



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we follow Jesus along the way of the cross, may we imitate his loving obedience to the will of the Father, especially in times of difficulty and humiliation, and open our hearts to his gifts of reconciliation, redemption and new life.

Franciscus

I. Jesus is condemned to death



“They shouted back crucify him!”
Mark 15:12

Jesus, even more than your first disciples,
we are weak in faith. We need prayer,
watchfulness, sincerity and truth.
That is how our faith can grow.

May this miracle take place for our priests
who celebrate the Eucharist and for all of us,
the faithful who approach the altar to receive
you, the living bread come down from
heaven.

*At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother weeping
Close to Jesus to the last.*

II. Jesus takes up his cross



*“Then they led him away
to crucify him.” Matthew 27:31*

You, Jesus, were numbered with the transgressors. In our day, too, men and women are imprisoned, condemned and slaughtered for the simple reason that they are believers. Or engaged in promoting justice and peace.

Lord Jesus, strengthen those who suffer persecution.

May the fundamental right of religious freedom spread throughout the world.

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

III. Jesus falls for the first time



“By his wounds we are healed.”

Isaiah 53:5

We praise you because you so loved the world as to send us your only-begotten Son.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation, to prisoners freedom, and to the sorrowful of heart joy

Forgive our sins in thought and word, in what we have done and have failed to do.

*O, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blessed
Of the solo-begotten One!*

IV. Jesus meets His mother



“And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” Luke 2:34

Jesus, You and Your mother meeting in Jerusalem makes us think of other struggling families in our world. Mothers, fathers, children, grandparents.

It is easy to judge, but more important to put ourselves in the place of others. To help them as best we can.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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

V. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross



“And they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.”

Luke 23:26

Lord Jesus, You told us it is more blessed to give than receive. Make us ready to be “Cyreneans” to others.

May the frail see us as humble, for we too are frail in so many ways.

May those who see our way of life find encouragement, as they watch us striving to cultivate all that is beautiful, just and essential.

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

VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus



*“And among them were women
who were beating their breasts
and wailing for Him” Luke 23:27*

Jesus, in the Gospel women have an important place. They looked after You and the apostles. Some were present at Your passion, and would be the first to bring the news of Your resurrection.

Lord, Christian communities are largely sustained by women. Protect them as witnesses of the happiness born of their encounter with You.

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

VII. Jesus falls for the second time



“His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.” Luke 22:44

Jesus, how much pain lies within souls wracked by loneliness, abandonment, illness, or the loss of a dear one.

Boundless is the suffering of those who hear only lying and hateful words, which cause tears and lead to despair.

Jesus, teach this to us, and to all of good will: “Love one another, as I have loved you.”

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

VIII. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem



*“But Jesus turned to them said,
‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep
for me.’” Luke 23:28*

Lord, You promised every tear
will be wiped from our eyes.
Death, mourning, weeping
and pain will be no more.

Protect our hope that
after sowing in tears,
we will come at last
to the joy of the harvest.

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

IX. Jesus falls for the third time



*"I am leaving the world and am going to
the Father." John 16:28*

Lord God, we call You our Father.
To think of ourselves
as your children is a gift.

Protect each of us,
every man and woman
on the face of the earth.

We know we are but a speck
of dust in the universe.
Do not let us wander far from You.

*O thou Mother! Font of love!
Touch my spirit from above;
Make my heart with thine accord.*

X. Jesus is stripped of his garments



“For my clothing they cast lots.”

Psalms 22:18

Lord, a newly-christened child is told:
“You have clothed yourself with Christ.”

Yet the love with which You protect also makes us think of appalling realities. Human trafficking. Slave labor. Children wounded in their deepest being.

In Your presence, we renew our resolve to overcome evil with good.

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

XI. Jesus is nailed to the cross



“Darkness came over the whole land.”

Mark 15:33

Sinless Savior You submitted
to the judgement of sinners.
When will torture and the violent
killing of innocent persons come to an end?

At Your hour of death, You heard the plea of
the penitent thief.

Lord Jesus, teach us how to offer our lives in
the love You embraced on the cross.

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

XII. Jesus dies on the cross



“Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, ‘Father into your hands I commend my spirit.’” Luke 23:46

Christ, to know ourselves and our destiny, we need You.

We need You, the bearer of our sorrows, to know the meaning of suffering.

We need You, the conqueror of death, to set us free from despair and denial. We need You, to advance along our weary way through the strength of Your love.

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

XIII. Jesus is taken down from the cross



*“The centurion and those with him said,
‘Truly this man was
God’s Son.’” Matthew 27:54*

Father, extend to the human family
peace through Your only-begotten Son.

Thus the poor will find justice.
The afflicted will be consoled.

And the people of the earth will be
blessed by our Lord and God, who
lives and reigns in the unity of the
Holy Spirit forever.

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

XIV. Jesus is placed in the tomb



*“They took the body of Jesus
and wrapped it with the spices
in linen cloths.” John 19:40*

O Father, who willed to save mankind
through the death of Your Son,
grant that we, who have known
the mystery of His love, may be His
witnesses in our words and actions,
before all those whom You place on
our path.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*By the cross with thee to stay,
There with thee to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of thee to give.*