

A LASALLIAN
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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Words of the Founder:

Vain pleasures you shall always shun,
And from them ever quickly run.

Your flesh and spirit equal share,
in penitential works shall bear.

Neither pain nor trouble shall you flee,
But both receive cheerfully.

Before whatever cross you meet,
Bow lowly down and kissing greet.

Your wish shall be not long to live,
But as long as life shall profitably give.

Till death arrives your care shall be,
To bear all sufferings willingly.

Suffering to you shall not seem much,
For the love of Christ you shall have to suffer.

If it is inevitable let suffering come,
Be glad to suffer for the sake of Christ.

No sorrow feel in the midst of grieve,
That no one comes to give relief

Your suffering ever sanctify,
By bearing them with holy joy.

(slightly modified from the "Collection")

First Station: Jesus is Condemned to death.

Jesus is daily condemned to death in the outcast, the lunatic on the street, the lepers, the terminally ill, the political prisoner.

Have I been condemned justly or unjustly? How did I handle such condemnation? I should pray for those condemned around me as well as those doing the condemnation.

Second Station: Jesus takes the Cross

Let us remember those who seemingly have a permanent cross in our Society today; those saddled with heavy responsibilities, eg Bishops, Religious Superiors, Civic Authorities, the gravely ill.

May the yoke of Christ be light and sweet for them.

Third Station: Jesus falls under the Cross

Let us remember here people we often ridicule as public sinners; the prostitute, the licentious, the armed robbers... that the good Lord might touch them and win them for himself. At the same time let us call to mind one sin that prevents us from turning face to face to Christ.

Fourth Station: Jesus meets Mary, his Mother

Here we are confronted with the anguish of a helpless mother.

Have I ever experienced helplessness in my life? Recall such an occasion.

Mary, Mother of the afflicted, intercede for me.

Fifth Station: Simon helps Jesus to carry his Cross

Have we ever had to live with certain others (relations or friends) whose habits are less than commendable? Have we had to suffer on account of such relationship? This is our cross. Let us identify with Simon and listen to Jesus who tells us "bear each other's burden".

Sixth Station: Veronica wipes the Face of Jesus

The travail of certain struggling individuals sometimes touches us, other times we are unaffected. The refugee seeking a new home having been forced out of his natural habitat, the underpaid hard working labourer, etc. Have I ever been privileged to wipe the face of Jesus in them and bring them some solace? Think of such opportunity and give God thanks for it.

Seventh Station: Jesus falls the Second Time.

Failing in a worthwhile task does not mean the end of the task. Jesus got up and continued on his journey after his second fall. Must I despair when I fall? Have I ever ridiculed those who fall but struggle to stand?

Ask pardon of God for such behaviour.

Eight Station: The Women weep for Jesus

Jesus said to the women: "Weep not for me but for yourselves and your children".

How often have I mourned for the other as a cover for dealing with certain issue in my life? I should hereby pray to Jesus to open the eyes of my mind to personal issue needing attention in my life.

Ninth Station: Jesus falls the third Time

Scripture says "the just man falls seven times a day". Jesus picks up his cross and continues. How many times do I fail under a cross before I get disillusioned? I should ask the Lord Jesus for courage when despair sets in.

Tenth Station: Jesus is stripped of his clothes

Jesus was publicly exposed. Think of survivors of earthquakes, of flood, those of other natural disasters embarrassed about their loss and helplessly so... Think of an occasion when you felt embarrassed, when you felt naked. Did you accept the humiliation as purification or did you fight the offender endlessly? Pray to Jesus to make you more humble.

Eleventh Station: Jesus is nailed to the Cross

The blows are struck and they rattled his body and brains. Let us remember prisoners of conscience and human right detainees whose body and brains rattle at the apparent senselessness of their suffering and the uncertainty of their plight. Let us pray to the King nailed to the cross to bring peace and justice to the earth.

Twelfth Station: Jesus dies on the Cross

Jesus finally dies after enduring untold sufferings. But not until he has pardoned his executioners. "Father forgive them..." He invites us to pray for our own enemies as he convincingly shows us an example while on the cross. When did I try to forgive someone who offended me? Like Christ we should pray repeatedly for those who cause us pain, the prayer of Jesus "Father forgive them, they do not know what they do."

Thirteenth Station: Mary takes her dead Son in her hand.

Have you known of a mother who lost an only child? What anguish must have tormented her soul! But Mary instinctively knows she is giving up her Son for the salvation of the whole world. What generosity! Pray to Mary to give you a generous spirit.

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is buried in the tomb.

God stayed lifeless in the tomb for two days. On the third day, he rose triumphantly from the grave. When you suffer think of the glorious resurrection that will inevitably follow those who believe in Christ. Stay with Jesus in the tomb when you experience depression and darkness, knowing there is light at the end of the tunnel because you believe.

Concluding Prayer

O God, in honour of and in union with our Lord Jesus Christ, animate us with the Holy Spirit of penance and renew within us that which we received in baptism. Grant that we may give expression to these sentiments and disposition by our entire conduct. This grace we beseech you to grant us through Christ our Lord, amen.

(From the "Collection") •