

*The Marianist
Way of the Cross*

Text and Illustrations by

Louis A. Weber, S. M.

Institute of Marianist Studies
Glencoe, Missouri

IMPRIMI POTEST

Peter A. Resch, S. M.

Provincial

NIHIL OBSTAT

William M. Drumm

Censor Librorum

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✠ Joseph E. Ritter

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HOLY MOTHER PIERCE
ME THROUGH;
IN MY HEART EACH
WOUND RENEW
OF MY SAVIOR CRU-
CIFIED.

(Stabat Mater)

FIRST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Death and Life in Baptism

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Beaten, mocked, spit upon, scourged, crowned with thorns, and finally condemned to die on a cross—Christ accepts all this as the punishment due to a criminal. His guilt compares with that of no other man, because He is carrying the guilt of all sin.

Saint Paul tells me that in Baptism I am immersed in Christ. I am now one with Christ; a new creature in Christ; a new creation. Christ's life has become my life in every respect. "I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me." Because I am baptized I am plunged into His death, that I may die to sin. In Baptism I received divine life and with it the sign of contradiction that I might preserve this divine life and triumph over sin.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .
V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
R. Have mercy on us.
V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.
R. Amen.



DEATH AND LIFE IN BAPTISM

SECOND STATION

JESUS RECEIVES HIS CROSS

Total Consecration to Mary

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus, Son of God, become Son of Mary for the salvation of mankind, receives the cross with anguish and yet with infinite longing. He shoulders the cross to redeem me, to restore me to the sonship of God. For this reason He came into the world: "For this cause I came unto this hour."

Baptized in Christ, I too, with Christ, accept the cross—the cross of dying completely to self. As a religious I profess this determination through my total consecration to Mary. I live no more for self, but that Christ, Son of Mary, may live in me. For this was I created and for this Christ called me to live His filial love for His Mother.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



TOTAL CONSECRATION

THIRD STATION

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME
BENEATH THE CROSS

Dying to Self

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

The agony of Jesus in the garden is itself sufficient to exhaust Him, but it is only the beginning of a multitude of sufferings. The pain is too great; His limbs fail Him on His excruciating way, and He falls.

The privations imposed by the vows, together with their duties, may well exhaust my strength. The greatest of all sacrifices, however, I will find in living my life of total consecration to Mary, so that Jesus, Son of Mary, may live completely in me. Loneliness, weariness, misunderstandings, misrepresentations, humiliations, failure, and a host of other trials meet me on my way and obscure the vision of my total oblation. In my own self-sufficiency I fall.

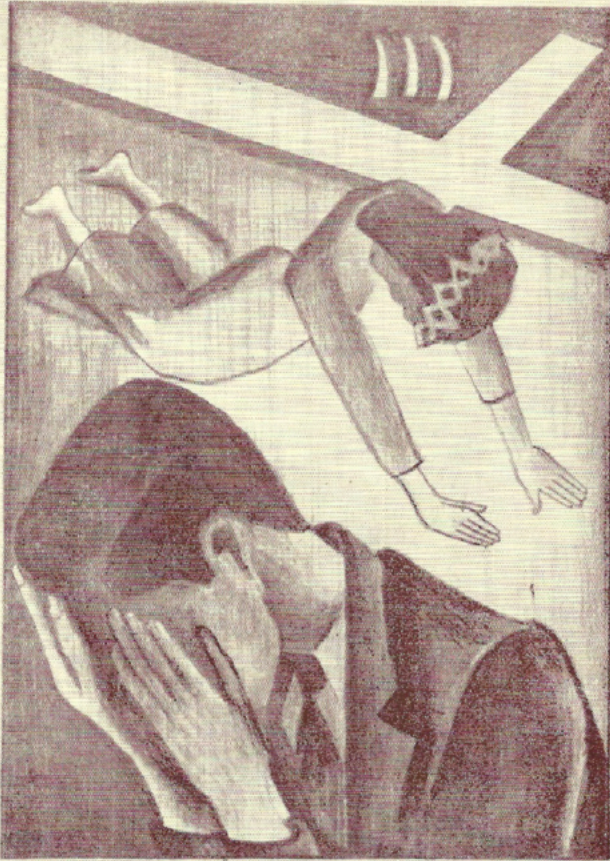
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



DYING TO SELF

FOURTH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Queen of Martyrs

Ÿ. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R̄. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Rising from His fall, Jesus toils wearily on and meets His Mother. Two hearts that have forever beat as one do not beat separately now. No words are recorded in this meeting between the Redeemer and the Co-redemptrix, and none were needed, for they were one in the Will of Him who sent them.

As a religious totally consecrated to Mary, I soon discover that I cannot advance far without living every moment of my life in close union with my Mother. Frequent renewals of my total oblation keep my heart beating in unison with Mary's. It is only through intimate and constant union with her that she will be able to direct and guide my living in Christ.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

Ÿ. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R̄. Have mercy on us.

Ÿ. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R̄. Amen.



QUEEN OF MARTYRS



VICTIMS...NO BETTER LOT

FIFTH STATION

SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS
TO CARRY THE CROSS

Victims . . . No Better Lot

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

At last the strength of Jesus fails utterly and He is unable to proceed. Looking about in the crowd, the Roman executioners compelled Simon of Cyrene to assist Jesus with His cross.

In working out the plan of the redemption, God willed “. . . that we fill up those things that are wanting of the sufferings of Christ in our flesh for His Body, which is the Church.” To this end I have been called by my Rule to be another victim after the manner of Jesus and Mary. Who, better than Mary, can prepare me to be another victim? Was it not her role to prepare the Victim of the Father for the redemption of mankind?

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .
V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.
R. Have mercy on us.
V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.
R. Amen.

SIXTH STATION

JESUS AND VERONICA

The Price of Love

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

As Jesus, covered with blood and perspiration, toils up the hill, a woman makes her way through the crowd and wipes His face with a napkin. In reward for her charity the cloth receives the impression of the Sacred Countenance upon it.

In Baptism I received the impress of God upon my soul. In my total consecration it became more definite in the image of Jesus, Son of Mary. Now, in living my consecration, this image is growing into my life. I begin to see things differently. The life of a child of Mary and an apostle cannot be divorced from misunderstandings, antagonisms, jealousies, and failures, because these are found in the life of Christ. In the image of Veronica's veil I see the image of my life as a victim—a man of sorrows, a man destined for crucifixion! To accept suffering and not to refuse it, herein lies my true happiness in life!

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



THE PRICE OF LOVE

SEVENTH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Night of the Senses

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

At every step Jesus is further weakened by the pain of His wounds and the loss of blood. Again His limbs fail Him and He falls to the ground.

Submitting myself to the directive care of Mary and to the will of God, my external senses feel the shock of being deprived of those things for which they naturally seek. The mortification of my senses and their consequent noisy clamor throw my body into a state of frustration. Because of the tempestuousness of my senses, the supernatural has difficulty making itself felt. Fighting this restlessness preoccupies my mind and makes me feel far from God. This is the purification of the senses—their darkness, their night. In this condition I think myself alone and destitute. However, if I persevere throughout this trial, I shall find the peace and serenity of a soul anchored in God.

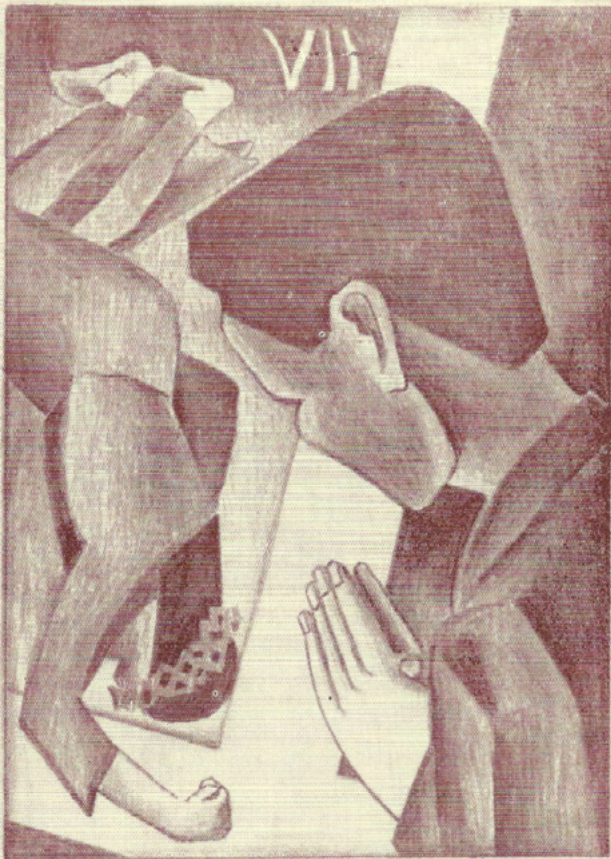
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V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



NIGHT OF THE SENSES

EIGHTH STATION

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

For the Glory of God

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

At the sight of Jesus the holy women were so pierced with grief that they wept. Jesus turned to them and said: "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not over Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children, for if in the green wood they do these things, what shall be done in the dry?"

To accomplish Mary's mission in the world I must be detached from all self-seeking and work solely for the glory of God and the honor of Mary. It is easy for me to destroy the work of God in my apostolate through selfishness in looking for honor, esteem, pity, contact with the world, and sense gratification. Works that prove ungrateful, disagreeable, and unprofitable, require great self-detachment. Such works, however, permit the grace of God to operate where it wills, when it wills, and how it wills.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

NINTH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Night of the Soul

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus nears the top of Calvary, but before reaching the spot where He is to be crucified, He falls prostrate on the ground.

The best, the most noble work of my apostolate will be accomplished when I have passed through the dark night of the soul. Although cut off from the world, and mortified in my external senses, I nevertheless feel myself at times drawn away from God by the inordinate desires of my passions. To purify these desires, I must completely die to self and completely live in Christ. With determination to live my total consecration, I give myself to this task, only to realize that it is the most difficult of all. Dying completely to self wearies the soul, depriving it of the sight of God and thrusting it into a dark night. Such treatment is necessary if I am to be another Christ, another Son of Mary.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



NIGHT OF THE SOUL

TENTH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Death to the World

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

In the Passion I see the apparent collapse of Christ's great career, a failure made shameful by the gibes of men. It was the tearing away of everything, including His garments.

The consummation of perfection consists in stripping self of everything—utter abandonment. When I am stripped of every selfish attachment to things, persons, desires and affections, I will stand like Christ before the crude and vulgar stare of the world, a spectacle, alone and empty, having nothing in common with it. Then I shall be most prepared to win the world for my Father.

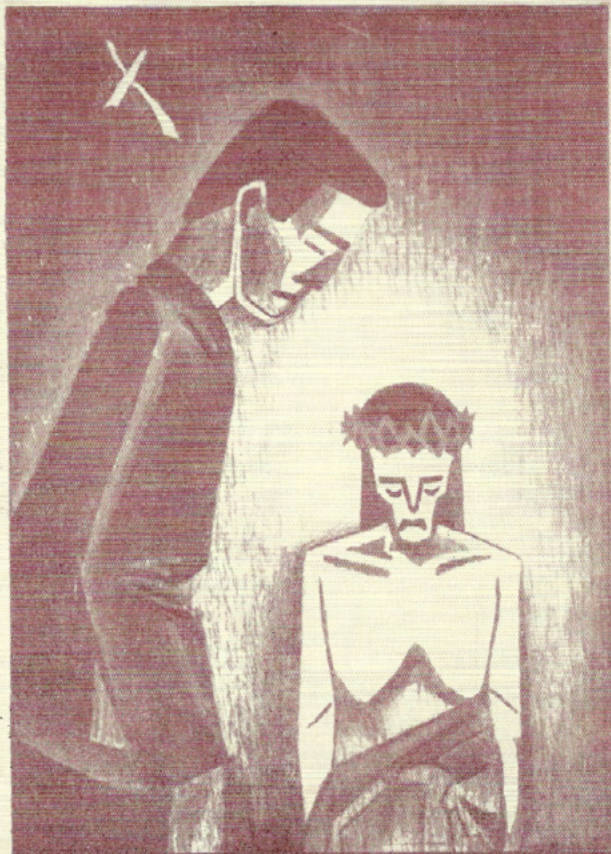
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



DEATH TO THE WORLD

ELEVENTH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Death to the Flesh

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Jesus knew the most mysterious dereliction of all. He was betrayed by friends and treated as a criminal slave. Most terrible of all, He was "delivered into the hands of men" to be scourged, crowned with thorns, spit upon, nailed to a cross, and "reckoned with the wicked."

Christ teaches me that all delight and pleasure in the things of the world, in comparison with the delights of God, are supreme affliction, torment, and bitterness. The possession and love of creatures in comparison with the possession and love of God, is poverty and wretchedness. This I shall never know if I do not live Christ's passion in my flesh.

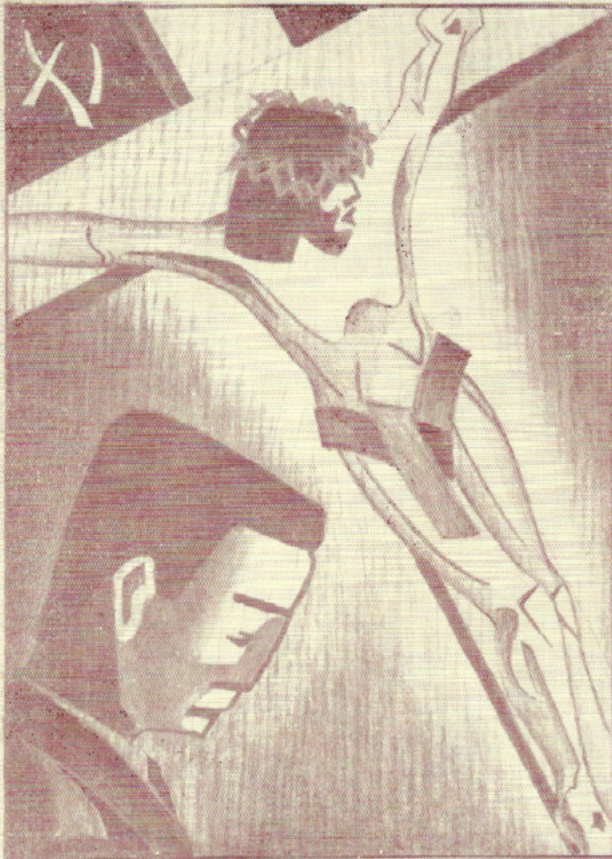
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V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



DEATH TO THE FLESH

TWELFTH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Death to Self

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Men, furious at the disappointment of their hopes in Christ, made mockery of Him; they cast Him out of their world, thrust Him up toward Heaven on a cross; but worse than all else, it seemed that even Heaven failed Him. It is a mystery, for we know that in the depths of His soul, Christ never ceased to enjoy the Beatific Vision. But that He did undergo this supreme abandonment we must believe when we hear His anguished cry, "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" After saying this He bows His head and gives His soul into the hands of His Father.

At the summit of holiness my one desire will be to suffer and to be despised with Jesus, in order that I may reproduce in myself something of the sufferings of my Savior. I resolve that I will spend my life, as did Christ, the Son of Mary, doing in all things the Will of Him who sent me.

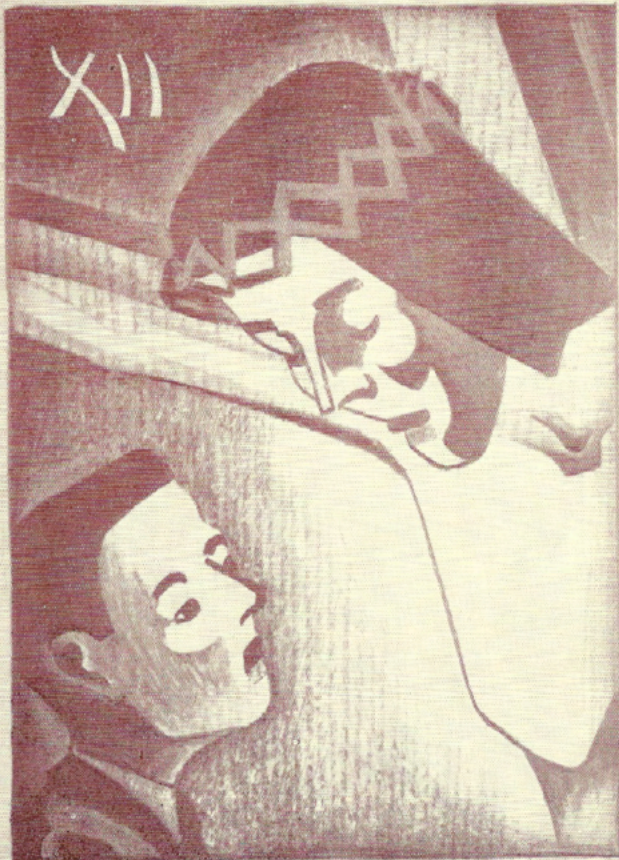
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



DEATH TO SELF

THIRTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS
AND LAID IN THE ARMS OF HIS MOTHER

Mary Receives the Victim

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Calvary is left solitary and still as the frightened mob departs. Saint John, the holy women, Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus take down from the cross the body of Jesus and place it in Mary's lap.

The religious of Mary, faithful to his vows and to his total consecration to Mary, is purified through self-detachment. He lives in Christ. In his life of union with Jesus and Mary he enjoys the fruit of the Redemption. Mary now recognizes in him her Son Jesus. And she sees in his life the price it cost this victim to become her son. Together they made this way to Calvary a struggle, even an apparent failure in the eyes of many; but faith now turns it into a crown of glory. Mary, like all mothers, knows her son well and will keep as her possession this victim of divine love.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.



MARY RECEIVES THE VICTIM



BURIED IN CHRIST

FOURTEENTH STATION

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Buried in Christ

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee.
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

The shadows of evening have fallen when Mary helps to place Jesus in His tomb. In these last few moments, the life of Christ is relived in Mary's mind. His life of toil, suffering, and death had to be the prelude to His glorious resurrection.

If Jesus desires me to die to the world, it is to make me a partaker of His life and to transform me into another Christ. By Baptism I am buried in Christ unto death; that as Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, so I also may walk in newness of life. For if I have been united with Him in His death, I shall be united with Him in His resurrection. I have died with Christ; I believe that I shall also live with Him.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

R. Amen.