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|  | ***Collegium resurrectionis******romae*** |

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***A vocational***

**Via Crucis**

**April 2014**

**Welcome and prayer**

**Leader (L).** † In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Assembly (A). Amen.**

**L.** My friends, bishops and priests are an image of Christ who is guiding his Church. We can imagine how the joys and sufferings of these ministers of God and their choice to offer themselves for life are seen as an image of Christ, who walked the way of the Cross for our salvation, carrying upon himself our humanity which rejoices and laments, which struggles and hopes. In this Way of the Cross we want to receive the gift of the Lord’s passion, death and resurrection and pray for our own conversion and for the good of the Church.

 Be mindful, Father, of your mercy; sanctify and protect always your family represented here, for which Christ your Son by his blood brought to reality the Paschal Mystery. He lives and reigns forever and ever.

**A. Amen.**

**Introduction**

**Reader (R).** According to an ancient Roman tradition, while fleeing the city during the persecutions of Nero, Saint Peter saw Jesus who was travelling in the opposite direction, that is, toward the city, and asked him in amazement: “*Domine, quo vadis*?”, that is, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus’ response was: “I am going to Rome to be crucified again.” At that moment, Peter understood that he had to follow the Lord with courage, to the very end. But he also realized that he would never be alone on the journey; Jesus, who had loved him even unto death, would always be with him. Jesus, with his Cross, walks with us and takes upon himself our fears, our problems, and our sufferings, even those which are deepest and most painful. With the Cross, Jesus unites himself to the silence of the victims of violence, those who can no longer cry out, especially the innocent and the defenseless; with the Cross, he is united to families in trouble, and those who mourn the tragic loss of their children, as in the case of the 242 young victims of the fire in the City of Santa Maria at the beginning of this year. We pray for them. On the Cross, Jesus is united with every person who suffers from hunger in a world which, on the other hand, permits itself the luxury of throwing away tons of food every day; on the Cross, Jesus is united to the many mothers and fathers who suffer as they see their children become victims of drug-induced euphoria; on the Cross, Jesus is united with those who are persecuted for their religion, for their beliefs or simply for the colour of their skin; on the Cross, Jesus is united with so many young people who have lost faith in political institutions, because they see in them only selfishness and corruption; he unites himself with those young people who have lost faith in the Church, or even in God because of the counter-witness of Christians and ministers of the Gospel. How our inconsistencies make Jesus suffer! The Cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of mankind, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: “Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life” (cf. Jn 3:16). (*Message of Pope Francis at the Way of the Cross at World Youth Day, Rio, 2013*)

* **Pause in silence**

**Prayer**

**L.** Almighty God, grant that your Church may be always faithful to its vocation as a people gathered by the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in order to present itself to the world as a sign of holiness and communion, and thus to lead all people to the fullness of your love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever. **A. Amen**

(Roman Missal – Mass for the Church - 3)

**First Station – Jesus is condemned to death**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A**. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Scripture Reading** (cf. Mt 27: 1-2, 26; Mk 15: 1; Jn 19: 1)

**L.** All the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death; and they bound him and led him away and delivered him to Pilate the governor. Pilate, having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

**Meditation**

**R.** The attitude which describes the figure of Jesus crucified is that of obedience to the very end of a Son, who surrenders himself to the Father in fulfilling the mission he had received. In this manner we also are taught how to live in order to be fulfilled as persons before God, and how to enter into his death and resurrection to be fully reconciled with God, thus becoming ourselves the ones who sow peace and reconciliation. (C.M. Martini)

**Intercessions**

**L.** Jesus calls us to follow him more closely, and by his obedience he has shown us how to sow peace and reconciliation, as he did.

**R.** Let us respond: **A. Lord, make us sowers of peace.**

**-** Lord Jesus, let us not be overcome by fear before the narrow way you have indicated for us. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, make us obedient to the Father as you were, in order to bring to the world the Good News of the Kingdom. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, help us to embrace the mission which you want to entrust to us, as a gift and a commitment to others. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Father, help us to stand in the place of Jesus rather than of those who condemn others, so that our following of Him, by the light of your Spirit, may be for all humanity a sign of peace and reconciliation. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Second Station – Jesus carries his Cross**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (cf . Mt 27: 27-31)

**L.** The soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the *praetorium*; after mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

**Meditation**

**L.** The public life of Jesus, marked by conflicts among the crowds, by hostility from the spiritual and civil leaders of the people and by incomprehension on the part of his relatives and disciples, constitutes the itinerary of his *via crucis.* He raises a scandal that eventually will lead him to the cross, because he annuls the law as the way to salvation, drawing attention to the egotistic legalism as a way of justifying his own presentation as the only real lawgiver. Thus Jesus allows mercy to overcome legalism, love for others to overcome selfishness, and invites others to follow him, as a call to perfection. “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me,” says Jesus to the rich young man (Mt 19,21s). (H. Schlier)

**Intercessions**

**L.** The Lord Jesus, bearing his cross, heads up Calvary hill, calling us to follow him.

**L.** Let us respond: **A. Help us to follow you, Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, may we find in your cross the true meaning of our life. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, open our hearts, that we might find an interior life and embrace your saving gospel. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, help us to respond generously to your invitation to follow you, even at the difficult times in our lives. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** May your wisdom and the strength of your Spirit strengthen us, Father, so that we may walk with Christ the way of the cross, ready to offer our lives to show the world the hope of your kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Third Station – Jesus falls the first time**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (cf. Is 53,4.6)

**L.** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**Meditation**

**R.** The only legitimate ascent to the ministry of priesthood is the cross. This is the real ascent, this is really the door: not desiring to become somebody, but rather to be for others, for Christ; and thus through him and with him to be there for the persons He is seeking out, those whom He desires to lead on the path of life. (Benedict XVI)

**Intercessions**

**L.** The Lord calls us to follow him on the road of forgiveness and of mutual trust. The religious and priestly vocation is to be faithful to humanity.

**R.** Let us pray together and respond: **A. Teach us, Lord, to love as you have loved.**

**-** Lord Jesus, by the power of your love transform our hardened and violent hearts. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, give us the joy of forgiving and of never tiring from our human weaknesses. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, let us never allow a brother or sister to fall at our side without offering our help and comfort. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Merciful and faithful Father, you love all your creatures. Give us your Spirit of love, that we might follow your Son in that vocation which you have prepared for us from all eternity. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Fourth Station – Jesus meets his Mother**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (cf. Jn 19: 25-27)

**L.** When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!”

**Meditation**

**R.** The last thing that Jesus did from the cross before entering the darkness of his agony and death, was to adore lovingly the Father’s will. Mary also followed him in this: she also began to adore the Father’s will before a tremendous aloneness descended into her heart and darkness gathered within her, just as there was darkness “over the whole land” (cf. Mt 27,45). And that sense of being alone as well as that adoration remained there, in the center of her path, until his death, and until the moment of his resurrection. (R. Cantalamessa)

**Intercessions**

**L.** The vocation of Mary is to be Mother of God and our mother, and so we learn from her how to do the Father’s will.

**R.** With Mary our mother, let us raise our prayer to the Lord: **A. Keep us united to you, Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, you have given us Mary as our mother; make us collaborators, as she was, in your plan of salvation for mankind. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, help us to understand the vocation to which you call us by learning to trust in your providence. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, you call us and you send us into the world as your disciples; give us the joy of remaining always faithful to your love. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Father, you willed that the sorrowful Mother be at the side of your Son raised on a cross. Help all the members of your holy Church to live their vocations according to your will, that they may one day participate in your heavenly glory. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Fifth Station – Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (Lk 23: 26)

**L.** And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

**Meditation**

**R.** How many times have we seen them in the Way of the Cross, how many times have they accompanied Jesus on the way to Calvary: Pilate, Simon of Cyrene, Mary, the women… Today I ask you: which of them do you want to be? Do you want to be like Pilate, who did not have the courage to go against the tide to save Jesus’ life, and instead washed his hands? Tell me: are you one of those who wash their hands, who feign ignorance and look the other way? Or are you like Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus to carry that heavy wood, or like Mary and the other women, who were not afraid to accompany Jesus all the way to the end, with love and tenderness? And you, who do you want to be? Like Pilate? Like Simon? Like Mary? Jesus is looking at you now and is asking you: do you want to help me carry the Cross? Brothers and sisters, with all the strength of your youth, how will you respond to him? (Pope Francis, WYD 2013, Rio de Janeiro, BR)

**Intercessions**

**L.** As we return to everyday activities, we will meet Jesus carrying his cross for our salvation. This is the most important encounter of our life, for only in following him do we learn how to love God and our brothers and sisters.

**R.** Let us say together: **A. Lord, take us with you on your road.**

**-** Lord Jesus, you took up the cross for love of us. Help us to understand what you have done for us. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, help us in our various vocations to plant a seed of love by carrying our daily cross. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, never stop calling us to follow you, even when our ears seem closed to your message of love. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Father, you call each person to a different vocation, but always to perfect charity. Keep us strong in our trials, so that with the example of Christ we might learn to share the pain of our brothers and sisters, always enlightened by the hope that saves. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Sixth Station – A woman wipes the face of Jesus**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (2Cor 4: 6)

**L.** For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

**Meditation**

**R.** Veronica does not appear in the Gospels. Her name is not mentioned, even though the names of other women who accompanied Jesus do appear. It is possible, therefore, that the name refers more to what the woman did. In fact, according to tradition, on the road to Calvary a woman pushed her way through the soldiers escorting Jesus and with a veil wiped the sweat and blood from the Lord’s face. That face remained imprinted on the veil, a faithful reflection, a *“true icon*”. This would be the reason for the name Veronica. If this is so, the name which evokes the memory of what this woman did carries with it the deepest *truth about her*. The Redeemer of the world presents Veronica with an authentic image of his face. The veil upon which the face of Christ remains imprinted becomes a message for us. In a certain sense it says: This is how every act of goodness, every gesture of true love towards one’s neighbor, strengthens the likeness of the Redeemer of the world in the one who acts that way. Acts of love do not pass away. Every act of goodness, of understanding, of service leaves on people’s hearts an indelible imprint and makes us ever more like the One who “emptied himself, taking the form of a servant” (*Phil* 2:7). This is what shapes our identity and gives us our true name. (Blessed John Paul II)

**Intercessions**

**L.** In the compassionate gesture of Veronica we discover the vocation to soothe the sufferings of others, in whom we recognize the face of Jesus.

**R.** We pray together and say: **A. Give us the joy of following you, Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, we contemplate you in your self-offering to the Father for us. Help us to recognize in you the traits of a truly filial love. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, help us to live our vocation by looking for you without ceasing, and by finding you in the faces of our suffering brothers and sisters. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, give us a pure heart, that we may recognize within us the splendor of your divine glory. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Holy Father, consoler of the afflicted, you illumine the mystery of pain and death with the hope shining in the face of Christ. May we respond to our vocation of remaining intimately united to the passion of your Son, so that the power of his resurrection may be revealed in us. Through Christ our Lord.

**A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Seventh Station – Jesus falls a second time**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (cf. Phil 2: 5-8)

**L.** Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, who emptied himself, being born in the likeness of men. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

**Meditation**

**R.** All of Jesus’ actions and life unfold in total dedication to God, and in this, to men. It is this which ultimately makes the cross be raised. This free and total obedience of Jesus to God is already seen in his overcoming temptations, which not even he was spared (cf. Mt 4:1-11), in taking upon himself the suffering he had predicted (cf. Lk 13: 32-33) and the evil which men do to him and which is thereby taken away from them (cf. Mt 8,16-17). Everything is therefore summed up in that the Son of Man “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mk 10,45). (H. Schlier)

**Intercessions**

**L.** Our vocation requires fidelity in order to fulfill the mission which the Lord has entrusted to us.

**R.** Let us pray together and say: **A. Help us to be faithful to you, Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, enkindle in us your sentiments of kindness and mercy, so that we may truly be your witnesses. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, may your surrender to the Father guide our choices each day, without being afraid in the sight of others. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, do not let our contradictions get in our way, but continue to hold us by the hand, that we might carry out the mission you have trusted to us. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Merciful Father, give us your Holy Spirit, so that we may have in ourselves the same mind of your beloved Son, and may respond with the same generosity to the vocation which you desire to give us. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Eighth Station – Jesus meets the sorrowful women**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (cf. Lk 23: 27-28)

**L.** And there followed him... women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”

**Meditation**

**R.** In many societies of the world women don’t receive such treatment. Christ is probably weeping for them. But there are also indifferent societies in our own future. Christ probably weeps for their children. Wherever indifference is shown concerning the future, through excessive use of existing resources, the degradation of the environment, oppression of women, abandonment of family values, a lack of respect for ethical norms, the loss of religious traditions, Jesus continues to say to people: “Do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” (T. Menamparampil, S.D.B)

**Intercessions**

**L.** The weeping of the women shows their compassion and their closeness to Jesus, condemned to death: so also does our vocation dictate that we assume completely the poverty of our human condition.

**R.** Let us pray together and say: **A. We offer you our love, Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, may the contemplation of your cross give us strength and hope in the Father’s love. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, involve us also in your commitment to evangelize, so that we may bring your message of peace to the world. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, may the gift of our vocation impel us to be your credible witnesses for the world of today. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Infuse us, Father, with the wisdom and strength of your Spirit, so that our weeping at your sufferings may be transformed into a commitment to all who are suffering around us, and so make us witnesses to the world of the power of your love. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Ninth Station – Jesus falls a third time**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (Heb 5: 8-9)

**L.** Although he was a Son, Jesus learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

**Meditation**

**R.** The cross, in the eyes of contemporaries, was infamy (cf. Dt 21: 22-23). The crowd, seeing one who is powerless, reveals their own blindness. They don’t understand who is this man who suffers before their eyes and who is about to die. […] But God’s hour – Jesus calls it “my hour” – sounds once and for all times upon the cross of Jesus Christ. Faced with this hour Jesus’ disciples and all of us with them ask ourselves the question: “Are you still sleeping and lying there with your hands folded?” And to us as well as to his disciples the words are spoken: “Enough! The hour is at hand” (Mk 14: 41) – the hour proclaiming God’s complete love, and therefore his self-offering – upon the cross. (H. Schlier)

**Intercessions**

**L.** Our vocation is an unceasing contemplation of Jesus dead and risen, in order that we might announce Him to the world with the power of the Spirit.

**R.** We pray together and say: **A. Open our eyes, O Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, guide us each day with the strength of your word. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, in contemplating your cross let us see you as God from God, Light from Light, and so be able to proclaim to the world your victory over evil and death. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, call us to see in your wounds the signs of your merciful love, so that we may have the joy of remaining always with you. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** O God, kind Father, who did not spare your only-begotten Son but gave him up for us sinners, strengthen us in the obedience of faith in order to follow him in everything and to be transfigured with him in the light of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Tenth Station – Jesus is stripped of his garments**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (Jn 19: 23-24)

**L.** The soldiers took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.”

**Meditation**

**R.** The fundamental tradition about the tunic of Christ refers to the unity of the Church. Even in the Bible the ripping of a garment was a symbol of division (cf., e.g. 1Kgs 11: 29-31). On the theme of unity, which plays a big part in the johannine vision, “being divided” is the worst that could happen to the community of the disciples, the new people of God. But Jesus’ tunic was not torn. Christ’s garment is the Church of Christ. Its integrity is a symbol of the fact that no split can exist in the Church.
(I. de la Potterie)

**Intercessions**

**L.** The Lord calls us to follow him and he teaches us that the true self-renunciation is to care for others.

**R.** Let us pray together and say: **A. Clothe us with your love, O Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, you let yourself be stripped of everything. Teach us to follow you with the same mildness and humility. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, you have offered us the gift of a vocation to perfect love; give us strength to forgive all who have done any evil to us. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, call us also to offer you our hands as a sure support for those in pain. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Merciful and faithful Father, in Christ your Son you teach us the way of forgiveness and of service to others. Give us your Spirit of holiness so that, stripped of our self and rich in your grace, we may discover how to be true witnesses of saving love. Through Christ our Lord.

**A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Eleventh Station – Jesus is nailed to the cross**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (Lk 23: 39. 42-43)

**L.** One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him... but the other said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**Meditation**

**R.** The word spoken by Jesus to the thief: “Today you will be with me in paradise” (Lk 23: 43), refers to the human mystery of reconciliation and begins always with great surrender and endless trust in the Father. Jesus is certain of drinking new wine in the kingdom of his Father, he is certain of entering the Father’s kingdom: and this attitude of hope allows him to involve a condemned man, an outcast of society, drawing him into his own devotion. (C.M. Martini)

**Intercessions**

**L.** Jesus upon the cross opens eternal life to us; he is the gate, the way that leads to the Father. The call to follow him has no other meaning but to unite us to the Father’s love.

**R.** With trust we raise our humble prayer to him: **A. Remember us, Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, your call is always to life and to love; make our hearts docile to your word. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, give us hope, so that we will never despair when faced with death. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, continue to call us not to condemn anyone, to be witnesses of your forgiveness. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Father of infinite kindness and tenderness, you never tire of supporting your children and nourishing them by your hand. Grant that we might draw from the pierced heart of Christ the sublime knowledge of your love, so that with the power of the Spirit we may bring to all the riches of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Twelfth Station – Jesus dies on the cross**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (Lk 23: 33-34)

**L.** When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

**Meditation**

**R.** You are incomprehensible, Jesus. There remains in your soul, tormented and rocked with pain, some clod of earth from which flowers the word, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” You are truly incomprehensible. You love your enemies and you plead for them to your Father. You pray for them. Lord, if it weren’t blasphemy I would say that you forgive them with the unlikeliest of excuses: “they don’t know”. […] There is only one thing they really don’t know: your love for them; because only one who loves you knows this. Indeed, only love permits one to understand the gift of love. (K. Rahner)

**Intercessions**

**L.** Our vocation is authentic when we let the Lord change our heart, making it like his, full of mercy.

**R.** Let us say together: **A. Lord, help us to forgive our brothers and sisters.**

**-** Lord Jesus, from the cross you revealed the Father’s mercy; help us to have the very same sentiments. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, forgive our sins and call us to follow you. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, do not let us become unjust judges of those who make mistakes, but rather help us to imitate your Father who loves all without distinction. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Merciful Father, you call all your sons and daughters to follow your beloved Son on the way of love. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may respond to your call and bring your forgiveness and grace to the world. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Thirteenth Station – Jesus is taken down from the cross**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (Jn 19: 33-34)

**L.** The soldiers, seeing that Jesus was already dead, did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

**Meditation**

**R.** On the cross, a completely different Word is juxtaposed with the world’s word: the world will not listen at any cost to this word. Because the world wants to live and resurrect before dying, while Christ’s love wants to die in order to rise beyond death, in death, in the form of God. Only to a will desperate to live does God’s proposal seem desperate; in itself it is only and purely love, which in death shows itself to be stronger than death and thus triumphs over that which the world uselessly struggles against. (H.U. Von Balthasar)

**Intercessions**

**L.** Jesus taken down from the cross calls us to contemplate his heart full of love for humanity: it is from this heart that our vocation springs.

**R.** Let us together ask the Lord: **A. Give us the strength to follow you, Lord.**

**-** Lord Jesus, from your open heart flows life for everyone. From the depths of your mystery of love, may we draw strength to bring your gospel to the world. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, give to each person his or her proper vocation for the good of the Church, and grant that we be generous in responding and following you. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, help us to understand that our vocation is to imitate the heart of the Father and your blessed cross. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** O God, Father of life, you have revealed in the heart of Christ the treasures of your love. Give us your Holy Spirit, so that we may follow your most beloved Son in the various vocations which you desire to give each of us. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Fourteenth Station – Jesus is buried in the tomb**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (cf. Mt 27: 59-61)

**L.** Joseph took the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.

**Meditation**

**R.** On Good Friday we could still see the wounded one. Holy Saturday is empty, the huge rock covers the new tomb, everything is past, the faith seems to have been definitively unmasked as so much fanaticism. […] Doesn’t our century begin to be one big Holy Saturday, the day of God’s absence, when even the disciples have in their hearts a freezing void that keeps getting bigger, and makes them return home full of shame and anguish, setting out sad and fallen in their desperation for Emmaus, not realizing at all that the one believed to be dead was there in their midst? […] Don’t let the darkness of Holy Saturday last forever; make a ray of Easter shine even in our days, walk with us when we desperately leave for Emmaus, so that our hearts may burn by your nearness to us. (Joseph Ratzinger).

**Intercessions**

**L.** Death is a hard reality for us, but the Lord calls us to be witnesses of the hope of his endless love.

**R.** Let us say together: **A. Give us, Lord, the grace of conversion.**

- Lord Jesus, awaken in us true repentance for our sins, so that we may be more faithful to your loving call. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, you have loved us to the end; may we love you and our sisters and brothers with the same faithfulness. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, make us witnesses of your love according to the vocation you choose to give to each one of us. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** Eternal and almighty God, you have granted that we celebrate the mystery of your only-begotten Son, descended to the bowls of the earth; may the gift of our vocation be for us the invitation to a continual conversion to you. Through Christ our Lord. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Fifteenth Station – Jesus rises from the dead**



**L.** We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**A. Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Scripture Reading** (Jn 21: 1.4-7.11b-12a)

**L.** Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberius. As day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, have you any fish?” They answered him, “No”. He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, […] he sprang into the sea. Although there were so many fish, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.”

**Meditation**

**R.** As it happened that morning when the Risen Lord appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberius, he spoke as a friend with his disciples and called Peter once again to follow him. This suggestive passage of the Gospel offers us a tender and sad message addressed to noble and generous souls: a message of faith, of love, of sacrifice. After the miraculous catch, by the light of faith John recognizes the risen Lord, and with the force of faith Peter impetuously throws himself forward to reach him. The Lord rewards that simple and generous faith with a loving invitation to the Apostles: “Come and eat.” In the words of the Council, “faith throws a new light on everything, manifests God's design for man's total vocation” (*GS* 11). Yes, every true vocation is born from faith, lives by faith, perseveres by faith; a faith felt and lived daily, with simplicity and generosity of spirit, in trust and friendship with the Risen Lord. No one, indeed, follows a stranger, no one offers his life for an unknown person. (Paul VI)

**Intercessions**

**L.** The vocation hinges on the intimate call to look for God and his kingdom. The risen Lord offers us his Spirit so that we may look for him with a sincere heart.

**R.** Let us pray with faith: **A. Give us, Lord, the joy of remaining always with you.**

**-** Lord Jesus, help us always to look for you with the same enthusiasm, because only you have the words of eternal life. **A.**

**-** Lord Jesus, may your word of life resound in our heart, that we may generously follow you. **A.**

- Lord Jesus, open the tomb of our heart and shine with your love, so that we may witness to you before all. **A.**

**Prayer**

**L.** O Father, source and model of union and of life, make us one as your Son is one with you; may your Spirit make us perfect in love, that the world might recognize us as truly disciples of your Son, by our love for one another. He lives and reigns forever and ever. **A.** Amen.

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| **L.** If we die with the Lord, | **A. We shall live with the Lord.** |

**Hymn**

**Conclusion**

A man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (*Mk* 10: 17).

Jesus has answered this question burning in the depths of our being, by walking the way of the cross.

We contemplate you, Lord, upon this road that you have taken first, and at the end of which “you have laid your cross like a bridge over death, so that men can pass from the land of death to the land of life” (St. Efrem the Syrian, *Homily*).

The call to follow you is addressed to everyone, and in particular to young people and to those who experience division, war and injustice, and who fight to be signs of hope and peacemakers among their brothers and sisters.

Therefore we have placed ourselves before you with love, we have cast our gaze and our hearts toward your holy Cross, presenting you our sufferings and our petitions for the Church; and now, strengthened by your promise, we pray: “Blessed be our Redeemer, who has given us life by his death. O Redeemer, bring to completion in us the mystery of your redemption, by your passion, death and resurrection.” (Maronite Liturgy). O Lord, dead and risen, send workers to your harvest.

**Benediction**

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| **L.** The Lord be with you. | **A. And with your spirit.** |

*Blessing with crucifix*

**L.** Through the merits of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, may almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **A. Amen.**

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| **L.** Go in peace. | **A. Thanks be to God.** |

**Salve Regina**

*Salve, Regína,
Mater misericórdiæ,
vita, dulcédo et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamámus,
éxsules filii Evæ.
Ad te suspirámus geméntes et flentes
in hac lacrimárum valle.
Eia ergo, advocáta nostra,
illos tuos misericórdes óculos
ad nos convérte.
Et Iesum benedíctum fructum
ventris tui,
nobis, post hoc exsílium, osténde.
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo María!*



***Collegium Resurrectionis Romae***