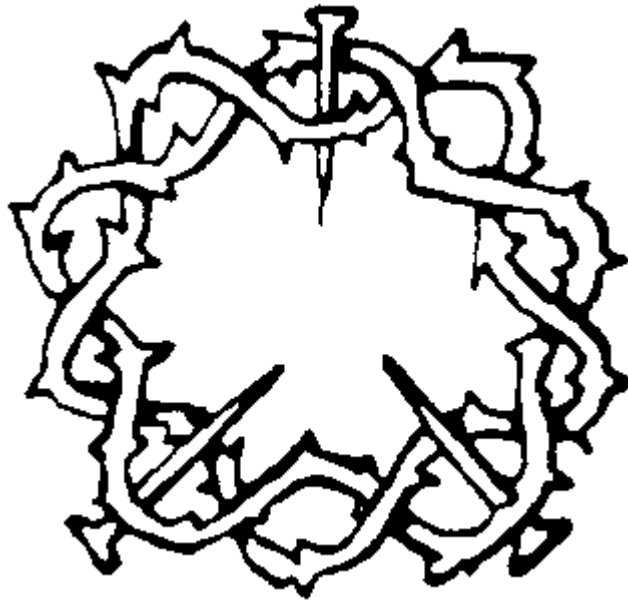


Stations of the Cross for Children



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By
A Religious of the Cenacle

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FOREWORD

WITH our ancestors in the Faith, "The Way of the Cross" was a favorite devotion. In these days of rush and hurry, there is reason to fear that it no longer occupies its ancient place of honor.

If a reform be called for, the point at which to begin is with the child. The Religious of the Cenacle who has arranged these pious pages, has found the way to the heart of the child, and what her devotion has here brought together may also serve to kindle a spark of fervor in the colder hearts of children of a larger growth. In the cross is sweetness, in the cross is strength, in the cross is joy.

May these simple reflections on the sufferings which our dear Lord offered His Heavenly Father for our redemption, bring all who use them to a fuller participation in the strength, the joy, and the sweetness which countless souls have found in the Heart of Christ opened for them on Calvary.

Paul L. Blakely, S.J.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN

Preparatory Prayer

DEAR JESUS, I adore You. / I love You / and thank You for dying on the cross for me. / I wish I could always think of You / and remember all that You have done. / But I get so busy / with lessons and play and other things / that often I forget. / I am so sorry, dear Jesus.

Today I want to follow You / up the hill of Calvary / and to understand a little better / at each station / all that it cost You / to make me God's child. / If I had been the only person in the world / You would have been willing to suffer / in just the same way.

How You must love me, dear Jesus! / Thank You for loving me so much. / Please teach me every day / to love You more and more.

I offer all the indulgences I can gain / for the poor souls in Purgatory.

I. FIRST STATION

Jesus Is Condemned to Death

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

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

DEAR JESUS, there You stand a prisoner / and wicked men / have said that You must die. / But You have done nothing wrong. / You have spent Your whole life / in doing good to others. / I must always remember / that it was for me You died / so that I could go to Heaven / and be happy with You.

Teach me, dear Jesus / when I am blamed for something / even if unjustly / to be silent as You were / because I love You / and want to be like You.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

STABAT MATER

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



I. FIRST STATION
Jesus Is Condemned to Death

II. SECOND STATION

Jesus Is Made to Carry His Cross

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

DEAR JESUS, the cross which they are laying on
Your shoulders is so heavy / how it must hurt! / And
You are all wounded and bleeding / how will You be
able / to carry it up that steep hill? /

Teach me to remember / that when I sin / it hurts
You / even more than the heavy cross. /

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary. Glory be, etc.

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



II. SECOND STATION
Jesus Is Made to Carry His Cross

III. THIRD STATION

Jesus Falls the First Time

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

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

DEAR JESUS, You are so weak and tired / that You can hardly walk / but the soldiers roughly order You / to start on Your journey. / After a few steps / You stumble and fall / but there is no one to help You / or speak to You kindly.

How I wish I could have been there / to tell You that I love You / and was so sorry for You.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

Oh how sad and sore distressed,
Was that Mother highly blest,
Of the sole begotten One.



III. THIRD STATION
Jesus Falls the First Time

IV. FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

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

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

DEAR JESUS, who is this waiting for You / standing close to the place / where you must pass? / It is Your own Blessed Mother / who loves You so much. / But how it hurts her / to see You so cruelly treated. / She wishes they would do all these things to her / instead of to You. / The soldiers will not let her say a word / she can only speak to You with her eyes as You pass by.

Dear Jesus, teach me to love Your Blessed Mother very much.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, etc.

Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.



IV. FOURTH STATION
Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

V. FIFTH STATION
Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus
to Carry the Cross

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

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

DEAR JESUS, You are now so weak / that You cannot carry the cross alone any more. / The soldiers make a man named Simon help You with it. / I wish I had been Simon / so that I could have helped You.

But teach me to remember / that I am helping You even more now / when I show kindness to others / for Your sake.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

Is there one who would not weep,
'Whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?



V. FIFTH STATION
Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus
to Carry the Cross

VI. SIXTH STATION

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

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

DEAR JESUS, Your face was all covered with dust and blood / and the wicked people had been spitting on it. / The blood was trickling down / from the crown of thorns on Your head / right into Your eyes / when St. Veronica pushed her way through the crowd / and wiped Your face with her veil. / To thank her for being so brave / You left the picture of Your face / there on the veil.

Teach me to remember / that I must never be afraid / to say I belong to You and am Your child.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

Can the human heart refrain,
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?



VI. SIXTH STATION
Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

VII. SEVENTH STATION

Jesus Falls the Second Time

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

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

DEAR JESUS, this time You fall more heavily than before / and it is harder to get up. / The soldiers push and strike You / to make You hurry along / when You can hardly walk. / It frightens me / to think how cruelly You are treated / You Who are my Lord and my God.

Teach me to understand / what a dreadful thing sin is / because to pay for it / You suffered so much.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.



VII. SEVENTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Second Time

VIII. EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem

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

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

DEAR JESUS, there are some women waiting by the roadside / to see You pass. / They are so sorry for You / that they are crying. / You speak to them kindly / and tell them not to weep for You / but for themselves and their children / because many people are going to suffer terribly / as a punishment / for not having believed in You.

Teach me to be *very* sorry for my sins / not for fear of being punished for them / but because they hurt You.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

For the sins of His own nation,
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His Spirit forth He sent.



VIII. EIGHTH STATION
Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem

IX. NINTH STATION

Jesus Falls the Third Time

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

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

DEAR JESUS, for the last time You stumble / and fall to the ground. / Shall You ever be able to get up again? / The cross crushes You with its weight / and the people around / wonder if You are not dead already. / But no / once more You climb to Your feet / and struggle forward up the hill.

Teach me never to be discouraged / even if I keep falling into the same sins / but help me to begin again, at once / to obey You and to do Your will.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

O thou Mother! Fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with thine accord.



IX. NINTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Third Time

X. TENTH STATION

Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

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

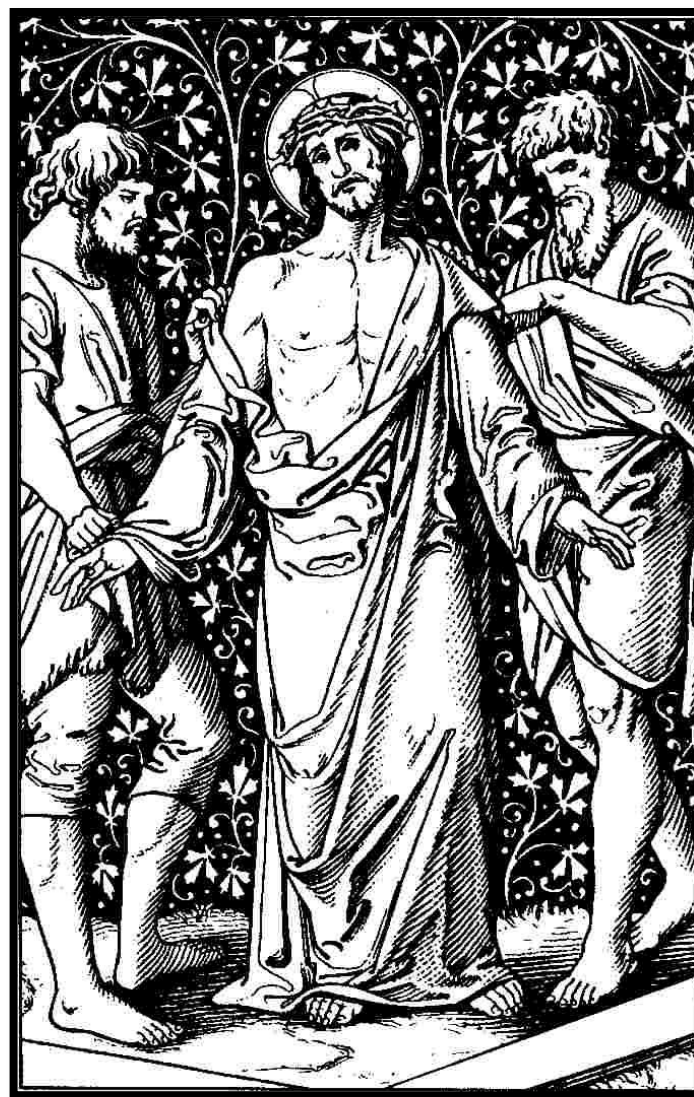
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

DEAR JESUS, at last You have reached the top of the hill / the place where You are to die. / There is a big crowd of people around You / they are laughing at You / and calling You wicked names. / Your dear Mother and Your friends cannot get near. / The executioner / roughly pulls off all Your garments / and the blood pours down. / It is just as if each one of those cruel wounds / had been given to You a second time. / All the people are looking at You.

Teach me to be willing sometimes / to give up little pleasures / and go without things that I want / because You suffered so much for me.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

Make me feel as thou hast felt,
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ my Lord.



X. TENTH STATION

Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

XI. ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

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

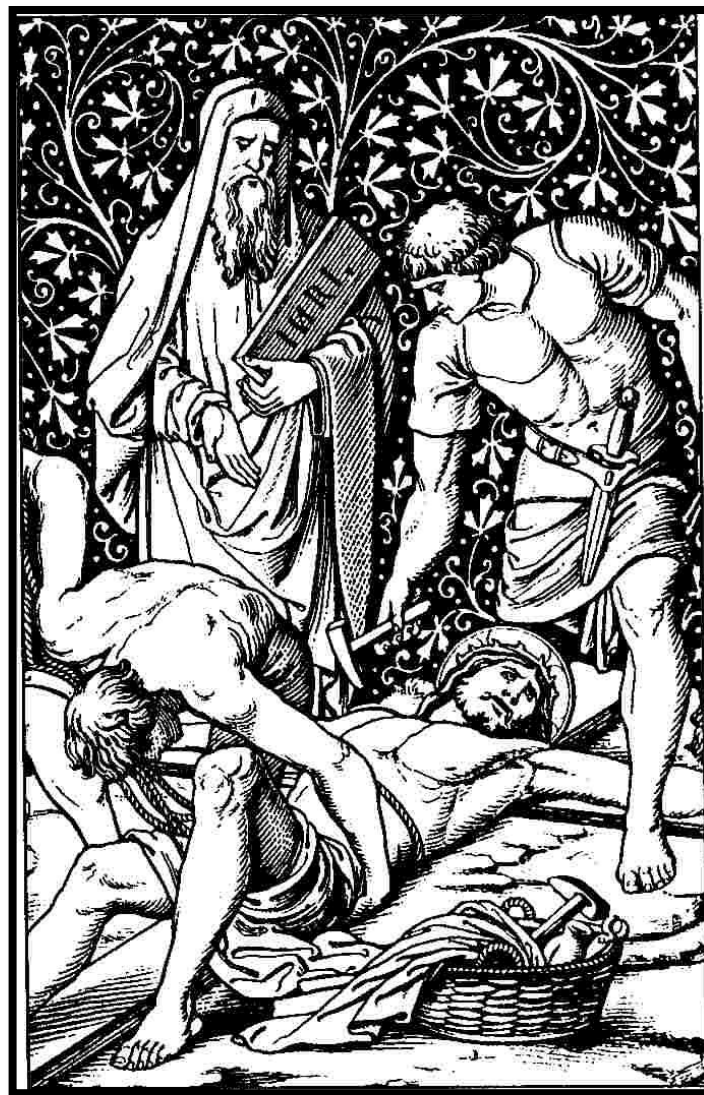
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

DEAR JESUS, now they are putting big nails through Your hands and feet / to fasten You to the cross. / It hurts me only to prick my finger with a pin. / How much more those nails must hurt You! / When the executioner tells You / stretch out Your hand or Your foot / You obey him without saying a word. / And I / when I am told to do some little, easy thing / how often I disobey!

Teach me to be always perfectly obedient / because You were so obedient / when being nailed to the cross.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

**Holy Mother pierce me through;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Saviour crucified.**



XI. ELEVENTH STATION
Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

XII. TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

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

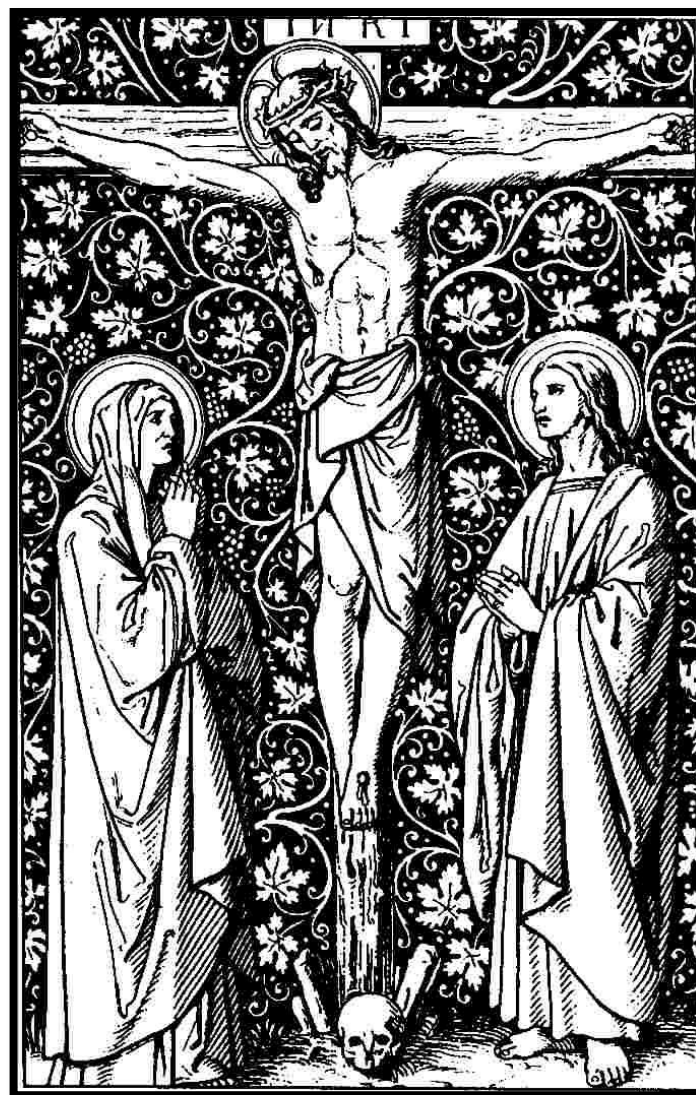
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

DEAR JESUS, You are hanging on the cross and dying. / You are dying for me / so that I can be God's child / and go to Heaven. / You are not angry with the wicked men / who killed You. / You have forgiven them / and You asked Your Father to forgive them, too. / The people are all going away. / I think some of them are beginning to be sorry. / Your Blessed Mother and Your friends / are standing close by the cross. / I wish I had been with them. / I would have stayed there / to the very end / to show how much I love You.

Teach me always to forgive anyone / who is unkind to me / because You forgave Your murderers / when You hung dying on the cross.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torment died.



XII. TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

XIII. THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

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

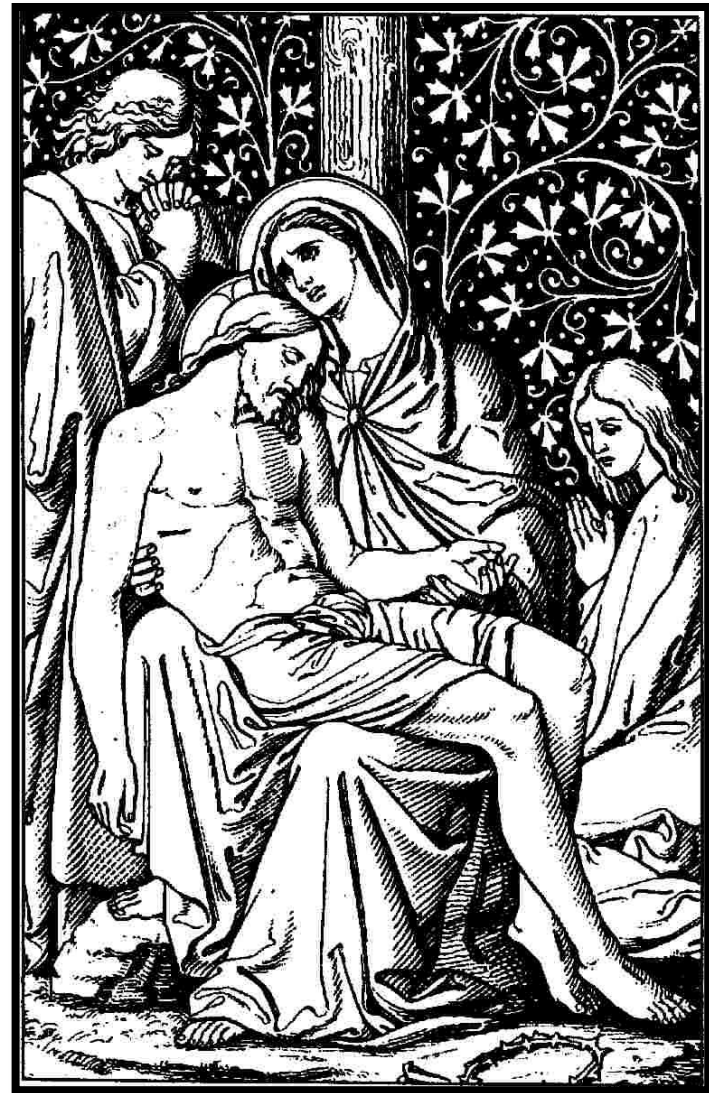
R. Because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

DEAR JESUS, it is very quiet now around the cross. /
Everybody has gone away / but a few soldiers / and
Your Mother and Your friends. / Two of Your friends
bring a ladder / and oh, so slowly and carefully / they
take You down / and lay You in the arms of Your
Blessed Mother. / Her heart is breaking / as she looks
at the crown of thorns / and the nails / and all Your
dreadful wounds.

Teach me to comfort Your dear Mother now / by
never hurting You with my sins.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning Him Who mourned for me
All the days that I may live.



XIII. THIRTEENTH STATION
Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

XIV. FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

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

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

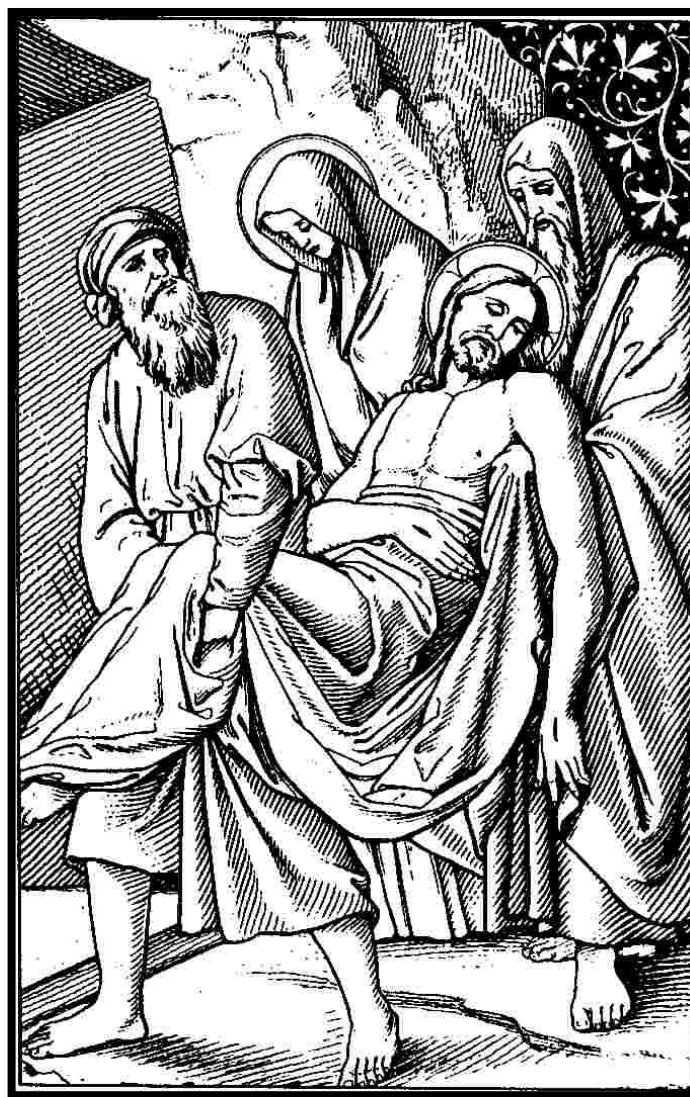
DEAR JESUS, You are all ready to be laid in the tomb. / Your wounds have been washed / and You are wrapped in clean white linen cloths. / You must be buried tonight. / In a garden close by / which belongs to one of Your friends / there is a new tomb cut in the rock. / Now, You are being carried there. / Your Blessed Mother looks at You for the last time / how can she bear to let You go?

But in three days, dear Jesus / You will rise from the dead / all bright and glorious / to go back to Heaven / never to suffer any more.

Teach me, among the joys of earth / always to remember the joys of Heaven. / Help me to love You so much / that, when I die / I shall be happy with You there forever.

Recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be, etc.

By the Cross with thee to stay,
There with thee to weep, and pray,
That is all I ask of thee.



XIV. FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

*Recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary, Glory Be, etc., for
the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff to obtain the plenary
indulgence.*

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