



## Holy Face Novena & Stations of the Cross Booklet

[SJMoftheHolyFace.org](http://SJMoftheHolyFace.org)

## Table of Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Novena to the Holy Face: Day 1 .....  | 1  |
| Day 2 .....   | 3  |
| Day 3 .....   | 5  |
| Day 4 .....   | 7  |
| Day 5 .....   | 9  |
| Day 6 .....   | 11 |
| Day 7 .....   | 13 |
| Day 8 .....   | 15 |
| Day 9 .....   | 17 |
| Consecration to the Holy Face .....   | 19 |
| Stations of the Cross of the Holy Face: Preparatory Prayer .....                | 20 |
| Station I: Jesus is condemned to death .....                                    | 22 |
| Station II: Jesus is laden with his Cross. ....                                 | 23 |
| Station III: Jesus falls beneath the weight of his Cross .....                  | 24 |
| Station IV: Jesus meets his holy Mother .....                                   | 25 |
| Station V: the Cyrenean helps Jesus to carry his Cross .....                    | 26 |
| Station VI: A Pious woman wipes the Face of Jesus. ....                         | 27 |
| Station VII: Jesus falls on the ground a second time .....                      | 29 |
| Station VIII: Jesus consoles the daughters of Israel who follow him .....       | 30 |
| Station IX: Jesus falls for the third time. ....                                | 31 |
| Station X: Jesus is Despoiled of His Raiment .....                              | 32 |
| Station XI: Jesus is attached to the Cross .....                                | 33 |
| Station XII: Jesus on the Cross .....   | 34 |
| Station XIII: Jesus is taken down from the Cross and given up to his Mother ... | 35 |
| Station IV: Jesus is placed in the sepulchre .....                              | 36 |
| On Returning to the altar (Closing Prayer) .....                                | 37 |

# Novena to the Holy Face (Archconfraternity Manual 1887)

## FIRST DAY; THE HOLY FACE AT BETHLEHEM

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

Enter into the grotto at Bethlehem, consider the newborn Child, laid in the cradle, wrapped in poor swaddling clothes. Mary and Joseph stand before him and contemplate him. You also gaze upon his sweet and radiant Face. It is the Face of the Emmanuel, of the Son of « God with us »; of the « most beautiful of the children of men ». During four thousand years the patriarchs and prophets had desired to see it; they earnestly entreated for it as the « salvation » promised to the world.

« Lord, » they unceasingly exclaimed, « show us Thy Face, and we shall be saved. » Behold it here! It shows itself at last! See how ravishing and amiable it is; how it already hastens to give you all the most precious things that it possesses.

I. It gives you *its first prayer*: for already in its cradle, it turns towards Heaven; towards the sovereign Father of angels and of men; the author of all things. It adores him in your name, it prays for you. « Behold me, » it says, « oh my Father, I come to fulfill Thy will.» Now, this will is to deliver you from eternal death and to accomplish your salvation. When allowing itself to be seen for the first time, the face of Jesus is humble and suppliant; associate yourself with his prayer; determine to labor efficaciously for the great affair of your salvation which is the object of his coming.

II. It gives you *its first tears*. Behold the innocent and delicate cheeks of the new born infant benumbed with cold, bathed with the tears which are caused less by the sufferings of the body, than by the grief excited in his soul by the sight of the world. The sweet Face of the little child Jesus is already the victim of reparation, of justice, and of expiation; it suffers, it weeps, it satisfies for your sins. Gather up with reverence these holy tears, one alone of which possesses infinite value; offer them to the Eternal Father for the payment of your debts towards him.

III. It gives you also one of *its first smiles*. It has already smiled on Mary, it has smiled on Joseph; now from out the midst of its swaddling clothes, from out its tears, it turns towards you, it becomes sweetly radiant whilst looking at you, it gives you its infantine smile; a smile of peace and love, a smile of heaven, which invites you, which calls you, which seems to

say to you: « The face which smiles on you is that of a friend, of a brother, of a Saviour. Draw near, have confidence, I love you. »

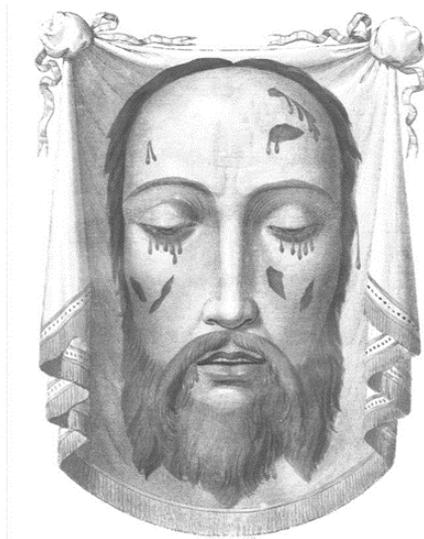
*Act of love.* — If the child Jesus loves you, if his Holy Face gives you the proof of it, what is it that holds you back? Render to him love for love.

*Virtue to be practiced.* — Detach yourself, at least in heart, from all earthly things; let Jesus be your treasure!

*Spiritual bouquet.* — Dry that first tear; carry away with you that first kind smile of the Holy Face, lay it in the deepest part of your soul, as a ray of hope, as a spark of love, and say with the prophet: « The light of Thy Face has been shed upon us, oh Lord; Thou hast given joy to our heart.

I have called upon thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy promises. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me. Save me in thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. — God all-powerful and merciful, grant we entreat Thee, that, venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in his Passion because of our sins, we may deserve to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of the glory of Heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.



## SECOND DAY: THE HOLY FACE IN THE MIDST OF THE PEOPLE OF JUDEA

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

Follow our Lord during his public life, traversing the towns and villages of Judea, announcing the good tidings of the Gospel, curing sicknesses and infirmities, everywhere as he passed doing good. Observe what part the Holy Face took in this mission of teaching and of charity. As the Son of God had really united the whole of our nature to himself, he showed himself to men, with a human face, having its own individual features, and a physiognomy which caused him, at all times and everywhere to be known by the aspect of his countenance; for « man », says the prophet, « is known by the aspect of his face. » The people strove with all their might to see the Face of Jesus. Admire the three wonders of grace, which the sight of the adorable Face produced upon all those who drew nigh to it.

I. *It ravished the multitude.* — When Jesus appeared in public, the people surrounded him, eager to see and hear him; suspended on his divine lips, they said: « Never man spoke like this man! » And they were plunged into ecstasy and astonishment. The reason is that very different from Moses, the Man-God did not cover his Face with a veil; he revealed himself to every eye; he conversed with all indiscriminately, tempering, through the sweetness and charm of his humanity, the too dazzling rays of the divinity which dwelt corporeally in him. His Face was really the mirror of his soul, the outward expression of his heart, the visible manifestation of his internal feelings. Is it surprising that his aspect ravished all beholders? — Come you also near, contemplate with avidity His Face at once human and divine, listen with reverence to the words of his mouth; delight to listen to it, to question it, to converse with it.

II. *It attracts the apostles.* — On a certain day, the Saviour passed near to a publican seated at his desk: « Follow me, » he said, and the man immediately arose and followed him; he became one of his apostles and his first evangelist. « It was, » says St. Jerome, « because at the same time that Matthew heard the voice of Jesus, he saw on his Face a ray of divine Majesty which enlightened him and stirred the very depths of his soul. » — On another occasion, Andrew brought him his brother. Jesus, casting a penetrating glance upon him, said: « Thou shalt be called Peter. » He transformed him and made of him the chief of his

apostles, the cornerstone of his Church. — Walking beside the Lake, he perceives two fishermen, two brothers, who were mending their nets; he stops, looks at them: « Follow me, » he says. On hearing the imperative command and on beholding the splendor which illuminated the eyes and the Face of him who called to them, they abandon their nets, their bark, their father, and immediately follow him. Are there not moments in which the Holy Face enlightens you, urges you, and touches you? Do not make any resistance or delay when you are thus attracted by it; let it work in you the change which it desires to do.

III. *It is compassionate and merciful towards all.* — Little children are the object of its embraces and its caresses. It gives to the prodigal son the kiss of peace and reconciliation. Inclined towards the ground in presence of the repentant sinner, it is raised again in order to look at her and to say: « Go in peace, and sin no more. » Attentive to the needs of the multitude in the desert, it raises its eyes towards heaven and calls down the blessing which multiplies the bread necessary for the subsistence of the hungry people. It sheds tears over the tomb of Lazarus and communicates to the four days corpse a miraculous resurrection, an image of the possible conversion of the most hardened sinner. Light, grace, pardon, life, flow like rays from the adorable Face; gather them up with avidity according to the needs and the different states of your soul.

*Act of confidence.* — Everywhere that it showed itself upon earth, the Holy Face blessed, pardoned, cured, did good. I will call upon it; wherefore should I not be heard?

*Virtue to be practiced.* — be docile to the impressions of grace; — a grace is a glance of the Face of Jesus which solicits and urges you. Give yourself up to its heavenly influence.

*Spiritual Bouquet.* — My beloved, show me Thy Face; make Thy voice resound in my ears; Thy voice is as sweet as Thy Face is lovely; I desire at the same time to see and to hear Thee.

I have called upon thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy promises. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me. Save me in thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. — God all-powerful and merciful, grant we entreat Thee, that, venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in his Passion because of our sins, we may deserve to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of the glory of Heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

### THIRD DAY: THE HOLY FACE ON TABOR.

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

Ascend with our Lord on Tabor. He climbed the mountain with three privileged disciples, Peter, James, and John, and he began to pray. Whilst he prayed, his Face was transfigured before them; his Holy Face became resplendent like the sun; his vestments were white as snow. Jesus willed to give in this manner a free outlet to the rays of the divinity which was hidden in him; for the first time he caused to appear before mortal eyes his adorable Face with the splendor of the glory and the beauty which belong to it. You will find in this mystery three subjects worthy of your attention:

I. *A spectacle to contemplate*; — that of the Face of our Lord beaming with splendor and grace. The light which flows from his divine Face communicates to the raiment of the Saviour and to the whole of his person a virginal whiteness, incomparable in its purity. It is a light which casts its beams into the air, envelops the whole mountain, and ravishes the three disciples who are present, with admiration. They experience an ecstasy of happiness, a foretaste of the happiness of heaven, and Saint Peter exclaims: « It is good for us to be here, let us make three tabernacles! » And yet it was only a passing ray of the eternal splendor, a drop of that ocean of felicity, of that plenitude of life of which the Face of the Lord is the source. What will it be when you drink it in copious drafts and when you will have full possession and assured enjoyment of the very source itself?

II. *A conversation to which to listen*. — Listen to the conversation which Moses and Elias have with Jesus in presence of the Holy Face thus transfigured. — The subject which occupies them is the work of the Redemption of the human race, which the Son of Man has come to accomplish; they speak of his « going out of the world », that is to say, of his Passion and death. The Face of the Redeemer, at that moment so radiant and so beautiful, will soon be wounded, bleeding, spit upon, outraged in a thousand ways. Lifted up upon an infamous gibbet, it will utter in the face of heaven a cry of pardon when expiring, and it will be the consummation of our salvation, the conquering signal of peace, the warrant of an entire reconciliation between God and man. In this mysterious conversation, the Face of Jesus offers itself to us under two very different aspects; it is at once the glorious and the sorrowful Face. Tabor and Calvary approach each other and are united together; it was meet that it should be so; it is on Calvary, upon the Cross, by the

sufferings and ignominy of the Passion concentrated in the Face of our Lord, that Redemption will be accomplished and that we shall merit together with the beatific vision, the delights of Paradise. Do not separate the idea of the sacrifice from that of the recompense; if the joys of Tabor are sometimes granted you, remember that it is to give you strength the better to follow Jesus to Calvary, and to bear the Cross with him.

III. *An order to receive.* — This order emanates from the Eternal Father, who, from the summit of the mountain, as from an awe-inspiring tribune, desires to render, in the face of heaven and earth, a solemn homage to the Face of his Son. It is in fact the splendor of his glory, the figure of his substance, the most pure splendor of his eternal light, the spotless mirror of his justice and of his infinite perfections. He there enhances its glory, by surrounding it as in a splendid frame, with a luminous cloud, which comes down from heaven, as the symbol of the Holy Spirit, from out the bosom of which issues a voice full of power and majesty: « This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him. » Such is the command which God gives to every creature. He glorifies the Face of his Word, he makes a solemn exposition of it on the highest mountain of the Holy Land, in order to show in it, to all people and to all centuries, the sign of salvation and the organ of truth. Look at it then, « and act according to the model which is presented to you on the mountain ».

*Act of hope.* — Yes, I know it; my Redeemer is living: I shall see him one day with my eyes, in his glory, myself and not another; this is the hope which is laid up in my bosom.

*Virtue to be practiced.* — Fidelity in obeying the divine commandments. « Speak, Lord, Thy servant harkens. »

*Spiritual bouquet.* — « It is good for us to be here. » Say these words in the presence of the Tabernacle, at the foot of the altar; there is your Tabor, for the immortal and glorious Face of Jesus is through the Eucharist, present to the eyes of your faith; make it the object of your delights and of your joys.

I have called upon thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy promises. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me. Save me in thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. — God all-powerful and merciful, grant we entreat Thee, that, venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in his Passion because of our sins, we may deserve to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of the glory of Heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.

## FOURTH DAY: THE HOLY FACE IN THE GARDEN OF OLIVES.

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

Follow Jesus going after the last supper to the Mount of Olives, in order to prepare himself for his Passion. He kneels down apart in a solitary grotto; he prays for a long time, even during three hours. His soul is a prey to sorrow, to fear, to the anguish of death. From time to time he interrupts his prayer in order to go to his disciples and to seek from them a little support and consolation, and he meets with neither. «I have sought, » he says, «someone who would console me, and I have found none. »

You may here observe three things:

I. *The sorrowful state of the Holy Face.* It reflects all the impressions of his soul; it is sorrowful, desolate, quivering; it sheds tears; sorrowful sighs escape from its lips. See also, how, after having prayed on his knees, the Saviour, in order to give to his petitions more of intensity and fervour, prostrates himself with his Face to the ground. Contemplate his Divine Face abased to the dust, cleaving to the earth which, cursed through the sin of Adam and condemned to produce nothing but thorns, was purified by the kiss of peace, by the tears of the Holy Face. Our earth will henceforth behold its inhabitants produce a rich harvest of flowers and fruits of virtue; but Jesus takes the thorns for himself and with them crowns his brow.

II. *The apparition of the angel.* — At that moment, the anguish of the Man-God is redoubled; he experiences mortal anguish; a mysterious sweat, a sweat of blood bathes his Face, runs down from his brow and falls, drop after drop, upon the ground where he is prostrated. An angel appears in order to strengthen him; reanimated by the heavenly aid, Jesus rises, accepts the chalice offered to him by his Father and lovingly drinks it down to the very dregs. Angel of consolation, you give me an example; I envy you your destiny; I desire to put myself in your place; let it be my portion to raise that suffering and languishing Face, to compensate it by the tenderness of my love, and the generosity of my sacrifices; since it is for me that it suffers and that it is humiliated; it is for me that it resigns itself to drink the chalice presented to it by its Father.

III. *What you have to do.* — It is to offer yourself to it and to imitate it. Adorable Face, Thou didst not refuse the succor offered by another and

the consolation of an angel. Permit me, in spite of my unworthiness, to draw nigh to Thee, and to render Thee the like service. Permit me to compassionate Thy sorrow, to raise Thee from the ground and to hold Thee reverently in my arms. It is for me to prostrate myself to the ground, to annihilate myself in a spirit of reparation; I associate myself with Thy humiliations and Thy sufferings; like Thee, I accept the chalice of suffering, and I give myself up to the divine will, saying: « Behold me, Lord, I come to do Thy will. Thy law shall be engraved forever in my heart. Thy will and not my own be done; not what I will, oh Lord, but what Thou willest! »

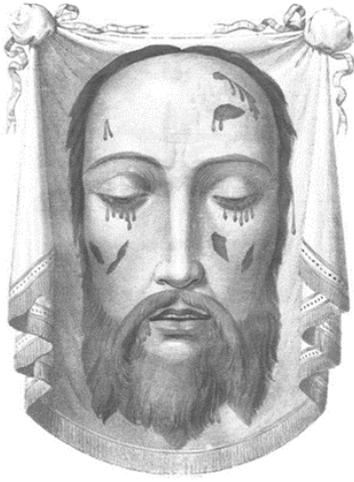
*Act of abandonment.* — Offer yourself wholly to God in order never to do aught save his adorable will; make the offering in union with Jesus praying in the garden.

*Virtue to be practiced.* — Do penance; excite yourself to contrition for your own sins and for those of others; accept, in a spirit of expiation the trials of life and the bitter sorrows it may please God to send you.

*Spiritual bouquet.* — My food, that is to say, my joy and my delight, are to do the will of my Father who is in heaven.

I have called upon thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy promises. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me. Save me in thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. — God all-powerful and merciful, grant we entreat Thee, that, venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in his Passion because of our sins, we may deserve to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of the glory of Heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.



## FIFTH DAY: THE HOLY FACE IN THE HOUSE OF CAIPHAS.

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

It is the night of the Passion, Jesus, after a decisive judgment, has been disdainfully sent, with his hands tied, to the house of Caiphas.

I. *Outrages.* — He is at the mercy of a band of servants and of soldiers, who make it a cruel sport to load him with outrages and insults of every kind. His Holy Face is their target. The whole night, it has to suffer the most humiliating insults which can be invented by the malice of men and the rage of devils. They outrage him by blows, they wound him and cover him with blood by giving him cuffs with their hands, they soil him with spits, a kind of insult particularly felt by the Saviour. He complains of it by the mouth of the prophet: « They were not afraid to spit in my Face, » and when predicting to his apostles the Passion which he was about to undergo at Jerusalem, he specified the spits which would be given him: «The Son of man shall be spit upon. »

II. *Conversion of Saint Peter.* — In the midst of this ignominious treatment, what patience on the part of the Saviour! What serenity! What sweetness! He does not complain, he does not murmur; he prays, he loves, he expiates and repairs the outrages which our sins have inflicted and still inflict on the majesty of his heavenly Father. At the very culmination of his ignominies, his sorrowful Face finds means to perform an act of mercy and of ineffable charity; it casts its eyes on the prince of the apostles and raises him up after his fall. Peter was there, at some distance from him, an unfaithful disciple, mingling in the crowd of the enemies of his master, he had shamefully denied him, no less than three times. All at once, he encounters the divine eyes fixing upon him a look of gentle reproach, of compassion, and of love. It is enough. The sight of that sorrowful Face, of that ray of light which issues from those sad eyes pierces the heart of the apostle; penetrated with shame and repentance, he turns aside and weeps bitterly.

III. *Application to yourself.* — Oh divine Face who raises up and transforms wandering souls, cast Thine eyes upon me, have pity on me. I have not, after having offended God, responded to the attractions of Thy grace, or, if I have shed a few tears, they have only been the result of a passing feeling of humility, of a sadness in which self-love had a larger part than true repentance. Since Thou art, oh adorable Face, a sun of justice, able to soften our souls and to purify our consciences, burn and consume in me all that is contrary to the purity of Thy love; may Thy

heavenly rays inflame me, and make me weep secretly over my past offenses; I also am an unfaithful disciple, or rather, I have been, but will no longer be one! Thou hast been so merciful as to forgive me my revolts and to turn away Thine eyes from my sins. No, my Jesus, whatever may happen, and whatever it may cost me, I will not renounce Thee anymore; I will, on the contrary, glorify Thee by my penitence and my good works.

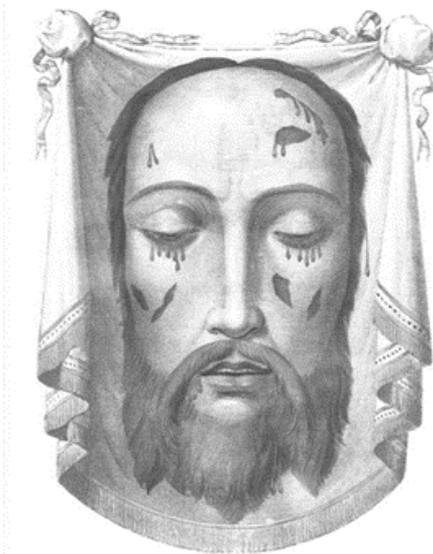
*Act of contrition.* — Lord, turn away Thy Face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. I detest them and desire to make reparation for them.

*Virtue to be practiced.* — Have the courage of your faith, do not fear the eyes and the words of men, when there is a question of a duty to be fulfilled or of a fault to be avoided.

*Spiritual bouquet.* - « Jesus looked at Peter, and Peter wept bitterly. »

I have called upon thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy promises. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me. Save me in thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. — God all-powerful and merciful, grant we entreat Thee, that, venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in his Passion because of our sins, we may deserve to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of the glory of Heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.



## SIXTH DAY: THE HOLY FACE AT THE PRAETORIUM OF PILATE

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

I. *The sufferings of the Holy Face.* — The lashes which the executioners inflicted on Jesus did not spare his sweet and amiable Face. It is furrowed in every direction, wounded, bleeding, lacerated by scourges. Then, seeing that Jesus was condemned to death because he had called himself « King », the soldiers turn this title into a subject of bitter derision and of sacrilegious mockeries. They cast upon his shoulders a purple robe; instead of a scepter, they place a reed in his hand, and by an incredible refinement of malice they fashion a crown for him out of thorns which they interlace together, and which they fasten on his brow with great blows. The long, hard, sharp thorns entering deeply into the head of the Saviour caused him dreadful suffering and inundated his Holy Face with streams of blood.

II. *Humiliations of the Holy Face.* — It was in this pitiable state Pilate presented Jesus to the people, hoping thereby to excite their compassion and to deliver him. « Behold the man! » he said. The sight only inflamed their fury. « Crucify him, crucify him, they exclaimed. — Shall I crucify your king? — We have no other king than Cesar, we will not have this man to reign over us. » The enemies of the Saviour triumphed. Amongst the crowd there were many whom he had overwhelmed with blessings, who perhaps, in secret, called themselves his disciples and friends; yet not one amongst them raised his voice in order to declare himself in his favour, and to defend him; not one of them dared to recognize him for his king and his God. This miserable, cowardly abandonment, joined to the other outrages inflicted on the Holy Face, was a sorrowful martyrdom for Jesus. « My people, what have I done to you? Why do you outrage the Face of your Saviour? Why have you surrounded it with a diadem of thorns? »

III. *Honour due to the Holy Face.* — There is a profound mystery contained in the crowning of the divine Face; it was destined to reign. The soldiers, though unconscious of it, attest the royalty of Jesus Christ, as well as Pilate; without being aware of it, they enter into the designs of God, who wills that his Son should be recognized as King and under that title, should receive the homage of all creatures. — Yes, Oh Jesus, by the diadem which crowns Thy Face, Thou hast acquired the right of reigning over my heart; Thy diadem of ignominy and of suffering is a crown of expiation and of love. Many times I have cast dishonor upon Thy royalty by despising Thy holy law and Thy divine teachings; many times I have

caused the blood to flow down Thy august Face through my reiterated sins, which have driven ever deeper into Thy flesh the thorns which transpierce Thy brow; I have run after the joys of this world, and I have crowned myself with roses; I have longed after the luxurious delights of an easy and pleasant life, not remembering that I am the subject of a king crowned with thorns.

No, adorable Face, I will not allow Thee any more to suffer the thorns of my iniquities; I desire that Thou shouldst rejoice in my homage; that thou shouldst be crowned with The flowers of my virtues, and that Thou shouldst triumph in me by a generous love worthy of Thee.

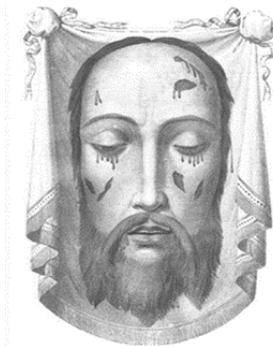
*Act of offering.* — Oh Jesus, my king, and my God, behold my mind with its thoughts, my heart with its affections, my will with its tendencies, behold my soul and my body; I put them wholly and entirely under the empire of Thy Holy Face, reign over me for evermore.

*Virtue to be practiced.* — Make all the desires and ill-regulated movements of your heart and mind which may offend the Holy Face and renew its sufferings, to die in you by means of mortification.

*Spiritual bouquet.* — Can a member be fastidious and sensual under a Head that is crowned with thorns?

I have called upon thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy promises. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me. Save me in thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. — God all-powerful and merciful, grant we entreat Thee, that, venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in his Passion because of our sins, we may deserve to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of the glory of Heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.



## SEVENTH DAY: THE HOLY FACE ON THE PATH TO CALVARY

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

Behold Jesus ascending the mount of his sacrifice, laden with the weight of his Cross. After the painful and humiliating fall which he has had, his adorable Face is soiled with dust, with sweat and with blood. The spectacle excites the contempt of the crowd and the mockeries of the executioners.

I. *Reparation offered to the Holy Face.* — In this state of abandonment and of opprobrium, the Saviour, all at once, receives a mark of devotion and of tenderness which compensates and consoles him. A courageous woman, Veronica, has been touched with compassion. Listening only to her faith and her love, she makes her way through the crowd, puts aside the executioners, and filled with reverence and emotion, draws near to Jesus. Then she takes the soft white veil of fine Egyptian linen which covers her head; she spreads it over and gently applies it to the bleeding and wounded Face of the Man-God! She wipes it and raises it; it is a real service which she renders to him, and which for a moment relieves his sufferings and reanimates him. As a recompense, Jesus immediately leaves the impression of his Holy Face upon the linen of which she had made use for the performance of this heroic act.

II. *Veronica our pattern.* — Congratulate Veronica; look upon her as an admirable model, learn from that generous woman to make reparation to the suffering Face of your God. Impiety renews, in these our days, the outrages he endured on Calvary. His Holy Face is especially insulted and spit upon by all the horrible blasphemies which hell vomits forth against his divinity. The Saviour complains; he seems to say to those who know him and who love him: « I have sought around me for consolers, and I have found none. » Let your heart answer: « Behold me, Lord; I am Thine, ready to do Thy good pleasure. Must I oppose my faith, my adoration, my example to hatred and contemptuous impiety? I am ready. »

III. *A good inspiration to follow.* — Divine Master, Thou hast said in Thy Gospel: « Whoever shall glorify me before man, I will glorify him in my turn before my Father who is in heaven. » At the present day, perverse and sacrilegious sects outrage Thy adorable Face; I desire to glorify it by my expiations, by my praises, by all the fervor of my love.

Animate me with the spirit with which Veronica was inspired upon the ascent to Calvary. What signifies to me the raillery of the world, and the rage of hell? I will listen to the voice of the Church, I will follow the inspirations of my heart, I will go to Thee, oh sweet Face of my Saviour; I will wipe away the tears with which it is inundated; I will soothe the wounds which make it suffer, I will efface the ignominious blemishes with which wicked men have attempted to soil it. In Thy turn, inspire me with the rays of Thy grace, and engrave in my heart the celestial impress of Thy virtues.

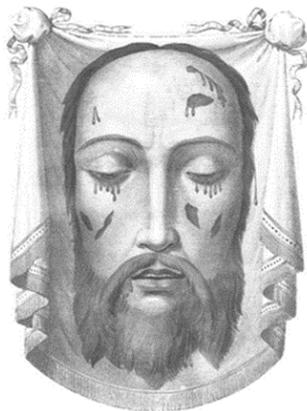
*Act of charity.* — Love the Holy Face and have compassion on the outrages it was made to suffer; love your wandering brethren, and pray to God to spare and convert them.

*Virtue to be practiced.* — Let zeal for reparation inflame you; exercise it by communions, by your prayers, by your words, by your example, by all the means with which the sight of evil committed ought to inspire you.

*Spiritual bouquet.* — « I want Veronicas, » said our Lord to Marie de Saint Pierre. — « My daughter, take my Face as a precious coin wherewith to pay to my Father the debts of His justice. »

I have called upon thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy promises. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me. Save me in thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. — God all-powerful and merciful, grant we entreat Thee, that, venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in his Passion because of our sins, we may deserve to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of the glory of Heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.



## EIGHTH DAY: THE HOLY FACE ON THE CROSS

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

Upon the Cross, where it is placed as upon an altar of propitiation between heaven and earth, the Holy Face acts as our intercessor and our mediator.

I. *The pardon of the Holy Face.* — Raising its eyes bathed in tears towards the heavenly Father, it entreats our pardon: Pater, dimitte illis. Oh Father, remit the debt of these sinners; give back to them Thy friendship. Then turning towards us, it inclines itself lovingly, as though to offer us the kiss of peace and of reconciliation. Oh! How touching, at that moment, is the aspect of the sorrowful Face of the Redeemer; what sufferings upon that bed of anguish! What a prolonged agony! And what patience also! What gentleness, what an ineffable serenity in its movements and its words! As often as seven times the Divine Face, giving a truce to its sufferings opens its blessed lips; each one of its words is a lesson, a grace, and as it were, a reiterated and supreme adieu which it addresses to the world. It does not murmur; it is not irritated; it prays, it pardons, it blesses; at last it utters a loud cry and expires.

II. *The appeal made to divine mercy.* — Oh God, our Creator, and our Father, we dare not raise our eyes towards Thee; for we have sinned; we have abused Thy innumerable blessings; we are guilty in the highest degree, we deserve the blows of Thy divine justice. But, Lord, behold Thy Christ on the Cross, look at his merciful and compassionate Face which implores Thee. Listen to the voice of its prayer. Behold its tears, the thorns of its crown, the blood with which it is inundated. Behold it mute, inanimate, growing cold in the death agony. It is given up to death for us, oh Father; it has taken our place before Thee, it has deserved to disarm Thy anger. Look, look at the Face of Thy well-beloved Christ, in the state to which it has been reduced. Pardon us, oh most merciful Father, and save us.

III. *Christian pardon.*—Most Holy Face of Jesus on the cross, what a lesson Thou gives to me! Thy charity has reached even to the extent of pardoning Thy executioners and praying for them. It is, above all, for those who struck Thee, wounded Thee, and dealt Thee blows, and covered Thee with spittle that Thou said: « Forgive them, Father, they know not what they do. » When they struck Thee, Thou didst endure

them, gently and in silence. Now, Thou raises Thy voice to excuse and defend them, to obtain pardon for them; in offering for them Thy blood, Thou gives them the greatest proof of Thy love. Teach me this Thy endurance of our neighbor and this Thy generosity in pardoning even our most cruel enemies. Yes, I forgive, for love of Thee, all who have offended me. With you; I pray for the sinners who outrage Thee, for the wretched men who blaspheme Thee; I beg of Thee their conversion and their salvation. Let them but turn to Thee, oh most Holy Face, let them invoke Thee; it is enough! Whoever looks on Thee, oh blessed Face, with faith and repentance, will escape the sting of the serpent and will find life.

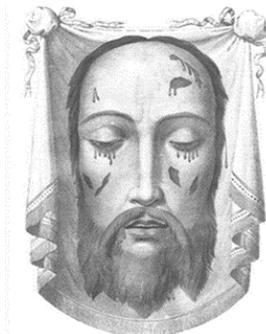
*Act of generous love.* — My God, I forget the injuries which have been inflicted on me; I pardon all those who have offended me in any way whatever; I love them sincerely, I pray for them, and I entreat thee to save them.

*Virtue to practice.* — Bear the injuries inflicted on you and the coldness shown you by your neighbour, accept all that is painful in them to your heart and mind in reparation for what the Holy Face has suffered.

*Spiritual bouquet.* — God our protector, cast Thine eyes upon the Face of Thy Christ.

I have called upon thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy promises. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me. Save me in thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. — God all-powerful and merciful, grant we entreat Thee, that, venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in his Passion because of our sins, we may deserve to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of the glory of Heaven. Through the same Jesus Christ. Amen.



## NINTH DAY: THE HOLY FACE ON THE DAY OF THE RESURRECTION

Lord, I desire to seek thy Face; do not Thou repel me far from it on account of my sins; do not remove Thy Holy Spirit from me. Let the light of Thy Face shine upon me; teach me in the way of Thy commandments.

On the day of his resurrection, our Saviour showed himself several times to his holy mother, to the holy women, and to his Apostles. He came forth from the sepulcher, endowed with a spiritual and incorruptible life, shining with glory and immortality. In this state, that which above all attracted attention, was the beauty and triumphant splendor of his Holy Face.

I. *Glory of the Holy Face after the Resurrection.* — Look at it yourself in spirit and with the eyes of faith. What celestial fire in its eyes! What serenity on its brow! What harmony in its features! What a smiling and majestic countenance! During his Passion, we beheld the Face of Jesus bleeding and full of grief; at this moment, joys beam forth from it; it overflows with consolation in proportion to the sufferings and ignominies it has suffered. Oh, adorable Face of my Saviour, it is meet that victorious now, over death and sin, you should appear dazzling in strength and splendour. Show what Thou art; shed all-around in softened majesty, the rays of honour and glory with which Thou art crowned; advance and reign over all hearts. *Prosperes procedere, et regna.*

II. *Joy which it communicates.* — The first time that the apostles, when they were assembled together in the cenacle, saw the risen Face of their divine Master, they were thrilled, says the Evangelist, with great joy; his smile, his sweet gaze, his kind and paternal words, the breath of his lips which he shed upon them, inundated them interiorly with a delicious peace which they had never before experienced. What will be the joy of the elect, when they shall behold, in its full splendour, without a cloud, and without a shade, the glorious Face of the Incarnate Word. The sight will enable them to penetrate as through a most pure mirror, into the secrets of the divine essence, where they will find perfect beatitude and the sovereign good. They will see it even as it is, that most Holy Face and they will become like to it; perfection of soul and of body will be theirs through the light of its glory with which they will feel themselves to be penetrated.

III. *Its praises throughout eternity.* — Lord, permit me « to behold Thee », permit me to see Thy Face in its pure and real glory; when Thy glory shall thus appear to me, then my heart will be satiated with joy. Being then says Saint Augustine, free and disengaged from all cares, « we shall see, we shall love, we shall praise; » we shall see the Face of the divine King so ravishing and so beautiful; we shall love the Face of the Man-God, of the Son of Mary so sweet and so amiable; we shall praise the Face of the Redeemer, so victorious and so powerful. We shall behold it forever, we shall love it without distaste; we shall praise it without weariness, with transports of ever reviving, ever renewed joy, forever and ever. Amen.

*Act of desire.* — When shall I go and appear before the Face of my God? When shall I see him face to face?

*Virtue to be practiced.* — Detach yourself, little by little, from the deceptive and passing joys of this world; seek the treasures of Heaven where the risen Jesus awaits you.

*Spiritual bouquet.* — May I expire thirsting with an ardent thirst to see the desirable Face of our Lord, Jesus Christ. (Last words of Mr. Dupont)

I have entreated Thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to thy promise. Make the light of Thy Face to shine upon me; save me in Thy mercy; Lord, I shall not be confounded, because I have called upon Thee.

PRAYER. Almighty and merciful God, grant, we beg of Thee, that whilst venerating the Face of Thy Christ, disfigured in the Passion because of our sins, we may merit to contemplate it eternally in the splendour of its heavenly glory. Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

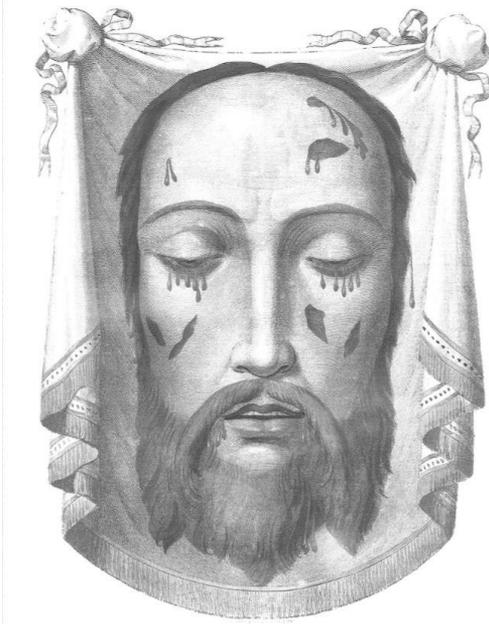


## CONSECRATION OF OURSELVES TO THE HOLY FACE

O adorable Face of my Jesus, humbly prostrate in Thy divine presence, I desire to consecrate myself wholly to Thee and henceforth to live only for Thee. Why have I not at my disposal, the hearts of all creatures, in order to offer them up as a holocaust to Thee? Alas! oh well beloved Face, I have only my own, unworthy as it is of Thy attention and often rebelling against the movements of Thy grace; nevertheless, I give it to Thee, my poor heart, and I consecrate it to Thee, in order that, from this moment and during all the days of my life, it may be inflamed with the holy ardour of Thy divine love. Purify it, warm it with the blessed rays of Thy eternal light, so that I may henceforth exclaim with the prophet king: "Lord, the light of Thy Face is engraved upon us; Thou hast caused joy to spring forth in my heart." (Ps. iv, 7.)

I offer Thee then this day, deliberately and with great joy, the sacrifice of all the delights which may be offered me on earth. Accept, oh adorable Face, oh Thou whom I love more than aught else in the world, accept the homage of myself, which I present to Thee at this moment. I thrill with gladness and with love, whilst thus consecrating to Thee the whole of my being. Yes, I offer and consecrate to Thee my heart, my body, my soul, my spirit, and my life; my heart, to love only Thee, O beauty ever ancient and ever new; my body, to serve as an instrument of reparation and of all that belongs to Thy glory; my soul, to reflect unceasingly the image of Thy different graces; my spirit, to think only upon Thee, and upon all that will tend to spread devotion to Thee; my life, my whole life, in order that it may be penetrated with Thy sweet memory, and filled with actions worthy Thy Name, so that I may one day merit that life eternal, in which, according to the expression of Thy apostle, I may contemplate Thee, no longer as in an enigma and through a mirror, but face to face, and as Thou art. Whilst waiting until (his supreme grace shall be accorded to me, O Holy Face of Jesus, make me walk here below in the light of Thy benign eyes, that when I shall appear before Thee, Thou mayest name me by my name, Thou mayest kiss me with the kiss of Thy mouth, and Thou mayest introduce me into the immortal society of the blessed who are occupied without ceasing in contemplating Thee, praising Thee, adoring Thee, and eternally singing Thy mercies. Amen. (1887 Archconfraternity Manual of the Holy Face)

## The Following Station Meditations are taken From the Manual of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face 1887



### Stations of the Cross of the Holy Face: Preparatory Prayer

O adorable Face of my Jesus, humbly prostrate in Thy presence, I prepare myself to contemplate Thee upon the path of Calvary, in the sufferings and humiliations which Thou hast endured for my sins. Inspire me with the same sentiments of faith, of love and of compassion, with which our Lady of sorrows, and the pious Veronica were overwhelmed. I purpose to compensate Thee, in as much as in me lies, for the sufferings and outrages which are caused Thee every day by blasphemers against Thy Name and by the sinners who profane Sunday. Why cannot I, O Jesus, mingle my tears with Thine, and give Thee the whole of my blood in expiation for so many crimes? Penetrate me, at least, with the thoughts of Thy divine Heart; cast upon my soul the light of Thy countenance, that, touched with the unction of Thy Spirit, it may draw forth abundantly treasures of grace and salvation, from out Thy sacred wounds.

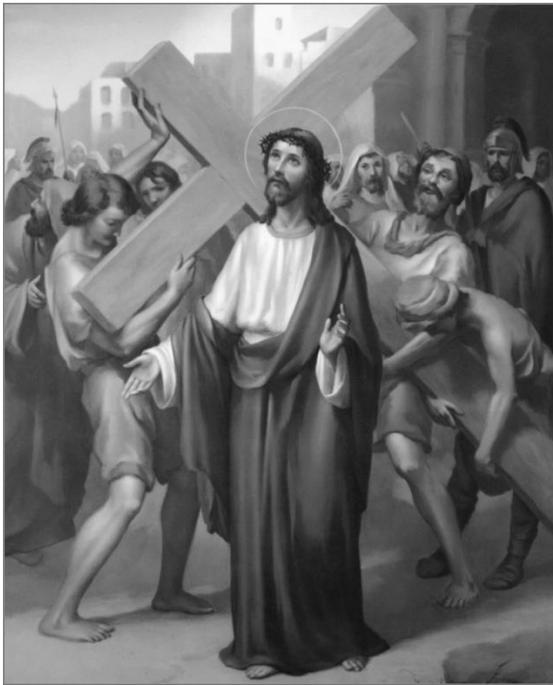


## Station I: Jesus is condemned to death

The sentence pronounced against our Saviour was as unjust as it was ignominious. He was led as a criminal before a pagan judge, He, the King of heaven, the sovereign judge of angels and of men! He was condemned to suffer the penalty of death as a factious man and a blasphemer, He, who was innocence and goodness itself.

Let us admire his perfect submission. According to sister Saint-Pierre, when Pilate pronounced this terrible sentence, the Face of Jesus preserved the serenity habitual to it, and lost nothing of its calm and sweetness. His adorable Face did not blush, because he knew that he was accomplishing the will of his Father, and that by submitting to this unjust death, he would obtain our salvation.

O Jesus! Grant that whilst practising my faith! may never blush at Thy doctrine nor at Thy example, but that I may perform my duties with a calm and serene countenance, and in the peace of a good conscience, being unmoved by mockery, and not fearing the injustice of those who can kill the body but who can do nothing to the soul, so that hereafter, when I appear before Thy tribunal, Thou mayst not need to blush for me before the angels, and that I may be admitted into the number of Thy elect.



## Station II: Jesus is laden with his Cross.

A double burden is laid on Jesus; first the heavy wood of his Cross, the instrument of his punishment, with which his executioners brutally load his shoulders, and secondly the ignominious burden of our iniquities, which he takes upon himself in order to expiate them. The latter cross is the more painful; he feels the grief and the shame of it; his Face is sorrowfully bowed down, like that of a man in disgrace, laden with maledictions, condemned to bear a weight of ignominy. He blushes at the stigma inflicted on Him by the crimes with which he is covered. But as a great act of reparation is in question and one in which the glory of his Father and our salvation are concerned, he lovingly accepts it all.

It is just, O Jesus! That I should bear the weight and the shame of my sins. Give me a contrite and humble heart; that interior disposition which the Prophet asked of Thee, and which Thou hast promised not to reject; that, appropriating to myself the merits of Thy adorable Face, I may make amends for the contempt I have shown for Thy law, and the shame my sins have caused Thee.



### Station III: Jesus falls beneath the weight of his Cross

The Holy Face has already endured many outrages and sufferings. Here, it is a fresh outrage which is inflicted upon it: Jesus falls upon the ground, he wounds himself by the violence of his fall, and when he rises, his august Face is soiled with mud, with dust and with blood, which excites the mocking laughter of the crowd, and the railery of his enemies.

O Jesus! Thou dost thus expiate my weakness, my want of courage in bearing my cross, my criminal attachment to the pleasures and to the goods of this world, which are nothing more than a little mud and vile dust. Make me stronger, more mortified, more generous, in order that I may aspire more and more to the riches of grace and the eternal treasures which Thou dost promise me in Heaven.



#### Station IV: Jesus meets his holy Mother

Our blessed Lady of Dolours here finds herself face to face with the Man of sorrows. The mother gazes on the Face of her Son. What an aspect it bears! No one else could have recognised Jesus! His beautiful and radiant Face is obscured, soiled, and like to that of a leper! The sight pierces the heart of the Blessed Virgin. She falls into the arms of the holy women who accompany her. On his side, Jesus has recognised his mother; their eyes have met. Those two souls, already so closely united, have found in their common anguish a more intense and still stronger element of attraction; they have embraced, clinging together as though they had been fused into one to offer one and the same sacrifice, and to form but one and the same victim.

O Jesus! O Mary! Admit me into the community of your sacrifice. May I contemplate you! May I love you! And may I imitate you! May I share in your sentiments and in your inmost feelings! May I never be separated from your trials, and your sufferings here below, in order that I may merit to be united with you for ever, and to see you face to face in eternity!



### Station V: the Cyrenean helps Jesus to carry his Cross

A pious stranger, who was passing by, comes to the aid of Jesus Christ. This unexpected auxiliary is not allowed to be without a recompense.

To show him how grateful this service is to his Heart, Jesus turns from time to time towards him, and shows him his Face. Then, from that kind and grateful Face issues a ray of light, which touches the heart of the Cyrenean, enlightens him, inflames him, and strengthens him in the labour of love, which he has undertaken.

O Jesus! Behold me ready to follow Thee, and to serve Thee. What obstacle could avail to hinder me?... The seductions of hell?... the mockery of the world?... the murmurs of the flesh and of the senses?... the attractions of pleasure?... Ah! To serve Thee is to reign. To aid Thee in Thy work of reparation is a happiness and a glory. Only, do Thou look upon me. One of Thy glances, falling from Thy adorable Face on the face of my poor soul, is worth more to me than an empire; it is a ray of celestial joy, it is Paradise itself.



### Station VI: A Pious woman wipes the Face of Jesus.

This courageous woman is a perfect pattern for the adorers of the outraged Face of Jesus. See how resolutely she advances, with a firm and intrepid heart, in spite of the disdain of the crowd and the brutality of the executioners. Arrived in the proximity of the Saviour, in presence of that obscured and disfigured Face, of which she, nevertheless, perceives the majesty and divine beauty, she feels herself to be moved with compassion, respect and love. Detaching the soft white veil made of fine Egyptian linen, which covers her face, she applies it to, and spreads it gently over the Face of Christ; she wipes it and solaces it; it is more than a homage which she renders it, it is a real service which soothes its sufferings, refreshes it and revivifies it. We know what was the reward which Jesus granted her. He left her, when she retired from Him, that precious impression of his Face possessed by the Vatican and venerated by the whole world, that veil of which we here possess an authentic facsimile, and which will for ever be the object of a sacred devotion.

O Jesus! I envy the happiness of that heroic woman. Grant that I may procure for Thee the like homage of reparation. But what Thou didst for Veronica will not suffice for me. Grant me, in addition, that Thy divine features may be impressed upon my soul, disfigured and obscured with sin; render to it its first innocence and all the splendour of thy grace.





### Station VII: Jesus falls on the ground a second time

Jesus, like to a victim bearing the wood for the sacrifice, is a prey to weakness and exhaustion. He falls down a second time with his Face to the ground, being unable to rise; he remains unaided stretched out, powerless, and given up to the tender mercy of his executioners, who, furious and impatient, raise him up again, while inflicting heavy blows upon him. His meek and modest Face is not spared; they find a cruel pleasure in adding fresh wounds to it and making it bleed still more.

Behold the image of the blasphemer and the impious who make game of the seeming weakness of the Church, who outrage it in its doctrine and who persecute it in its ministers. To outrage the Church, to outrage the Holy Father, to outrage priests and religious, to outrage the servants of God and good Catholics, is to strike Jesus in the Face, it is to wound his adorable countenance.

O God! Be our protector, behold the insolent pride of our enemies. Look on the Face of Thy Christ which they outrage. And Thou, adorable Face, show Thyself to the heavenly Father, disarm his anger; let the Church be delivered and triumphant; let blasphemers themselves be saved.



### Station VIII: Jesus consoles the daughters of Israel who follow him

Those daughters of Israel are the picture of Christian souls devoted to good works, who, with the eyes of faith, seeing Jesus in the poor, Jesus in his suffering members, Jesus in the priest, Jesus in the Eucharist, Jesus in the Church, are ready to serve him on all occasions, and to follow him generously, even along the path to Calvary. The holy women receive a very sweet recompense. Jesus pauses, turns his adorable Face towards them, and through the cloud of sorrow with which it is covered, bestows on them a smile of approbation together with words of consolation and of holy counsel.

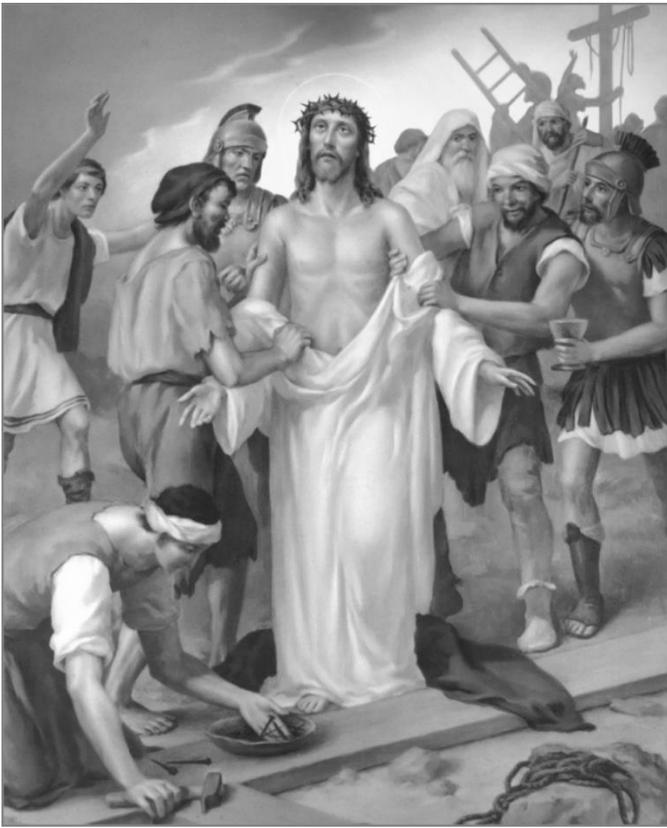
O Jesus! Inspire us with zeal for good works and the heroic courage of holy love. We do not desire, in compensation, either the treasures of this world, or earthly consolations; grant to us only some of the spiritual joys and instructive inspirations which flow from Thy Face upon those who contemplate it and do it homage. Shed them more and more upon us; grant that we may make haste to walk along the way of perfection and of salvation.



### Station IX: Jesus falls for the third time.

It is for the third time that our Lord inflicts on his adorable Face this species of suffering and of humiliation. The first fall was occasioned by the weight and the shame of our sins, the second was caused by our weakness; in this his third fall, he expiates our discouragement, those cowardly and criminal weaknesses which ruin souls and lead them little by little into the abyss of despair. Reaching Calvary and perceiving the place of His punishment, Jesus immediately thinks of the innumerable poor sinners who, failing in faith and in confidence, refuse to have recourse to the sacraments of his Church, render his Passion and his death useless, and cast themselves in despair into eternal misery. This thought fills him with profound sorrow and cruel depression. As in his agony in the garden, he falls prostrate on his Face, bathed in sweat, exhausted and almost dying.

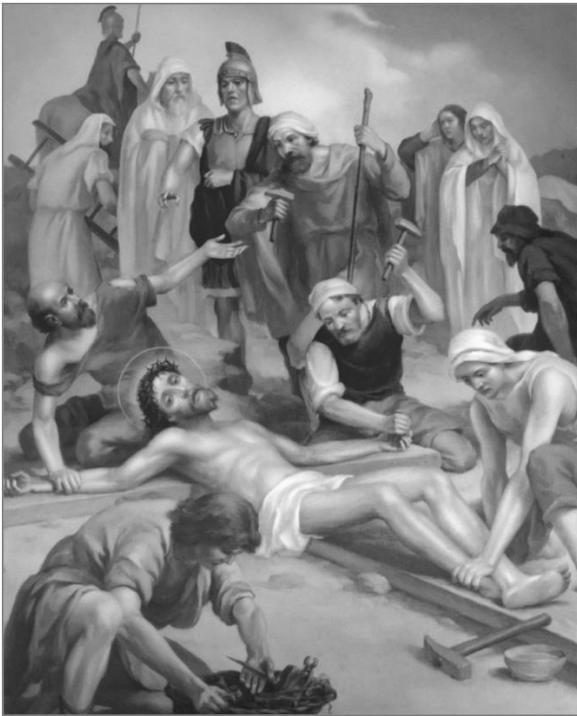
O Jesus! Thy weakness is my strength and my support. I have recourse to the merits of Thy Holy Face, have pity on me, preserve me from despair. No, whatever may happen to me, I will not be discouraged any more, I will not despair. The sight of Thy adorable Face, the symbol of mercy and of reparation, will be my hope for ever.



### Station X: Jesus is Despoiled of His Raiment

Jesus is here the figure of the first sinner. After his fall, Adam was ashamed of himself; he endeavoured to hide from the eyes of God and to flee far away from his irritated Face. This is the reason why Jesus submits to the ignominious spoliation which his executioners inflict upon him by tearing off his garments, and above all by snatching away that virginal robe, without seam, which had been woven for him by his august mother. Then Jesus closes his eyes through shame and sorrow. His adorable Face is moved and troubled. He longs to withdraw from the gaze of his heavenly Father.

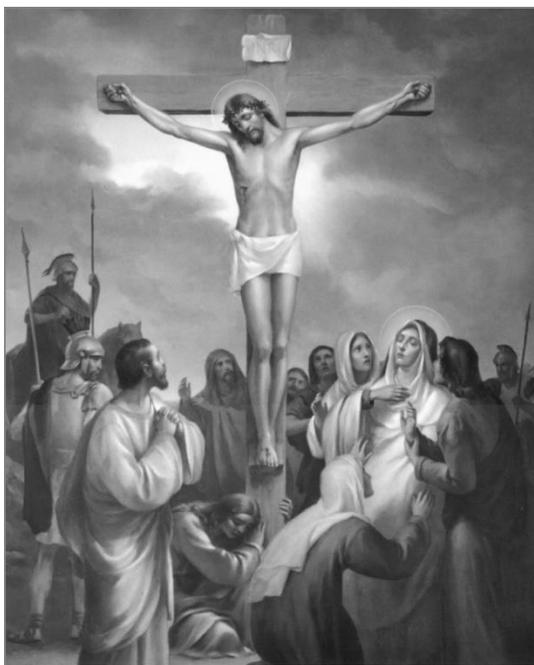
O Jesus! Rather turn away Thy eyes from the sight of my sins, do not look upon the sad state to which my soul is reduced; give back to it its robe of innocence and the beauty of grace, in order that with youth renewed and worthily clothed, it may more perfectly reproduce Thy features, and rejoice Thy eyes.



## Station XI: Jesus is attached to the Cross

Stretched upon the tree of sacrifice, Jesus holds out his hands and his feet; the executioners transpierce them and nail them to the wood by dint of violent and brutal efforts; the blood gushes forth and flows abundantly. In vain he seeks repose by leaning his Head upon the Cross; the thorns of his crown, which the executioners have left upon him and which he will keep until the end, sink more and more deeply into his flesh and make him suffer dreadful torments. His adorable Face, upon this bed of ignominy, nevertheless maintains its serenity and peace; it is turned towards heaven and pleads our cause. Jesus does not curse, He does not murmur; He prays, He adores, He loves, He suffers sweetly and in silence; the expression of His Face is that of the Lamb; He is really the Lamb of God, giving his blood and His life to efface the sins of the world.

Who then can henceforth separate us from the love of a God so good?... Persecution?... The sword?... Death?... With our eyes fixed on the loving Face of the divine Crucified, let us say with the apostle: « I am nailed to the Cross with Christ my Saviour, I will live and die in Him. »



## Station XII: Jesus on the Cross

Let us contemplate the agonised Face of the Redeemer, raised on the cross, suspended between heaven and earth. Before breathing its last sigh, that merciful Face raises its eyes to the heavenly Father, imploring of him our pardon: « Father, forgive them. » Then it bends down towards Mary, whose children Jesus makes us in his stead: « Behold Thy children. » Then towards St. John, the beloved disciple, giving to him the mother, who is also to be ours: « Behold thy mother. » Lastly it turns towards the crucified thief on his right, promising him an immediate entrance, together with the just, into heaven: « Today Thou shalt be with me in Paradise. » It fixes its gaze upon its executioners themselves, not in order to curse them, but to bless them and to ask for them the grace of conversion and of salvation which it obtains.

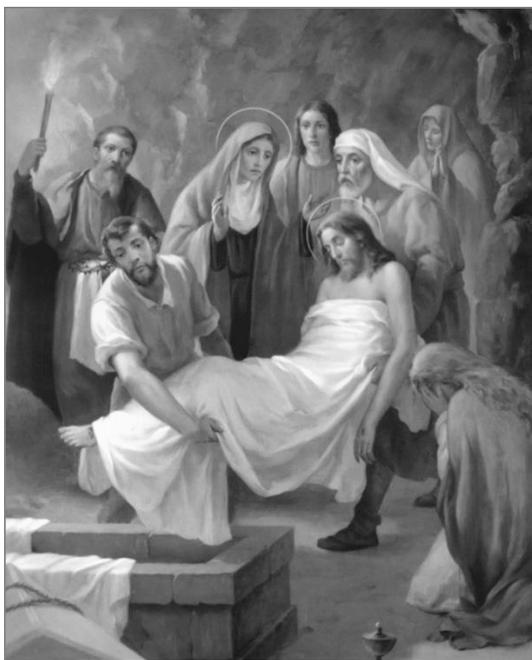
O dying Face of Jesus, so mercifully inclined upon the Cross, I implore Thee as thy disciple and a child of the Church, above all as a sinner, to give me a share in the benediction of that supreme moment; do not refuse me the greatest blessing of all, even though I am utterly unworthy of that sweet kiss of peace which shall reconcile me with Thy Father, and assure me His friendship for ever.



### Station XIII: Jesus is taken down from the Cross and given up to his Mother

Our Lady of sorrows knows the worth of the incomparable treasure which is confided to her. She contemplates, one after another, the wounds of the divine Crucified, His hands and His feet pierced by the nails, His open side, His head torn and wounded. But the tender eyes of the Virgin rest more especially upon the Face of the Redeemer, cold and inanimate as it is now. She gazes on His dim eyes, His closed mouth, His pale features, that mute and insensible physiognomy which death has disfigured, but in which the glory of the Divinity and the splendour of the Father are, as always, reflected. What a touching and sublime contemplation! And she who contemplates Him thus, is it a mother? Is it an archangel? Is it a seraphim? It is all these in Mary, and it is something far more. Never was such holy reparatory adoration offered to the Face of Jesus.

O blessed Virgin, our Lady of the Seven Dolours, associate me with your sentiments, obtain for me that by means of an assiduous and profound meditation, I may penetrate more and more deeply into the hidden mysteries of that adorable Face, in order that I may draw from it, for myself and for the souls who are dear to me, the treasures of merit and of satisfaction contained in it.



#### Station IV: Jesus is placed in the sepulchre

The disciples and the holy women embalm the body of their dear Master. They take care to wrap it in a white winding sheet, and upon his adorable Face they reverently place a shroud which covers and entirely conceals it. This sepulchral shroud will preserve the impress of the inanimate Face of the Saviour, and will, later on, become an object greatly venerated by the Church. And now let us also, draw near to the tomb of Jesus; let us enter therein in thought and in heart. Let us do homage to his winding sheet, to the spices used for his sepulchre. Let us above all honour that precious shroud enriched by the Holy Face with a privilege similar to that which decorates the veil of Veronica.

O adorable Face of my Jesus, hide me in Thy sacred wounds and in Thy divine obscurity. May I be of the number of those of whom the Prophet King says: « Thou shalt hide them in the secret of Thy Face, far from all earthly sounds and worldly agitations! May my dwelling be in Thy tomb and in Thy tabernacle! May I hide myself there, may I die there, may I be buried there with Thee, through a mortified and annihilated life, so that I may merit hereafter to share in the joy of Thy Face, when it shall shine in the splendour of the resurrection.

## On Returning to the altar (Closing Prayer)

O amiable Face of my Jesus, I thank Thee for the graces with which Thou hast favoured me during this exercise. Attract me more and more towards Thee, ravish my heart in order that I may never cease to contemplate Thee, to love Thee, and to render to Thee the homage which is Thy due. I consecrate to Thee my life. Whilst waiting until I can follow Thee once more upon the way to Calvary, I will apply myself to walk in Thy presence, and to make, of every one of my actions, an offering of praise and of reparation.

O adorable Face, be my treasure in my needs, my strength in weakness, my light in doubts, my consolation and my guide in this valley of tears. My supreme recompense will be that which Thou hast promised me of seeing Thee hereafter as Thou art, and of sweetly enjoying Thy ineffable perfections throughout eternity. Amen.

