pendebat Filius.*

FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to Death.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Priest: Jesus, most innocent, who neither did nor could commit a sin, was condemned to death, and moreover, to the most ignominious death of the cross. To remain a friend of Caesar, Pilate delivered Him into the hands of His enemies. A fearful crime—to condemn Innocence to death, and to offend God in order not to displease men!

People: O innocent Jesus, * having sinned, I am guilty of eternal death, * but Thou willingly dost accept the unjust sentence of death, * that I might live. * For whom, then, shall I henceforth live, * if not for Thee, my Lord? * Should I desire to please men, * I could not be Thy servant. * Let me, therefore, rather displease men and all the world, * than not please Thee, O Jesus.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified,

R. Have mercy on us!*

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.



Second Station

JESUS IS MADE TO CARRY HIS CROSS.

*Cujus animam gementem,
Contristatam et dolentem,
Pertransivit gladius.*

SECOND STATION

Jesus is made to carry His Cross.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee,

R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Priest: When our divine Saviour beheld the cross, He most willingly stretched out His bleeding arms, lovingly embraced it, and tenderly kissed it, and placing it on His bruised shoulders, He, although almost exhausted, joyfully carried it.

People: O my Jesus, * I cannot be Thy friend and follower, * if I refuse to carry the cross. * O dearly beloved cross! I embrace thee, I kiss thee, * I joyfully accept thee from the hands of my God. * Far be it from me to glory in anything, * save in the cross of my Lord and Redeemer. * By it the world shall be crucified to me * and I to the world, * that I may be Thine forever.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

V. Lord Jesus, crucified,

R. Have mercy on us!

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