

Novena
*In Honor of
Our Sorrowful Mother*
Queen of Martyrs Pray for Us

Indulgences OF THE VIA MATRIS

In accord with the provisions of the Apostolic Constitution on Indulgences, *Indulgentiarum Doctrina*, promulgated by Pope Paul VI, January 1, 1967, the Holy See revised the indulgences granted to those who make the Via Matris. By a decree of December 3, 1968, the Holy See granted to all the faithful who make the Via Matris by devoutly visiting the stations legitimately erected in Servite churches or oratories (that is, churches or oratories of the First, Second, or Third Orders): a) A plenary indulgence on each Friday of Lent and Passiontide, under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, communion and recitation of the Our Father and Hail Mary or other prayers for the intention of the Holy Father); b) a partial indulgence on other days of the year.

Novena

*In Honor of
Our Sorrowful Mother*



Compiled from Approved Sources and
Arranged for Congregational Use by

Origin of the Novena in honor of Our Sorrowful Mother

Toward the middle of the thirteenth century seven Florentine merchants formed a penitential community just outside Florence. Aware of their unworthiness before God, they dedicated themselves as Servants of the Holy Virgin so that she might be with them as they stood before their Lord. To escape the distractions of urban life and civil discord they withdrew to Mount Senario, some twelve miles distant. In its solitude they laid the foundation of the Order of Servants of Mary. Their example attracted many followers and soon foundations were made in Italy and Germany, and later in many other countries. These Seven whom our Lady guided to found an Order dedicated to her service were canonized in 1888 as the Seven Holy Founders.

From this example of prayerfulness joined to an active ministry spread a movement which includes eleven canonized saints, many blessed whose cult is approved by Rome, and innumerable holy men and women of many countries and times. While the devotion of Servites has always been directed to the Mother of their Lord in all the aspects of her life, in time it began to be focused more specifically on the sorrows she experienced in her life. The black habit of the Servites was itself looked upon as a sign of the sorrow Mary suffered at the Cross of her Son.

In the very early days of 1937, His Eminence, George Cardinal Mundelein, Archbishop of Chicago, approved of the Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Sorrowful Mother for the Servite Church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Chicago, Illinois. This devotion was originated in its present form by the Rev. James R. Keane, O.S.M., then Prior of the Servite Community in Chicago. The first Novena services were held on Friday, January 8, 1937. They consisted of the Via Matris, six prayers culled from the ancient Servite Manual, two hymns to Our Blessed Mother, the Memorare, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

On March 22 of the same year the Cardinal Archbishop gave his Imprimatur for the publication of the Novena prayerhook. One year after His Eminence granted the Imprimatur, 73,000 people were making the Novena at 38 services each Friday in Our Lady of Sorrows Church. This phenomenal weekly attendance at one church constituted a world record.

Rev. Norbert E. O'Connell, Pastor of St. Cecilia's Church, Chicago, was the first priest in the world to follow the Servites in this successful work. On January 14, 1938, the Novena was inaugurated in his church. Twelve years later it had been established in more than 2,000 churches throughout the world. This included 125 churches in the Archdiocese of Chicago alone, 49 Cathedrals in the Western Hemisphere, 76 dioceses in the United States, 11 dioceses in Canada, various dioceses in Old Mexico, China, England, Italy, Panama, India, British West Indies, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Australia, Ireland, Cuba, Uganda and Swaziland in Africa. The attendance had mounted to over 1,000,000 persons each Friday, the number of weekly services to more than 2,000. Besides the Braille edition for the blind, the Novena prayerbook is now published in 22 foreign languages—French, Spanish, Italian, German, Belgian, Gaelic, Bohemian, Slovak, Slovenian, Lithuanian, Polish, Hungarian, Roumanian, Croatian, Chinese, Malayalam, Tamil, Bengali, Calcutta, Portuguese, Kankany, and Zulu. A special English edition is published in England; two other Spanish editions are published in Mexico.

This devotion to Our Sorrowful Mother is new only in its Novena form. The Via Matris and the other prayers date back to the Middle Ages. The devotion itself—devotion to Mary's Sorrows—is as old as the Catholic Church. An intimate corollary of the Incarnation, it was publicly announced to mankind by Our Divine Savior in His Agony on the Cross, when He said to St. John: "Behold Thy Mother" (John XIX, 27).

That Our Divine Lord and His Blessed Mother have blessed this work seems evidenced by the multitude of graces showered upon it. May the day be not far distant when all the world will return to Christ through Mary— Ad Jesum per Mariam!

NOVENA PRAYER BOOKS

First Edition	62,000	Eleventh Edition	500,000
Second Edition.....	10,000	Twelfth Edition	500,000
Third Edition.....	140,000	Thirteenth Edition.....	500,000
Fourth Edition	400,000	Fourteenth Edition.....	600,000
Fifth Edition	250,000	Fifteenth Edition.....	500,000
Sixth Edition	217,000	Sixteenth Edition	500,000
Seventh Edition.....	500,000	Seventeenth Edition	140,000
Eighth Edition.....	500,000	Eighteenth Edition	30,000
Ninth Edition	500,000	Nineteenth Edition.....	2500
Tenth Edition	500,000	Twentieth Edition.....	3000

Method of **MAKING THE NOVENA**

This PUBLIC NOVENA to Our Sorrowful Mother can be made only in churches and chapels in which the *Via Matris* has been canonically erected. These stations are usually found in Servite churches and oratories. Order of Novena services: The Official Novena Prayers; The Blessing of the Sick; Sermon; The *Via Matris*; A Marian Hymn; Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The people will say aloud and together all the prayers of the novena services, and the singing for the entire service will be congregational.

The PERPETUAL NOVENA to Our Sorrowful Mother is held every Friday throughout the year. Nine consecutive Fridays constitute one novena. The services are the same as those of the Public Novena, and on Good Friday the *Desolata* may substitute for the regular novena services.

A PRIVATE NOVENA to Our Sorrowful Mother may be made by saying the official prayers of the novena and making the *Via Matris* for nine consecutive days or for nine consecutive Fridays. The *Via Matris* must be made in a church or chapel where the same has been canonically erected. Where this latter condition cannot be followed, the indulgences may be obtained providing permission to say the novena in private has been obtained from a priest.

Copies of this book can be obtained by writing to: Servants of Mary, 1439 Harlem Avenue, Berwyn, IL 60402.

Censor Deputatus:
JOHN M. LEAHY, O.S.M.

Imprimi Potest:
LOUIS M. CORTNEY, O.S.M.
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CARL J. MOELL, S.J.
Censor Librorum

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‡ALBERT CARDINAL MEYER
Archbishop of Chicago, March 5, 1962

Official Prayers

OF THE NOVENA

Priest: We shall begin the Novena service by kneeling and saying aloud and together the official prayers of the Novena in honor of Our Sorrowful Mother.

**In the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Prayers to **OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER**

For a Particular Grace

**O most blessed and afflicted Virgin, *
Queen of Martyrs, * who didst stand gener-
ously beneath the cross, * beholding the
agony of thy dying Son; * by the sword of
sorrow which then pierced thy soul, * by
the sufferings of thy sorrowful life, * by the
unutterable joy * which now more than
repays thee for them; * look down with a
mother's pity and tenderness, * as I kneel
before thee to compassionate thy sorrows,
* and to lay my petition with childlike con-
fidence * in thy wounded heart. * I beg of
thee, * O my mother, * to plead continually
for me with thy Son, * since He can refuse
thee nothing, * and through the merits of
His most sacred Passion and Death, * to-
gether with thy own sufferings at the foot
of the cross, * so to touch His Sacred Heart,
* that I may obtain my request. ***

Priest: Here pause and name the favors which you are asking Our Sorrowful Mother to obtain for you through this Novena. (*Pause.*)

Let your secondary intention be to pray for the intentions of all the people making this Novena anywhere in the world. Thus a great mass prayer for all Novena intentions will arise each Friday to Our Blessed Mother ...

—For to whom shall I fly in my wants and miseries, * if not to thee, * O Mother of mercy, * who, having so deeply drunk the chalice of thy Son, canst most pity us poor exiles, * still doomed to sigh in this vale of tears? * Offer to Jesus * but one drop of His Precious Blood, * but one pang of His adorable Heart; * remind Him that thou art our life, * our sweetness, * and our hope, and thou wilt obtain what I ask, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Optional)

[The “Hail Mary” (page 48), and the ejaculation “Virgin Most Sorrowful, pray for us,” seven times each.]

For a Happy Death

O Mary, Refuge of Sinners, * my sweet Mother, by the sorrow thou didst experience, * when thou didst witness the agony and death of thy divine Son on the cross, * mercifully intercede for me, * entreat thee, * when my soul is about to leave this world; * drive away all evil spirits, * come to take my soul, * and to present it to the eternal Judge. * O Queen of Heaven, * do not abandon thy child; next to Jesus thou wilt be my

comfort in that dread hour. * Ask thy Son to grant, * in His infinite mercy, * that I may die embracing His holy feet, * kissing His sacred Wounds, * saying with my last breath: * “Jesus, Mary and Joseph, * I give you my heart and my soul.” Amen.

*(Optional) The Hail Mary
of Our Sorrowful Mother*

(Prayer of St. Bonaventure)

Hail Mary, * full of sorrows, * the Crucified is with thee; * tearful art thou amongst women, * and tearful is the fruit of thy womb, * Jesus, Holy Mary, * mother of the Crucified, give tears to us, Crucifiers of thy Son, now, and at the hour of our death. * Amen.

For Our Sick Relatives and Friends

Queen of Martyrs * and Mother of Consolation * by that sword of sorrow which pierced thy soul, * when thou didst see thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord raised upon the cross, * pierced with nails and covered with His own Blood; * pray for these sick persons, *

Priest: Pause here and name the sick persons for whom you are making the Novena. (Pause.)

We intend that this Novena be made primarily for the recovery of health of those sick persons whose names have been turned in, in any Church where this Novena is in progress. (In time of war add “and for all sick and wounded members of our Armed Forces.”)

—that they may * by thy powerful intercession * be cured of their illness, * and thus we may both in time and eternity give thee heartfelt thanks.

For Our Beloved Dead

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, my Mother, * I turn to thee in supplication, * and by that sword which pierced thy sorrowful heart, * when thou didst behold thy beloved Son Jesus Christ * bow down His head and give up the ghost, * I pray and beseech thee to help the holy souls in Purgatory, * and particularly those for whom I now pray.—

Priest: Here mention the names of your departed relatives and friends for whom you wish to make the Novena.
(Pause.)

Include in your intention all the departed souls whose names have been given in, in any Church where this Novena is in progress.

Mother of Sorrows, Queen of Martyrs * for the love of thy divine Son, * whose precious blood was shed for us, * help us with thy powerful intercession, * who are in danger not only of falling into Purgatory, * but of losing our souls forever in hell. * O Mary, Mother of Grace; Mother of mercy, * pray for us now and at the hour of our death. *

**Eternal Father, * through the most precious Blood of Jesus and the Sorrows of Mary, * have pity upon the holy souls in Purgatory.
Amen.**

*An Act of Consecration
to Our Sorrowful Mother*

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Martyrs, I do this day choose thee as my model, protectress, and advocate. In thy Immaculate Heart, pierced with so many swords of sorrow, * I place my poor soul forever. Receive me as thy especial servant as a partaker in thy sufferings. Give me strength always to remain close to that Cross on which thy only Son died for me. * All that I am and have, * I consecrate to thy service. Accept every good work that I may perform * and offer it to thy Son for me. * Dear Mother, help me to be worthy of the title: "Servant of Mary." Stand by me in all my actions * that they may be directed to the glory of God. * As thou wert close to Christ, thy Son, on the cross, * be near to me, thy child, in my last agony. Obtain for me, that I may invoke thine and His sweet Name * saying with my lips and my heart: * "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony. * Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I die in peace in your holy company."

Priest: We shall now have the blessing for the sick. This blessing is intended for those here present in the congregation who are suffering from some physical malady.

(The people say the following responses aloud.)

Blessing for the Sick

Sacerdos, stola violacea indutus, dicit:

Priest: Adjutorium nostrum in nomine Domini.

People: Qui fecit coelom et terram.

Priest: Domine, exaudi orationem meam.

People: Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

Priest: Dominus vobiscum.

People: Et cum spiritu tuo.

OREMUS

Respice, Domine, famulos tuos in infirmitate corporis laborantes, et animas refove, quas creasti: ut castigationibus emendati, continuo se sentient tua miseratione salvatos. Per Christum, Dominum nostrum. Amen.

Dominus Jesus Christus apud vos sit, ut vos defendat: intra vos sit, ut vos conservet: ante vos sit, ut vos ducat: post vos sit, ut vos custodiat: super vos sit, ut vos benedicat: Qui cum Patre at Spiritu Sancto vivit et regnat in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Benedictio Dei omnipotentis, Patris, et Filii, ✠ et Spiritus Sancti, descendant super vos, et maneat semper. Amen.

(Denum aspergat infirmos aqua benedicta.)

The Priest, wearing a purple stole, says:

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: Who made heaven and earth.

Priest: O Lord, hear my prayer.

People: And let my cry come unto Thee.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

LET US PRAY

Look down, O Lord, we beseech Thee, upon Thy Servants suffering with sickness of body, and refresh the souls which Thou has created; that, being purified with chastisements, they may forthwith in Thy compassion experience betterment. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you that He may defend you; be within you that He may preserve you; precede you that He may guide you; follow you that He may guard you; be over you that He may bless you: Who liveth and reigneth with the Father and Holy Ghost world without end. Amen.

May the Blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Ghost, descend upon you and remain forever. Amen.

(Then he sprinkles the sick with Holy Water)

SERMON

Via Matris

(The Way of the Sorrowful Mother)

Priest: Now we shall all make the Via Matris or the Stations of the Cross of Our Sorrowful Mother. We shall begin by rising and singing together: "Come Holy Ghost."

Come Holy Ghost

*Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And in our hearts take up Thy rest;
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid,
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.*

Priest: We shall now kneel and recite:

An Act of Contrition

Virgin most afflicted, * how ungrateful have I been in the past to my God, in return for all His benefits. * Now, I repent in bitterness of heart, * humbly asking pardon for the offence done to His infinite goodness, * and resolved by the help of heavenly grace to offend Him no more. * Ah! by all the pains which thou didst suffer * in the cruel Passion of thy dear Jesus, * I pray thee, with fervent sighs, * to obtain for me pardon and mercy for all my grievous sins. * Receive this holy exercise * wherein I am going to engage in memory of thy Sorrows. * Obtain that the same sword which pierced thy soul may pierce mine also, * that I may live and die in the love of my Lord, * and share eternally in that glory, * which He has purchased for me with His most precious blood. Amen.

Priest: We shall now stand.



And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother: Behold this child is set for the fall, and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted; . . . And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed—Luke II, 34-35.

(Optional Meditation)

Her heart filled with joy, Mary presents her Son Jesus in the temple. Simeon accepts Him in his arms and utters his harsh prophecy: *“Behold this Child is set for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted. And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed.”* Consider how we so often neglect Christ and His Mother as we forget their sufferings for us.

First Station

THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON

People stand, while priest reads the meditation:

How great was the shock to Mary's heart at hearing the sorrowful words, in which holy Simeon told the bitter Passion and death of her sweet Jesus, since in that same moment she realized in her mind all the insults, blows, and torments which the impious men were to offer to the Redeemer of the world. But a still sharper sword pierced her soul. It was the thought of men's ingratitude to her beloved Son. Now consider that because of thy sins thou art unhappily among the ungrateful, and casting thyself at the feet of the Mother of Dolors, say with sorrow:

People kneel and recite aloud the following prayer:

Virgin beloved, * who didst feel so bitter pangs of soul at seeing the abuse which I, * wretch that I am, * would make of the Blood of thy dear Son, * obtain for me, I pray thee, by thy riven heart, * that in time to come I may better correspond to God's mercies, * profit by His heavenly grace, * receive not in vain his lights and inspirations, * and so be among the blessed number of those who are saved by the bitter passion of Jesus. * Amen.

PRIEST: *Hail Mary, etc.*
PRIEST: *Virgin Most Sorrowful.*

PEOPLE: *Holy Mary, etc.*
PEOPLE: *Pray for us.*



And after they (the wise men) were departed, behold an angel of the Lord appeared in sleep to Joseph saying: Arise, and take the Child and his mother, and fly into Egypt: and be there until I shall tell thee. For it will come to pass that Herod will seek the Child to destroy Him... Who arose, and took the Child and his mother by night, and retired into Egypt: and He was there until the death of Herod.— Matthew II, 13-14.

(Optional Meditation)

With Joseph and her Child, Mary must flee into Egypt. She endures the hardships of a long journey and becomes a stranger in a strange land in order to protect her Divine Son from those who would destroy Him. How often sin drives Christ from our hearts, but His absence leaves us cold and indifferent.

Second Station

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

People stand, while priest reads the meditation:

Consider the sharp sorrow which Mary felt when, St. Joseph being warned by an angel, she had to flee by night in order to preserve her beloved Child from the slaughter decreed by Herod. What anguish was hers, in leaving Judea, lest she should be overtaken by the soldiers of the cruel king! How great her privations in that long journey! What sufferings she bore in that land of exile, what sorrow amid that people given to idolatry! But consider how often thou hast renewed that bitter grief of Mary, when thy sins have caused her Son to flee from thy heart. Wherefore repent, and turn to her, humbly saying:

People kneel and recite aloud the following prayer

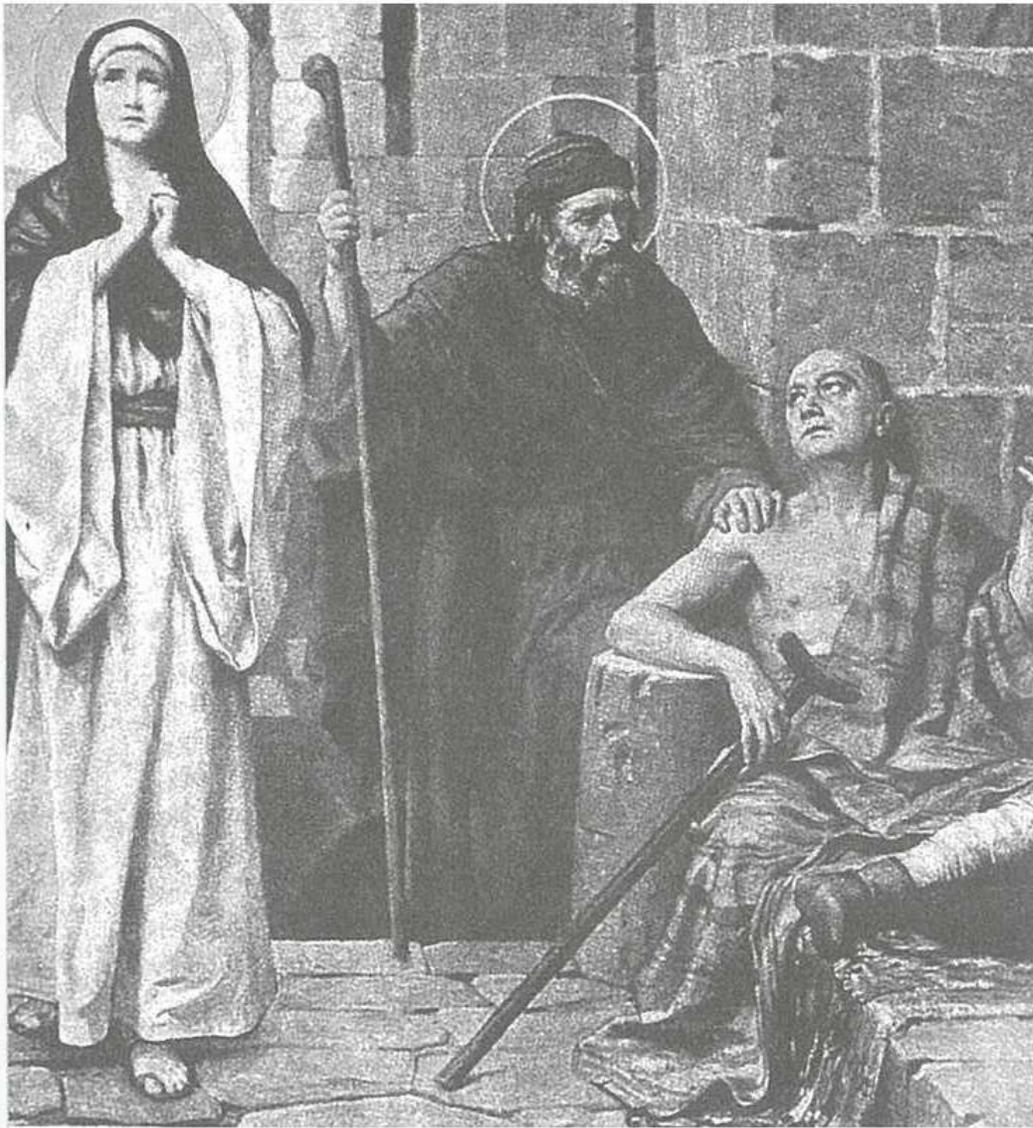
**Sweetest Mother, * once and once only
Herod obliged thee to fly with thy Jesus, *
to escape the slaughter which he had com-
manded; * but I, how often have I forced
my Redeemer, * and thee with Him, to fly
from my heart, * when I have admitted into
it accursed sin, * hateful to thee and to my
loving Lord. * With tears and contrition I
humbly sue for pardon. * Mercy, dear Lady
Mine, mercy! * and I promise thee that, for
the future, * with the help of God, * I will
ever maintain my Saviour and thee in com-
plete possession of my soul. * Amen.**

PRIEST: *Hail Mary, etc.*

PRIEST: *Virgin Most Sorrowful.*

PEOPLE: *Holy Mary, etc.*

PEOPLE: *Pray for us.*



And having fulfilled the days, when they returned, the Child Jesus remained in Jerusalem; and His parents knew it not. And thinking that He was in the company, they came a day's journey, and sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And not finding Him, they returned into Jerusalem, seeking Him.—Luke II, 43-45.

(Optional Meditation)

Into the life of Mary comes the surprising disappearance of her Son. For three days His loss brings her agonizing sorrow. How unlike Mary are we in our careless attitude towards the presence of Jesus in our lives. Certainly we can determine now to remain united with Him as we turn to Mary in her sorrow and say with compunction.

Third Station

THE LOSS OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

People stand, while priest reads the meditation:

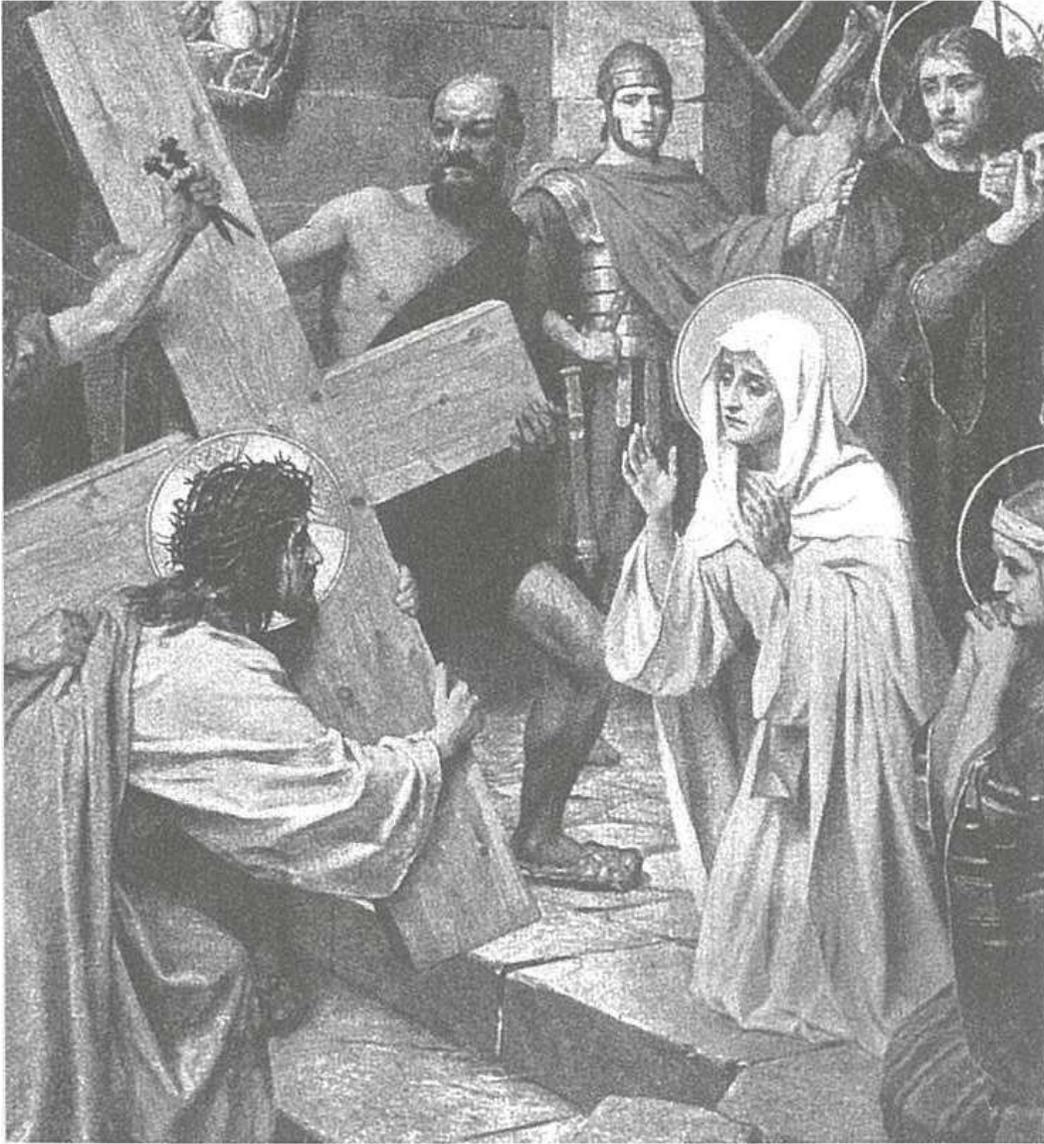
How dread was the grief of Mary, when she saw that she had lost her beloved Son! And as if to increase her sorrow, when she sought him diligently among her kinsfolk and acquaintance, she could hear no tidings of Him. No hindrances stayed her; nor weariness, nor danger; but she forthwith returned to Jerusalem, and for three long days sought Him sorrowing. Great be thy confusion, O my soul, who hast so often lost thy Jesus by thy sins, and hast given no heed to seek Him at once, a sign that thou dost make of very little or of no account the precious treasure of divine love. Weep then for thy blindness, and turning thee to that Lady of sighs, thy Mother, say with compunction:

People kneel and recite aloud the following prayer

Virgin most afflicted, * obtain that I may learn from thee to seek Jesus, * when I have lost Him by giving ear to my passions * and to the evil suggestions of the devil; * obtain that I may find Him again, and when I possess Him once more, * that I may ever repeat the words of the Spouse, * “I found Him whom my soul loveth; I held Him, * and I will not let Him go.” * Amen.

PRIEST: *Hail Mary, etc.*
PRIEST: *Virgin Most Sorrowful.*

PEOPLE: *Holy Mary, etc.*
PEOPLE: *Pray for us.*



And there followed Him a great multitude of people, and of women, who bewailed and lamented Him.—Luke XXIII, 27.

(Optional Meditation)

This is the first Good Friday, and the Son of Man is condemned to crucifixion. As He makes His painful way to Calvary He meets His Mother. Mary sees her Son bruised, derided, cursed, defiled and her heart almost breaks as she follows Him to sure death. Whenever I sin I too scoff at Jesus Christ and add weight to His Cross and to the sorrows of His Mother.

Fourth Station

**MARY MEETS JESUS
ON THE WAY TO CALVARY**

People stand, while priest reads the meditation:

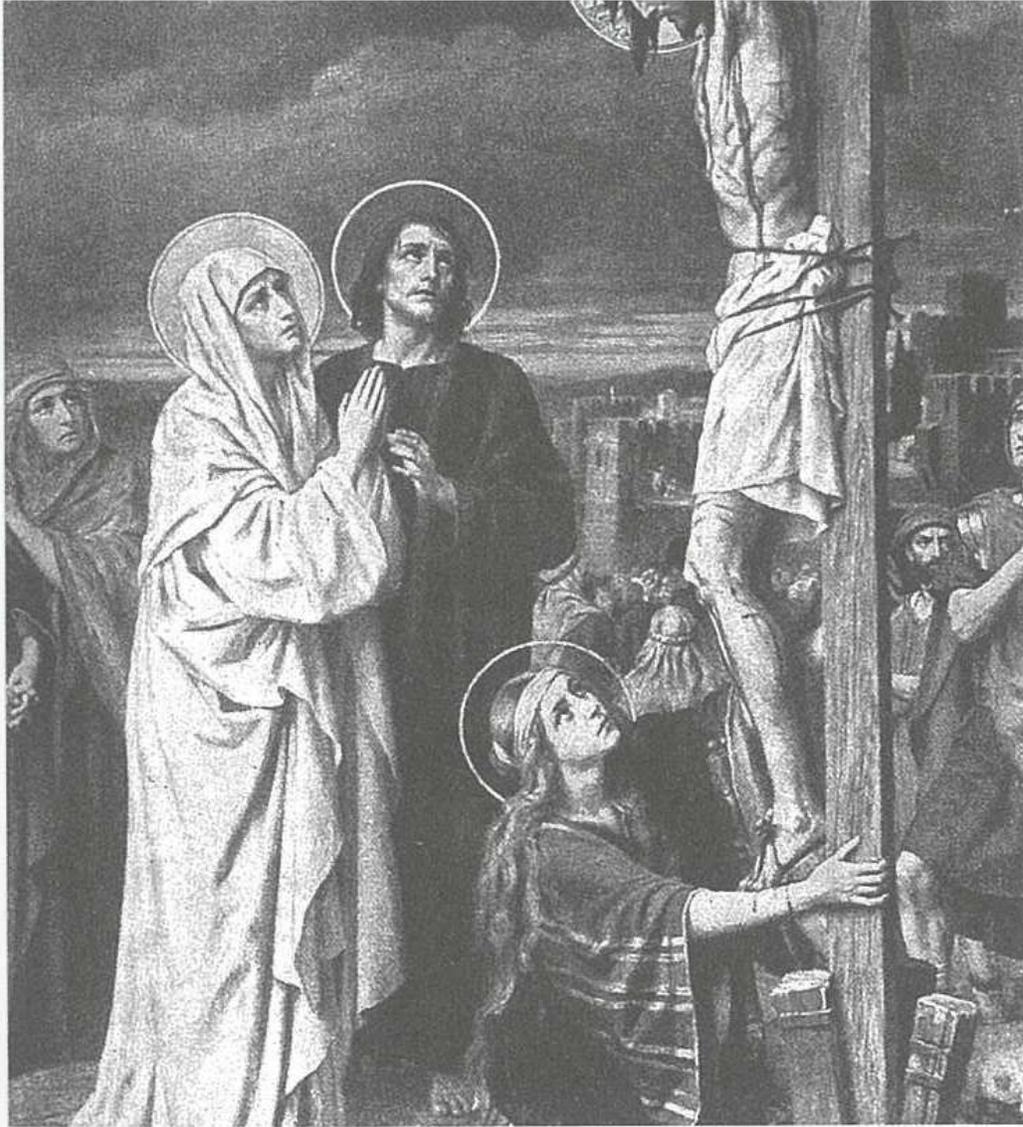
Come, O ye sinners, come and see if ye can endure so sad a sight. This Mother, so tender and loving, meets her beloved Son, meets Him amid an impious rabble, who drag Him to a cruel death, wounded, torn by stripes, crowned with thorns, streaming with blood, bearing His heavy cross. Consider, my soul, the grief of the blessed Virgin thus beholding her Son! Who would not weep at seeing this Mother's grief? But who has been the cause of such woe? It is I, who with my sins have so cruelly wounded the heart of my sorrowing Mother! And yet I am not moved; I am as a stone, when my heart should break because of my ingratitude.

People kneel and recite aloud the following prayer

O Virgin most holy, * I crave pardon for the sorrows I have caused thee. * I know and confess that I deserve it not, * for it is I through whom thy Jesus was so treated; * yet do thou call to mind that thou art the Mother of mercy. * Show mercy, then, to me, * and I promise to be more faithful to my Redeemer in the time to come, * and thus to console thee for the many sorrows I have offered to thine afflicted heart. * Amen.

PRIEST: *Hail Mary, etc.*
PRIEST: *Virgin Most Sorrowful.*

PEOPLE: *Holy Mary, etc.*
PEOPLE: *Pray for us.*



Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother... When Jesus therefore had seen His mother and the disciple standing whom He loved, He saith to His mother: Woman: Behold thy son. After that He saith to the disciple: Behold thy Mother. —John XIX, 25-26-27.

(Optional Meditation)

The passion reaches its climax. Mary stands near her dying Son unable even to touch Him. She hears Him sob “I thirst” and is helpless to minister to Him. He promises heaven to a thief and forgives His enemies. His last words directed to us center on His own Mother, “Behold Thy Mother!” Let us resolve always to look upon Mary as our Mother and remember that a Mother never fails her child.

Fifth Station

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

People stand, while priest reads the meditation:

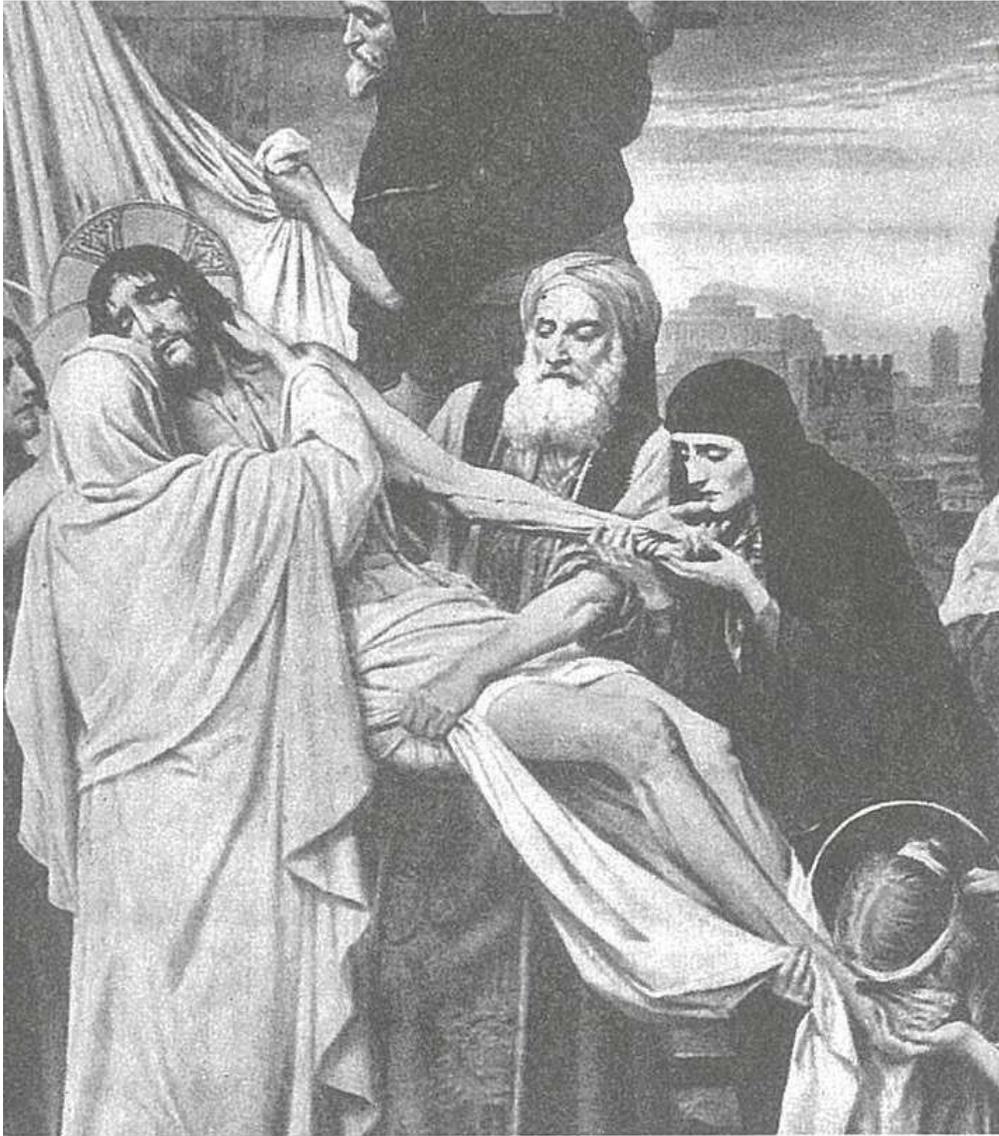
Look, devout soul, look to Calvary, whereon are raised two altars of sacrifice, one on the body of Jesus, the other on the heart of Mary. Sad is the sight of that dear Mother drowned in a sea of woe, seeing her beloved Son, part of her very self, cruelly nailed to the shameful tree of the cross. How every blow of the hammer, how every stripe which fell on the Saviour's form, fell also on the disconsolate spirit of the Virgin. As she stood at the foot of the cross, pierced by the sword of sorrow, she turned her eyes on Him, until she knew that He lived no longer and had resigned His spirit to His Eternal Father.

People kneel and recite aloud the following prayer:

O Mother of Sorrows, * who wouldst not leave Calvary until thou hadst drunk the last drop of the chalice of thy woe, * how great is my confusion of face, * that I so often refuse to take up my cross, * and in all ways endeavor to avoid those slight sufferings * which the Lord, for my good, is pleased to send upon me. * Obtain for me, I pray thee, * that I may see clearly the value of suffering, * and may be enabled, if not to cry with St. Francis Xavier, * "More to suffer, my God! ah, more!" * at least to bear meekly all my crosses and trials. Amen.

PRIEST: *Hail Mary, etc.*
PRIEST: *Virgin Most Sorrowful.*

PEOPLE: *Holy Mary, etc.*
PEOPLE: *Pray for us.*



Joseph of Arimathea, a noble counsellor... came and went in boldly to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus... And Joseph, buying fine linen, and taking Him down, wrapped Him up in the fine linen.—Mark XV, 43-46.

(Optional Meditation)

From the lips of Jesus comes the bitter complaint, “My God, My God, why halt Thou forsaken Me” and the final pronouncement, “It is finished.” His passion and death are over, but His Mother dies a thousand deaths when she holds His Body in her arms and relives those three long hours of torture. So great was Mary’s love for her Son that we will never fully appreciate her sorrows, but we can sympathize with her in her grief.

Sixth Station

**MARY RECEIVES THE DEAD BODY
OF JESUS IN HER ARMS**

People stand, while priest reads the meditation:

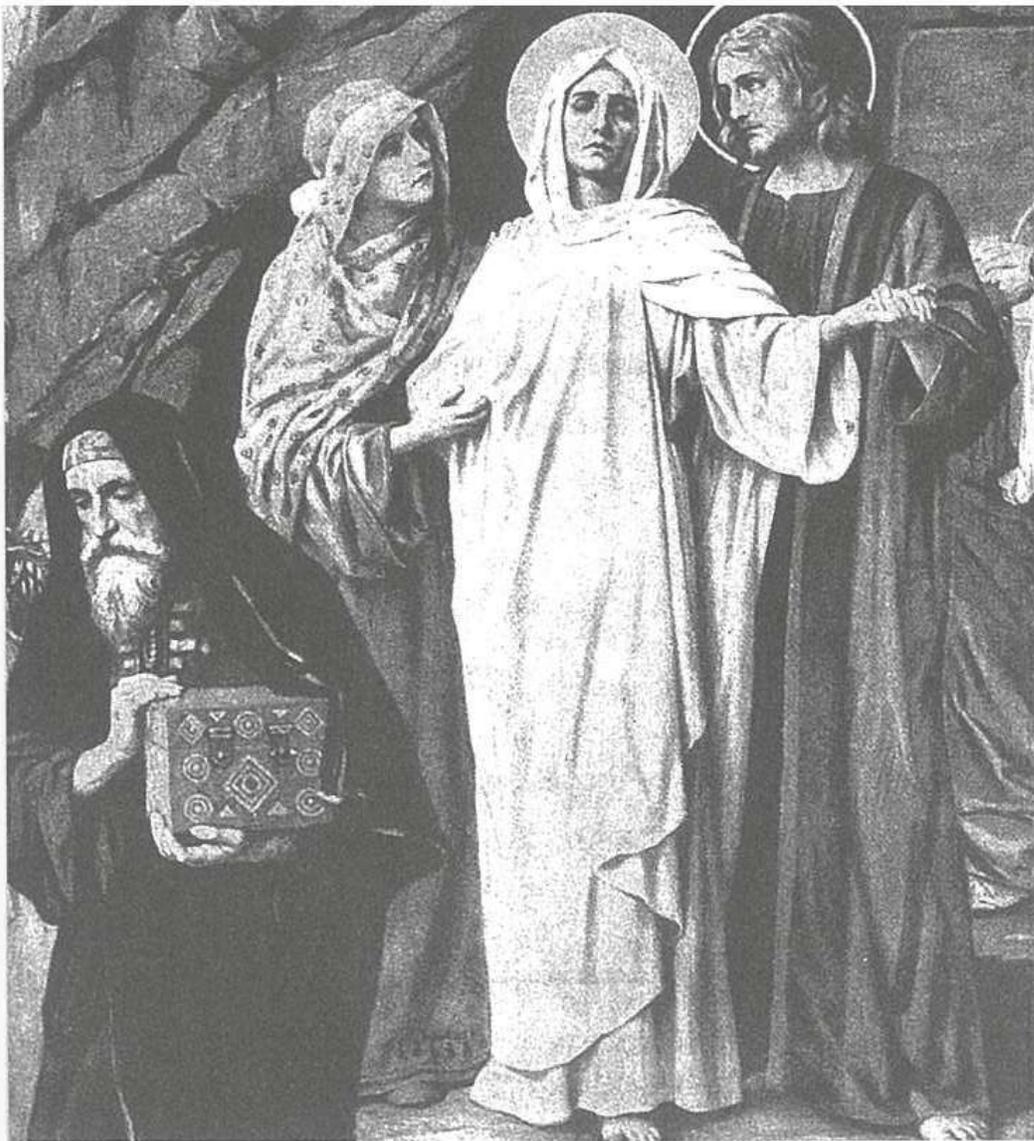
Consider the most bitter sorrow which rent the soul of Mary, when she saw the dead body of her dear Jesus on her knees, covered with blood, all torn with deep wounds. O mournful Mother, a bundle of myrrh, indeed, is thy Beloved to thee. Who would not pity thee? Whose heart would not be softened, seeing affliction which would move a stone? Behold John not to be comforted, Magdalen and the other Mary in deep affliction, and Nicodemus, who can scarcely bear his sorrow.

People kneel and recite aloud the following prayer:

**And I * Shall I alone be tearless amid such
grief? * Ingrate and hard am I! * Grant,
dear Mother, * that my heart may be pierced
with the same sword that pierced thy sor-
rowful soul, * that it may be softened, * and
may indeed lament those my heavy sins *
which were the cause of thy cruel suffering.
* Amen.**

PRIEST: *Hail Mary, etc.*
PRIEST: *Virgin Most Sorrowful.*

PEOPLE: *Holy Mary, etc.*
PEOPLE: *Pray for us.*



Now there was in the place where He was crucified, a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein no man yet had been laid. There, therefore, because of the parasceve of the Jews, they laid Jesus, because the sepulchre was nigh at hand—John XIX, 41-42.

(Optional Meditation)

The most tragic day in history ends, and all that is left for the Mother is to accompany her Son's Body to the grave. For the last time she looks upon her Son and in remembrance her grief knows no bounds. She remains alone, the last of the Holy Family. Certainly, we who know the meaning of suffering can mourn with Mary in her great sorrow.

Seventh Station

JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

People stand, while priest reads the meditation:

Consider the sighs which burst from Mary's sad heart when she saw her beloved Jesus laid within the tomb. What grief was hers when she saw the stone lifted to cover that sacred tomb! She gazed a last time on the lifeless body of her Son, and could scarce detach her eyes from those gaping wounds. And when the great stone was rolled to the door of the sepulchre, oh, then indeed her heart seemed torn from her body!

People kneel and recite aloud the following prayer

O Mother most desolate, * who didst indeed in body depart from the sepulchre, * but didst leave thy heart where was thine only treasure, * obtain that all our desires, all our love may rest there with thee. * Surely our hearts must melt with love to our Saviour, * who has shed His Blood for our salvation. * Surely we must love thee, * who hast suffered so much for us. * Oh, by all thy sorrows, * grant that the memory of them may be ever imprinted on our mind, * that our hearts may burn with love to God, * and to thee, sweet Mother, * who didst pour out all thy soul in sorrow for the Passion of Jesus: * to Him be honor, glory, and thanksgiving for ever and ever. * Amen.

PRIEST: *Hail Mary, etc.*
PRIEST: *Virgin Most Sorrowful.*

PEOPLE: *Holy Mary, etc.*
PEOPLE: *Pray for us.*

And now we shall say one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be, for the intentions of the Holy Father.

(Optional) To Mary in Her Desolation

I pity thee, most Holy Mother, * with all the tenderness of which my heart is capable, * in thine extreme desolation. * Deep indeed was thy grief, * when thou didst witness the Passion and death of thy beloved Son. * But then His presence could in a measure sustain thee and comfort thee * in the stormy waves of sorrow. Now art thou wholly desolate. * Oh, grief unequalled! * O, lonely bitterness! * Oh, by that grievous loss, have pity on me, * who so often have by my sins, lost my beloved Lord. Obtain, O tender Mother, * that I may never again cause my Jesus to remove from me through my wickedness and want of fervor, * but may serve Him faithfully in this earthly life, to see and enjoy Him hereafter in heaven.

Say the "Hail Mary" three times in memory of the Desolation of the Most holy Virgin.

Priest: We will stand and sing Hymn Number _____ on page _____

Prayer in Thanksgiving for a Favor Received

(For private devotion)

O Mother of Sorrows, you have not abandoned those who pray to thee, but you have lent a kindly ear to my prayers of this Novena; I thank Thee for having heard my prayers and for having obtained my desires from thy Divine Son, Jesus. I devoutly entreat thee, O Mother of Sorrows, that what I have received through thy intercession, may make me worthy to be delivered from all evil. Amen.

Marian Hymns

Hymns to be sung by the entire congregation—standing (After the hymn—Benediction. See p. 40)

THE FOLLOWING HYMNS may be sung or omitted according to the music regulations of each diocese. The hymns which have been added to the 17th edition have been marked with an asterisk. Music for these hymns can be found in the Westminster Hymnal (Burns & Oates, 28 Ashley Place, London SW 1).

1

MOTHER DEAR, O PRAY FOR ME

Mother dear, O pray for me!
Whilst far from heav'n and thee.
I wander in a fragile bark
O'er life's tempestuous sea.
O Virgin Mother, from thy throne,
So bright in bliss above,
Protect thy child and cheer my path,
With thy sweet smile of love.

Chorus

Mother dear, remember me,
And never cease thy care,
Till in heaven eternally,
Thy love and bliss I share.

2

DAILY, DAILY SING TO MARY*

Daily, daily sing to Mary, sing my soul her praises due.
All her feasts her actions honor, with the heart's devotion true.
Lost in wond'ring contemplation, be her majesty confessed.
Call her Mother call her Virgin, happy Mother Virgin blest.

3

MOTHER DEAREST, MOTHER FAIREST

Mother dearest, Mother fairest,
Help of all who call on thee,
Virgin, purest, brightest, rarest,
Help us, help, we cry to thee.

Chorus

Mary, help us, help, we pray,
Mary help us, help, we pray;
Help us in all care and sorrow,
Mary help us, help, we pray.

Help us in all care and sorrow;
Soothe those racked on bed of pain;
May the golden light of morrow
Bring them health and joy again.

4

HAIL, QUEEN OF HEAVEN*

Hail, Queen of Heav'n, the ocean Star,
Guide of the wand'rer here below!
Tossed on life's sea, I claim Thy care.
Save me from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the wand'rer, pray for me.

5

O PUREST OF CREATURES*

O Purest of creatures! sweet Mother, sweet Maid;
The one spotless womb wherein Jesus was laid.
Dark night bath come down on us, Mother, and we
Look out for thy shining, sweet star of the sea.

Deep night bath come down on this rough-spoken
world,
And the banners of darkness are boldly unfurled;
And the tempest-tossed Church—all her eyes are
on thee
They look to thy shining, sweet star of the sea.

6

HAIL, THOU STAR OF OCEAN*

Hail, thou star of ocean,
Portal of the sky;
Ever Virgin Mother
Of the Lord most high
Oh! by Gabriel's AVE,
Utter'd long ago,
EVA's name reversing,
'Stablish peace below.

Break the captive's fetters:
Light on blindness pour;
All our ills expelling,
Every bliss implore,
Show thyself a mother;
Offer him our sighs,
Who for us incarnate
Did not thee despise.

7

THE SEVEN SORROWS*

God in whom all grace doth dwell!
Grant us grace to ponder well
On the Virgin's dolours seven,
On the wounds to Jesus given.

May the tears which Mary poured
Gain us pardon of the Lord—
Tears excelling in their worth
All the penances of earth.

8

HOLY MARY

(Sung to the tune of Salve Mater Misericordiae)

Chorus

Holy Mary, O Mother merciful God's own
Mother,
O Mother bountiful. Sinless Mother, O Mother
beautiful,
Joyous Mother, our gladness plentiful, Holy
Mary!

Virgin Mother, Immaculate thou art,
O sinless Maid, most dear to Jesus' heart,
O Heaven's Queen, thou hast alone remained of
all mankind,
Unsullied and unstained, Holy Mary!
Holy etc.

9

THE GLADNESS OF THY MOTHERHOOD*

The gladness of thy motherhood,
The anguish of thy suffering,
The glory now that crowns thy brow
O Virgin Mother, we would sing.

Hail, blessed Mother, full of joy
In thy consent, thy visit too:
Joy in the birth of Christ on earth,
Joy in him lost and found anew.

10

MAIDEN, YET A MOTHER*

Maiden, yet a Mother,
Daughter of thy Son,
High beyond all other—
Lowlier is none;
Thou the consummation
Planned by God's decree,
When our lost creation
Nobler rose in thee!

Thus his place prepared,
He who all things made
'Mid his creatures tarried—
In thy bosom laid;
There his love he nourished,—
Warmth that gave increase
To the Root whence flourished
Our eternal peace.

11

MARY IMMACULATE*

Mary Immaculate, star of the morning,
Chosen before the creation began,
Chosen to bring, for thy bridal adorning,
Woe to the serpent and rescue to man.
Here, in an orbit of shadow and sadness
Veiling thy splendour, thy course thou hast run;
Now thou art throned in all glory and gladness,
Crowned by the hand of thy Saviour and Son.

12

ON THIS DAY, O BEAUTIFUL MOTHER

On this day, O beautiful Mother;
On this day we give thee our love,
Near thee, Madonna, fondly we hover,
Trusting thy gentle care to prove.

On this day we ask to share,
Dearest Mother, thy sweet care;
Aid us ere our feet astray
Wander from thy guiding way.

On this day, O beautiful Mother;
On this day we give thee our love,
Near thee, Madonna, fondly we hover,
Trusting thy gentle care to prove.

13

SILENT NIGHT

Silent Night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright!
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

14

TO CHRIST, THE PRINCE OF PEACE*

To Christ, the prince of peace,
And Son of God most high,
The father of the world to come,
Sing we with holy joy.

Deep in his heart for us
The wound of love he bore;
That love wherewith he still inflames
The hearts that him adore.

15

ADESTE FIDELES

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

16

O MOST HOLY ONE

(Sung to the tune of O Sanctissima)

O most holy one, O most lowly one,
Dearest Virgin, Maria!
Mother of fair love, Home of the Spirit Dove,
Ora, Ora, pro nobis.

Help in sadness drear, Port of gladness near,
Virgin Mother, Maria!
In pity heeding Hear thou our pleading
Ora, ora pro nobis.

17

AVE MARIA, THOU VIRGIN AND MOTHER

Ave Maria, thou Virgin and Mother,
Fondly thy children are calling to thee;
Thine are the graces unclaimed by another,
Sinless and beautiful, Star of the Sea.
Ave Maria, the night shades are falling,
Softly our voices arise unto thee;
Earth's lonely exiles for succor are calling
Sinless and beautiful, Star of the Sea.

18

PRAISE WE OUR GOD WITH JOY*

Praise we our God with joy
And gladness never ending:
Angels and saints with us
Their grateful voices blending,
He is our Father dear,
O'erfilled with Parent's love:
Mercies unsought, unknown,
He showers from above.

He is our Shepherd true;
With watchful care unsleeping,
On us, his erring sheep,
An eye of pity keeping;
He with a mighty arm
The bonds of sin loth break,
And to our burden'd hearts
In words of peace doth speak.

19

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN ENTHRONED ABOVE*

Hail, Holy Queen enthroned above, O Maria.
Hail, Queen of mercy and of love, O Maria.
Triumph, all ye Cherubim,
Sing with us, ye Seraphim,
Heav'n and earth resound the hymn;
Salve, Salve, Salve Regina.

20

LOURDES HYMN

(Adaptation)

(May also be sung for processional purposes. If candles are used — raise only at chorus toward statue or picture of Our Lady.)

1 O Mother of Sorrows
Our hearts are on fire;
That title so wondrous
Fills all our desire

Chorus

Ave, Ave, Ave Maria
Ave, Ave, Ave Maria

2 O Virgin most tender
Thy Son in His might
Hath raised thee in splendor
To Heaven's great height

3 We pray for Our Mother
The Church upon earth,
And bless, sweetest Lady
This land of our birth

4 You saw Him O Mother
Bent under the Cross,
Your arms are extended
To us in our loss

5 O Refuge of Sinners
Our hearts are all thine
Protect us thy children
Who kneel in thy shrine

6 Enrich us dear Lady
With blessings from heav'n
To all our petition
Let answer be giv'n

7 In grief and temptation
In joy or in pain
We'll seek thee, our Mother
Ne'er seek thee in vain

8 In death's solemn moment
May Mary be near
As Servants of Mary
To her forever dear

9 In splendor majestic
We hail our Great Queen
Our Lady of Sorrows
May she reign supreme

21

THE STABAT MATER

(During Lent — three different verses each Friday)

- 1 At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.
- 2 Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.
- 3 Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blest
Of the sole-begotten One!
- 4 Christ above in torment hangs,
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son.
- 5 Is there one who would not weep,
Whelmed in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold?
- 6 Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?
- 7 Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,
She beheld her tender Child
All with bloody scourges rent;
- 8 For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation,
Till His spirit forth He sent.
- 9 O thou Mother, fount of love,
Touch my spirit from above;
Make my heart with thine accord.
- 10 Make me feel as thou hast felt,
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ my Lord.

- 11 Holy Mother, pierce me through;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.
- 12 Let me share with thee His pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torment died.
- 13 Let me mingle tears with thee,
Mourning Him who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.
- 14 By the cross with thee to stay,
There with thee to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of thee to give.
- 15 Virgin of all virgins best,
Listen to my fond request:
Let me share thy grief divine.
- 16 Let me to my latest breath,
In my body bear the death,
Of that dying Son of thine.
- 17 Wounded with His every wound,
Steep my soul till it hath swooned
In His very Blood away.
- 18 Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
Lest in flames I burn and die,
In His awful judgment-day.
- 19 Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence
Be Thy Mother my defense;
Be Thy cross my victory.
- 20 While my body here decays,
May my soul Thy goodness praise,
Safe in Paradise with Thee. Amen.

***Benediction* OF THE MOST
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Kneeling—the entire Congregation Sings:

O Salutaris Hostia

**O Salutaris Hostia,
Quae coeli pandis ostium.
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.**

**Uni Trinoque Domino,
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino,
Nobis donet in patria. Amen.**

The Memorare

(People pray aloud)

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, * that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, * and sought thy intercession, * was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, *O Virgin of virgins, My Mother. * To thee I come; * before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. * (Pause here and make your request.) O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Priest: Virgin Most Sorrowful.

People: **Convert the Russian People.**

Priest: Mother of Sorrows.

People: **Give Peace to the World.**

Tantum Ergo

**Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui;
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui;
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.
Genitori, Genitoque,
Laus et jubilatio,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benedictio;
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen.**

Priest: **Panem de coelo praestitisti eis.**
(Alleluja.)

People: **Omne delectamentum in se habentem.**
(Alleluja.)

Priest: Oremus. Deus qui nobis sub Sacramento mirabili passionis tuae memoriam reliquisti: tribue, quaesumus, ita nos Corporis et Sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari; ut redemptionis tuae frustum in nobis jugiter sentiamus: Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum.

Priest: Let us pray. O God, Who in a wondrous sacrament has left to us a memorial of Thy passion; grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of Thy Body and Blood, that we may evermore feel within us the fruit of Thy Redemption. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

People: **Amen.**

THE DIVINE PRAISES

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the altar.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her Holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste Spouse.

Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

*When the Tabernacle has been closed,
the people stand and sing:*

HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE THY NAME

Holy God, we praise Thy Name;

Lord of all we bow before Thee!

All on earth Thy Name proclaim,

All in heav'n above adore Thee.

Infinite Thy vast domain,

Everlasting is Thy reign. (Repeat)

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation: but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary

Hail, Mary full of grace; the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among 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.



Sub Tuum Praesidium

We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

The Servite Rosary

The Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady is a popular way of sharing in the major crises of Mary's life. As we pray one Our Father and seven Hail Mary's for each sorrow, we ponder the pain she endured with her Son. We ask her to help us understand the evil we have done and to lead us in repentance. By mixing our sufferings with Mary's, as she joined her sacrifices with her Son's, we participate in the work of our Redemption.

In public recitation say with the priest:

AN ACT OF CONTRITION

O Lord, Jesus Christ, * I am truly sorry for my sins, * I humbly ask Your forgiveness, * and I promise with Your help * to prove worthy of Your love * by sharing in Your Passion and Death * through Our Blessed Mother's Sorrows. * Amen.

THE FIRST SORROW: *The Prophecy of Simeon*

Mary listened to Simeon predict that her Son would suffer so much to redeem the human race, it would cut her to the heart like a sword. For the rest of her life she dreaded the day the prophecy would be fulfilled.

One Our Father, seven Hail Mary's

THE SECOND SORROW: *The Flight into Egypt*

To escape Herod's plot to kill her infant Son, Mary left home and friends and endured the fears of sudden flight by dark and uncertain life in a foreign land.

One Our Father, seven Hail Mary's

THE THIRD SORROW: *The Loss of Jesus*

Returning from Jerusalem after the Passover, Mary lost her Son in the crowd. She worried and searched for three days before finding Him in the temple.

One Our Father, seven Hail Mary's

THE FOURTH SORROW: *The Meeting at Calvary*

Mary met her Son, tortured by the cross and the crowd, on the road to Calvary, and she was powerless to help Him except by her presence.

One Our Father, seven Hail Mary's

THE FIFTH SORROW: *The Crucifixion*

Mary watched the death agony of her Son on the cross, and witnessed His last will, which made us sinners her children.

One Our Father, seven Hail Mary's

THE SIXTH SORROW: *The Wake of Jesus*

Mary embraced her Son's body, lowered from the cross, and tried to comprehend that the Author of life was dead and the Creator had been killed by His creatures.

One Our Father, seven Hail Mary's

THE SEVENTH SORROW: *The Burial of Jesus*

Mary and her friends washed and anointed the battered body of her Son. They wrapped it in linen and laid it to rest in a fresh tomb.

One Our Father, seven Hail Mary's

THREE HAIL MARY'S, *said in sympathy with the grief of our sorrowing Mother, close the Rosary.*

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Prayer for Peace

Give peace in our time, O Lord, because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only Thou, O our God.

V. Peace be within thy walls.

R. **And abundance within thy towers.**

LET US PRAY

O God, from whom all holy desires, all right counsels and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that both our hearts may be set to obey Thy commandments, and also that we, being delivered from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time, under Thy protection, in rest and quietness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. Immaculate Queen of Peace.

R. **Pray for us.**



Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica

THE NOVENA TO OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER *is such a powerful and beloved devotion that the church, Our Lady of Sorrows in Chicago, where the Novena originated, has been raised to the dignity of a basilica, principally because of the devotion associated with the church through the Novena. Some indication of the importance of this church and shrine is to be found in the following decree, by which Pope Pius Xli raised Our Lady of Sorrows church to the exalted rank of basilica:*

First and most important church in America dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows is to be found in the teeming city of Chicago. The Order of Servants of Mary established this place of devotion in the year 1874. In the beginning of this century they built a spacious Church with a seating capacity of approximately 3,000 people, patterned after a style of architecture identified with the Renaissance. Wonderful are the graceful towers rising at each side of the facade of the Church. The marble of the Main Altar was imported from famed Carrara and is topped by a picture of the Sorrowful Mother.

Furthermore, there are chapels all along both sides of the nave, artistic choir stalls, sedilia and pulpit. In addition to all this, the Church has a noted and sonorous organ. However, what is most worthy of

praise is the fact that this Church is an outstanding place of devotion in America, where the Sorrowful Virgin is venerated. From this Shrine, the devotion in the form of the "Novena to Our Sorrowful Mother" spread everywhere like an inundating river.

It is well to remember the Novena prayers to the Blessed Mother of God were first compiled and then prayed in this church and are now used in 2,300 churches throughout the U.S.A. and other parts of the world. These prayers have been said by countless numbers of people with great spiritual benefits. This fact must also be mentioned; this Shrine is one of the most popular churches in Chicago and also in the U.S. About fifty priests of the Servite Order minister to the needs of a large parish in conjunction with the Novena and are zealous in the excellent management of a parochial grammar school and a high school for boys.

Since this great house of God is so replete with eminent merits, it is to be considered as a powerhouse whence heavenly works generate. We have been asked to elevate it to the honor and privilege of a Minor Basilica. We who strive to promote Marian devotion in every way have very willingly listened to the request, since it has been especially and ardently recommended to us by Our Beloved Son, Samuel Alphonsus Stritch, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of Chicago. Therefore, having consulted the Sacred Congregation of Rites with knowledge, mature deliberation and exercising the fullness of our apostolic power in this letter, we elevate the Church dedicated to Our Blessed Sorrowful Mother, generally known in Chicago as Our Lady of Sorrows, to the honor and dignity of a Minor Basilica as a perpetual parochial concession, with all the rights and privileges which pertain to all the Sacred Houses which enjoy the same privileges without any obstacles whatsoever.

Let it be known by all these present: We declare and authorize that this document shall continue authentic, valid and irrevocable and it remains above change or removal by us or any future authority.

This is our decision and definition, and therefore, if anyone, regardless of authority, should attempt to add or alter anything contained thereof, with knowledge or without knowledge, let him be informed that his act is null and void, stripped of all effect.

Given under the seal of the fisherman of St. Peter's Church, Rome, May 4, 1956, the seventeenth year of our Pontificate.

PIUS PP. XII