

Good Friday 2024
Youth Group, Music Ministry, and Community
Members of
Our Lady Queen of Peace
present:
Stations of the Cross
based on the diary of Saint Sister Faustina¹



¹Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. 2011

Introduction

The Stations of the Cross have been an important devotion for Catholics for centuries. The roots of the devotion are found in the first Christian communities that walked the Via Dolorosa of Jesus to remember his Passion and death from the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, through the Kidron Valley, the streets of Jerusalem, and finally to the top of Calvary. It included the whole passion of our Lord.

Today this group of dedicated teens from our parish are proud to present the stations of the cross based on the diary of Saint Faustina. We invite you to focus your attention on the dialogue between Jesus and St. Faustina. It is a conversation between two people who love one another deeply; the Savior who wants to redeem us; the human soul who wants to console Him.

Let us walk together, along with the Virgin Mary, the last Stations of the Cross of this Lent 2024, standing up to begin our service.

[*Song:* Via Dolorosa - Arranged by Dylan Wyka]


Priest and Congregation: + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

All: Merciful Lord, my Master, I wish to follow you faithfully, I wish to imitate you in my life more and more perfectly, so I beg you to grant me the grace to understand ever better the mysteries of the spiritual life through the meditation of your Passion. Mary, Mother of Mercy, always faithful to Christ, guide me in the footsteps of your Son's sorrowful Passion and obtain for me the graces necessary so that this Way of the Cross may be fruitful in my heart. Amen

All: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be. (Please be seated)

Narrator: First Station: **JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward.

(Matthew 26: 59-60)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *Do not be surprised if you are sometimes unjustly accused. I Myself first drank this cup of undeserved sufferings for love of you (289). When I stood before Herod, I obtained for you the grace to know how to rise above human scorn, to follow faithfully in My footsteps (1164).*

St. Faustina: Jesus, we are sensitive to words and we want to answer back immediately, regardless of whether it is God's will that we speak. A silent soul is strong, no adversities will harm it if it perseveres in silence. The silent soul is capable of attaining the closest union with God (477).

All: Merciful Jesus, help me to accept every human judgment, do not ever allow me to judge You when judging my neighbor. Amen


Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[*Song:* Junto a La Cruz - Emilio Vicente Matéu]

Narrator: Second Station: **JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on His head, and clothed Him in a purple cloak, and they came to Him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And Pilate said to them, “Behold, the man!” When the chief priests and the guards saw Him, they cried out, **“Crucify Him, crucify Him!”** (John 19:1-6)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *Do not be afraid of sufferings, I am with you (151). The more you will come to love suffering, the purer your love for Me will be (279).*

St. Faustina: O Jesus, I thank you for the little daily crosses, for opposition to my endeavors, for the hardships of communal life, for the misinterpretation of my intentions, for the humiliations at the hands of others, for the harsh way in which we are treated, for false suspicions, for poor health and loss of strength, for self-denial, for dying to myself, for lack of recognition in everything, for the upsetting of all my plans (343).


All: Merciful Jesus, teach me to appreciate the difficulties of life, sickness, and every suffering, and with love take up my daily cross. Amen

Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,
All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[*Song:* Were You There - Spiritual]

Narrator: Third Station: **JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the Lord laid upon Him the guilt of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *The involuntary offenses of souls do not hinder My love for them, nor prevent me from uniting Myself with them; but even the smallest voluntary offenses obstruct My graces, and I cannot lavish My gifts on such souls (1641).*

St. Faustina: O my Jesus, how prone I am to evil, and this forces me to be constantly vigilant. But I do not lose heart, I trust God's grace, which abounds in the worst misery (606).

All: Merciful Lord, keep me from any infidelity, even the smallest, voluntary and conscious. Amen


Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[*Song:* Gethsemane - Andrew Lloyd Weber]

Narrator: Fourth Station: **JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother -Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And you yourself a sword will pierce (Luke 2: 34-35).

Jesus to St. Faustina: *Although all the works that arise by my will are exposed to great sufferings, consider whether any of them has been subject to greater difficulties than the work which is directly mine—the work of Redemption. You should not worry too much about adversities (1643).*

Saint Faustina: I saw the Blessed Virgin, unspeakably beautiful. She held me close to herself and said to me, *I am Mother to you all, thanks to the unfathomable mercy of God. Most pleasing to me is that soul which faithfully carries out the will of God. Be*

courageous. Do not fear apparent obstacles, but fix your gaze upon the Passion of my Son, and in this way you will be victorious (449).

All: Mary, Mother of Mercy, be with me always, especially in suffering, just as you were on your Son's way of the cross. Amen


Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[*Song:* Maria era su Nombre - Mario Alberto Perez]

Narrator: Fifth Station: **SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: As they lead Him away, they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23:26)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *By day and by night My gaze is fixed upon him, and I permit these adversities in order to increase his merit. I do not reward for good results but for the patience and hardship undergone for My sake (86).*

St. Faustina: O my Jesus, You do not give a reward for the performance of a work, but for the good will and the labor undertaken; therefore, I am completely at peace, even if all my undertakings and efforts should be thwarted or should come to naught. If I do all that is in my power, the rest is not my business (952).

All: Jesus, my Lord, may every thought, every word, every activity be undertaken only out of love for You. Purify my intentions. Amen


Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[*Song:* How Could You Say No - Mickey Cates]

Narrator: Sixth Station: **VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Jesus' journey is at times brutal. He has entered into the terrible experiences of rejection and injustice. He has been whipped and beaten. His face shows the signs of his solidarity with all who have ever suffered injustice and vile, abusive treatment. He encounters a compassionate, loving disciple who wipes the sweat, spit and mocking blood from his face. On her veil, the image of his face - His gift to her and for all- is emblazoned forever for us to contemplate.

Jesus to St. Faustina: *Know that whatever good you do to any soul, I welcome it as if you had done it to Me (1768).*

St. Faustina: I am learning how to be good from Jesus, from Him who is goodness itself, so that I may be called a [child] of the Heavenly Father (669). Great love can change small things into great ones, and it is only love which lends value to our actions (303).

All: Lord Jesus, My Master, grant that my eyes, my hands, my lips, and my heart may always be merciful. Transform me into mercy. Amen


Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[*Song:* Open My Eyes - Jesse Manibusan]

Narrator: Seventh Station: **JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Yet it was our infirmities that He bore, our sufferings that He endured, while we thought of Him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. (Isaiah 53: 4)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *The cause of your falls is that you rely too much upon yourself and too little on Me. But let this not sadden you so much. You are dealing with the God of mercy (1488). Know that by yourself you can do nothing (639). Without special help from Me, you are not even capable of accepting my graces (738).*

St. Faustina: Jesus do not leave me alone in suffering. You know, Lord, how weak I am. I am an abyss of wretchedness; I am nothingness itself; so, what would be so strange if you leave me alone and I fall? (1489). So, You, Jesus, must stand by me constantly like a mother by a helpless child and even more so (264).

All: May your grace support me, O Lord, that I may not continually fall into the same errors: and if I fall, help me to rise up and glorify your mercy. Amen.


Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[Song: Junto a La Cruz - Emilio Vicente Matéu]

Narrator: Eighth Station: **JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented Him. Jesus turned to them

and said, “*Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children.*” (Luke 23: 27-28)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *Oh, how pleasing to Me is living faith! (1420). Tell all that I demand that they live in the spirit of faith (353).*

St. Faustina: I fervently beg the Lord to strengthen my faith, so that in my drab, everyday life I will not be guided by human dispositions, but by those of the spirit. Oh, how everything drags man towards the earth! But lively faith maintains the soul in the higher regions and assigns self-love its proper place; that is to say, the lowest one (210).

All: Merciful Lord, thank you for Holy Baptism and the grace of faith. Continuously, I call: Lord, I believe, increase my faith. Amen

Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[Song: Take Up Our Cross - Curtis Stephan]

Narrator: Ninth Station: **JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,



All: that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Though he was harshly treated, He submitted and opened not his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, He was silent and opened not His mouth. Oppressed and condemned, though He had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. But the Lord was pleased to crush Him in infirmity. Because of His affliction, He shall see the light in fullness of days. (Isaiah 53:7-10)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *My child, know that the greatest obstacles to holiness are discouragement and an exaggerated anxiety. These will deprive you of the ability to practice virtue. Do not lose heart*

in coming for pardon, for I am always ready to forgive you. As often as you beg for it, you glorify My mercy (1488).

St. Faustina: My Jesus, despite Your graces, I see and feel all my misery. I begin my day with battle and end it with battle. As soon as I conquer one obstacle, ten more appear to take its place. But I am not worried, because I know that this is the time of struggle, not peace (606).


All: Merciful Lord, I give you what is my exclusive property, that is, my sin and my weakness. I beg you, may my misery drown in your unfathomable mercy. Amen.

Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,
All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[Song: Take Up Our Cross - Curtis Stephan]

Narrator: Tenth Station: **JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be," in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled. (John 19: 23-24)

St. Faustina: Jesus appeared before me unexpectedly, stripped of his garments, covered with sores all over his body, his eyes full of blood and tears, his face disfigured, covered with spittle. Suddenly the Lord said to me, *"The bride must be like the Bridegroom."*


St. Faustina: I understood these words deeply. There is no room for doubt here. My likeness to Jesus must be realized through suffering and humility (268).

All: Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart according to your Heart. Amen.

Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,
All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[Song: Junto a la Cruz - Emilio Vicente Matéu]

Narrator: Eleventh Station: **JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,
 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” (Matthew 27: 39-40)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *My pupil, have great love for those who cause you suffering. Do good to those who hate you (1628).*

St. Faustina: O my Jesus, you know what efforts are needed to live sincerely and unaffectedly with those from whom our nature flees, or with those who, deliberately or not, have made us suffer. At such times more than at others, I try to discover the Lord Jesus in such a person and for the same Jesus, I do everything for such people (compare 766).

All: O purest Love, rule in all your plenitude in my heart and help me to do your holy will most faithfully. Amen

Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,
All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[Song: Were You There - Spiritual]

Narrator: Twelfth Station: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Those who can, please kneel.

Priest: Look at the wood of the Cross, on which the Savior of the world stood.

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,
All: that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. (John 19: 33-34)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *All this is for the salvation of souls. Consider well, my daughter, what you are doing for their salvation (1184).*

St. Faustina: Then I saw Jesus nailed to the cross. When he had hung on it for a while, I saw a multitude of souls crucified like him. Then I saw a second multitude of souls, and a third. The second multitude were not nailed to [their] crosses, but were holding them firmly in their hands. The third were neither nailed to [their] crosses nor holding them firmly in their hands, but were dragging [their] crosses behind them and were discontent.

Jesus: Do you see these souls? Those who are like Me in the pain and contempt with what they suffer will be like me also in glory. And those who resemble Me less in pain and contempt will also bear less resemblance to me in glory (446).


All: Jesus, my Savior, hide me in the depths of your heart, so that fortified by your grace, I may be able to be like you in love of the cross and have a share in the participation of Your glory. Amen

Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,
All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[Song: Jesus Remember Me - Taize]

Narrator: Thirteenth Station: **JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS and LAID IN THE ARMS OF HIS MOTHER**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things. (Luke 23: 47-49)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *Most dear to Me is the soul that strongly believes in My goodness and has complete trust in Me. I heap my confidence upon it and give it all it asks (453).*

St. Faustina: I fly to your mercy, Compassionate God, who alone are good. Although my misery is great, and my offenses are many, I trust in Your mercy, because You are the God of mercy; and from time immemorial it has never been heard of, nor do heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy has been disappointed (1730).

All: Merciful Jesus, increase my trust in Your mercy each day, so that always and everywhere I may be a witness of Your goodness and infinite love. Amen


Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

[Song: El Diario de Maria - Martin Valverde]

Narrator: Fourteenth Station: **JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

Priest: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

 **All:** that by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where He had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by. (John 19: 38-42)

Jesus to St. Faustina: *But child, you are not yet in your homeland; so go, fortified by My grace, and fight for My kingdom in human souls; fight as a king's child would; and remember that the days of your exile will pass quickly, and with them the possibility of earning merit for heaven. I expect from you, My child, a great number of souls who will glorify My mercy for all eternity (1489).*

St. Faustina: Every soul you have entrusted to me, O Jesus, I will try to aid with prayer and sacrifice, so that Your grace can work in them. O great lover of souls, my Jesus, I thank you for this immense confidence with which You have deigned to place souls in our care (245).

All: Grant, Merciful Lord, that not even one of those souls which you have entrusted to me be lost. Amen

Priest: You, who suffered wounds for us,

All: Christ, Jesus, have mercy on us.

[*Song:* Were You There - Spiritual]

Closing Prayer:

All: My Jesus, my only hope, I thank you for this Way of the Cross through which you have opened the eyes of my soul. This Way of the Cross of your Passion represents your love for me. From this Way of the Cross, I learn how to love souls for God. This Way of the Cross contains tireless treasures. O Jesus, how few souls understand you in your martyrdom of love. Happy is the soul that comes to understand the love of the Heart of Jesus! Amen

For the intentions of the Holy Father,

Our Father..... Hail Mary.....Glory.....

Prayer in Honor of the Holy Cross

All: Our Father, in obedience to You, Your only Son accepted death on the cross for the salvation of humanity. We recognize the mystery of the cross on earth. May we receive the gift of redemption in Heaven. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

The stations of the cross is clearly an illustration of Divine Mercy. Each station flows like an incandescent river culminating in the Cross - The Fountain of Mercy. Jesus died for us so that we may have access to the unlimited Graces of the Father. Saint Faustina saw, coming from *His Heart-that was overflowing with generous love; two rays of light that illuminated the world. "These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. The two rays denote Blood and Water. Red for the blood (which is the life of souls), and pale for the water (which justifies souls and makes them righteous). (299).* Both are obtained thru the sacraments: Red the blood of Jesus is received by the sacrament of communion and white the pale water is received at Baptism. The whole image (known as "Fountain of Mercy") is a symbol of charity, forgiveness and love of God. It is no wonder that our human bodies need both blood and water to sustain themselves. God in his mercy has set for us all that we need, not only for our human bodies, but also and most importantly our souls.

St. Faustina's famous quote – a message of HOPE...

“All grace flows from mercy, and the last hour abounds with mercy for us. Let no one doubt concerning the goodness of God; even if a person's sins were as dark as night, God's mercy is stronger than our misery.