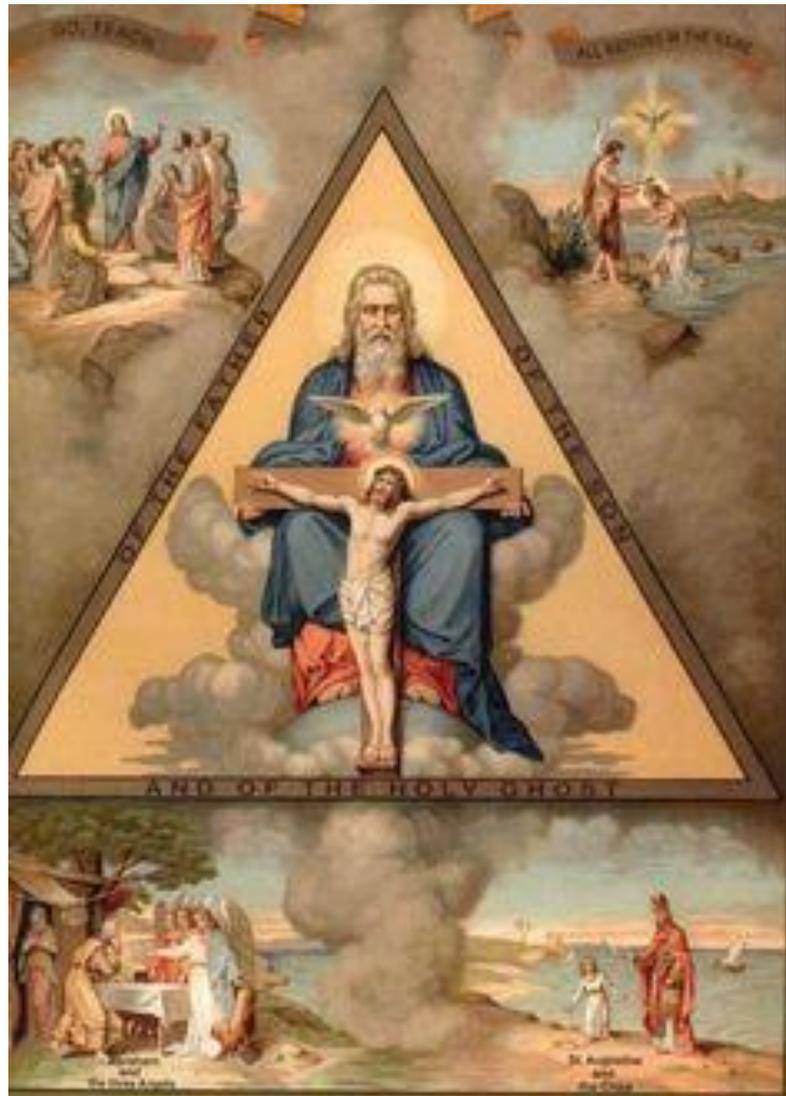


# OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL



## Stations of the Cross



**Leader: The First Station: Jesus is condemned to death**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** The condemnation of Jesus led to a physical death while the judgement of Adam and Eve resulted in spiritual death. Jesus was condemned because of our sins. How are we condemning Jesus today?

**Reader:** For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life. (1 Cor 15 21-22)

**Leader:** Lord, my God, You alone do we love; You alone do we follow; You alone do we seek. You alone are we prepared to serve, for You alone justly rule, and under Your authority we long to be. ( Soliloquies 1,1)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Second Station: Jesus carries His cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Many of us see the cross in a very negative way but the cross is the greatest sign of love. Jesus took up his cross as part of his vocation and mission. He invites us to do likewise. What is our vocation and mission in the parish? (Pause)  
What is our vocation and mission in the world? (Pause)

**Reader:** I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. (John 15:15-16)

**Leader:** May we seek You, Lord, by praying to You, and let us pray to You by believing in You. You have been preached to us. Our faith prays to You, Lord, the faith You gave us and inspired in us by the Incarnation of Your Son and the mission of Your preacher.  
(Confessions 1,1)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



### **Leader The Third Station: Jesus falls the first time**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus fell due to immense pain. This first fall represents us not imitating Jesus in overcoming his first temptation. We tumble as we allow our physical wants to dominate our lives. Think of the material things that make us miss the mark. How is the Bible feeding our life? (Pause).

**Reader:** If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:3-4)

**Prayer:** Lord, You are my helper that I may dwell in Your love, my redeemer that You may deliver me from my wrongdoing. (Commentary on Psalm 18 (2), (16)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** The meeting of Jesus and his mother is an image of our encounter with the Church. Is our relationship with the Church as intimate as the relationship between Mary and Jesus? Do we see the Church—the parish as life giving?

**Reader:** And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.(Ephesians 1:22)

**Leader:** Let our beautiful God, the Word with God, come to us that we may gaze upon Him with the eyes of our minds. He was beautiful in the womb of the Virgin where, in taking on our humanity, He nonetheless did not lose His divinity.  
(Commentary on Psalm 44, 3)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Fifth Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Seeing Simon helping Jesus may make us think of him as being a good friend who came to help. Simon, however, is a reluctant helper. He was forced into labor. Do we come forward when we see a need? Are we ready to help others without being asked?

**Reader:** Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

**Leader:** O Truth, light of my life, let me not be my own life for I lived badly on my own power and was deadly to myself. In You, however, I live again.  
(Confessions 12, 10)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Sixth Station Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Veronica moved out of her comfort zone and reached out to Jesus. She was fearless and stood up for the needy Jesus. Do we take a risk and stand for others who are being bullied or put an end to gossiping?

**Reader:** Open your mouth in behalf of the mute, and for the rights of the destitute; Open your mouth, judge justly, defend the needy and the poor! (Proverbs 31:8-9)

**Leader:** Let me not be my own life. I have lived badly on my own account and been death to myself, but in You I live again. Speak to me, O Lord. (Confessions 12, 10)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Seventh Station Jesus falls the second time**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** This second fall reflects our sins when we fail in imitating Jesus' victory in his second temptation. We stumble as we allow our psychological/emotional wants to dominate our lives. Think of how we allow the passions to dominate us in a negative way. (Pause). The fall of Jesus reminds us that when we tumble, we are to get up and continue as He did.

**Reader:** "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you" and "with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."(Matthew 4:6-7)

**Leader:** Thanks and praise to You, my God, who sound in my ears and illuminate my heart. Keep me away from every temptation. (Confessions 10,31)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Eighth Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus told the women to grieve for their own sins and difficulties in their life. In this station, Jesus invites us to introspection in our own life. When we know who we are, then we are able to recognize God and others in our life. Do we practice a daily examination of conscience?

**Reader:** Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, of course, you fail the test.  
(2 Cor 13:5)

**Leader:** Let me know You, my Father, let me know You as I too am known. Enter my soul, You Who are its strength, and make it what You want.  
(Confessions 10,1)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third time.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

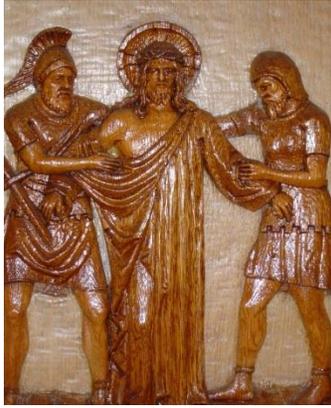
**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** This third fall reflects our sins when we fail in imitating Jesus' victory in his third temptation. We sin as we allow our spiritual wants to over power our lives. Think of the times that we think we are God and in charge of everything and God is not the center of our life. (Pause). The fall of Jesus reminds us that if we sin, we are to get up and continue through prayer and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Reader:** Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence. "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve. (Matthew 4:8-9)

**Leader:** Lord, heal and open my eyes that I may recognize Your will. Put to flight my foolishness that I may know You. Show me the road I must travel that I may see You. Thus aided, I hope to do all You have commanded me. (Soliloquies 1,5)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus allowed himself to be stripped. He knew His identity and His strong relationship with God His Father. Adam and Eve covered themselves after the Original Sin as they were ashamed of their behavior and had lost the sense of identity and relationship with God. What are the masks that we wear as we do not want others to see our true selves?

**Reader:** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.  
(Genesis 3:7)

**Leader:** I acknowledge You, O Lord, in Your humility, that I may not fear You in Your glory. I embrace You in Your lowliness, that I may yearn for You in Your loftiness, for to those who desire You, You come with clemency.  
(Psalm 66, 10)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Eleventh Station Jesus is nailed to the cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus freely allowed himself to be nailed on the cross. Our fears nail us down. What are our main fears? Think of them. (Pause) Do we share our fears with others or with God in prayer?

**Reader:** But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out. They had all seen him and were terrified. But at once he spoke with them, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!"  
(Mark 6:49)

**Leader:** Are there any persons, Lord, who do not at times let themselves go beyond the strict limits of necessity? I am not one of them, for I am a sinner.  
(Confessions 10, 31)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader** Jesus' death brought about life. Think of the actions of the past week. How many of them brought life to others and to ourselves? Do we allow our actions to bring death to our spirit?

**Reader:** None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.(Romans 14:7-9)

**Leader:** Lord, You are our Physician, healing the ills of all. You reduce the swelling of pride, renew wasted life, and excise what is superfluous. You preserve what is necessary, restore what has been lost, and cure what has been corrupted.  
(Christian Combat, 11,12)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Thirteenth Station: The body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Mary grieved as the body of her son rested in her arms. Do we grieve over our sins? Do we grieve over the sins of others? Do we practice fraternal corrections and allow others to guide us?

**Reader** As he drew near, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If this day you only knew what makes for peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. For the days are coming upon you when your enemies will raise a palisade against you; they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides.( Luke 19: 41-43)

**Leader:** Lord, only this do I ask of Your great kindness: that You convert me totally to You and allow no obstacle to hinder me as I wend my way to You.  
(Soliloquies 1, 6)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be



**Leader: The Fourteenth Station Jesus is laid in the tomb**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you...

**All:** Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Though we may be alive physically but in other ways we are in the tomb. We allow hatred, anger and resentment to hold us down. What is preventing us from forgiving others? Do we see ourselves as sinners on the road to sainthood? Open the tomb and Jesus is there to bring us life.

**Reader:** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. [And] be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ. (Ephesians 4: 30-32)

**Leader:** Lord, my God, I am helpless and poor, but You are generous to all who call upon You, and You take complete care of us. Guard my lips, both those of my body and those of my mind, from any rashness and from any lie. (Confessions 11, 2)

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be

Let us pray with the prayer Saint Augustine used to conclude many of his sermons:

Turned toward the Lord our God,  
the Father almighty,  
with an undivided heart,  
let us pour our fervent thanks before him,  
as much as our frailty allows;  
let us ask Him to be willing,  
in his exceptional kindness,  
to hear our prayers;  
may he in his power,  
drive evil from our thoughts and actions,  
enliven faith within us,  
guide our reflection,  
give us spiritual insight  
and bring us to the fullness of joy.

Amen.