
MEDITATING ON CHRIST'S PASSION

MICHELE BONDI BOTTESI
WITH FATHER JOHN SIMONEAU


JOSEPH KARL
PUBLISHING

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WHAT KING WOUNDS HIS SOLDIERS BEFORE SENDING THEM INTO BATTLE?

The King of all kings, and Lord over all.

This book is dedicated to
the Holy Face of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
and also to you,
because you are absolutely priceless to the King,
and loved and valued by Him beyond measure.

Divinely human, weak, suffering, wounded, depleted,
exhausted, annihilated and impaled on a Cross,
Christ held back nothing and through Him,
God gives us everything.

May we live, love, surrender, serve, and suffer
in imitation of Christ and His Most Holy Mother,
for when we hold back nothing,
God uses us to give precious, immortal souls everything.

Sweet and gentle Jesus, make our hearts like unto Thine!

*“Where the Lord finds vessels empty,
He fills them with His blessings.”¹
~ Thomas A. Kempis*

1. Thomas A. Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ* (New York: Catholic Book Publishing Corp., 1993), p. 275.

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FOREWORD

BY FATHER JOHN SIMONEAU

News always tries to get eye witnesses—better—the real deal: The one who “did the deed,” “broke the headlines,” “grabbed the attention of the nation.” It’s amazing to see how the same events can be relived, reinterpreted, re-felt by the very perpetrator and the witnesses.

A foreword is to introduce what is to come, but I’ll be quite inept at this. Why? Because, like me, you are a witness. You live in a world where Christ has left His mark. I don’t care if you know Him or not, believe Him, believe in Him or not, love him or not...countries, cultures, faiths, wars, and peace have surged around this Jesus and we have both witnessed Him to some extent. I don’t believe in coincidences.

If you have read so far I must either be a good writer or something has brought you to this book. He is about to break into your life, deepen His Presence in your life. Now is when you will either put this book down and shore up your defenses or you will give Him a chance. The Maker of the world and nations is about to remake you through the cross and the resurrection.

Read on, not as one who is an outsider; this has been done for you...

INTRODUCTION

SPIRITUAL VISION

“... especially I commend earnest mental prayer to you, more particularly such as bears upon the Life and Passion of our Lord. If you contemplate Him frequently in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with Him, you will grow in His Likeness, and your actions will be molded on His. He is the Light of the world; therefore in Him, by Him, and for Him we shall be enlightened and illuminated.”²

~ Saint Francis of Sales

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2. Saint Francis of Sales, *Introduction to the Devout Life, Part II*, Chapter 1, The Necessity of Prayer, N.2.

SPIRITUAL VISION

DISCOVER AND THEN KEEP DISCOVERING THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, APOSTOLIC, AND PRO-LIFE CHURCH, WHERE THE INVISIBLE BECOMES VISIBLE AND “WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.” (MATTHEW 19:26)

Spend precious, intimate time every day with Jesus meditating on His Passion and on your Redemption.

Look into the loving and merciful eyes of your Savior as He offers His Sacred Body up for every person collectively and for every individual personally, and contemplate His love for you in ways that you may never have considered or known.

The lessons in *Meditating on Christ's Passion* are presented to help you transform the time you spend with Jesus into very powerful, deeply intimate, and extraordinarily meaningful moments. God is so in love with you!

“By My Holy Face you will work wonders.”³

~ Jesus to Sr. Mary of St. Peter

SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH

See a pillar transformed into a pedestal, a church into Calvary, an execution rope into an alb's girdle, a center aisle into the Way of the Cross, Communion into creation, chaos into order, an impaled Heart into a refuge, a drop of Blood into salvation, loving hearts into tabernacles, silence into intimate conversation, and the daily Holy Sacrifice of the Mass into every soul's wedding.

See deep into eternity as words come to life. See the gates of heaven open wide as the condemned are granted freedom by an innocent Man nailed to a Cross. See adults transformed into children, wounds into

reparation, a valley of tears into heavenly joy, bitterness into peace, and a prier-dieu into a place of mercy on Calvary.

See sorrow transformed into meaning, apathy into devotion, hate into love, darkness into light, pain into pleasure, time into forever, pride into humility, selfishness into charity, doubt into belief, the hungry into the satisfied, the last place into the most coveted place, possessions into burdens, and a path lined with the Blood of a Lamb into a journey toward God.

See a chapel transformed into the Garden, bread into God, Christ's Precious Blood into the seeds of faith, the faithless into farmers and fishermen, profoundly Catholic teaching into nets, and petitions into keys that hands joined in prayer use to free captive souls bound and chained by the devil.

See sinners transformed into saints, the forgotten into the remembered, and those considered by the world to be the most worthless, powerless, useless, and penniless into phenomenal channels of grace for the massive conversion of sinners.

"He who desires to go on advancing from virtue to virtue, from grace to grace, should meditate continually on the Passion of Jesus. There is no practice more profitable for the entire sanctification of the soul than the frequent meditation of the sufferings of Jesus Christ." ~ Saint Bonaventure

DISCOVER AND THEN KEEP REDISCOVERING THE LOVE OF YOUR ETERNAL LIFE

Discover and then keep rediscovering the one, holy, Catholic, apostolic, and pro-life Church, and the majestic full expression of Christianity as established by Its very Founder, Jesus Christ.

All are welcome! All are necessary.

"All Jesus Christ did, He did for us. His prayers, His tears, His watchings, His fasting, His preaching, His journeys, His conversations, His miracles—all those were for us." ~ Saint John Vianney

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3. Edited by Dorothy Scallan, Translated by Fr. Emeric B. Scallan, S.T.B., *The Golden Arrow: The Autobiography and Revelations of Sister Mary of St. Peter on Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1990).

PART I

SPIRITUAL VISION

Meaningful Matters of Inseparable Hearts

“For You”

The Divine Child in the Manger, the Crosses, and the Crown, and
Conquering Evil

“Soul, Help Me!”

Saint Veronica and the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus

How to Bloom in a Garden in Great Need of Care and Repair

The Gardener, the Garden, the Seeds, and the Sowing

The Crown, the Keys, Profound Catholicism, and You

Gratitude, Union, Sacrifice, and Service

A Prayer During Holy Communion While Unified with Christ at the Pillar

The Joy and Immeasurable Value of Kissing the Holy Face of Jesus

Jesus’ Crown of Thorns and Living in Imitation of Christ and
Blessed Mother

Longinus, Our Lady, Her Love, and the Lance

A Visit to Jesus’ Tomb

“One cannot love without suffering. He (Jesus) showed us this very clearly upon the Cross, where He was consumed for love of us. And it is still the same every day in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar...Since love makes lovers one in likeness, if we love, let us model our lives on His.”⁴

~ Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

4. Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Translated from the French of the revised Gauthery edition of 1920 by Fr. Clarence A. Herbst, S.J., *The Letters of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque* (Charlotte, NC: TAN Books, 2012).

MEANINGFUL MATTERS OF INSEPARABLE HEARTS

EXPERIENCE MEANINGFUL AND POWERFUL MOMENTS OF
DIVINE INTIMACY ALONG THE WAY OF THE CROSS, AND
ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO LOVE HIMSELF.

Don't ever just be Catholic; be PROFOUNDLY Catholic! There is so much more of God's love to discover and then keep re-discovering. Start seeing things differently by looking through the sacrificially loving and suffering eyes of our Redeemer and His Most Holy Mother.

*"Never run from the Cross. Never."*⁵ ~Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

SPIRITUAL OPPOSITES CONCERNING MATTERS OF THE HEART

Perhaps even before embarking on this particular journey of the heart with our Lord, the devil already had you on his radar and did a fine job battering your heart after which he handed it back to you on a silver platter.

Be glad; when you pass it on to Jesus and Blessed Mother, it will have taken on the likeness of their inseparable Sacred and Immaculate Hearts. Its new colors even represent them both—black for our High Priest, and blue for Our Lady.

YOUR HEART UNITED WITH HIS

*“The genuine fruit which proves the worth of our doctrine and of our life is always that indicated by Jesus: the fulfillment of His will. This fulfillment means total adherence to the laws of God and of the Church, loyal obedience to our lawful superiors, fidelity to duty—and all these in every kind of circumstance, even at the sacrifice of our own ideas and will.”*⁶ ~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

Jesus will teach you many things when you are open to His inspirations. Our Lord will show you many things when you make a sincere effort to grow closer to Him by living a sacramental life of heroic virtue and spend time communicating with Him in prayer. Make it a priority to develop a strong prayer life. Pray unceasingly.

What Jesus shares with you today comes right from His Wounded and immeasurably loving Sacred Heart.

A VISIT TO THE PILLAR

*“There is no complete union of the soul with Jesus without penetration into the secret mysteries of the Heart of the Divine Master. There it will find an ocean of love and an abyss of suffering. Such a vision as this produces the “holy folly of love”; it fills the heart of man with divine burnings, and wounds so deeply that the soul pours itself, once and for ever, at the Feet of Him, Whom alone, henceforth it can love. This, oh! my Master! this is the union to which Thou dost lead that soul who wishes sincerely to love and suffer with Thee.”*⁷ ~ Dom Pius de Hemptinne

During Holy Mass, the Lord brings you to the center aisle in church where He is mystically scourged at the pillar. He inspires you to use your heart like a sponge and very reverently soak up His Precious Blood as It projects from His Sacred Body and as It lands on the ground.

A short while later you are inspired to press your heart against the Wound in His Sacred Heart as He hangs on the Cross, again using it like a sponge to absorb His Sacred Blood.

Absorb Jesus' sacrificial love and mercy into your heart. You may

absorb as much of His Precious Blood as you like; each drop contains all the strength and courage you need to accomplish His will.

WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

It is also possible for us to take the hearts of others in an action of thought similar to a prayer and use them to absorb Christ's Precious Blood as well. So much could be said about the effects of pressing our hearts and the hearts of others against His Sacred Wounds, the gateways to the confessionals of His love and mercy, and against His Sacred Heart just after the spear is withdrawn on Calvary.

Absorb God's love and mercy, and be transformed into His likeness.

This action can be performed with words as well. Use the names of others like sponges to absorb the love and mercy of God. Use the words of prayers and songs in a similar way to express your compassion to our Lord during His suffering. Profit from His merits, example, and sacrifice.

Saint John Vianney joins you in church and it's no coincidence that the Patron Saint of Parish Priests is with you so profoundly to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. What other saints have joined you? Remain mindful that our Lord, Blessed Mother, and your angel guardian are always there with you.

“There are two ways of uniting ourselves with our Lord...prayer and the Sacraments.” ~ Saint John Vianney

THE LAST SUPPER DURING HOLY MASS

Our Savior has you look right into His eyes during the Last Supper as He prepares for the Consecration. He looks at every single one of us personally at that very intimate moment; be sure you return His loving and merciful gaze. Jesus is so in love with you!

Just before Holy Communion, Jesus has you take your heart and dab His eyes, mouth, Sacred Heart, and Wounds as He hangs on the Cross. May we use our hearts to collect every Sacred Tear and drop of His Precious Blood.

Just prior to being unified with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, as you

say to Him, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed," your words travel to Him. Through them you venerate His wounds while expressing your gratitude.

You are shown that by venerating Christ's Wounds with your heart, you are at the same time also pressing your heart against the wounds of all those through all time who enter confessionals to be reconciled to God. By doing so, you invoke the power of Christ's Precious Blood to help their wounds heal, especially their wounded and broken hearts.

To love and honor Jesus is to love and honor one another.

You can perform these loving and merciful actions for Jesus and for others and in a similar way, Jesus absorbs your tears, tends to your wounds with His Sacred Heart, and heals them with His Precious Blood.

BEGIN THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES AT THE LAST SUPPER

Remain on Calvary following the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and continue celebrating while unified with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Be still and enjoy meaningful moments of Divine Intimacy with Jesus. Then, as you pray the Holy Rosary, the Lord suggests you begin praying the Sorrowful Mysteries at the Last Supper. Jesus calls you very close to Him; He invites us all to come very close to Him at that moment. Our Savior wants us very near to Him when He says the powerful words, "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19). You look into each others' eyes as He speaks; the moment is so incredibly intimate and loving.

Our Lord requests that you offer yourself to Him in return. After telling Jesus, "I do!" He transforms you into His mirror, into a representation of His Most Holy Face.

MORE ABOUT OUR HEARTS

We are to offer our hearts to Jesus, Who continues to present His Sacred Heart to us. We are to place our hearts on the altar before Jesus on that Holy Thursday, and also during every Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Do you assist at Holy Mass every day, if at all possible? Jesus invites you to share in the mystery of His Passion and Death and be unified with Him every single day. Celebrate your Redemption with our Savior as often as possible; worship and honor our most loving God as He deserves.

Have you responded to your personal invitation from the Lord to attend Holy Mass every day? Have you welcomed His invitation? Everyone gets one! You are officially invited because you are loved and valued by God beyond measure, and you are an important member of the economy of salvation.

Jesus wants every one of us to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with Him, wed our lives to His, and be unified with Him completely in the Blessed Sacrament each day if at all possible. Take your proper place in salvation history. You are irreplaceable!

TWO HEARTS AND FIVE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

“The true Christian should be willing to endure the sufferings of the spirit as Jesus Christ did when He was betrayed by one of His disciples, denied by another, and abandoned by all.” ~ Saint John Bosco

Journey with Jesus through the Sorrowful Mysteries. Love and console one another through each mystery with all your hearts.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord inspires you to use your heart to wipe His Holy Face as He sweats and cries tears of Blood. Then, Jesus takes His Sacred Heart and uses it to absorb your tears. Every action of His is so deeply moving and so incredibly loving. May we imitate the One Who loves so extravagantly and with tremendous compassion.

As Jesus is scourged at the pillar, you press your heart against His Sacred Wounds, absorb His Tears, and wipe His Holy and suffering Face. While exchanging glances with Him, express your gratitude, love, and admiration.

The Holy Face of Jesus is honored through these actions.

In a similar manner, use your heart to absorb Christ's Precious Blood as He is crowned with thorns. At the same time, Jesus consoles you with His Sacred Heart. You have taken on Christ's likeness and stand by Jesus' side. Both of you are crowned with thorns; both His Back and yours are covered with cloaks of mockery; your hands are bound; and each of you holds a scepter. Despite being physically constrained, you are nevertheless able to console one another with your hearts.

Limitations can never stop you from loving. You can always love despite them. Sacrificial love makes these expressions incredibly powerful, profoundly meaningful, and deeply unifying.

"In order to console a soul in its suffering, point out to it all the good it can still do." ~ Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

The same thing happens as you carry the Cross to Calvary together with our Lord. You bring Him great consolation by placing yourself at His side. Likewise, Jesus consoles you during your trials. Just imagine your soul's interaction with Jesus as you carry the Cross with Him to Calvary. Look deep into His eyes as He looks into yours with unfathomable love and longing.

INSEPARABILITY

As Jesus hangs crucified on the Cross, venerate the Lord's Sacred Wounds with your heart and mystically become one with Christ as His Sacred Blood comes into contact with yours. How is that possible? When you are unified with the Lord and hold nothing back, His Precious Blood becomes yours, and yours becomes His. You become One and the same.

Surrender your heart to God in imitation of Christ. Deepen your union with Him by loving sacrificially and by loving much. Spend time each day with Jesus meditating on His Passion. This can be done first thing in the morning; while making a Holy Hour; while making your daily examination of conscience; while receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation; during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; while unified with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during Holy Communion; during Eucharistic

Adoration and Benediction; during trials and joys; while working and during recreation; to conclude the day; and at any other time. Jesus is always very near you.

As you examine your conscience once a day, think of our Lord fondly and with gratitude; venerate His Sacred Body and Precious Blood while doing so, and allow yourself to be transformed into His likeness. Receive the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation often.

“O Jesus...may my soul be inebriated with Thy Blood and feed itself with the bread of Thy sufferings.” ~ Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

Contained within the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Jesus are both Sacraments of Divine Intimacy—the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They are as inseparable from one another as our hearts are from the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary and from the hearts of one another.

“Darling child, rest your head on My heart and listen... You don't listen enough, so how can you hear? And how can we have intimate conversations, not just mouth to mouth, but heart to heart? Without any words, with signs, with the soul's breath. What beautiful intimacy, what utter purity! And what joy that one gives Me who shows himself as he is, in the hope that his humility will bring Me the glory and love that the world has weaned away from Me. You, child, love Me. Love Me for others. Love Me for Me.”⁸ ~ Jesus to Gabrielle Bossis

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5. Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *Marian Catechist Apostolate, Lesson 3, Neo Paganism* (VHS Recording). Copyright © 2000 - 2013 by www.thealpresence.org. Used with permission.
 6. Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., *Divine Intimacy* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1996), p. 713
 7. Dom Pius de Hemptinne, *A Disciple of Dom Marmion: Letters and Spiritual Writings* (London: Sands & Co., 1935), p. 114.
 8. Gabrielle Bossis, *He and I*, Translated and condensed by Evelyn M. Brown (Sherbrooke, QC (Canada): Mediaspaul, 1969), p. 233.

“FOR YOU”

YES, IT’S TRUE! YOU ARE LOVED AND VALUED BY GOD
BEYOND MEASURE.

Jesus says to you every time the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)

See Him surrender to God the Father for you in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Watch as He leaves the Garden and permits Himself to be taken into custody, as He submits to the unimaginable scourging, allows Himself to be crowned with thorns, then hands His Sacred Body over to be Crucified on a Cross.

FOR YOU

Jesus presents this lesson to you using images of His Sacred Hands.

See the Sacred Hands of our High Priest during the Last Supper presenting His Sacred Body and Blood at the first Consecration as sustenance for your soul.

Jesus shows you His Sacred Hands joined in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane as He surrenders His will and His life to God the Father for our Redemption.

Watch as Christ willingly presents His Sacred Hands to the guards as

He is taken into custody, as He surrenders them to be fastened to a pillar, submits to having them bound again as our gentle King is crowned with thorns, then offers His catastrophically wounded Sacred Body to be stretched out on and then nailed to the Cross.

Next, Jesus shows you His Sacred Hands as they continue to love us throughout the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in our time, and also during every Holy Mass celebrated through all time.

You are shown all these re-presentations of His Passion and Death as distinct events and at the same time as one, as Jesus comes to us again and again and again at the consecration and presentation of each Eucharistic Banquet.

FOR HIM

Imitate Christ by offering your hands to God for the accomplishment of His holy Will.

Jesus concludes this lesson not with a show of hands but by a show of wills, with an image of you receiving Him in the Blessed Sacrament on your tongue while kneeling. We are to hold out our tongues for Him as He held out His Sacred Hands for us.

THE DIVINE CHILD IN THE MANGER, THE CROSSES, THE CROWN, AND CONQUERING EVIL

BE SURE TO SPEND PRICELESS TIME EACH DAY
MEDITATING ON CHRIST'S PASSION.
HE IS SO IN LOVE WITH YOU!

There are countless ways to approach meditating on Christ's Passion and on our Redemption. Why meditate on Christ's Passion? Doing so is an excellent Way to become more intimate with the Love of your eternal life, a Way that is very pleasing to Jesus.

Our Savior longs for your love in return! Spend time with Him every day meditating on His love for humanity in general and for you in particular.

*"Empty your soul by recollection, purify it by an act of contrition, then fill it with God."*⁹ ~ Jesus to Sr. Mary of St. Peter

BEGIN WITH THE INFANT JESUS IN A MANGER

Approach meditating on Christ's Passion through a tiny Baby in a manger. Our Infant Savior has come, for you. Already He suffers, for you.

Kneel before the Divine Child in the manger and worship your Lord and God with your angel guardian by your side. Notice the Ways in which Baby Jesus is already pouring forth His love upon humanity.

Already the Divine Infant, who is not even able to walk, has begun the journey along the Way of the Cross. You, too, can begin following Him along the Way of Sacrificial Love. You should; you must. Holiness is your destiny!

Give yourself to Jesus completely. Love Him and honor Him, all the days of your life.

THE MANGER AND A CROWN OF THORNS

Join our Infant Savior on the first Christmas Day. Kneel before Him in the manger, His newborn Sacred Body cradled by a bed of straw.

The straw intersects and forms many crosses beneath His little back. Three decades later, His back was brutally shredded at a pillar, and the countless lashes intersected to form crosses all over His Sacred Body.

Jesus was then mocked and crowned with thorns, its branches and thorns intersecting to form so many more crosses. To complete His mission, our kind and gentle Jesus was placed not in a manger filled with straw crosses but was placed on and then nailed to a Cross, His pure and Sacred Body covered with Bloody crosses. From there, He poured out love and mercy as arrogance confronted sacrificial love, the most powerful force in the universe.

TWO PARALLEL ROADS

Satan followed Jesus, but not along the Way of Sacrificial Love. He traveled along the opposite path, the way of self love, which seems to head in the same direction but it is actually the way to eternal perdition.

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Sacrificial love is the most powerful force in the universe. Sacrificial love is so strong that the bonds formed by it cannot ever be broken and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

Allow sacrificial love to bind you, and the souls of all those you pray for, to Jesus on the Cross.

FIGHT EVIL WITH GOOD

Evil was defeated by a humble and gentle Man covered with crosses, Who offered and continues to offer us love, forgiveness, affection, redemption, sanctification, and His Most Holy Mother.

Satan accompanies each one of us from his road as we follow Jesus along the Way of the Cross, which is the Way to God, and the Way to eternal salvation. Be sure you remain on Christ's road, the Way of Sacrificial Love, and stay off the way of self love, which will lead to your soul's eternal damnation.

Always fight evil with good by living, loving, serving, forgiving, and patiently suffering in imitation of Christ, the crosses of redemptive suffering carved into your flesh as you hold nothing back so that together with Jesus, you can offer our Eternal Father everything.

God is at work in you!

9. Edited by Dorothy Scallan, Translated by Fr. Emeric B. Scallan, S.T.B., *The Golden Arrow: The Autobiography and Revelations of Sister Mary of St. Peter on Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1990), p. 92.

“SOUL, HELP ME!”

WHAT HAPPENED TO ONE PILGRIM ALONG THE WAY OF
SACRIFICIAL LOVE AND WHAT THAT REMARKABLE EVENT
HAS TO DO WITH YOU.

When Luisa Piccarreta (1865–1947), known as the “Little Daughter of the Divine Will,” was thirteen, she was at home when she heard an uproar coming from the street. So she went to the balcony to see what was going on.

Young Luisa saw that the street was crowded with people who were shouting as armed soldiers contained the crowd and led three prisoners past.

Luisa recognized Jesus among them. He was carrying the Cross on His shoulders. She was described as “afflicted and terrorized” while contemplating the shocking sight suddenly before her eyes.

When the procession arrived underneath her balcony, Jesus raised His Sacred Head and said to her, “*Anima, aiutami!*”

“*Soul, help Me!*”

Just imagine what that moment was like. Has something like that ever happened to you? Did you notice Jesus when He stopped near you while carrying the Cross along the Way of Sacrificial Love?

Did you see Jesus, and did you hear Him say to you, “**Soul, help Me!**” If not, be sure to go to Jesus and make Him an incredibly generous offer. Give Him everything. All we have is His anyway.

That supernatural event along the Way of the Cross was a turning point in Luisa's life. That day, she responded to Jesus' plea and became a victim of expiation for the sins of men.¹⁰ Jesus summons every one of us to become victims of expiation for the sins of men and tremendous channels of His love and mercy for others. Be sure to accept His magnificent offer.

10. Father Bernardino Giuseppe Bucci, *Luisa Piccarreta: The Little Daughter of the Divine Will* (1980).

SAINT VERONICA AND THE DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE DETAILS OF SAINT
VERONICA'S ENCOUNTER WITH OUR SAVIOR? HOW DOES
IT COMPARE TO YOUR OWN?

Perhaps some details of this compassionate and heroic woman's interaction with Jesus along the Way of the Cross will surprise you. How well do you know the story? How well do you know Jesus? Have you ever rushed out to meet Him along the Way of Sacrificial Love like she did?

Join our Lord and Savior as He travels along the Way of the Cross on His brutal, bloody, and sacrificial journey to our Redemption on Calvary. Be there at an important moment in the history of the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus.

The following is an account of the moment Saint Veronica approached Jesus with tremendous compassion in a very threatening situation and placed the needs of another Who was suffering above her own. With great love and courage, she offered our Lord her veil so He could wipe His Holy Face.

This is a retelling of what happened from the account provided in a vision to the mystic Venerable Anne Catherine Emmerich and presented in *The Life of Jesus Christ and Biblical Revelations*.¹¹

Did you know that Veronica is not the woman's actual name? Did you know that she had one other thing for Jesus when she made her way through the mob that day?

May the following true story encourage you to grow in holiness, compassion, and courage in imitation of Saint Veronica, one of the very first adorers of our Eucharistic Lord.

THE STORY

Simon had helped Jesus carry the Cross about two hundred paces when a tall, elegant woman came out of a house on the left side of the street. She was seen by Venerable Ann Katherine Emmerich as a beautiful and majestic woman who appeared to be over fifty years old.

She had already rushed out once before accompanied by her nine-year-old adopted daughter, but met the procession at the same moment Jesus met His Mother. Due to the ensuing disturbance, Veronica was unable to carry out her act of compassion. So she and her daughter returned to their house and waited for an opportune moment to approach Jesus. When that moment arrived, she rushed forward to meet the procession, holding her daughter by the hand.

Today that woman is known as Saint Veronica, but her actual name is Seraphia.

Her intention was to meet up with Jesus as He carried the Cross and refresh our suffering Lord with some costly spiced wine. As the procession drew near, mother and daughter went into the street to meet our Lord.

Seraphia was wearing a veil, and a linen cloth hung over her shoulder. That cloth was a strip of fine wool roughly three times as long as it was wide. By custom it was worn around the neck; sometimes another one was thrown over the shoulder. That cloth was used to wipe the face of the sorrowful, crying, sick, suffering, or tired in an expression of mourning and sympathy.

The little girl made her way to Jesus carrying wine in a mug hidden underneath her mantle. The people at the head of the procession tried to keep mother and daughter back, but driven by love and compassion for

our Lord, the two of them pressed through the mob, which included soldiers and executioners, at the side of the procession.

Just imagine that dramatic moment.

THE DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

When Seraphia arrived before Jesus she fell on her knees, held up the opened linen cloth, and said, “Permit me to wipe the Face of my Lord!”

Jesus took the cloth with His left hand and pressed it against His bloody and beaten Face using His palm. Then, He passed it toward His right Hand, which was holding the arm of the Cross. Jesus pressed the cloth between both of His Palms before handing it back to her with gratitude.

Seraphia kissed the cloth and hid it underneath her mantle, pressing it to her heart. Then she stood up. The little girl courageously held up the mug of wine, but the brutal enemies of Jesus would not permit her to refresh Him with it.

The compassionate and courageous acts by Seraphia and her daughter stopped the procession for about two minutes. This delay, along with the public display honoring our Lord, enraged the executioners and the Pharisees, and they began to beat and pull Jesus.

Seraphia and her daughter retreated and once again took refuge in their home. She put the veil on a table just after arriving at her house and sank down unconscious. Her daughter knelt by her, still holding the mug of wine. A friend of the family found Seraphia in that state, looked at the cloth and saw “the bloody face of Jesus frightfully, but with wonderful distinctness, impressed. It looked like the face of a corpse.”¹²

This friend roused Seraphia and showed her the Lord’s image on the cloth, which filled her with both grief and consolation. She fell on her knees before it and exclaimed, “Now will I leave all, for the Lord has given to me a memento!”¹³

Seraphia kept the cloth and hung it at the head of her bed. After she died, the holy women gave it to the Mother of God. Eventually, it came to be possessed by the Church through the Apostles. The veil is now kept in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, Italy.

MORE HISTORY

Seraphia had married later in life. It is interesting to note that her husband, Sirach, was a member of the Council belonging to the Temple and at first he was much opposed to Jesus.

Sirach mistreated his wife because of her friendship with Jesus and the holy women. More than once he confined her for long periods of time in a prison cell. He was eventually converted by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, became more lenient toward his wife, and eventually allowed her to follow Jesus.

Also worth noting is the fact that when Jesus had entered Jerusalem in triumph on what is now celebrated as Palm Sunday, Seraphia and her daughter were among the other women.

At that time, she took the veil on her head and spread it joyfully and with reverence in the Lord's path. That was the same cloth she subsequently presented to Jesus so He could wipe His Holy Face along the Way of the Cross, and the same veil that gave Seraphia the triumphant new name of Veronica, meaning true (vera) and image (icon).¹⁴

Recognize, adore, console, and serve our Savior in imitation of Saint Veronica. Bring others along with you. Meditate on Christ's Passion every single day, and journey with Him along the Way of Our Redemption. Love Him lavishly in return, every step of the Way.

11. Anne Catherine Emmerich, *The Life of Jesus Christ and Biblical Revelations, from the Visions of the Venerable Anne Catherine Emmerich, as Recorded in the Journals of Clemens Brentano*. Arranged and Edited by the Very Reverend Carl E. Schmoeger, C.S.S.R, Volume Four (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 2004), pp. 252-255.

12. Ibid, p. 253.

13. Ibid, p. 255.

14. Ibid.

HOW TO BLOOM IN A GARDEN IN GREAT NEED OF CARE AND REPAIR

SOME ADVICE ON FULFILLING GOD'S WILL FROM THE
MASTER GARDENER.

While discussing your concerns with our Lord in prayer, you say to Him, "Lord, I am considering leaving this garden." Jesus responds gently, "Bloom where you have been planted." Naturally you ask Him, "Jesus, how can I possibly bloom here?" The Lord responds, "You have been planted at the foot of the Cross where you are to surrender your will and be crucified with Christ."

LIVING IN IMITATION OF THE GARDENER

Jesus appeared to Saint Faustina stripped and catastrophically wounded, His Holy Face disfigured and covered with spit.

Our Lord said to her, "The bride must resemble her Betrothed...See what love of human souls has done to Me. My daughter, in your heart I find everything that so great a number of souls refuses Me. Your heart is My repose."¹⁵

SOWING SEEDS

Tertullian called the blood of the martyrs the seed of the Church.

MEDITATING ON CHRIST'S PASSION HELPS US BLOOM AND GROW

Meditate on Christ's Passion daily.

Doing so is of great profit to your soul, and helps you bloom where you have been planted.

YOU WERE PLANTED IN THE GARDEN FOR A REASON

The Lord has planted you where you are for a reason. You are one of the seeds the Master Gardener has sown to help care for and repair His precious Garden.

You make it beautiful again, like Him.

You are one of the seeds the Master Gardener has sown to help guide precious, immortal souls to God and to heaven through Him.

"The Church is a ship, and even if the ship is in difficulty, it is necessary that we at least be in it."

~ St. Augustine

THE GARDENER, THE GARDEN, THE SEEDS, AND THE SOWING

LIVE, LOVE, SERVE, AND SOW IN IMITATION OF CHRIST.

BEGIN IN THE GARDEN

“When you hear Mass, do you come in the same frame of mind as the Blessed Virgin at Calvary? Because it is the same God, and the same Sacrifice.” ~ St. John Vianney

When you arrive in church prior to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, prepare your heart to enter into a mystery by intimately conversing with God through prayer.

Perhaps the Lord will have you begin by bringing you to the Garden of Sorrows. Pray there next to Jesus, and unite yourself with His sacrifice.

Mystically shed your blood along with our Savior as He begins His Passion and sweats Blood. The Lord has brought you into a Garden with good reason.

“Jesus and your soul must cultivate the vineyard together. It is for you to pick up and carry away the stones, to pull out the thorn bushes. It is the task of Jesus to sow, plant, cultivate, to water.” ~Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, participate in place of all those who, for whatever reason, do not attend.

Worship our Lord, accept His love, love Him, and be unified with Him in place of all those who do not believe.

Ask for and accept the graces for them. The Lord wants to love us lavishly, even when we resist, and He uses the devout faithful as channels of His love and grace for those who do. Jesus never, ever stops loving us *extravagantly*.

SPIRITUAL VISION: HOW WELL CAN YOU SEE?

“If you set out to meet God, He will come to meet you.”

~ St. John Vianney

During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord represents His Passion and Crucifixion in the center aisle and allows you to see it. Remember, with God all things are possible.

During the Scourging at the pillar, the congregation is mystically splattered with our Lord's Sacred Flesh and Blood. As the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass proceeds, Christ pours forth everything for each one of us, and holds back nothing.

See Him on the ground following the brutal scourging at the pillar, then see the King of all kings mocked and crowned with thorns. Watch our Savior carry the Cross to Calvary and as He does so, the movement of the Crown of Thorns causes even more Precious Blood to flow from His Sacred Head. The beaten Holy Face of Jesus is absolutely covered with His Precious Blood.

See His Sacred Blood all over the place, all over His Sacred Body, mystically present all over the floor, on the altar, on the pews, and covering everyone present in the church there on Calvary. See His love and mercy absolutely pouring out upon us.

THIS IS CATHOLIC COURAGE

Watch as the souls of everyone through all time who unified themselves with His sacrifice leave the crowd that day and stand between Jesus and the lashes. Witness as they accept a crown of thorns, too.

Be there and see them encourage Jesus with their love as He carries the Cross, watch them grab hold of the Cross also, hear them thank Jesus for It, and join them as they launch Golden Arrow Prayers from their positions at His side.

PRAYER OF REPARATION IN PRAISE OF THE HOLY NAME OF GOD

The Golden Arrow Prayer

*May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified, in heaven, on earth and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar. Amen.*¹⁶

After receiving this prayer, Sister Mary of St. Peter was given a vision in which she saw the Sacred Heart of Jesus delightfully wounded by this “Golden Arrow” as torrents of graces streamed from It for the conversion of sinners.

REMAIN TOGETHER WITH JESUS IN EVERYTHING

Be there and encourage Jesus as He subjects Himself to our punishment, as He reconciles us to God, as He suffers for everyone, continues loving everyone, forgives everyone, remains humble, gentle, and peaceful, and constantly thinks not of Himself, but of us and our eternal salvation.

Witness the incredible violence, malice, hatred, rejection, and scorn directed at the most loving of all Men. Remain with our Savior and love Him as lavishly in return. Accept His magnificent offers of salvation and sanctification; see how much He values you!

“Never drink your cup of pleasure to the last drop. Keep a little for Me as a sacrifice—My part—you understand what I mean? Since in secret we are together in everything. If you took it all, what would I have? You would be alone with yourself. ‘May God be with you!’ Otherwise you force Me to stand by and watch you without merging with you. Oh, this desire of My eternal love for oneness. I begin My life on earth again with each one of you—My life wedded to yours—if you want to invite Me.”¹⁷ Jesus to Gabrielle Bossis

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF ONE SOUL?

Each one of us cost Jesus everything, and if we are to participate in God’s plan of redemption and become channels of grace for the massive conversion of sinners, doing so will also cost us everything. Precious, immortal souls are absolutely priceless, and that is why the battle for them is very bitter.

The battles for precious, immortal souls are fought, and they are won, in God’s house.

EVERY PERSON MUST MAKE A CHOICE

“...obedience shows us where our divine Master is expecting us every moment. If we hasten thither, we shall be sure to find Him. The degree in which we possess the great treasure of union with our Lord, is marked by the degree of our obedience; the degree of our obedience answers to the degree of intimacy existing between our soul, and the Heart of Jesus. All lies in this; to obey perfectly.”¹⁸

~ Dom Pius de Hemptinne

During the Consecration, you see two thieves flanking Jesus, who is Crucified on the Cross above the altar. The two men are hanging on crosses to the left and to the right of Jesus.

As you pray the Holy Mass for the intentions of others, you are shown that every person has a choice to make: whether to believe or to not believe, whether to repent or to not repent. You are actually present during the re-presentation of the first sacramental confession, as the good thief

accepts Christ's magnificent offers of salvation and sanctification and is absolved completely by Jesus, our High Priest.

The other thief does not.

THE MOST UNDENIABLE OF OUR NECESSITIES

*"The Precious Blood, then, is the greatest, the most undeniable of our necessities. There is no true life without It. Yet, and it very much concerns us to bring this home to ourselves, all creation could not merit it. Necessary as it is, it is in no way due to us. It is not a right. God's love toward us had been a romance already. It was wonderful what He had done to us. It is almost incredible even now when we think of it. We know the unspeakable tenderness of our Creator, how placable He is, how soft of heart, how prone to forgive, how easy to be persuaded. We know that the needs of His creatures plead with Him more eloquently than we can tell. Yet no necessities could have claimed the Precious Blood, no merits could have won it, no prayers could have obtained It. In truth, no created intelligence of angel or of man could have imagined It."*¹⁹ ~ Father Frederick William Faber

Just as you are there at the foot of the Cross during Holy Mass for the re-presentation of our Redemption, you are also there for every person's sacramental confession including your own, and you are there as each person makes his/her choice to express remorse and be forgiven by Jesus.

You are inspired to pray that every person makes the right choice and accepts God's unfathomable love and mercy, which are always available to every single person without exception.

JESUS PRAYS FOR US DURING HIS PASSION AND CRUCIFIXION

As He hangs on the Cross, Jesus shows you His Holy Face up close, and you see and hear that He is exerting every effort while in unfathomable agony to pray for us all. See Him praying unceasingly; understand what it is He is saying.

Pray in imitation of Christ. Pray for others like our Lord did for us.

Imitate His actions to the best of your ability, especially when God shows you incredible favor by asking you to suffer patiently.

“Our prayer is an incense which God receives with extreme pleasure.”

~ St. John Vianney

SOWING TINY SEEDS OF BLOOD

“O my children, how beautiful will that soul be in eternity, who makes frequent and good Communions!” ~ St. John Vianney

During Holy Communion you see tiny seeds flying through the air; they appear as handfuls of seeds being thrown and scattered as if being planted out in the fields.

These tiny seeds are the seeds of faith.

You are shown that when a person receives the Eucharist in the state of grace and grows in sanctity while praying for others, he/she is sowing the seeds of faith.

You notice that the seeds have a distinct shape, and are told the shape is symbolic. Each seed shares the shape of drops of His Precious Blood.

These seeds are metaphors for Christ's saving Blood, the same Precious Blood you saw earlier projecting out into time and space as Christ was scourged at the pillar, the same Precious Blood that covered the church and the congregation with His sacrificial love, mercy, and salvation.

“It is from the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ alone that our salvation comes.”²⁰ ~ Father Frederick William Faber

There is so much more that could be written about these seeds of Christ's shed Blood, which are collected by the faithful and then sown, and planted with tremendous love and longing in every single human heart throughout all time.

After everyone has received Holy Communion, you see the air filled with tiny seeds of faith that are being sown at that very instant from the Sacred Body of the Master Gardener within the hearts of every precious, immortal soul through all time, including those who are present, and those who are absent.

UNION WITH CHRIST IN THE TOMB

Once you have returned to your place in church after being unified with the Love of your eternal life, you find yourself unified very profoundly and completely with Jesus in His tomb following His crucifixion.

Naturally, you ask the Lord what is the meaning of such a powerful experience. Jesus is so happy that you are interested in knowing more, but He remains silent as if holding back a great secret. Our Lord takes great delight in His silence as you become more curious! Finally, just after Holy Mass ends, Jesus provides you with His answer.

THE EXPLANATION

The conclusion to this lesson relates to what Jesus said regarding how much souls cost. Precious, immortal souls cost Him everything, and so naturally they must cost us everything.

That explains the union of the soul with its Savior in the tomb: to live in imitation of Christ is to journey unified with Him to the very end of two missions, His and yours, which will bring you to a new and eternal beginning.

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16. Edited by Dorothy Scallan, Translated by Fr. Emeric B. Scallan, S.T.B., *The Golden Arrow: The Autobiography and Revelations of Sister Mary of St. Peter on Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1990), p. 226.
 17. Gabrielle Bossis, *He and I*, Translated and condensed by Evelyn M. Brown (Sherbrooke, QC (Canada): Mediaspaul, 1969), p. 94
 18. Dom Pius de Hemptinne, *A Disciple of Dom Marmion: Letters and Spiritual Writings* (London: Sands & Co., 1935), p. 238.
 19. Frederick William Faber, D.D., *The Precious Blood* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1978), p. 75.
 20. *Ibid*, p, 14.

THE CROWN, THE KEYS, PROFOUND CATHOLICISM, AND YOU

DISCOVER AND THEN KEEP REDISCOVERING VERY
POWERFUL ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST.

He is so in love with you! The Lord wants you to have a deeply meaningful, intimate, and very powerful relationship with Him. The following lesson offers some suggestions as you travel with Him along the Way.

STUDY YOUR FAITH AND LEARN IT CORRECTLY

Every Catholic is obligated to learn his/her Faith, correctly, and then teach It to others. When you learn more about the Catholic Church, you come to know Its Founder, Jesus Christ, more intimately.

LIVE A SACRAMENTAL LIFE

Assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every day if possible, and receive the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation often. They are inseparable, and absolutely necessary for every soul.

Living a sacramental life takes real determination and great courage, and requires many graces. Holiness is your destiny, and “heaven is rich enough to reward you” (Saint John Vianney) for a lifetime of living, loving, serving, and patiently suffering in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother. Every person is welcome, necessary, and irreplaceable.

UNDERSTAND THAT WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

Don't set limits on God. His love for mankind defies human understanding. Go to Him with complete confidence and trust in Him always.

SEE LOVE STREAMING FROM JESUS' SACRED BODY

Perhaps while assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus will show you His love streaming in torrents from His Sacred Body during His Passion. Ask Him to teach you something new and He will! Our Savior may also show you His love streaming from the Eucharist during a Holy Hour, and from the crucifix when you take time to visit the Blessed Sacrament.

God loves us constantly. Constantly. Recognize His love for you. Accept, return, and then share His love. God's love is timeless, limitless, absolutely miraculous, and can never be contained.

VENERATE THE WOUND IN CHRIST'S LEG

The Lord continues today's lesson by showing you His left leg as He hangs Crucified on the Cross.

You are shown one injury in particular, a wound on the left side of His knee. As Christ's Precious Blood runs down His leg, Jesus points out one drop in particular that has exited the open wound.

You ask the Lord to explain to you the significance of that particular wound, and remain with Jesus after Holy Mass to delight Him and thank Him. At that time He explains that the wound was caused by all those who would not or will not kneel down and honor God as they should.

Our Lord tells you that when the devout faithful submit to His will and choose to live sacramental lives of heroic virtue, they accept His Crown of Thorns. The Lord explains that the thorns in their crowns work like keys that obtain graces for others.

MAKE A HOLY HOUR IN THE CHAPEL

Perhaps the Lord requests that you hold vigil and pray by the confessionals when you have the opportunity to do so later that day, and in this way help guide precious souls to Christ's boundless love and mercy.

Jesus teaches you that the teamwork of His disciples creates a mystical pathway that guides others into the confessional. Our Lord shows you an image to illustrate this point. You see yourself face down on the floor in the shape of a cross *outside* the confessional, and see your confessor face down on the floor in the shape of a cross *inside* the confessional.

The two of you make up the path others will travel on to get to the foot of the Cross, where they will make sacramental confessions and be reconciled with God and His Church.

All confessors and the devout faithful have their place in this image; this is how everyone works together as a team to assist the Good Shepherd as He gathers His precious sheep to Himself. He is so in love with us all.

EXPERIENCE UNION WITH THE DIVINE

Experience the mystical union of Christ's Soul with yours as you pray, and contemplate how the souls of God's people also experience this mystical union with one another.

He illustrates this to you by showing confessor and penitent praying at the same time in the confessional. We share a very special interconnectedness with one another. We are also interconnected with all people through all time, including the Holy Souls in Purgatory and all the occupants of heaven.

RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE HIGH PRIEST

You ask Jesus and Saint Pio (or another saint) to bring you Holy Communion in the chapel, and they do. Jesus stands right in front of you and He is wearing the Crown of Thorns. Saint Pio stands on His left, and he is also wearing a Crown of Thorns.

You are also wearing a crown of thorns for having submitted to God's will and for your patient suffering in imitation of Christ. Never underestimate the value of patient suffering!

All this occurs as you pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. You ask Jesus to allow you to receive a part of His Sacred Body that had been torn off during the scourging at the pillar and landed on the ground.

Sweet, patient, humble, and gentle Jesus, how much You love us! I love You back.

As Jesus holds up His Sacred Body, Saint Pio lovingly takes your right hand and places it in his left hand. What a touching, beautiful gesture; how delighted you are to be holding hands with Saint Pio! Then, you wonder what to do with your left hand. You would very much like to hold Jesus' Hand, but His Hands are holding the Sacred Host and chalice filled with His Precious Blood.

Things do not seem complete to you, but you are so very grateful for these expressions of love.

Blessed Mother then appears to the right of her Son, and she is wearing a Crown of Thorns. She takes your left hand in her right hand.

So there you are, kneeling before Jesus in the middle, Saint Pio to your right, Blessed Mother to your left, the three of you holding hands as our Savior holds up His Sacred Body and Precious Blood in His Sacred Hands, as all of you wear a crown of thorns.

Then, all the occupants of heaven begin joining you. They take a place in front of you and behind Jesus, Blessed Mother, and Saint Pio, and form a half circle that fills the entire space behind them and extends all the way into eternity.

RECEIVE A SPECIAL DROP OF CHRIST'S BLOOD

Just one drop of Christ's Precious Blood was enough to redeem the entire human race.

Jesus takes the Sacred Host and dips It in the chalice containing His Sacred Blood. You look up as He holds the Holy Eucharist before you, and see one drop of His Sacred Blood running down the front of the Host.

Our Lord makes known to you that this is the very same drop of His Precious Blood that you were shown before in church. It is the same drop of Blood that ran down His left leg, the same drop that had exited the wound in His knee, which was caused by mankind's pride and defiance.

You are told that the humility and obedience of the devout faithful obtains graces for precious, immortal souls who refuse to submit to God's will. You have also been shown that all the occupants of heaven are here to help you accomplish the will of your Good Shepherd, which is to help guide souls back to His loving embrace.

GRATITUDE, UNION, SACRIFICE, AND SERVICE

“MOST LOVING AND MERCIFUL JESUS, I NOW OFFER
MYSELF TO THE FATHER FOR YOU.”

DURING THIS LESSON, JESUS SHARES A TOUCHING MEDITATION
ON HIS PASSION THAT FOCUSES ON HIS SACRED HANDS.

WE ARE LOVED AND VALUED BY GOD BEYOND MEASURE

Once Jesus was taken into custody, the Sacred Hands of our Lord were bound and the benefit of their use was denied Him throughout the many sufferings of His Passion and Crucifixion.

From the time of His betrayal, arrest, and arrival at the pillar, our Jesus was scorned, ridiculed, shoved, beaten, dragged, mocked, and humiliated. While suffering these indescribable torments along the Way of Sacrificial Love and while hanging crucified on the Cross, our Lord was unable to use His Sacred Hands.

Our Savior could not even wipe His beautiful Holy Face, which had been completely disfigured after being beaten, covered with His Precious Blood, tears, sweat, malice, scorn, and dirt, and from piercings of the thorns used to crown our humble King.

Our sweet and gentle Jesus was no longer recognizable, and could not even use His Hands to wipe His eyes to better see while struggling to make His Way to our redemption.

Consider what Jesus did with His bound hands throughout His Passion, before they were affixed to and immobilized on the Cross with nails.

Sacrificial love can never be bound, nor can it be extinguished, because it is the strongest force in the universe. While our Savior was being

denied the use of His Sacred Hands to help Himself, Hands that just the day before presented mankind with His Sacred Body in the Holy Eucharist, Jesus continued to use them to love us.

Perhaps our merciful Savior prayed while holding His Hands as close as He possibly could, and gestured with Them along the Way to express His love for all of us. Jesus used His Hands to accomplish great good, even while being assaulted by tremendous evil.

Jesus continued to use His Sacred Hands, as He had throughout His entire life, to glorify God the Father, and to bless, love, serve, and save His creatures.

As Jesus suffered on the Way to His death and our Redemption, His thoughts were always on us. How many times did He offer a loving gesture with His Hands just for you?

Imagine the moment when He embraced the rough beam with the skilled and helpful Hands that had labored to build things for the people He created. When those kind and gentle Hands were freed from Their binding only so He could be nailed to the Cross, Jesus consented and cooperated with the executioners, His arms opened wide in death as in life, welcoming us all, beckoning us to come to Him, to be loved by Him, to love Him in return, and to share His love with others. And so the Sacred Hands that loved and served people with wood were nailed to wood to serve His people.

Whether His Sacred Hands were free, bound, or nailed to the Cross, Jesus always showed us through Them how we are to live. He continuously loved, gave, served, forgave, blessed, and called us to Himself so He could show us the way to our Father and to heaven.

Jesus never stopped loving us, He never stops loving us, and He continues to love us in so many ways. Even now, Jesus presents His Sacred Body and Blood to us with His very own Sacred Hands during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Recommit your heart to loving and serving God. Offer yourself to the Lord forever as His servant, and be bound and chained by the hands to the Sacred Hands of Jesus. Allow Him to use you as an instrument of love and mercy, anywhere and forever, and always at His good pleasure.

A PRAYER DURING HOLY COMMUNION WHILE UNIFIED WITH CHRIST AT THE PILLAR

“REMAIN HERE WITH ME.”

Imagine that one evening on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, comes to you and draws you to Himself in a very powerful way. He does this by taking you to one stop in particular along the Way of the Cross.

Jesus says to you, “*Remain here with Me.*”

Our Lord asks you remain with Him in that place in spirit for an entire day. Just imagine where you find yourself: At the pillar where Jesus was scourged. Are you prepared for such an event? Can your heart even bear it?

ANOTHER SUMMONS

Imagine that the next afternoon, the Lord summons you to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Just imagine where you find yourself. Are you prepared for such an event? Can your heart even bear it?

Fortunately, He has also summoned you to a parish with a very generous Holy Mass and Confession schedule. How many, many times people miss Holy Mass or are unable to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation when they need to because their parishes have confessions just once a week, and only a limited number of Holy Masses.

How vital it is for us to live sacramental lives of heroic virtue. How important it is that the faithful be provided with what they need to do so.

How important it is for us to kneel beneath Jesus' Cross and be mystically covered with His Precious Blood while being forgiven for our sins during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to kneel again beneath Jesus' Cross and be mystically covered with His Precious Blood while receiving Him Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist.

How vital it is for us to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. There, as we make the effort to grow closer to the Love of our eternal lives, the Lord obliges our hearts' longing by improving our spiritual vision and drawing us closer to Himself.

Jesus did not institute the Sacraments so we would neglect them, abandon them, not have them available, or not profit from them. The devil is the one who tempts and encourages us to do something that catastrophic and detrimental to our immortal souls.

Jesus longs for our love in return. He still thirsts for souls! *Crave Him*. Our Savior and Teacher makes it possible for us to see the most beautiful things. Spiritual vision is so much more valuable to us than our eyesight. Spiritual vision helps us see what is of most value to us and to others through us.

THE LESSON GRANTED BY JESUS DURING HOLY MASS

Spend intimate time with Jesus in prayer before the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The Lord has brought your heart to the pillar where He was scourged.

Participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass from your place in church, and also at the same time by Christ's side at the pillar.

Jesus brought you to the pillar to share with you one moment in particular, the moment when the unfathomable scourging was over. He has been released from the pillar catastrophically injured, barbarically mistreated, and has fallen to the ground into His own Sacred Flesh and Blood.

SEE DEEP INTO ETERNITY

Everything God does is filled with meaning because He loves and values us beyond measure. Every single moment of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is unfathomably meaningful and from start to finish, God loves us lavishly.

We are there to worship the Lord during the re-presentation of God's execution and our Redemption. We are not there as mere witnesses but as participants and beneficiaries. By the time we kneel at the altar to be unified with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, we are mystically covered by the Precious Blood of Christ and by oceans of His mercy.

If we really understood this, our hearts would absolutely break every time we had to miss Holy Mass. God is so pleased when we value this priceless Treasure purchased for each one of us with His Son's life, and when we must miss Holy Mass, He alone can comfort us completely.

If we really understood what happens during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we would be sure to receive the Sacrament of Penance before receiving Jesus in the Eucharist each time we are not in the state of grace, if there is a church offering a confession schedule making this possible. We must pray for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Christ that every parish does.

Make very sure that you avail yourself, and others through you, of all the graces the Lord offers to us through His Sacraments and while visiting with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

APPROACHING THE ALTAR DURING HOLY COMMUNION

As you approach the altar to receive Jesus during Holy Communion, Jesus tells you that people who think or feel that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is boring *believe that nothing special happens during Holy Mass*.

Imagine sharing the Lord's profound sorrow because of this.

How sad this makes our Lord, when precious souls He suffered and died for believe that nothing special happens during Holy Mass. What a sad lesson He provides to you; how can you possibly keep your sorrow contained?

UNIFIED WITH CHRIST ON THE GROUND AT THE PILLAR

As you arrive at the altar to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, our Lord has you kneel at the pillar next to His Sacred and catastrophically injured Body as He lays on the ground in His own Flesh and Blood.

Always receive the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of our Savior with great reverence, gentleness, love, compassion, and awe.

Receive such priceless Treasure directly on your tongue; never neglect to reverence God to the utmost of your ability, and love Him with all your heart. Never think such beautiful, loving actions lack meaning and significance. Loving and honoring God has tremendous meaning, and their benefits last forever.

How much care is taken so that the Sacred Body and Blood of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament does not fall to the floor. On this day as you receive Jesus you are shown that He has fallen to the ground after being released from the pillar. Jesus is so catastrophically injured that the sight of Him brings you to tears. You see the Love of your eternal life laying in His own severed Flesh and lost Blood.

Now ponder this: Jesus' thoughts at that moment were not on His catastrophic injuries, nor were they on His unimaginable suffering. Our Savior's thoughts were focused as they had been throughout His entire lifetime, not on Himself but on each one of us. His thoughts there on the ground at the pillar were on you.

Jesus longs to love us and to love others through us, if only we would let Him.

"Why man should be loved, is no mystery. But why he does not love in return, is a great mystery. Why should Our Lord be the Great Unloved; why should Love not be loved? He is loved in all who unite themselves with Christ the Priest and the Victim."²¹ ~ Fulton J. Sheen

Our Lord gives us new opportunities every single day to accept His magnificent offers of salvation and sanctification. He offers His love and mercy to us over and over and over again.

There on the ground we see God, our loving and generous Creator. He

could not possibly have gone any lower for us. How much are we willing to lower ourselves for Him? Truly, we are loved and valued by God beyond measure.

“Humble people and only humble people are used by Christ to propagate His message of salvation to the world.”²²

~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

How the devil lets us have it for being followers of Christ, and for our efforts to grow in sanctity as we allow God to use us as channels of grace for the sanctification of souls through all time.

Imagine what the demon said to Jesus while He was being scourged at the pillar, and while He was laying on the ground in His own Sacred Flesh and Blood.

Jesus, in His extreme physical weakness and unfathomable suffering, was fighting for us and He was winning. He continues fighting for precious and immortal souls through us and can do this most powerfully when we submit our will to God’s holy will and consent to be transformed into Christ’s likeness. The battles for precious, immortal souls are fought, and they are won, in God’s house.

When you return to your pew caressing the King of all kings and the Love of your eternal life on your tongue, spend time in the tabernacle of your heart with Jesus, deep in prayer while unified with the One who loves you more than you can ever imagine.

Love Him lavishly in return.

A PRAYER DURING HOLY COMMUNION WHILE UNIFIED WITH CHRIST AT THE PILLAR

Sweet Jesus, I kneel next to You at the pillar, as You lay on the ground in Your own Sacred Flesh and Blood, so catastrophically injured, so barbarically mistreated and rejected. Look into the future, Jesus, and see me at this time and place kneeling next to You as You offer Your life for my redemption. Lord, from this moment forward, prevent me from ever sinning again, so that I do not add to Your torments and Your suffering, so that I never

reject You, but only love You instead. But how can I kneel by Your side and place myself higher than You, the King of Kings, my God, writhing in agony on the ground. Truly, Jesus, my place must be lower, and so I prostrate myself face down on the ground before You, in the shape of a cross.

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21. Fulton J. Sheen, *This is the Mass*, As described by Henri Daniel-Rops, As celebrated by Fulton J. Sheen, as photographed by Yousuf Karsh. With an introduction by Fulton J. Sheen (New York: Hawthorn Books, Inc., 1958), p. 18.
 22. Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *The Two Standards: Christ and Satan Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Conference*, copyright © 1998 Inter Mirifica.

THE JOY AND IMMEASURABLE VALUE OF KISSING THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN KISS THE HOLY FACE OF
JESUS? YOU CAN! DID YOU KNOW THAT HE KISSES YOU?

Be sure to read the amazing conclusion provided by Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament after He inspired the following letter to be written.

A LETTER OF REPARATION TO JESUS

Humble, Gentle, and Patiently Suffering Jesus,

The barbaric treatment You willingly endured during every moment of the journey along the Way of Sacrificial Love to mankind's redemption on Calvary has passed, but Your Passion and Death is not bound by time and space. How much You love us, how much You yearn for us to accept Your love, completely and without reservation! How much You continue to suffer because so often, we are willing to settle for so little. May we satisfy Your longing to be loved by us in return.

Our behavior continues to insult and injure you, especially blasphemy, the use of profanity, not keeping the Sabbath holy, and the various attacks on God that destroy or attempt to destroy life, all of which belongs to God.

How often we disregard Your commands, preferring to honor our own feelings instead of honoring You. So many of our choices greatly offend You and also cause You sorrow because they inflict harm upon ourselves. So much immoral behavior has become acceptable, desirable, and is even celebrated by so many:

The misuse of or profaning of God's Holy Name.

The taking of Your name out of Christmas!

Speaking of You, Your love, Your plans, Your sacrifice, Your Church, Your servants, and Your creation cavalierly or with malice.

The desire some have to remove Your Most Holy Name from currency, when everything rightly belongs to You.

The refusal to allow children, teachers, and parents to speak to You in prayer and about you to one another in our public schools, institutions, and businesses, and the willingness of so many to comply with this injustice.

It is not possible to remove You from anything, and yet at times our hearts refuse to worship, honor, praise, and thank You. This deception finds its expression, or lack of expression, on our very lips and within our homes, at work, in public places, during recreation, and while at rest.

How often Your Holy Face is struck in Your very own House as people gossip or seek to use others instead of singing Your praises, serving others, or offering a compassionate word to those around them in need. How many times You want us to bring Your love and compassion to others and we regard them as invisible because we only see our own wants and needs.

All things come from You and You showed us how to behave, Jesus! You showed us so clearly during Your Passion and Crucifixion how Catholics must conduct themselves.

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

How often we remain silent and do not defend the very majesty of God in Your own house! How often we do not speak up for what is right anywhere else.

Yet, despite what our choices cost You, Jesus, You continue to love, forgive, and guide us constantly, and remain with us always.

You even offer us the Blood You shed in our places as a bath for our souls; this remedy is so powerful that just one Drop contains an ocean of mercy.

How often we use others over and over and over again, and think we fool You by committing this act of treason in Your very Name! We fool only ourselves, Lord, for nothing is hidden from Your light.

And yet Your hope is not to punish us, Your intention is to forgive us. Your design is not that we remain guilty but that we remain forgiven, because the greatest longing of the greatest Lover is to be accepted into every human heart and be loved in return.

So many times we fail to thank You, seek Your counsel, or speak the loving words You so long to hear from us, the very words of worship and praise You are due as our Creator and Savior!

May we always use our lips to praise and worship You, bring Your love to others, proclaim the truth, serve, and guide precious, immortal souls to Your Sacred Heart.

I left one thing out, my sweet Jesus. May we use our lips every single day to kiss Your Holy Face!

JUST ONE KISS FOR JESUS IS OF INESTIMABLE WORTH

The next time you assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, make a Holy Hour, or make an examination of conscience before Sacramental Confession, while praying, when you are lonely, feeling defeated, when someone asks for your intercession, in good times, in crisis, when tempted, or any time at all, make it a point to kiss the Sacred and offended Face of Jesus!

Every single kiss of yours is of inestimable worth; every single kiss pleases and consoles our Lord more than you can ever imagine.

Kiss Jesus on the cheek in reparation for Judas' kiss of betrayal, and for the many other kisses of betrayal He has received since then, and for all those He will receive in the future.

Show Jesus compassion and love in reparation for the insults to His majesty. Pray for all precious, immortal souls through all time.

Every one of us has struck Jesus in the face at one time or another, or spit in His face, or kissed Him with malice in our hearts through our sins of omission or commission.

Make it a point to kiss the Holy Face of Jesus to show your love for Him and to offer reparation for all crimes against His love.

Kiss Jesus because He deserves it, because it delights Him. Kiss Him to show your gratitude to Him for loving us all so much.

Have you ever considered what it means to kiss Jesus even one time?

Did you know that He kisses you?

Kiss the insulted and injured Face of Jesus and return to Him the honor due our King. Taste His Sacred Blood on your lips; taste His Sweat *as He suffers*.

Taste His Sacred Tears, whose genesis is a love we cannot possibly fathom. His Tears are mixture of sorrow, sweat, and Blood, and just one drop of this powerful and sacred elixir was enough to purchase the redemption of all of humanity.

The purposeful journey of the sacrificial drops are stopped on their way down His disfigured Holy Face by your lips. Feel the warmth of Tears that were just shed an instant ago from His wounded and suffering Eyes.

Taste the dirt thrown in His Holy Face then and through all time by those who hate Him and reject Him.

Your kiss also transfers to your lips the malicious spit of so many men, people eager to condemn the innocent while rejecting their own salvation and sanctification. There are so many ways we spit in our Lord's Face. Imagine Jesus having to endure that only once; it is absolutely unthinkable. Sweet and gentle Jesus, how much loving us has cost You!

Our beautiful Jesus longs for us to kiss His Holy Face, which He allowed to be so disfigured by our sins as to make Him unrecognizable during His Passion and Crucifixion.

The collective taste of His Blood, Tears, Sweat, dirt, dust, and the spit

of countless people throughout history, and yet to come, combine into the strongest substance known to man: sacrificial love. God's sacrificial love conquers even the most tremendous evil.

This mystical blending of so many things that came together during our redemption and bought our liberation, this mixture that you taste on your lips following Your act of love, kindness, humility, compassion, and surrender, is the most powerful force in the universe.

When you kiss Jesus, allow this force to bind you to Him forever.

IMAGERY TO HELP MAKE YOUR KISSES MORE MEANINGFUL

Consider for a moment this scene from the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, during the Scourging of His Sacred Body at the pillar, from *The Life of Jesus Christ and Biblical Revelations from the Visions of the Venerable Anne Catherine Emmerich*:

“Jesus trembled and shuddered before the pillar...He prayed and implored so touchingly...Our Lord and Savior, the Son of God, true God and true Man, quivered and writhed like a poor worm under the strokes of the criminals' rods. He cried in a suppressed voice, and a clear, sweet-sounding wailing, like a loving prayer under excruciating torture, formed a touching accompaniment to the hissing strokes of His tormentors.²³

“They had been at work about a quarter of an hour when they eased to strike, and joined two of the others in drinking. Jesus' Body was livid, brown, blue, and red, and entirely covered with swollen cuts. His sacred blood was running down on the ground. He trembled and shuddered. Derision and mockery assailed Him on all sides.²⁴

“The second pair of scourgers now fell upon Jesus with fresh fury. They made use of different rods, rough, as if set with thorns, and here and there provided with knots and splinters...Jesus moaned and prayed and shuddered in His agony...The last two scourgers struck Jesus with whips consisting of small chains, or straps, fastened to an iron handle, the ends furnished with iron points, or hooks. They

tore off whole pieces of skin and flesh from His ribs...Only blood and wounds, only barbarously mangled flesh could be seen on the most sacred, most venerable Body of the Son of God...

“One (scourger) held a slender rod in his left hand and with it struck the face of Jesus. There was no longer a sound spot on the Lord’s Body. He glanced, with eyes swimming in blood, at His torturers, and sued for mercy; but they became only the more enraged...The terrible scourging had lasted fully three-quarters of an hour.²⁵

JOIN HIM AT THE PILLAR

Be there and witness Jesus’ scourging at the pillar. He asks nothing of you except that you keep Him company.

As Jesus turns His Face, His suffering eyes meet yours. How clear yours are compared with His, which are filled with blood, tears, dirt, dust, and spit. He looks at you and communicates unconditional and eternal love to you, not anger, hate, or resentment. In that profoundly meaningful moment, your eyes are transformed into instruments of compassion for your afflicted Lord.

As His Holy Face is scourged in your place, you break from the crowd watching this injustice and position yourself between the torturers and Jesus. By shielding His Holy Face, you have positioned yours in harm’s way. As you do so you see all the people through all time who have also accepted Christ’s magnificent offers of salvation and sanctification leave the crowd to accept a share in His precious suffering.

As all those people stand between Jesus and the blows and receive them upon their own faces, their countenances are transformed into the likeness of the Sacrificial Lamb and they become representations of the Holy Face of Jesus.

When you receive the Lord’s Sacred Body and Blood during Holy Communion, be there again at the moment when His Holy Face was scourged at the pillar. See Christ’s Sacred Blood pooled in His Mouth. When you receive the Precious Body and Blood of our Savior you resemble Him again, for His Sacred Blood reposes in your mouth. At that sacred

moment you are united to Jesus in Holy Communion, to His suffering at the pillar, and to mankind's Redemption. Do not ever take such moments for granted because they are very, very special.

Sacrificial love in imitation of Christ is so powerful that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Sacrificial love is so strong that the bonds formed by it cannot ever be broken. Sacrificial love transforms lives, and souls, forever. The devil knows it, and that is why he tries so hard to get us to think about things besides Jesus and meditating on Christ's Passion. That is also why he tries so hard to keep us from receiving the sacraments.

Take at least a moment every single day to meditate on Christ's Passion and Death and on your redemption. Kiss the Holy Face of your Redeemer throughout the day in reparation for the sins that caused Him such unfathomable suffering.

Allow yourself to be transformed into His image and likeness, and become a representation of the Holy Face of Jesus. Delight Jesus with your kisses! Make them incredibly meaningful, deeply personal, and very, very powerful. Then, be even more delighted as He kisses you back!

Offering of the Holy Face of Our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father in Order to Appease His Justice and Draw Down Mercy Upon Us

Eternal Father, turn away Your angry gaze from our guilty people whose faces have become unsightly in Your eyes. Look instead upon the Face of Your Beloved Son, for this is the Face of Him in Whom You are well pleased. We now offer You this Holy Face, covered with shame and disfigured by bloody bruises in reparation for the crimes of our age in order to appease Your anger, justly provoked against us. Because Your divine Son our Redeemer has taken upon His Head all the sins of His members, that they might be spared, we now beg of You, Eternal Father, to grant us mercy.

*Amen.*²⁶

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23. As Recorded in the Journals of Clemens Brentano, Arranged and Edited By the Very Reverend Carl E. Schmoger, S.S.R., *The Life of Jesus Christ and Biblical Revelations from the Visions of the Venerable Anne Catherine Emmerich, Volume 4* (Rockford: IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 2004), pp. 206-207.
24. Ibid, p. 208
25. Ibid, pp. 209-210
26. Edited by Dorothy Scallan, Translated by Fr. Emeric B. Scallan, S.T.B., *The Golden Arrow: The Autobiography and Revelations of Sister Mary of St. Peter on Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1990), p. 227.

JESUS' CROWN OF THORNS AND LIVING IN IMITATION OF CHRIST AND BLESSED MOTHER

THE MOST AMAZING THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU HAND
YOUR LIFE OVER TO GOD COMPLETELY AND MAKE EVERY
EFFORT TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

Everything that occurred during Christ's Passion and Crucifixion was not only sacrificial but also meaningful beyond human comprehension. However, the story of our salvation did not end when Jesus died on the Cross. The following lesson has to do with the events that followed.

Two very powerful moments that may come to mind are the wounding of Christ's side with the lance, and the moment when His Sacred Body was removed from the Cross and placed into the arms of His sorrowful Mother. Let us consider what happened between those two events, specifically when the Crown of Thorns on Jesus' Head was passed down and placed in the hands of His most Holy Mother.

From *City of God: The Divine History and Life of the Virgin Mother of God, as manifested to Venerable Mary of Agreda for the Encouragement of Men*:

"They handed it down with great reverence and amid abundant tears, placing it in the hands of the sweetest Mother. She received it prostrate on her knees, in deepest adoration bathed it with her

tears, permitting the sharp thorns to wound her virginal countenance in pressing it to her face.

“She asked the eternal Father to inspire due veneration toward the sacred thorns in those Christians, who should obtain possession of them in future times.”²⁷

LOVE HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART

“A house founded on the Cross will fear neither wind, nor rain, nor storm.” ~ Saint John Vianney

Jesus is so pleased when you take time to meditate on His Passion and Death and on your Redemption. He thirsts for your love in return! To deepen your understanding of His great love for you, Jesus begins this powerful lesson by presenting Himself to you as an Infant *wearing the Crown of Thorns*.

Just imagine that sight. Can your heart even bear it? Jesus has presented Himself to you this way for a reason. Can you guess what it is?

TODAY'S LESSON

Jesus takes you on a journey through time and space, and the first stop is the foot of His Cross after His death by Crucifixion.

There, you witness the moment together with Jesus when the Crown of Thorns was removed from His Sacred Head, before His Body was removed from the Cross, and presented to His Holy Mother.

After Blessed Mother presses the Crown of Thorns to Her face, Jesus once again shows Himself to you as an Infant, and once again you see that the Divine Child is wearing the Crown of Thorns.

Jesus explains that each time Blessed Mother caressed her Divine Child, she also pressed His Crown of Thorns against her holy face.

“FIAT!”

The prophesy of Simeon is woven into what the Lord reveals to your soul, as are all the events of the Virgin Mary's life including the times she held and kissed Jesus and all the many ways she loved and cared for her Divine Son throughout His sacrificial life.

This pressing of the Crown of Thorns to Blessed Mother's face throughout Jesus' lifetime is a metaphor for her unconditional “Yes!” to God and her choice to live a holy and sacrificial life for the benefit of all her children, including you.

Jesus asks that you also be willing to reverently press His Crown of Thorns to your face throughout your life by giving God your unconditional “Yes!” and by loving much as you live, serve, and patiently suffer in imitation of Jesus and Blessed Mother.

Join all the people through all time who have accepted our Savior's Crown of Thorns, whether it was/is/will be the entire Crown, some thorns, or one thorn.

He wants you to be counted among them.

27. *City of God: The Divine History and Life of the Virgin Mother of God, as manifested to Venerable Mary of Agreda for the Encouragement of Men* (Washington, New Jersey: Ave Maria Institute, 1971), pp. 706-707.

LONGINUS, OUR LADY, HER LOVE, AND THE LANCE

MEDITATE ON THE MOMENT WHEN LONGINUS STRUCK THE
CRUCIFIED BODY OF JESUS WITH THE SPEAR, AND GAIN A
GREATER APPRECIATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND
FOR WHAT OCCURS MYSTICALLY DURING THE CONSECRATION AT
EVERY SINGLE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS.

After Jesus commended His soul to God the Father on the day of man's Redemption, Blessed Mother remained by the Cross and adored her dead Son, and His divinity inseparably united to His Sacred Body.²⁸

TOTAL TRUST IN GOD

She was "*especially solicitous for the burial of the sacred body of her divine Son and how to procure someone to take it down from the Cross.*"

So Blessed Mother asked her holy angels how she was to take down from the Cross "*the One whom her soul loved.*" She asked them, "*... how and where shall I give Him honorable burial, since this duty pertains to me as His Mother? Tell me what to do, and assist me on this occasion by your diligence.*"

They responded, "*Our Queen and Mistress, let thy afflicted heart be dilated for what is still to be borne...*"²⁹

Up until that time, it had not been revealed to the most afflicted of

Mothers that Jesus would be pierced by the lance. Her tribulation and anxiety were then renewed by the fear and dread of what was to happen to His Sacred Body.

When she saw the armed band approaching Calvary, she said to Saint John and the pious women, "*Alas, now shall my affliction reach its utmost and transfix my heart! Is it possible, that the executioners and the Jews are not yet satisfied with having put to death my Son and Lord? Shall they now heap more injury upon His dead Body?*"³⁰

GRANTING SIGHT TO THE BLIND

There was no need to hasten Jesus' death since He had already expired, so our Savior's legs were not broken. However, one soldier by the name of Longinus approached the Cross and thrust his lance through Jesus' side.

Immediately, and in death, life-saving Blood and Water flowed from the wound in Christ's side. It is that same Precious Blood of Jesus we receive in Holy Communion, the same Precious Blood that washes away our sins, and the same Precious Blood that mystically flows from Christ's side during the consecration every time Holy Mass is celebrated.

This violent piercing was not felt by our Savior, but it was felt by His most holy Mother in His place.

*"But even this pain was exceeded by the affliction of her most holy soul, in witnessing the cruel laceration of the breast of her dead Son."*³¹

She addressed Longinus with the following words: "*The Almighty look upon thee with eyes of mercy for the pain thou hast caused to my soul!*" **Then, in order to instruct us when we are also injured by others, her indignation went no farther.**³²

The Lord was moved by her prayer and ordained that some of the Precious Blood and Water from the wound in His side land on Longinus' face. At that moment his eyesight, which had almost been lost, was restored. Concurrently, sight was given to his soul; he recognized in Jesus his Savior and was converted.

Longinus publicly expressed his remorse and wept over his sins. He

openly acknowledged and confessed Jesus as the true God and Savior of the world. There at the foot of the Cross of Christ, he became one of Catholicism's early representations of the Holy Face of Jesus.

There at the foot of the Cross the fruits of our Redemption were immediately evident once again, and in rapid succession poured out liberally upon two men on Calvary, when the confessional moved from the cross of the good thief to the man who repented of mutilating His Lord with a spear.

After Jesus' Body was impaled by the lance, Blessed Mother issued forth a song of praise in honor of her divine Son.

Blessed Mother then prayed that the mysteries of the Redemption would be verified in the blessings spread over the whole human race.³³ She is so in love with us all.

LIVE AND FORGIVE IN IMITATION OF CHRIST AND BLESSED MOTHER

May we behave in imitation of Mary by praising God for His goodness in all circumstances and immediately forgiving all those who trespass against us.

May we beg for forgiveness whenever we harm others and wound our Lord with our very own lances. May we be reconciled with God by asking for His forgiveness as often as necessary while receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

May we be as forgiving with others as our Lord is with us. May we reconcile with others as soon as possible and always strive to keep our hearts free from any bitter feelings against anyone.

Blessed Mother perceived the mystery of the wounding of her Divine Son with the lance, "...namely, that in this last pouring forth of the blood and water issued forth the new Church," Christ's one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church, "cleansed and washed by the Passion and Death of Jesus, and that from His sacred side, as from the roots, should now spread out through the whole world the fruits of life eternal."³⁴

She revealed in *City of God: The Divine History and Life of the*

*Virgin Mother of God, as manifested to Venerable Mary of Agreda for the Encouragement of Men, "...the lance-thrust which my blessed Son received in His side, was cruel and very painful only to me; but its effects and mysteries are most sweet to those souls who know how to taste its sweetness...whoever meets with this mysterious favor will find it a great relief and consolation in his sorrows. In order that thou mayest understand this and participate in it, thou must know, that my Son and Lord, on account of His most ardent love for men, in addition to the wounds of the feet and hands, wished to open the wound of His heart, the seat of love, in order that through this port the souls might enter and there receive refuge and relief."*³⁵

RETURN BLESSINGS TO ALL WHO INJURE YOU

There, she tells us, we will find the conditions and laws of love for imitating her. There, we will learn how we must return blessings to all those who injure us.

*"The prayer, which thou offerest in a forgiving spirit, is powerful not only for thy own good, but for the good of the one that offends thee; for the kind heart of my Son is easily moved, when He sees that creatures imitate Him in pardoning offenders and in praying for them; for they thereby participate in His most ardent charity manifested on the Cross."*³⁶

"Write this doctrine in thy heart and in imitation of me practice this virtue, of which I thought so highly." She urged us to look upon Jesus' Sacred Heart and upon her through the wound, and there love our enemies and all creatures *"sweetly and ardently."*³⁷

*"If you want to assist at Holy Mass with devotion and fruitfully, keep company with the Sorrowful Virgin at the foot of the Cross on Calvary."*³⁸ ~ Saint Pio, Cap.

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28. *City of God: The Divine History and Life of the Virgin Mother of God, as manifested to Venerable Mary of Agreda for the Encouragement of Men, Volume 3* (Washington, New Jersey: Ave Maria Institute, 1971), p. 699.
 29. *Ibid.*, p. 700.
 30. *Ibid.*, pp. 700–701.
 31. *Ibid.*, p. 701.
 32. *Ibid.*
 33. *Ibid.*, p. 703.
 34. *Ibid.*, p. 702.
 35. *Ibid.*, pp. 710–711.
 36. *Ibid.*, p. 711.
 37. *Ibid.*, p. 711.
 38. Madame Katharina Tangari, *Stories of Padre Pio* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1996), p. 133.

A VISIT TO JESUS' TOMB

SHARE VALUABLE MOMENTS WITH THE SACRED BODY OF
JESUS AND WITH BLESSED MOTHER INSIDE THE TOMB.
IT'S JUST YOU AND THEM; NOW WHAT?

*If you haven't done this during Holy Week you still can,
because God is not limited to time and space and so our
efforts aren't, either.*

*Spend time venerating the Sacred Body of Jesus inside the
tomb the day after He was taken down from the Cross fol-
lowing His bitter Passion and Crucifixion.*

Jesus lies in the tomb; His Sacred Body has been absolutely annihi-
lated for our sake. Draw near to Your Savior and kneel before Him.

Reach for His Sacred Hand and then gently place It in your own.
Study the Hand of your Savior, which is pierced through but also so
horribly mangled and covered with wounds from the scourging that
the actual number of injuries is impossible to determine. How grateful
you are to Jesus as You hold His hand. Without even thinking, you bring
His Hand to your face and kiss It reverently. You don't ever want to let
Him go.

PRAY FOR ALL SOULS THROUGH ALL TIME

In that profound moment, you are inspired to take the souls of all of
humanity and place them within the wound that was created by the nail.

Then, you carefully and lovingly seal every precious, immortal soul within the wound by closing your hands around Christ's Hand.

Blessed Mother joins you, and places her hands over yours. Together for this very intimate time, pray for every soul ever created and yet to be created. Strengthened by Their touch, vow to live, love, serve, and suffer in imitation of Jesus and Blessed Mother, and promise to use your hands to continue Their work loving and serving others.

After a while, you feel compelled to rise and sit beside the Sacred Body of Jesus.

Once again you reach for His battered Hand, which had been so greatly tortured, and tenderly touch His raised Forearm while meditating on His suffering.

PROFOUNDLY LOVING INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Once more, enclose the souls of all mankind within the nail wound in Jesus' Hand as you take It in both of yours. Blessed Mother then takes her caring hands and seals the embrace of her two children. The moment is completely still, so touching, profound, incredibly peaceful, meaningful, and very, very loving.

Make or renew your vow to give yourself entirely to God the Father, just as Jesus and His Most Holy Mother did. Lower your head to Their hands; shower Them with kisses and grateful tears as you whisper resolutely, "FIAT."

PART II

THE WAY OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

The Way of Sacrificial Love

A Way of the Cross Wedding

A Way of the Cross Confession

Intercessory Prayer While Holding Hands with Jesus

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries While Looking into Jesus' Eyes

Illuminating Minds and Warming Hearts

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries as a Means of Stripping
Away the Old Self

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries as a Means of
Surrendering to God's Will

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries Unified with the Hearts of a
Victim and His Most Holy Mother

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries with Jesus and His Martyred Priests

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries While Offering Reparation
through the Sacred Priesthood

Praying a Holy Hour While Holding Our Infant Savior

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries with the Child Jesus

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries While Cradling the Sacred
Heart of Baby Jesus

*“O God, Your high, eternal will desires only our sanctification;
therefore, a soul who desires to sanctify itself, strips itself of its
own will and clothes itself with Yours.”*

~ Saint Catherine of Siena

THE WAY OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

JOURNEY SO CLOSE TO OUR LORD THAT YOU BECOME
UNIFIED WITH HIM ALONG THE WAY.

Jesus offers Himself to us completely during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. He holds nothing back. Nothing. Our Lord remains with us throughout all our days and nights and loves us constantly.

Christ comes to us gently and always so humbly, showing us how to live, love, serve, and patiently suffer. He is our ultimate role model when it comes to exercising fraternal charity and immediately forgiving others of everything.

“Jesus Christ is the great Master of souls. He nourishes them with His Flesh, His Blood and His whole Self. He really makes Himself their Food. And, just so, it seems to me that no one receives the care of souls without taking upon himself the duty of feeding them with his own self. We must give ourselves up to the souls put in our charge, with such fullness of love that the grace given to our own souls shall overflow into theirs.”³⁹ ~ Dom Pius de Hemptinne

We imitate Christ when we offer ourselves to God the Father completely as Jesus and Blessed Mother did, and always seek to accomplish God’s will.

Another powerful way we can become like Christ is to spend time meditating on His Passion and Crucifixion.

Every time we meditate on Jesus' Sacred Passion, we join Him and Blessed Mother, the martyrs, saints, angels, and the faithful on the Way of the Cross.

Jesus did not travel alone and we don't, either.

BEGIN IN THE GARDEN

Part II of these *Meditations* suggests various ways to meditate on Christ's Passion to those first discovering and also to those continuously rediscovering this powerful way of spending intimate and meaningful time with Jesus. Begin, or begin again, and our Teacher will be glad to meet you and reveal even more ways to grow closer to Him.

Start out by joining Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane that first Holy Thursday. Share in His abandonment and profound sorrow. So much happened for humanity that night; experience it as it happens while praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary or while assisting during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Unify yourself with the sacrifice of Jesus and Blessed Mother that night; mystically sweat blood and cry tears of blood right along with Them as you thank Them for their generosity. Experience our Lord's mental anguish and internal suffering at the moment He took upon Himself the sins of every person ever created. With Jesus on your right and Blessed Mother on your left, pray as one for all mankind.

Make sure you never limit your prayers for others to time and space. Pray for all souls through all time, including all those who have already passed into eternity, those still living, and those who are yet to be created. Jesus and Blessed Mother may also inspire you to pray for specific people or groups of people existing at any time in human history, in the present time, or in the future.

Perhaps you will be Divinely inspired to pray for all those who will receive the Sacrament of Christ's Peace (Reconciliation) that day, along with their confessors. The possibilities are endless, and the need for prayer is great.

BIND YOUR SOUL TO CHRIST FOREVER

Be there as Innocence is taken into custody, bound, struck, and thrown in prison. Offer to have your hands bound in imitation of Christ, and request to be bound to Him forever. Wear a chain or a rope around your wrist as a symbol of your union with Christ.

Remain with Jesus during His imprisonment overnight.

Offer homage to the Innocent One who is declared guilty, imprisoned, and mistreated throughout the night in your place. Offer Him gestures of love and consolation as He awaits the completion of His mission to redeem the entire human race.

Remain by His side during the sorrowful journey from the prison the next morning. Shower His Precious and beaten Holy Face with many, many kisses as you accompany Him on the way to the pillar.

Be there as He is struck in the mouth, as His Precious Lips are torn open by the blows. Wipe His Sacred Blood as it runs down the Mouth of the Word made Flesh, which speaks such words of eternal love, kindness, forgiveness, and compassion.

Will you show Him some compassion?

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Be there as He faces the Scourging at the pillar in our place, as the most pure and modest of men is cruelly stripped of His garments in front of everyone. Feel the cold air against your skin as you await with Him the moment when He is struck for the very first time. Experience the indescribable embarrassment and shame that gave way in an act of the Divine Will to the ultimate expression of love, that of giving His Sacred Body up for our salvation.

Imagine that with every blow, as His Precious Blood and pieces of His Sacred Flesh projected in every direction, His thoughts were not on Himself during and in between each agonizing strike. His thoughts were always on you and on me.

How often are your thoughts on Him?

The Most Loving of Men is now unrecognizable. Can you recognize

Him still? Can you recognize Him in the Eucharist, in circumstances, in people, in new life, in nature, and in all His creation?

No matter how disfigured we are because of our sins, He always recognizes us, and He never flees from us.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Worship the King of kings as He is mocked and the top half of His Sacred Head is crowned with thorns.

Share the moment when Jesus embraced the Cross with joy, knowing that carrying it, falling underneath it, being nailed to it, suffering horrific agony on it, and dying on it would satisfy Divine Justice and obtain our Redemption.

Ask Him to help you embrace your crosses willingly, joyfully, patiently, and courageously, also.

*"It seems to me that the life of a holy soul flows as naturally towards suffering as the river flows to the sea: such a soul walks towards Christ, and Christ is, for man, ever a 'hidden God,' suffering and annihilated."*⁴⁰~ Dom Pius de Hemptinne

THE WAY OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

As our Lord traveled along the Way of the Cross, He was pushed, struck, and fell to the ground, causing the Crown of Thorns to move around on His Sacred Head. The movement of the sharp points widened existing wounds, created new ones, and shredded His scalp.

Jesus' Sacred Blood flowed down His Holy Face in crimson streams from each point of entry. Each movement of the Crown of Thorns brought forth more of His Precious Blood.

Be there as He falls, injuring His Sacred Body further, and as He forces Himself up with all His might for your sake. Thank Him for His courage, compassion, sacrifice, honor, heroism, and for showing you how to accept suffering and failure patiently and how to rise again after falling.

See how many blows He suffers and how many insults He endures.

How many times we fall, Lord, and You are always ready and willing to pick us back up. This time, Jesus, I am here for You.

Thank Jesus twice. Thank Him for His infinite mercy always available in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Then thank our Savior for the ocean of His mercy present in every single drop of His Sacred Blood, which He has made available to us in the Blessed Sacrament each day.

Be there the moment someone who has the privilege of standing so close to God spits directly in His Holy Face!

Sweet Jesus, what an inconceivable insult. What malice, what horror in that one instant. Oh, how many times I do this to You! I am sorry, sweet Jesus, for the times I spit in Your face. Please forgive me, help me to do better, and allow me to wipe Your Sacred and Beautiful Holy Face clean from such wickedness.

JESUS MEETS HIS MOST HOLY MOTHER

Share the moment when Jesus meets His Most Holy Mother. Look through your suffering eyes into Their suffering eyes and offer yourself once again to God the Father as a willing victim for mankind. Console Them, love Them in return, and thank Them for Their indescribable generosity and immeasurable love.

THE DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

Rush through the crowd and bring Jesus a cloth He can use to wipe His assaulted and disfigured Countenance, and be there at an important moment in the history of the Devotion to the Most Holy Face of Jesus. Experience His difficulty breathing on the Cross, the indescribable pain, all patiently suffered as He forgives everyone of everything and instead of malice, offers more love and Redemption.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Stand close by the Cross with Blessed Mother during Jesus' three-hour agony, and remain with Them until the very end of His suffering. Consider the moment when Jesus' Sacred Heart was struck by the lance. Are you familiar with the details of the story? They are worth knowing, and keeping in your heart forever.

Use this moment to express your love to Jesus. Ask for His pardon and

then forgive yourself, forgive others, and take your heart to Him for healing through the caring hands of His loving Mother.

Remember how Jesus lived, His final words, and how He died, and adopt His example as your own until the moment when He calls you into His loving arms for all eternity.

REMAIN

Be there just before His Sacred Body is removed from the Cross, when the Crown of Thorns is removed from His Sacred Head.

Have you ever spent time sharing these moments with our Lord? Be sure you do, and integrate these meaningful moments into your days and your nights.

Don't ever take the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass or the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and all both mean to your soul and the souls of others, for granted.

Christ's message to us now is the same as it has always been: He came on Christmas Day to save us, and He keeps coming and coming and coming because He loves us. Jesus comes to us in the confessional, in the Living Word, in the Eucharist, all throughout the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and also in prayer, through the gift of life, in suffering, in joy, through all the people and circumstances in our lives.

Jesus promised to remain with us always. *"...lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."* (Matthew 28:20)

Throughout each day, and especially just before receiving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, offer yourself to God the Father in union with Jesus and Blessed Mother.

When you assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, remember the moments you have shared with Jesus and Blessed Mother as you traveled with them along the Way of Mankind's Redemption.

Love Jesus in return during the Last Supper/Consecration, and receive Jesus in the Eucharist reverently (on your tongue while kneeling if physically possible and always within your heart). Receive Him gently, and quietly. Leave your heart at the altar with His.

Kneel when you return to your place in church while caressing the Creator of the Universe, the Author of Love, on your tongue. Always, always strive to speak reverently so Christ finds a suitable throne within you.

DIVINE UNION AND CREATION

During these very intimate, personal, and meaningful moments of Divine union, give yourself to Jesus completely and without holding anything back, just like He does each time with you! Together, conceive the most beautiful things.

Never, ever take the meaning of the word Sacrament for granted. A Sacrament is a sensible sign, instituted by Jesus Christ, by which invisible grace and inward sanctification are communicated to the soul.⁴¹

Remember to pray, every day, for the conversion of sinners, the suffering, the dying, and the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Your unconditional “Yes!” is necessary for humanity. God will help you every single step of the way, even when you fall, even when you aren’t sure what He has in mind. Trust Him. That delights Him.

St. Pio of Pietrelcina provides us with an invaluable first-hand account of the soul’s journey with our suffering Lord to Calvary in the book *Secrets of a Soul*:

“When Jesus wants me to understand that He loves me, He allows me to savor the wounds, the thorns, the agonies of His passion... When He wants to delight me, He fills my heart with that spirit which is all fire; He speaks to me of His delights. But when He wants to be delighted, He speaks to me of His sorrows, He invites me—with a voice full of both supplication and authority—to affix my body [to the cross] in order to alleviate His suffering. Who can resist Him? I realize how much my miseries have caused Him to suffer, how much I have offended Him. I desire no other than Jesus alone, I want nothing more than His pains (because this is what Jesus wishes). Let me say—since no one can hear me—I am disposed to remain forever deprived of the sweetness Jesus allows me to feel. I am ready to suffer Jesus hiding His beautiful eyes

*from me, so long as He does not hide His love from me, because then I would die. But I do not feel I can be deprived of suffering—for this I lack strength. Perhaps I have not yet expressed myself clearly with regards to the secret of this suffering. Jesus, the Man of Sorrows, wants all Christians to imitate Him; He has offered this chalice to me yet again, and I have accepted it. That is why He does not spare me. My humble sufferings are worth nothing, but Jesus delights in them because He loved [suffering] on earth... Now shouldn't this alone be enough to humiliate me, to make me seek to be hidden from the eyes of men, since I was made worthy of suffering with Jesus and as Jesus? Ah, my father! I feel too keenly my ingratitude toward God's majesty.*⁴²

~ Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

39. Dom Pius de Hemptinne, *A Disciple of Dom Marmion, O.S.B.* (London: Sands & Company, 1935), p. 148.

40. *Ibid.*

41. John A. Hardon, S.J., *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, (Bardstown, KY: Eternal Life, 2008), p. 477.

42. *Secrets of a Soul: Padre Pio's Letters to His Spiritual Directors* (Boston, MA: Pauline Books and Media, 2002), p. 44.

A WAY OF THE CROSS WEDDING

BRIDAL THEOLOGY THAT HELPS PREPARE YOU FOR HEAVEN
BY GUIDING YOU RIGHT INTO THE WAITING, WELCOMING,
LOVING, COMPASSIONATE, AND MERCIFUL ARMS OF JESUS
CHRIST, THE LOVE OF YOUR ETERNAL LIFE.

Bridal Theology as referenced here refers to the wedding of the soul to Jesus, its Divine Bridegroom. In other words, it explains and explores the mystery of our union with God through Jesus.

“You come to me and unite Yourself intimately to me under the form of nourishment. Your Blood now runs in mine, Your Soul, Incarnate God, penetrates mine, giving courage and support. What miracles! Who would have ever imagined such!” ~ Saint Maximilian Kolbe

WEDDING ONE’S SOUL TO CHRIST ALONG THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary while making a Holy Hour and consider this method of exchanging very personal and meaningful vows with Jesus while accompanying Him and Blessed Mother along the Way of Sacrificial Love.

BRIDAL THEOLOGY AND SACRIFICIAL LOVE

An important thing to bring to your soul’s wedding is trust in the Lord. We all know intimately and sometimes very painfully what relationships become when trust is lacking.

Jesus is not only always present among us, He constantly reminds and encourages us to trust in Him.

We can, we should, and we must trust Jesus. The Lord is the source of everything good, and He so in love with us! Jesus will never, ever harm us. God's love changes everything, and there is an unlimited supply. Receive love in superabundance as you wed your life to Christ.

Sanctify your soul, prepare it, then surrender it as you promise to love lavishly and sacrifice extravagantly in imitation of your beloved Bridegroom. Jesus wants to have a very intimate, meaningful, powerful, fruitful, and eternally joyful union with you.

Have you heard His proposal? Have you accepted it? If not, don't delay! God is so in love with you.

WEDDING YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST ALONG THE WAY OF THE CROSS

As you walk through the parking lot to enter God's house, you see that the Lord has prepared lavishly for your arrival. Jesus has lined the parking lot with a carpet of the most majestic hue of red to welcome you. You step onto the magnificent carpet and find it leads through the church doors, through the vestibule, into the church, and all the way up to the altar!

Jesus has no little wedding aisle runner for you to set your feet on as you journey toward union with God. You are that special to Him.

This carpet leads you along the Way of the Cross, and it is while standing upon it that you will profess your vows to Jesus while wedding your life to His.

The carpet cost Jesus extravagantly; He paid for it with Himself. This mystical carpet that eases your steps toward God and also shows you the Way consists of the Precious Blood of Christ shed for us during His Passion and Crucifixion.

BEGIN BY JOINING JESUS IN THE GARDEN

There, you find the Son of Man, our Savior and the Divine Bridegroom of every soul, on His knees.

Our humble and gentle Jesus welcomes you on bended knee. Kneel down next to Jesus reverently and lovingly, take His Sacred Hands into yours, and kiss Them.

He is so in love with you; be sure to love Him in return.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN: THE DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

As you pray with Jesus in the Garden, the words of your prayers surround one another, and you embrace one another in this very beautiful way.

Jesus presents your heart in the Garden as an open tabernacle with a veil, and His Sacred Heart is presented to you this way also.

You remove your heart from the tabernacle and use it to absorb the Precious Blood running down our Lord's Holy Face as He cries tears of Blood and sweats Blood. In this way, you venerate the Holy Face of Jesus, and that consoles Him so much.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR: LOVE TRANSFORMS A PILLAR INTO A PEDESTAL

As you stand beside Jesus at the pillar, surrender your life to Him completely as you both anticipate the moment when He is struck on His stripped and pure Sacred Body for the very first time. Strip yourself of everything that is not holy as a gesture of love for your Divine Bridegroom, the Sacrificial Lamb of God.

As Jesus endures the unfathomably brutal scourging, profess your wedding vows to Him.

You are moved to shed mystical tears of blood as Jesus professes His wedding vows to you in between each strike.

The tabernacle doors leading to each of your hearts are wide open, and again you remove your heart and use it to tend to Jesus' injuries and wipe His Sacred Blood from the ground.

As the scourging continues, you hear Jesus praying to God our Father for you. How much He loves you. Be sure to thank our Father for sacrificing His only Son for you. Thank His most holy Mother also for sacrificing Her only Son for you.

Be sure to venerate Jesus' Holy Face as it becomes disfigured and then unrecognizable.

Sweet and gentle Jesus, I give myself to You completely, and I love You. May the power of sacrificial love fuse our two lives into one. Imprint Your likeness upon me and transform me into You.

Look into His eyes and see the majestic beauty of sacrificial love. Recognize Its eternal value. Jesus sees you suffering, and finds you very beautiful when you suffer in imitation of Him and our Most Holy Mother.

Jesus, this is my body, which is given up for you...This is my blood, which I am willing to shed for the forgiveness of many sins.

Allow sacrificial love to bind your soul to Christ, forever. He is eternally in love with you!

THE CROWNING AT THE PILLAR: MATCHING CROWNS WITH MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The Bridegroom of your soul stands before you. He is bound and has been crowned with thorns.

You continue holding His Sacred Hands in yours, and within them cradle the souls of all mankind. You are wedding your life to Jesus for their sake also, to help them get to heaven.

Continue making your vows to Jesus with great love and longing, and bind your life to His while surrendering your will to God the Father in imitation of your Beloved. God the Father accepts your sacrifice, which honors His Son, and places a Crown of Thorns on your head.

Jesus, thank You for your unfathomable love and mercy. May I always seek to live, love, serve, forgive, and patiently suffer in imitation of You.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS: EXCHANGING VOWS THAT LAST FOREVER

Instead of bridal flowers you carry the Cross along with Jesus. You carry each others' burdens and sorrows, along with the responsibility of caring for the souls of every single person through all time, all those deceased, living, and yet to be born.

You carry a passion for suffering in imitation of your Divine Bridegroom, and a deep longing to see every soul in heaven for eternity, where pillars become pedestals and sorrow turns to eternal bliss.

As you carry the Cross along with Jesus or unified with Jesus, whichever way you choose, your attendants include angels, martyrs, saints, the Holy Innocents, and the Holy Souls in Purgatory. What a heavenly wedding party.

Vow to remain by Jesus' side throughout your life.

He has made this vow to us and remains with us always in the Blessed Sacrament. He also helps us carry our crosses, and as the strongest and most loving of Bridegrooms, does this best.

All the people traveling along the Way of Sacrificial Love benefit from your union with Christ and from your sacrifices as you bear one another's burdens, help carry each others' crosses, and love heroically with great courage.

You exchange gifts of mutual sorrow, understanding, and ultimate victory, as two missions become the accomplishment of God's will through your sacred union.

THE CRUCIFIXION: UNION THAT DOES NOT SURRENDER ITSELF TO DEATH

As a sign of His love for You and for all mankind, keys begin appearing from the wounds in Jesus' Hands nailed to the Cross. They are wedding presents, the precious fruits of your union, and they fall from our Savior's Sacred Hands onto the floor of the church.

Jesus is the perfect Bridegroom and the model for every marriage. He is always faithful, loving, forgiving, gentle, kind, compassionate, patient, fair, understanding, and honorable.

The door of the tabernacle within your heart remains open wide and from within it you remove your heart, and gently press it to His knee, which was wounded by mankind's pride and defiance.

Then, you use your heart to absorb Jesus' Precious Blood as it falls in drops from His Sacred Body onto the ground.

Instead of returning your heart to its bridal chamber, you gently place it within Jesus' Sacred Heart, and then go to the side of His Sorrowful Mother.

Jesus gives His Mother to you as a wedding present, and He promises that if you keep your vow, He will grant you eternal salvation and many other souls will be saved.

MORE VOWS FOR JESUS

You take Blessed Mother's hand and hold it in yours, and while caressing the souls of all humanity within them, continue professing vows to Jesus as He is crucified on the Cross.

Jesus, I promise to remain faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, for poorer, and promise to love You and honor You, all the days of my life.

Jesus makes more vows to you, from the Cross.

The vows you and Jesus made to one another as you wed your soul to Christ along the Way of the Cross do not surrender themselves to death. Vows exchanged with Jesus last forever.

Congratulations! May you both live happily forever after, and may your sacred union guide many precious, immortal souls to God and to heaven.

A WAY OF THE CROSS CONFSSION

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT? CONSIDER THIS
WAY OF GOING. GOD IS SO IN LOVE WITH YOU!

Spend precious, intimate time every day with Jesus meditating on His Passion and consider conducting your daily examination of conscience while doing so. Jesus is so in love with you!

WHY GO ABOUT IT THIS WAY?

Examining your conscience while meditating on the suffering of our Lord during His Passion is a powerful means of illuminating your soul because by God's grace, you are able to see things from His perspective. At the same time, you are drawn closer to God while also gaining a greater understanding of and appreciation for how much Jesus loves each one of us.

THIRST FOR MORE

Receive the Sacrament of Christ's Peace often. Jesus even provides the path we are to follow that leads to our reconciliation.

This pathway leading to our salvation and sanctification guides us through a narrow gate, the door of the confessional, to a prie-dieu (kneeler) at the foot of the Cross. The Divine Child even awaits you to take your hand and walk you in.

This pathway is lined in His own Precious Blood, shed for us along the Way of Sacrificial Love and on Calvary.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONVERSION

Did you know that the Sacrament of Penance goes by many different names?

It is also called the Sacrament of Conversion, Confession, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation. Father John A. Hardon, S.J. referred to it as the Sacrament of Christ's Peace. Some other suitable names are the Sacrament of Humility, Healing, and Divine Intimacy. St. John Bosco referred to it as the devil's bankruptcy, so it is fitting to also call it the Sacrament of Catholic Courage, Spiritual Warfare, or Spiritual Combat.

Do you have a favorite title among them? Perhaps you prefer one of your own.

Receiving this sacrament is absolutely essential for your soul. It is vital that parishes offer generous confession times to make going often possible.

THE DIVINE CHILD EAGERLY AWAITS YOUR ARRIVAL

Look: A very gentle and incredibly loving little Boy is waiting for you, just outside the confessional door. This Divine Child is wearing a Crown of Thorns; they signify His submission to the will of God the Father.

Our little Savior is waving for you to go to Him, enter the confessional, and submit your will to God the Father like He did. When you go to little Jesus, He will take you by the hand and gently lead you in. Then He will help you make an open and honest confession from the heart of a child.

So many graces are obtained when we are open and honest with God. These graces are very generously given not only to us but also to others through us.

As the Divine Child leads you to the foot of the Cross where His love, mercy, and peace are granted to all, One so small looks up at His beautiful creation and reminds you, ***“Don't hide from Me. I love you!”***

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY AS PREPARATION FOR RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Embark upon the road to the foot of the Cross by making an examination of conscience while meditating on Christ's Passion and Crucifixion. Meditating on Christ's Passion is an important part of being Catholic and should be done every day. Approach this method through the Christ Child. Invite Him to accompany you along the Way of the Cross and ask Him to help you confess openly and honestly with the heart of a Child. The Divine Child most certainly will!

He will take you by the hand and lead you into the confessional where you will kneel on Calvary, look into His Holy little Face, and make a Way of the Cross Confession.

God is so in love with you!

Begin making your examination of conscience in the Garden.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Go to Jesus, who is already kneeling and praying for the salvation and sanctification of the entire human race, in general and also for you in particular. Kneel down next to Him, you can touch Him if you like, and look into His eyes so filled with longing for your love in return. Jesus takes your hands in His and together you pray for everyone.

As you pray this mystery with Jesus, begin examining your conscience while in the illuminating presence of our suffering Lord.

Ask yourself if you have insulted Him right to His suffering and Holy Face. Have you blasphemed? Used bad language? Made fun of yourself or anyone else for following Christ and for being holy? Do you encourage others to be unholy?

Do you spend time with God each day in prayer? Do you go to Holy Mass, and are you making sacramental confessions regularly?

Ask Jesus to illuminate your conscience so that you make a complete, intimate, meaningful, and powerful confession.

Be sure to thank Jesus before concluding the First Sorrowful Mystery. Little Jesus then leads you from the Garden to a pillar.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Go close to Jesus and allow yourself to be drawn into the mystery of our Redemption. See firsthand the reality of sin and what saving us cost Jesus. Be there as He purchases our liberation with His own life. To God, every single one of our precious, immortal souls is absolutely priceless.

You see the enemies of Jesus strip Him of His clothing. Just imagine that moment if you can. What behavior of yours contributed to that moment? What choices of yours offend Him still?

Do you value purity and chastity? How do you treat other people? How are you dressing, in general and when you go to Holy Mass? Does your speech glorify God? Do your activities?

Look into the loving and merciful eyes of Christ before He offers His Sacred Body up to be scourged, and see deep into eternity. See God, and see heaven! See what tremendous courage looks like, the courage to do good, courage that is fueled by sacrificial love.

In those moments before the unfathomable scourging begins, Jesus says to you as you stand Holy Face to holy face, "Go through Me." To get to God and to heaven, we must go through Jesus, His Church, and His Sacraments. We are to make reparation for offenses against God through the powerful Devotion to His Most Holy Face.

Allow God to use you to guide others to Jesus.

As Jesus is scourged, the wounds formed on His Sacred Body become the gateways to our confessionals. Examine our Savior's barbarically battered Body and ask Him, "Jesus, which of Your wounds should have been mine?"

Rays of light stream forth from His Sacred Body and illuminate your conscience. Through His limitless mercy, each new wound you claim is transformed into a gateway to another confessional, into another opportunity to be reconciled with the One Who loves you more than you can ever imagine. The Precious Blood flowing from His wounds creates the mystical pathway that leads you to absolution.

Look into the suffering and loving eyes of Jesus as He is scourged at the pillar. Tell Him you love Him, show Him compassion, thank Him for everything, and offer Him a firm purpose of amendment. He will help you accomplish it through the power of the Cross.

BE A CHANNEL OF GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE

Sacrificial love is the most powerful force in the universe. Sacrificial love is so strong that the vows brought forth by it cannot ever be broken and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Allow sacrificial love to unify your soul to Christ, forever. Allow the Lord to use you as a magnificent channel of His love and grace for the massive conversion of sinners.

Be sure to thank Jesus before concluding the Second Sorrowful Mystery. When you are finished, the Christ Child leads you from the pillar to the place where our humble, obedient, submissive, gentle, forgiving, merciful, and loving Jesus is going to be mocked, scorned, rejected, ridiculed, insulted, and crowned with thorns.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

In anticipation of Jesus' arrival, you place yourself face down on the ground in the shape of a cross. You pray the Third Sorrowful Mystery that way while preparing to surrender your will to God during your next sacramental confession.

As you pray, Jesus arrives along with the crowd. The sight and sounds of the cruelest treatment to the most loving of Men illuminates your conscience and reveals sins of pride, malice, hatred, impatience, speech, thought, intolerance, anger, slander, stubbornness, and defiance. What others do you see?

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS AND THE CONFESSIONALS

Little Jesus helps you up because He has something to show you. As Christ's Sacred Head is crowned with thorns, you see His Precious Blood streaming from the thorn wounds.

At the same time, you see those thorn wounds transform into open

confessional doors. Christ's Precious Blood mystically pours forth from them like large, incredibly powerful yet gentle waterfalls. So much grace gushes forth from the wounds caused by mankind's disobedience, which have transformed into portals of mercy.

You see pathways being formed that guide precious souls toward holiness and toward God. These mystical paths extend outward through time and space, seeking out all those who have not received, are not receiving, or will not receive this vital sacrament given to us by our Lord on Easter Sunday night.

Be sure you thank Jesus before concluding this mystery. After doing so, our little Savior takes you by the hand and leads you to the most important road you will ever travel on, the Way of the Cross. There, you will become part of a sacred procession.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Ask Jesus to enlighten you as He carries the Cross to Calvary. Grab hold of it; doing so brings so many of your flaws to light. Rejoice! You will present these things to Christ in the confessional and when you are sincerely remorseful and intend to amend your life, you will be completely forgiven of all the sins you confess.

Nothing is hidden from God. He knows everything. *Lord, may we be blind of nothing! You know us better than we know ourselves. Please reveal everything, so that we may be completely cleansed of sin by Your Precious Blood!*

Continue along with Jesus on the sacred pathway that leads to your Redemption, sanctification, salvation—to God, and to heaven.

As Jesus drags His catastrophically injured Body along with the Cross to Calvary, He continues pouring forth everything to save us. Cooperate with Jesus; prepare your conscience and your soul to be cleansed completely of everything that distances you from the Lord. Prepare to be completely forgiven and healed.

Have you spit in the Lord's Most Holy Face? Have you insulted, rejected, or hurt Jesus externally or internally? Remember that His suffering was

not only physical and through all five of His senses, it was also emotional and spiritual. Jesus suffered for us completely.

Jesus! I accept Your magnificent offers of salvation and sanctification! Please give me the strength and the courage to confess openly and honestly, with the sincere and contrite heart of a child. Help me carry my cross, empty myself of all that is not holy, and grow in sanctity. Fill me with your holiness, and use me as a tremendous channel of your love, mercy, and grace for others. I love You! Sweet and gentle Jesus, thank You.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Little Jesus leads you to Calvary. You watch as Jesus submits Himself to be nailed to a Cross by our defiance. Examine your conscience and assess the degree to which you defy God. Do you obey His Commandments?

You hear Jesus say, "I thirst." In what ways and how often do you reject Him? As He takes the guilt of every human person upon Himself, ask, "What am I guilty of?" Gluttony? Excesses, wastefulness, self-love, lack of fraternal charity, materialism, envy, hatred?

Do you value things with no value and worship goods instead of the Lord? Do you see Christ on the Cross? Do you see the needs of others around you, or do you treat God and others as if they are not even there? Do you ignore your conscience? How do you treat the people who love you? Do you try to buck any systems? Jesus did not avoid even the smallest sacrifice for our sake.

Are your business practices pleasing to God? Include your domestic affairs, charitable endeavors, and behavior at work and within your parish. Do you solicit people, market to them, see them only as a means to sell/make/raise money? Do you allow others to mistreat people this way? Are your attempts to sell or raise money causing hardship for people? Do you care at all about the needs of these people, or do you only care about your own wants or needs?

Remember, there are no rules regulating so much behavior in our modern era...oh but there are! God gave us Ten Commandments. Do you follow them?

Are you exercising authority and making decisions that are pleasing to God? Are you listening to what good people are saying to you, or are you willful, defiant, and unwilling to change things for the better because of pride?

Be sure to listen to the concerns of others, and love everyone in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother. Remember that the foot of the Cross is wherever we are. Christ died for every single person, not so we can see them as a means to an end or as things to be used to get our way. This behavior is absolutely rampant in our time and it is not holy. The devil has convinced many well intended people to view others as a way to obtain more money, or—God help us—as addresses that can be mass-marketed to, instead of as people created in the image and likeness of God whom we must love, value, and serve.

The Catholic world has been absolutely polluted by this behavior as have so many charities, notably the pro-life movement. Ask yourself: Am I committing crimes against humanity while hoping to accomplish good things?

USE YOUR TALENTS FOR GOOD

People are not created so we can sell them things or use them to fund our charities. Clearly, most businesses and charities are good; may our behavior within all systems first and foremost give honor and glory to God while serving Him and His people and not take advantage of others.

Ask yourself at the foot of the Cross, “How do I treat people in Your name, Lord?” Ask Him if you are guilty of blasphemy, because this is a very serious crime against God. Stand before your Crucified Savior and take a very good look within as He illuminates your soul.

Then, go to confession! Bring all these thoughts into the confessional and ask God for His mercy, and also an illumination of heart and mind so that you may be transformed into His likeness.

As Jesus is taken down following His Death on the Cross and placed into the arms of His Most Holy Mother, you take your small companion, the Divine Child, into your arms and hold Him lovingly and with

tremendous gratitude and tears of sorrow while reverencing the Sacrament before you, in imitation of His Most Holy Mother.

USE AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE GUIDE TO HELP YOU FINISH

Find an Examination of Conscience Guide to help you complete your examination of conscience and if it will help you, take notes on a piece of paper. Make every effort to not leave anything out because you are going in order to be forgiven of everything. Remember what little Jesus said to you: “Don’t hide yourself from Me; I love you!”

“It would be most advantageous for mankind to know and bear constantly in mind, that I, the Son of the Virgin Mary, remain ever in the presence of My Heavenly Father to whom I offer Myself continually for their salvation. Whenever through human frailty they sin in their heart, I present My most pure Heart to the Eternal Father in atonement. Whenever they offend Him by their evil deeds, I show Him My transpierced hands. Thus in what way soever they sin against Him, the wrath of My Eternal Father is appeased by My merits, so that they will obtain a ready pardon if they will only repent of their sins. I therefore desire that My elect, whenever they obtain pardon for their sins, offer Me their gratitude for having given them so easy a means of reconciliation.”⁴³ ~ Jesus to Saint Gertrude the Great

GROW IN SANCTITY: MAKE REGULAR SACRAMENTAL CONFESSIONS

Receive the Sacrament of Christ’s Peace regularly. Place yourself at the foot of the Cross often and surrender your pride and your will. Obtain much needed graces for yourself and for others. Get really good at it as you fall absolutely in love with the love of your eternal life.

Being absolved of our sins when we make sacramental confessions prepares us to receive the Blessed Sacrament worthily, in the state of grace. That way, when we are unified with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, our union is deeper and our love for God is more pure.

INSEPARABLE SACRAMENTS

Never forget that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is indispensable from the Blessed Sacrament. They are both Sacraments of Divine Intimacy! When we receive them both often, we grow in holiness, achieve greater Divine intimacy with our Lord, and obtain much needed graces for ourselves and for others.

Additionally, making a daily examination of conscience is indispensable from making sacramental confessions. From the teaching of Servant of God, Father John A. Hardon, S.J., we learn that the Sacrament of Confession and daily examinations of conscience are mutually dependent.

“The better we are prepared spiritually when approaching the tribunal of penance, the more and greater graces we may expect from the sacrament thus received. In other words, the more humility and charity we have, the greater our detachment from creatures and attachment to the will of God, the more of sacramental blessings we shall be given. The genius of the daily examine consists in its ability to produce these valuable dispositions antecedent to sacramental confession.”⁴⁴ ~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

Receive both Sacraments of Divine Intimacy, often. Jesus wants what is best for you, knows what is best for you, and wants you to live with peace and joy.

Accept His magnificent offers of salvation and sanctification, and agree to be a tremendous channel of His love and grace for others.

“We cannot content ourselves, as the Pharisees did, with simply not doing harm to our neighbor; we must practice toward him a positive fraternal charity. It is not enough ‘not to kill’ in order to escape ‘the Judgment,’ the Master teaches, but ‘whosoever is angry with his brother, shall be in danger of the judgment.’

“It is useless to make an exterior display of goodness if this does not proceed from a good conscience, a sincere heart. It does not suffice to avoid giving outward offense to our neighbor; we must

avoid, or rather, repress our inner resentment. ... Jesus asks great delicacy of us in all our exterior dealings with our neighbor. He demands that we avoid not only offensive acts but even words that might hurt another."⁴⁵ ~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

43. Jesus to Saint Gertrude the Great, *Herald of Divine Love*, pp. 36-37.

44 . Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *American Religious Life in Historical Perspective*, Chapter 7, Confession. Copyright © 1999 by Inter Mirifica.

45. Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., *Divine Intimacy* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1996), pp. 670-671.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER WHILE HOLDING HANDS WITH JESUS

CONSIDER THIS METHOD OF PRAYING FOR PRECIOUS,
IMMORTAL SOULS, WHICH COMES STRAIGHT FROM THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS.

The next time you pray, pray together with Jesus. You can either join Him in prayer, or ask Him to pray with you.

Make your time praying together with our Savior even more meaningful and powerful by holding Jesus' Sacred Hands in yours, and then place the souls of those you are praying for within them. Hold them carefully and lovingly as you pray.

You can pray this way while making a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, while praying at home, during Eucharistic Adoration, while praying in church before and after the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and while praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Consider praying the Sorrowful Mysteries together with Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament in a chapel while holding vigil next to the confessionals. Do so with gratitude to our Savior and pray for all those who do not make sacramental confessions, do not make them often, or cannot make them often. Pray also for those who go to confession. Everyone is in need of your prayers!

UNITING OURSELVES WITH JESUS DURING HIS PASSION AND CRUCIFIXION WHILE PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Begin by joining Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY

Join Jesus and pray with Him for humanity in the Garden as His Passion begins. Kneel (if physically able to; if not, kneel in your heart) on either side of Jesus and unite your four hands and your two hearts.

THE SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY

Stand by Jesus and hold His Sacred Hands once again, this time as He is scourged at the pillar. Join Him in prayer and intercede for the souls in your hands while unifying your suffering with His.

THE THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY

Hold the Sacred Hands of Jesus as He is crowned with thorns, and pray for every soul as His Precious Blood flows from the wounds in His Sacred Head. The wounds created by the thorns open gateways of mercy for sinners to enter, gateways that widen each time the crown moves, is struck, or is placed back on His Sacred Head.

Note the patient suffering of Jesus and His meekness, humility, surrender, faith, and trust in God the Father. Petition Him for strength and humility for all the souls you hold in your hands, so that all may make honest and sincere confessions.

THE FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

Be unified with Christ as He carries the Cross all the way to Calvary and together with Him, hold the petitions of every sinner through all time between your hands and the Cross. Feel the warmth of Christ's Precious and redeeming Blood as it exits the wounds in His Hands and comes into contact with yours. Unify your Will with the holy will of God as Jesus maintains His focus not on the indescribable agony or His disfigured and mangled Flesh but instead on us and our eternal salvation.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Throughout the sorrowful mysteries, you joined hands with Jesus while praying for the salvation and sanctification of others. As you stand before our Lord Crucified on the Cross, you ask Him, “Jesus, how are we going to hold hands?” From the Cross He shows you that as you pray, each one of your hands holds a nail just alike His, and together you hold mankind’s defiance in your hands. The power of God’s love, of sacrificial love, defeats the powers of evil, making the nails in your hands function like keys that unlock the chains binding the souls of sinners lost in darkness, one by one by precious, immortal one.

No matter where and what you pray, remember to pray for others every single day. Be sure to include all unrepentant sinners, the dying, and the Holy Souls in Purgatory through all time. As you do so, hold hands with Jesus and place their priceless and immortal souls within them. Cradle them, care for them, and envelop them in His love and compassion. They need Jesus, and they also need you.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES WHILE LOOKING INTO JESUS' EYES

JOIN JESUS IN THE GARDEN FOR ANOTHER VERY SPECIAL
LESSON ON SACRIFICIAL LOVE AND EVERY HEART'S LONGING.

God is so in love with you!
"Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)
Make a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament and very briefly, yet very powerfully, experience praying in union with every person who has prayed through all time.

Perhaps the Lord will grant you a very personal understanding that when we take on His likeness and share in His suffering, we do so for the greater honor and glory of the Blessed Trinity and for the salvation and sanctification of mankind.

Don't stop there! There is still so much of God's love to discover and then keep rediscovering.

He is so in love with you!

"I AM ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW"

With God nothing is impossible, and He is a very skilled Teacher. In fact, He is the very best Educator. Are you one of His students?

The Lord wants you to be one of His best students. When the student soul is ready, our Teacher appears and His lessons are very supernatural.

Today, Jesus has another special lesson planned for you. Why is it so

special? Because God loves you so much, He considers you worth suffering and dying for.

APPROACHING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

You meet Jesus in the Garden to pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary together with Him. Our Teacher never ignores a request for greater Divine intimacy. During this lesson, He presents His Passion from yet another perspective, and His message is very personal.

This Teacher loves you so much He gave up everything for your education. Spend time with Him each day and just listen.

MEDITATING ON CHRIST'S PASSION WHILE LOOKING INTO HIS EYES

Today's lesson begins in a Garden. There, you meet Jesus, Who is already suffering and praying for your salvation and the salvation of the entire human race.

Christ tells you that today, you will journey with Him through His Passion and Crucifixion as you look into each others' eyes.

Pray together with our suffering Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane, and express volumes and volumes of love, reverence, and praise to Him with every glance.

Hold hands with Jesus and look into each others' eyes as He is scourged at the pillar. This is a reciprocal action because when we look at our Lord, Jesus looks at each one of us in return with compassion for our suffering. Share this deeply intimate moment with our Savior.

Look into each others' eyes as He is crowned with thorns, and kiss His Holy Face as His Precious Blood flows down in streams of mercy extending outwards in search of sinners. The confessional doors, the wounds from the thorns, are opened for humanity. They are opened even wider by the malice He willingly endured while carrying the Cross to Calvary. Every soul is welcomed and encouraged to share in His Passion to strengthen and deepen his/her union with Him, and participate in the salvation and sanctification of the entire human race.

Look into the eyes of our Savior as He carries the Cross. Once again He has you venerate His Most Holy Face. Jesus also has you take the hearts of sinners in need of conversion and press them against His Holy Face. Do this again as He hangs on the Cross during the Fifth Sorrowful Mystery.

Contact with His Precious Blood flowing from the wounds on His Holy Face and the wound in His Sacred Heart warms their frozen hearts.

May we meditate on Christ's Passion and Crucifixion, submit our wills to the Lord, and very generously share in His suffering.

Let us look right into His loving eyes and be drawn by the heart into Divine intimacy as Jesus calls us by name and says, over and over and over again, "(Your name), I love you..."

HE COMES WHERE HE IS WELCOMED

Perhaps to conclude your time together with Jesus, He shows you His Holy Family going from place to place in Bethlehem just before He was born, hoping to find compassion and shelter, just one place where they would be welcome.

You are shown that each of the places they approached are our hearts; Saint Joseph and Blessed Mother went to each one of our hearts hoping that God would be welcomed there.

FITTING STABLES

Lastly, you see the Holy Family with the newborn baby Jesus in the manger. *The place where they found refuge that night is within our hearts.*

When we welcome Jesus and His Family into our hearts, we provided them fitting shelter, but most importantly love, that holy night when it was so lacking.

May we never send Jesus and His Holy Family away; they seek and find refuge in humble hearts.

ILLUMINATING MINDS AND WARMING HEARTS

A VERY IMPORTANT LESSON ABOUT THE POWER OF
SACRIFICIAL LOVE, STRAIGHT FROM THE SACRED HEART
OF JESUS.

Begin this lesson by joining Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane for a Holy Hour; then journey through the Sorrowful Mysteries during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with our Savior by your side. God is so in love with us all!

SACRIFICIAL LOVE ILLUMINATES THE MIND AND WARMS THE HEART

Begin the journey with Jesus along the Way of the Cross when you step into the church prior to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Take your place and begin by joining Jesus in the Garden. Pray with Him there and prepare to become part of a Sacred Procession; prepare to be unified with a Sacrifice and a mystery.

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Kneel next to our Savior in the Garden of Gethsemane and pray with Him to God our Father. Unify your heart with His Sacred Heart, as He prays with complete abandonment. Pray with complete abandonment, too.

Our Father inspires you to speak. Perhaps you say something like this:
Lord, I am here to listen to You and to do what You say.

Your prayer pleases the Lord a great deal in its breadth and in its simplicity. The Lord surprises you by asking what it is that you want. So you tell Him. What did you ask Him for?

What a beautiful experience, this mystery of becoming so closely united with God that His will becomes your will, and when He asks you what you want, it is actually what He wants.

The Lord's holy will is always good, and He always wants what is best for us.

As you pray among the faithful in church prior to Holy Mass, you look toward the altar and see the members of your parish family before you; they are also all around you. The altar is in front of everyone, and up behind the altar you see heaven.

The gates of heaven are open wide in anticipation of the start of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as God's children are welcomed into His house, as we greet Him, worship Him, love Him, submit to Him, seek His guidance, and petition Him for the needs and eternal welfare of others.

You see that while present in the church, you are also present with Jesus in the Garden. As you pray with Him, kneeling side by side, He shows you that when He prayed in the Garden that Holy Thursday night, He also looked out into every congregation through all time and prayed among us.

He saw the same things we see, including the gates of heaven, which were soon to be opened wide for us all.

See the candles illuminated by the prayers of the faithful burning all around you and Jesus. When we pray, make reparation, suffer patiently, and love heroically, we illuminate flames that warm and comfort Jesus during His agony in the Garden. Jesus is greatly consoled when we pray with Him for the salvation and sanctification of all souls through all time.

THE SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Stand next to Jesus as He willingly endures the terrible scourging to atone for our sins.

Remain by Jesus' side the entire time at the pillar. How can our hearts even bear the sight and the sounds, as our Savior's Sacred Heart is inflamed with love for us and on the verge of rupturing from His tremendous desire to save every one of our precious, immortal souls?

With every strike, Jesus' Precious Blood projects through the air, Blood which has first traveled through the most loving of Hearts. The warmth of His Sacred Blood supernaturally projects out into time and space, warming hearts and sowing the seeds of faith.

Imagine the scene as Christ's love is projected to all mankind while He suffers, for us, and as He channels grace through us. Candles, which were lit by every prayer, every compassionate glance, every act of mercy, every kind word and gesture, and every kiss to His Holy Face, surround the pillar.

The countless lashes chastising His Sacred Body intersect and create small crosses that cover Him everywhere; they even cover His Most Holy Face. Look at Jesus; see how much He loves you!

You join the devout faithful through all time standing there also, surrounding Jesus and warming His exposed and torn Flesh with our open hearts.

The faithful unite our patient suffering with His and our love for humanity with His, and by the power of His love and generosity, become channels of God's grace for others.

So many candles are seen burning all around. We are fulfilling our mission to become eternal flames in imitation of the Lord, always illuminating minds by the power of His Truth and warming hearts that have become cold. We light candles with our prayers and ignite flames that are eternal because love never ends, remaining steadfast with our love while staying by each others' sides until the journey to heaven is complete for all.

As you join our Savior at the pillar and submit your will to God in imitation of Christ, you see that Jesus' wounds are emanating brilliant light. The bridal chamber within His Sacred Heart is open wide, radiating warmth that is absorbed by the devout faithful and encourages them to persevere.

Similarly, our wounds also emit light, His light. The tabernacles, the bridal chambers within each one of us are open and mirror Christ's; within them we see our hearts resting on the sacred altars where we worship the Lord.

Our hearts emit warmth to others, the warmth of His love, and the amount that is given depends upon our sanctity and the degree to which we submit our wills to God and desire to love in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother.

The light from His wounds carries graces to others, and the heat from His Sacred Heart warms hearts that have grown cold. Jesus operates in a similar way through us, through our wounds and warm hearts; we are the channels of His love and His grace.

To combat the chill our Savior suffered when stripped of His garments, we warm Him with our love which, when united with the sacrificial love of Jesus, travels out through space and time to warm hearts that have become cold.

THE THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Bow reverently before our Savior, who has been crowned with thorns. Each one of us who joins Jesus there holds a lit candle that symbolizes complete submission to the will of God. This action of submitting one's will to God so perfectly and completely in imitation of Christ generates great light and warmth.

It is the selfless love within our purpose and not the appearances of what we do that produces this action of projecting Christ's light to many minds, and warmth to many hearts.

THE FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

As we stand next to Jesus while He embraces the Cross, the words we pray and sing during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass project out into time and space and carry the warmth of sacrificial love to precious, immortal souls through all time, as the words themselves provide loving embraces to those in need.

O bleeding Face, O Face Divine, be every adoration Thine!

Before you embrace the Cross, you remove your heart from its tabernacle and use it to lovingly wipe the Holy Face of Jesus in imitation of Saint Veronica.

The devout faithful through all time also help Jesus carry the Cross, as the tabernacles holding all our hearts are wide open as lives are spent completely in imitation of Christ's and His most holy Mother's.

Lining the Way of Sacrificial Love is the illumination of rows and rows of candles that were lit by the prayers, sacrifices, patient suffering, submission, and heroic virtue of Christ's followers through all time. Their glow comforts those in the Sacred Procession while traveling out in search of minds needing to be illuminated by God's Truth, as the warmth of the flames seek out injured and sorrowful hearts in need of gentle melting and healing.

As you travel with Jesus toward Calvary, more candles are lit along the Way of Sacrificial Love because of the continuing prayers, efforts, and perseverance of the devout faithful.

THE FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CRUCIFIXION

During Holy Mass, we are before the Cross on Calvary. The hearts of those in the congregation are generously loving as we join every congregation celebrating every Holy Mass through all time.

The tabernacles holding our hearts are opened as wide as our yearning for union with our Divine Bridegroom in the Blessed Sacrament. We share in the sacrifice, have a role in it, and are to be part of it. God's family in church is unified on Calvary with all souls who are, were, and are yet to come.

Christ is present before us on the Cross. The unfathomable love and mercy of God along with immeasurable and superabundant graces radiate out from our Lord's suffering, wounded, and crucified Sacred Body, as does the warmth of sacrificial love from His wounded Sacred Heart, just as they did through Jesus in the Garden, at the pillar, during the crowning with thorns, and while carrying the Cross.

REMAIN

After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has concluded, you remain at the foot of the Cross to honor our crucified Lord while unified with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Few people remain in church while unified with their Lord, and few people remained on Calvary following His execution.

See how forsaken our Lord is already, so soon after Jesus surrendered His life to save our immortal souls.

Our Savior's beloved people who remain cannot tear themselves away from His mystical embrace, "*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" (Luke 12:34)

When Jesus' longing to remain in your heart has been satisfied during this very intimate time of Divine union, you depart to tend to your other responsibilities. You promise to always serve God and to the best of your abilities, and to remain a channel for the illumination of minds and the warming of hearts while always remaining before Him in the Blessed Sacrament in spirit.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES AS A MEANS OF STRIPPING AWAY THE OLD SELF

CHRIST'S PRECIOUS BLOOD CHANGES LIVES BY HEALING
HEARTS WITH LOVE.

As you begin praying the first mystery, you are immediately and very intimately drawn into the moment when Jesus, the most pure, modest, considerate, affectionate, and loving of men, is stripped of His clothing in public before being scourged at the pillar.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Jesus has prepared your heart in a very special way to begin praying with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, in anticipation of what is to follow.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR: "BE STRIPPED OF YOUR OLD SELF"

Jesus says that you are to be stripped of your old self to prepare for the work He wants to accomplish in you, and through you.

As Jesus is scourged at the pillar, you see the words of the Hail Mary prayer traveling outward into time and space to all those in need. The words of this Marian prayer surround each individual and embrace him or her with the love of God and His most holy Mother.

As the words of the prayer depart your lips and reach out with care to souls in need, you see Blessed Mother among the crowd as her only Child and her God is scourged. She intercedes for all of us very personally and powerfully along the Way of the Cross, suffering the excruciating pains of labor in anticipation of becoming the Mother of us all. With every action she says to God in imitation of Christ, *"This is my body, which is given up for you."*

Next, you see yourself praying the Holy Rosary at the pillar along with all those who have prayed it through all time. Your words individually and also collectively perform the same action.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS: JESUS APPEARS TO YOU CROWNED WITH THORNS

As you continue praying, Jesus presents Himself to you and He is bound, scourged, and crowned with thorns. He draws your attention to the Crown of Thorns in particular, and intimately shares with you what He did as He was crowned, and why He did it.

Jesus even allows you to feel the warm Sacred Blood streaming down His Holy Face from the thorn wounds in His Head.

Christ's Precious Blood changes lives by healing hearts with love.

The Lord also has you consider the wounds He suffered that could not be seen, injuries that were not sustained to His Sacred Flesh. How much our sweet and gentle Jesus suffered for us all.

As you pray the Holy Rosary, the words from the prayers continue extending outward from your lips through all time and space in search of precious, immortal souls in need of His loving embrace.

The Lord says that your prayers are seeking out in particular all those who are wounded and in need of healing.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS: “REMAIN”

The Lord has you share intimately in His heroic struggle to carry the Cross to Calvary so that He could be Crucified there, for us.

As He drags the Cross in His catastrophically injured condition, Jesus provides you with some personal direction as you journey along your own personal Way of the Cross.

What did He say to you?

THE CRUCIFIXION: “HELP ME SATISFY MY LONGING”

Jesus speaks to you from the Cross, and asks you to help satisfy His longing to be loved in return by every single human heart.

Be sure to show our loving and gentle Jesus your affection every single day.

As Jesus hangs on the Cross, you kiss His wounds and it is by that action that His Precious Blood is transferred mystically to your lips, which gives your prayers extra power via the spoken word.

The words from your prayers continue to extend outward through all time and space in search of precious, priceless, and immortal souls in need of His loving and healing embrace.

Jesus also tells you that His Precious Blood gives supernatural power to the work of the devout faithful.

When we receive Jesus’ Precious Blood during Holy Communion, He empowers the work of every apostolate that seeks to accomplish God’s will in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother.

The Lord tells you that words spoken by those who have received Him in the Blessed Sacrament, words said during homilies, speeches, discussions, conversations, and recordings, are immeasurably beneficial to others when unified with the forgiving, healing, and redemptive power of His Precious Blood.

God is so in love with us all.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES AS A MEANS OF SURRENDERING TO GOD'S WILL

ALLOW SACRIFICIAL LOVE TO BIND YOUR SOUL TO GOD,
FOREVER. HE IS SO IN LOVE WITH YOU!

Before you begin praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, ask Jesus to bless your mouth, which will soon venerate and kiss His Sacred Wounds as you travel with Him through His Passion and Crucifixion to your redemption.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES AS A MEANS OF SURRENDERING YOUR WILL TO THE DIVINE WILL

This method of meditating on Christ's Passion reminds us of the inseparability of two sacraments of Divine intimacy, the Blessed Sacrament and Sacramental Confession, and of the necessity of receiving them both, often.

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Begin by walking into a Garden.

Surrender your will to God's will in imitation of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. Kneel next to Jesus and unify your hands and your hearts as you pray that God's will be accomplished for the salvation and sanctification of the entire human race.

Pray for specific people and also pray for everyone through all time. Be sure to show Jesus some compassion.

THE SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Begin by joining Christ at the pillar.

Stand right by our Savior's side and as He is scourged, ask Him to make known which wound on His Sacred Body is the first debt He paid for your sins personally.

The Lord shows you that Wound, and then His boundless love and mercy transform It into your own personal confessional. Enter often, and accept God's lavish love, mercy, and graces. Accept them for yourself and also on behalf of everyone else.

As that Sacred Wound is opened, you are splattered with His love and mercy as they pour forth upon humanity. Remember, just one drop of His Precious Blood was enough to save the entire human race, and the least of His torments was enough to redeem us all. Yet He so generously and lavishly offered Himself to the Father for us without holding anything back.

Just prior, at the Last Supper, Jesus had said to us all, "This is My Body, which is given up for you."

Surrender your will to God in imitation of Christ at the pillar.

Say to Jesus in return, "This is MY body, which is given up for YOU."

The Lord's reward? He transforms you into His likeness. The side of your face begins mystically bleeding, and you become a living representation of the Holy Face of Jesus.

THE THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Begin by joining Jesus while He is mocked, as a Crown of Thorns is prepared for His Sacred Head.

Just before Christ is crowned with thorns, He raises His Sacred Hand and again blesses your mouth. You feel His Sacred Fingers brush across your lips. O most beautiful, sublime moment of Divine intimacy! What gentle and loving Hands You have, Jesus.

As the Love of your eternal life is mocked, covered with malice, and

crowned with thorns, you are inspired by grace to imitate Jesus' humility, meekness, patience, gentleness, kindness, and courage.

As the thorns cut into His Sacred Head you see Christ's Precious Blood flowing from the wounds as precious waterfalls of mercy and redemption. These wounds also form gateways of mercy leading to more confessionals.

The scene shares similarities to the image of Christ's Precious Blood mystically flowing from the open confessional doors, forming a mystical pathway leading to mercy that extends outwards in loving pursuit of us all.

Our crowned King comes to you and kisses the mystical wound on your face. As He does so, you are shown how your blood, which is actually His Precious Blood, makes its way from His Lips to His Tongue where it reposes there in the same way His Precious Body and Blood repose on your tongue when you receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

In this way, you are mystically unified with Jesus separately, after having been unified with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist as one during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that morning.

Since the Blessed Sacrament and Sacramental Confession are inseparable, you are also shown the following parallel. When we submit our wills to the Lord's will in the confessional, venerate Him on the Cross, kiss His Sacred Wounds, and seek His pardon for our sins, He forgives us and then kisses our mystical wounds in return. At that time, the same transfer of His Precious Blood takes place mystically, from Him to us and from us to Him.

THE FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Begin by joining Jesus as He accepts the Cross for us and begins the agonizing journey along the Way of Sacrificial Love.

Grab hold of the Cross also and submit your will to God's will. While you carry the Cross in imitation of Christ, Blessed Mother appears and takes hold of the beam also. Then, all the occupants of heaven appear and also grab hold of the beam.

While the Cross must still be carried to Calvary, their help makes It lighter, easier to manage, and more possible to carry.

THE FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CRUCIFIXION

Begin by joining Blessed Mother at the foot of the Cross.

As you stand near our Crucified Savior, surrender your will to God in imitation of Christ. Trust the Lord, without concern for the personal cost.

Just how much does the salvation and sanctification of precious, immortal souls cost?

Jesus shows you that it cost Him everything. He also shows you that it doesn't matter how much they cost, only that they are purchased, because they are priceless and they are eternal.

By submitting your will to God's will and through the reception of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you are being transformed into Christ and your precious blood is being transformed into His Precious Blood, into mercy, love, salvation, and sanctification for all men.

As Jesus hangs on the Cross you again venerate and kiss His Sacred Body and His Sacred Wounds, which are to us respectively the Blessed Sacrament and open confessionals. You have His Precious Blood on your lips, just one drop of which was enough to save the entire human race!

Discover and then keep rediscovering the one, holy, Catholic, apostolic, and pro-life Church, the majestic full expression of Christianity as established by its very Founder, Jesus Christ. He is so in love with you.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES UNIFIED WITH THE HEARTS OF A VICTIM AND HIS MOST HOLY MOTHER

TAKE THIS VERY SPECIAL JOURNEY ALONG THE WAY OF
SACRIFICIAL LOVE WITH CHRIST AND BLESSED MOTHER.

Bring your open heart and unite it with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Be strengthened as you pray, and also strengthen the devout faithful, strengthen those just getting started, help those seeking the right road, and provide direction for those who are lost and travel along the wrong road leading to perdition, the Way of Selfish Love.

God is at work in you!

SACRIFICIAL PRAYER

Begin praying a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament in church just prior to Holy Mass.

As you begin praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary with Jesus, the Lord begins the day's lesson, which continues throughout the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

It's early; the church is dark and quiet. Begin by joining Jesus in the Garden.

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY: FIND COMFORT IN HIS GOODNESS

Find rest for your weary soul by leaning on Jesus. Place your head over our Savior's most compassionate, merciful, and loving Sacred Heart. Find comfort in His goodness while Jesus prays for the salvation and sanctification of the entire human race.

Jesus also prays to God our Father for each person individually; listen for your name as He prays for every one of us personally.

Pray with Jesus in solitude; love Him and thank Him with all your heart.

Jesus, here in the Garden as You surrender Your life for us and Your Passion begins, I give myself entirely to You, pledge to remain by Your side always, and promise to love and honor You all the days of my life.

The Lord keeps a chalice in reserve within His Sacred Heart just for you, and encourages you to drink often from this chalice filled with His Precious Blood.

Jesus tells you to receive as much as you like, as often as you need to as He calls you to "Ascend higher!" and draws you closer to Himself.

This is your recompense as Jesus summons you to say to God in union with Him, "*Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*" (Luke 22:42)

THE SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY: "DRINK FROM THE CHALICE WITHIN MY SACRED HEART"

As Jesus is stripped of His garments, drink from the chalice within His Sacred Heart to strengthen your heart while being stripped of your former self and all that is not of benefit to your spiritual progression.

This process can be humiliating, confusing, alienating, costly, extremely painful, and overwhelming. Avail yourself of the Lord's Precious Blood often, by drinking from the chalice within Jesus' Sacred Heart (mystically, in an action of thought) and He will strengthen you, purify you, and draw you so much closer to Himself.

As Christ is scourged at the pillar, use your heart to wipe His Holy

Face and comfort the most gentle, loving, forgiving, humble, and sorrowful of Men. Offer Blessed Mother the consolation of your heart also.

Place your heart within the Sacred Heart of Jesus and find Blessed Mother's is already there.

Your heart also finds the hearts of the devout faithful through all time there, and within the Divine chambers humble hearts gather, are unified, and find refuge. Each heart caresses within it a "Fiat!"

Within our Lord's Sacred Heart, each person's heart is nurtured, protected, strengthened, purified, and transformed into His likeness.

Sweet, gentle, and humble Jesus, make our hearts like unto Thine.

THE THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY: HOW LAVISHLY JESUS LOVES US ALL

As the King of kings stands before you bound, catastrophically injured, suffering, and crowned with thorns, take His Sacred Hands in your own. Join hands also with Blessed Mother.

Place your unified hearts within your hands, and then make an act of surrender to God our Father in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother.

The pressure caused by the beating of your unified hearts forces the Precious Blood of Jesus from the wounds in His Sacred Body.

One drop of this sacred elixir is enough to redeem the entire human race. Just one.

Look at Jesus and see how lavishly He loves us.

The devout faithful through all time join you in this important expression of unity and shared sorrow for sin. Together, you make up the Mystical Body of Christ, and your hearts become powerful channels of God's grace for the salvation and sanctification of all souls.

THE FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: GOD HEARS OUR APPEALS

You see Jesus incredibly weak and wounded, using all His remaining physical and mental strength to drag the Cross to Calvary as He appeals to God our Father to help Him make it, so that He can be Crucified there for our sake.

Jesus wants to give absolutely everything of Himself that can possibly be given. He loves us that much.

Jesus' Mother asks God the Father to grant her suffering Son's request, and He does. You are an answer to their prayer, and take up the Cross along with Jesus and Blessed Mother. Together, you carry It to Calvary.

At the same time, Jesus and Blessed Mother help you carry your cross to Calvary, for God has heard your appeals for assistance also.

The devout faithful through all time join you and together, you all carry the Cross to Calvary and participate as the Mystical Body of Christ in the salvation and sanctification of every single person through all time.

Along the Way, the beating of Jesus' Sacred Heart is sustained by His great love for us and by having received our love in return, and pumps the Blood from His Sacred Body.

Jesus pours His love and mercy upon us all, extravagantly.

The Precious Blood pouring forth from His injuries creates a mystical pathway that leads us to God. The devout faithful shed their blood along the Way of the Cross also, literally and mystically, and contribute to the path humanity must follow to be sanctified and obtain salvation.

Not only does this path lead souls to heaven, it also cushions the footsteps of those who travel on it through all time and space, including the devout faithful and those who desire to become holy.

This pathway also extends outward, seeking lost souls that are bound by sin and travel on the wrong road, the road leading to their perdition. The sacrificial pathway actively searches for people traveling along the Way of Selfish Love and guides them to the Way of the Cross, the Way of Sacrificial Love, the Way to God and to heaven through Jesus.

THE FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: WHAT AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT

This mystery is revealed to you more profoundly once the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass has begun.

During the Consecration, you see the Precious Blood of Christ pouring forth from the wounds on His Sacred Body as He is Crucified on the Cross above the altar. You see His Precious Blood flowing mystically outward from the chalice, and also through His channels, which include the celebrant and everyone in the congregation.

What an incredible sight!

Christ's Precious Blood pours forth from the open hearts of every person in church in the measure that each individual loves sacrificially, and to the degree to which the Lord has been given permission to operate within his/her soul.

During Holy Communion, you see His Precious Blood mystically pouring forth from the open tabernacle.

You are also shown that Christ's Precious Blood is streaming (mystically) from the confessional doors in the chapel.

The Lord's love and mercy are absolutely pouring forth in torrents, seemingly from everywhere in the church, covering and permeating everything and everyone and not stopping within the boundaries of the structure.

His love and mercy extend out into time and space in search of every single precious, immortal soul.

“Trust all things to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and to Mary, Help of Christians, and you will see what miracles are.” ~ Saint John Bosco

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES WITH JESUS AND HIS MARTYRED PRIESTS

BE A POWERFUL CHANNEL OF LOVE, MERCY, AND GRACE, AND
UNIFY YOUR EFFORTS WITH THOSE OF EVERY MEMBER OF THE
MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST. GOD IS AT WORK IN YOU!

Begin praying a Holy Hour before Holy Mass by asking Jesus to
pour forth His holiness over all of mankind.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY

You begin in the Garden, where our Lord has you pray the Sorrowful
Mysteries of the Holy Rosary with Him and with every martyred priest
through all time.

*“Every Christian is, so to speak, a potential martyr, in the sense that
the virtue of fortitude, infused into him at Baptism and Confirmation,
makes him capable, if necessity requires it, of sacrificing even his life for
the love of God.”⁴⁶ ~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.*

Think about that for a moment: the Lord has summoned you to pray
in union with every priest who has been martyred through all time. That
includes Jesus our High Priest and all victim priests, not only those who
have already surrendered their lives in imitation of Christ but also all
those who will do so until the end of time.

“Whenever we find ourselves looking for things that are easier, more commodious, or more honorable; whenever we notice that we are satisfying our self-love, our pride, or see that we are attached to our own will, let us remind ourselves that all this is far removed from the inspirations of the Holy Spirit and, what is worse, it is an obstacle to His action in us.”⁴⁷ ~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

SHEDDING MYSTICAL TEARS OF BLOOD IN IMITATION OF THE MARTYRS

As you begin, it is made known to you that the Fathers are praying the Holy Rosary for the last time(s) prior to their martyrdom. You see that some of them are praying in prison or in church.

How incredibly moving it is to share in those precious, intimate, and holy moments with them all. What sacrificial love, what courage. There just are no words to fully describe it, being there with them and with Jesus.

How would you describe it?

UNIFIED IN PRAYER WITH THE MOTHER OF ALL PRIESTS

As you pray “Hail, Holy Queen...” you are informed that when Blessed Mother gave birth to our Savior, she also gave birth to the Sacred Priesthood.

Together with all the martyred members of the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ, you appeal to our Most Holy Mother for all precious, immortal souls, and for the strength to fulfill God’s will.

While praying, you experience a collective union with the Mother of All Priests in a very profound way.

That moment is one of the most beautiful and powerful experiences of your entire life, far beyond description and even comprehension.

You shed many tears while granted deeper insight into our Blessed Mother’s intercession, how she intercedes for us all so powerfully, even in the most difficult circumstances, even when it seems that all hope is lost, by dispensing the graces from God that we need to accomplish His holy will.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Immerse yourself in this very powerful mystery unified with Christ and His martyred priests. Pray with them in the Garden prior to their martyrdom as they submit to God's will.

We can join them and submit our wills also while immersing ourselves deep within the Sacred Priesthood of Christ, and their individual and collective sacrifices and merits.

We can offer them our sacrifices and merits as well, and in so doing, strengthen one another and encourage one another mystically, through the power of God's sacrificial love.

Sacrificial love is the most powerful force in the universe. Sacrificial love is so strong that the bonds formed by it cannot ever be broken. Sacrificial love is so strong that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

Allow sacrificial love to bind your soul to God, forever. Allow sacrificial love to empower you to work together with the members of the Mystical Body of Christ through all time as a team, as a mighty army of love that seeks out and rescues precious, immortal souls.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Pray with Christ as He is scourged, and unite all of your wounds with His as our priest martyrs endure theirs. See glimpses of them as they suffer patiently, in camps, prisons, and at the altar, in imitation of Christ.

Together they suffer and pray with Jesus in anticipation of their martyrdom. You are drawn into this mystery, and unite your circumstances with theirs.

You notice that throughout the collective suffering and shared sorrow, everyone maintains their focus on God, on accomplishing His will, and on the eternal welfare of others as love grows stronger and is made more perfect.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

As Jesus is mocked and crowned with thorns, you bow down reverently among all the martyred priests as they honor and submit to our Savior and King.

Blessed Mother is there also, among her children. The martyred priests with a strong devotion to Blessed Mother appeal to her in a special way at this time.

The Lord has you share profoundly in that meaningful moment of individual and collective love and trust, and the experience touches your soul so deeply that tears of compassion, gratitude, and sacrificial love stream down your face.

Jesus is pouring forth His holiness upon you all through the holiness of His most loving Mother.

While kneeling, you take in the scene around you and notice that everyone who is bowing is wearing a Crown of Thorns also.

Majestic light begins shining from the wounds that cover Jesus from head to foot. This light also streams forth from Blessed Mother's wounded and Immaculate Heart, from the hearts of the priest martyrs, and also from your heart. This light extends outward through time and space to illuminate minds and warm the hearts of other souls.

Once again, the effects of submission and sacrifice are manifested to you as God uses humble souls who live, love, serve, sacrifice, and patiently suffer in imitation of Christ and His Most Holy Mother as tremendous channels of grace for others.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

*"Suffering is necessary for our purification and, flowing from this, our participation in the redemptive work of Jesus. The farther we advance along the road of the Cross, the more we shall be sanctified and the more fruitful the apostolate we shall exercise in the Church."*⁴⁸

~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

As Christ carries the Cross, He looks at each person who has chosen to be there with Him. He looks into your eyes very personally; look into His while grabbing hold of the Cross also.

Be sure to look into the loving eyes of Jesus, which are so beautiful even as they suffer. He longs for and awaits your loving gaze in return.

O precious moment of sublime Divine intimacy! Suffering, gentle, merciful, and loving Jesus, may we never neglect You, or take Your love for granted!

How greatly Jesus is comforted along the Way of the Cross by our loving glances, by our expressions of gratitude, when we imitate His courage.

The martyred members of the Sacred Priesthood are also strengthened and comforted when we look into their eyes as they travel along the Way of Sacrificial Love, for us, as we are strengthened along the Way by them.

You are inspired to recall seeing that same look in the eyes of priests and deacons you have met, or that you know. Pray and sacrifice for all priests, every day.

Jesus wants us to appeal to His Mother. He gave her to us while He was nailed to the Cross. She is our Mother, also, and she can and will help us. Look also into her loving, suffering, and compassionate eyes and say so many meaningful things without uttering a word. A great deal can be said, even in just an instant. What is it that she is saying to you?

THE CRUCIFIXION

You stand before Christ Crucified on the Cross, among the multitude of priests prior to their martyrdom, and while unifying all of your collective sufferings and merits, pray the final Sorrowful Mystery together with them, with Jesus, and with Blessed Mother.

As you do so, Christ's holiness pours forth upon you all.

Perhaps you are inspired to remove your hearts from their bridal chambers and use them to collect the drops of Christ's Precious Blood as It falls to the ground. Each drop is a sacrifice, a prayer, grace, and mercy. Just one drop has enough redemptive power to save us all. Just one!

"Yes, conformity to Jesus Crucified has more value and importance than all mystical graces! The whole spiritual life is dominated by the Cross and, as the Cross is the central point in the history of the world, so it is the central point in the history of every soul. The Cross gave us life; it will imprint upon our souls the traits of the most perfect resemblance to Jesus; the more we share in His Cross, the more shall we resemble

Him and cooperate in the work of Redemption."⁴⁹ ~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

Do not ever take for granted the power of even one small act of kindness, one prayer, one sacrifice, even one loving glance to encourage, inspire, illuminate minds, warm hearts, and save precious, immortal souls.

Begin sanctifying others by first accepting Christ's magnificent offers of salvation and sanctification yourself.

DURING THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

The events of the Sorrowful Mysteries, including the journey along the Way of the Cross and Christ's sacrifice on Calvary, are re-presented throughout the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The congregation is with Jesus in the Garden, as He is scourged at the pillar, while He is crowned with thorns, as He carries the Cross, and as He is Crucified on Calvary.

At the same time, Jesus is with us in the church as the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated.

*"In order to attain sanctity, it is evident that we need the Cross. To accept God's will always and in every circumstance implies the renouncement of one's own will; it is impossible to be conformed to Jesus in everything, 'who in this life had no other pleasure, or desired any, than to do the will of His Father' (J.C.), without renouncing one's own selfish pleasures. And all this means: detachment, crosses, sacrifice, self-denial. It means setting out steadfastly on the way indicated by Jesus Himself: 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me' (Matthew 16:24)."*⁵⁰ ~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

During the Liturgy of the Word, Jesus stops by every person in church as He carries the Cross to Calvary and petitions each one of us with the powerful supplication, "Soul, Help Me!"

During the Consecration, the Lord has you ask Him to pour forth His holiness upon mankind.

As rays of light stream from the wounds covering Jesus' Sacred Body and as His Precious Blood continues to pour forth for us, and in

anticipation of the lance rupturing His Sacred Heart, you say, “Lord, pour over us Your holiness.”

Jesus is so close to you that you lean up against the Cross, and often times, you reach up and place your right hand over His Feet, which are nailed to the beam.

After returning to the pew during Holy Communion while unified with Jesus, you feel your soul plunged into the black abyss where precious, immortal souls are bound and chained by the devil. The Lord has you bring His Sacred Body and Blood to them by carrying the Light of the World within you as our Good Shepherd goes in search of His lost sheep.

Just after your arrival, you notice that you are not alone. The priest martyrs have followed you, and every one of them holds a Consecrated Host above a chalice of our Lord’s Precious Blood. What an incredible sight!

What incredible POWER.

Christ’s Real Presence projects powerful rays of light that illuminate the mind and warm the heart of every soul trapped in the black abyss.

This action of love and mercy, which seeks out and rescues souls bound and chained by sin, is made possible by the sacrificial love and cooperation of the Lord’s messengers, the channels of His grace that include Blessed Mother, the priest martyrs, you, and me. *“It is evident then, that in order to sanctify us the Holy Spirit cannot lead us by any way other than that of the Cross. It is for us to second His action, primarily by willingly accepting everything hard and painful that comes to us in our daily life. Often we neglect the Cross of daily trials and prefer one that is far away, and which perhaps may never be sent to us. We must not seek the Cross in these extraordinary sufferings, seldom, if ever, encountered; we must look for it in the duties, the life, the difficulties, and the sacrifices of each day and each moment. Here we shall find unfathomable treasures, recognizing them by the light of faith, by the aid of the Holy Spirit who urges us to embrace these daily crosses, not merely to endure them—to accept them and offer them willingly, saying with all our heart: ‘Yes, I want this, even though it seems to crush me!’”*⁵¹ ~ Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE TEAM

Unite your merits with those of Christ, Blessed Mother, and martyred priests when you pray, suffer patiently, assist at Holy Mass, make Sacramental Confessions, and receive our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Join together as you appeal to God for the salvation and sanctification of all souls through all time. God is at work in you!

46. Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D., *Divine Intimacy* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1996), p. 862.

47. *Ibid.*, p. 580.

48. *Ibid.*, p. 581.

49. *Ibid.*, p. 580.

50. *Ibid.*

51. *Ibid.*

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES WHILE OFFERING REPARATION THROUGH THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD

BEGIN THIS VERY SPECIAL JOURNEY IN A GARDEN,
AND THEN TRAVEL ALONG THE WAY OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE
TO CALVARY AS YOU VENERATE THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS
THROUGH THE HEARTS OF HIS PRIESTS.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

“By My Holy Face you will work wonders.” ~ Jesus to Sr. Mary of St. Peter

In the Garden of Gethsemane, hold hands with Jesus and Blessed Mother.

As you pray, hold within your hands the hearts of all living and future priests.

This experience is so incredibly beautiful and loving.

Blessed Mother takes their hearts from your hands and uses them to wipe the suffering Holy Face of her Son.

She does this as an act of compassion, veneration, and reparation as the hearts of all current and future priests absorb the Precious Blood of Jesus.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

As Jesus is scourged at the pillar, you ask the Lord how He can use someone so weak as His instrument.

Jesus raises His Holy Face, looks into your eyes and responds, "Unite your weakness with Mine."

As the terrible scourging continues and Christ's Precious Blood projects in every direction, sowing the seeds of Faith through all time and space, Blessed Mother takes the hearts of all current and future priests and wipes the suffering Holy Face of her Son with them in an act of compassion, veneration, and reparation.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

You see every priest that was martyred is kneeling before our crowned Jesus. They are there to help as devout souls past, present, and future collaborate with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the salvation and sanctification of precious, immortal souls through all time.

Together, reparation for mankind's offenses is offered to God our Father.

Blessed Mother uses the hearts of the current and future priests she caresses in her hands to lovingly wipe and console the Holy Face of Jesus, which is absolutely covered with His Precious Blood from the wounds in His Head.

Her act of compassion, veneration, and reparation through the hearts of her priest sons accomplishes much for every soul and helps restore the one, holy, Catholic, apostolic, and pro-life Church.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

As Jesus carries the Cross to Calvary, you see the martyred priests also carrying crosses in a long line that follows Jesus. What an incredible sight!

You also see Saint Veronica consoling, venerating, and offering reparation to the Most Holy Face of our Redeemer.

Along the Way, Blessed Mother uses the hearts of current and future priests to wipe the Holy Face of her Son, the First Priest, our High Priest.

You also see others through all time traveling along the Way. They venerate the Holy Face of Jesus by looking at Him with great love and compassion. Even if we are not literally and physically able to wipe His Holy Face, so much can be done to honor the Holy Face of Christ.

A loving glance, a look of compassion, a kiss... What are some other ways you can offer Jesus compassion and reparation, while venerating His battered, disfigured, insulted, offended, and loving Holy Face along the Way of the Cross?

Meditate on the many ways the Holy Face of Jesus suffered through His five senses (taste, touch, smell, sight, and hearing) during His Passion and Crucifixion.

How much Jesus was beat up for us; how much He suffered for us. How lavishly and extravagantly He loves us all.

Be sure to thank Jesus and His Holy Mother often, and tell Them that you love Them in return. Be sure to share God's sacrificial love with others.

THE CRUCIFIXION

As Jesus hangs Crucified on the Cross, Blessed Mother absorbs His Precious Blood using the hearts of her priest sons, present and future, and by doing so shows her Divine Son compassion as He is venerated and reparation is offered for the offenses of mankind.

Then, Blessed Mother places their hearts within the wounds on Jesus' Sacred Body. She knows perfectly what all of their needs are, now and in the future. By caring for them, she is also caring for us.

THE WORK OF REPARATION THROUGH THE DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

"Rebuild My Church, which has fallen into ruin."

~ Jesus to Saint Francis of Assisi

In the 1200s, the devil was forced to reveal that God the Father "was so wroth against the sinners of this world that it seemed He would, in brief time, give His last judgment against men and women, and, if they did not amend, destroy them from the face of the earth. But Christ, His Son,

praying for sinners, promised to renew His life and His Passion in a man, to wit, in Francis, the poor little one and a beggar, through whose life and teaching He would bring back many from all over the world to the way of truth, and many also to repentance.”⁵²

That sounds a lot like the Work of Reparation and what the Lord said to Sr. Mary of St. Peter in Tours, France in the 1800s and to Blessed (Sister) Maria Pierina De Micheli a century later, beginning in 1936. Learn more about the Work of Reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus, which our Lord Himself called “the most beautiful work under the sun,” at www.josephkarlpublishing.com

52. *Saint Francis of Assisi: The Little Flowers of Saint Francis* (Dutton, NY: J.M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., 1973), p. 133.

PRAYING A HOLY HOUR WHILE HOLDING OUR INFANT SAVIOR

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR TEARS OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE AFTER THEY LAND ON THE SACRED FACE OF BABY JESUS AS YOU CRADLE THE DIVINE CHILD IN YOUR ARMS.

Discover and then keep rediscovering the incredible power of Holy Hour. God is so in love with you!

“A Holy Hour is not a devotion; it is a sharing in the work of redemption.” ~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

You arrive in church one afternoon to make a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, and plan on first praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and then the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary with Jesus and Blessed Mother.

A HOLY HOUR SURPRISE

As you begin praying, Blessed Mother comes to you and stands by your side. She is holding her Infant Son. Blessed Mother has come to encourage you, because she is aware how badly her Son’s devout faithful are in need of care and compassion.

She knows you have been trying hard to do as the Lord asks of you, and our Mother knows exactly what that entails. For God’s Most Holy Mother, it meant sacrificing her Holy Family’s will, her will, and her only Son.

Contemplate what her unconditional surrender meant for humanity collectively and also for you personally. Then contemplate what your unconditional surrender means for humanity collectively and for so many people personally.

FIRST, EMPTY YOURSELF COMPLETELY

“The only time our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night He went into agony. Not for activity did He plead but for an Hour of companionship.” ~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that morning, the Lord requested that you empty yourself of everything. After that, you approached the altar and received Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament into a heart that was completely open and empty. Jesus then completely filled you with His Real Presence.

THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE

Following the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, perhaps you felt like you were going to explode. So you asked Jesus, *“What is happening? What does this mean?”* Jesus offered an explanation later, while you were on your way back to the church to make a Holy Hour.

Once you consented to being emptied completely, God was able to fill you, His dry and empty well, with Himself.

Since sacrificial love is the most powerful force in the universe, His Presence felt uncontainable because His love cannot ever be contained.

During Jesus' entire lifetime, from His conception through His Passion and Death, our Savior constantly emptied Himself as the love of God poured from Him and manifested Himself in a lifetime of poverty, sacrificial love, patient suffering, and service.

The cooperation of Jesus and His Most Holy Mother obtained mankind's Redemption.

It is the mission of every Christian to participate in mankind's salvation and sanctification in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother.

Surrender to God's will completely, so that great good can be accomplished through you.

JESUS, TEACH US SOMETHING NEW

“A Holy Hour becomes a magister and teacher. Theological insights are gained not only from the covers of a treatise, but from two knees on a prie-dieu before the Blessed Sacrament.” ~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

Perhaps following Jesus’ disclosure while on the way to church, you asked Him to teach you something new, something really special. To honor your request, Blessed Mother has brought her Infant Son to you in church, and places Baby Jesus in your arms as you begin praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet while meditating on His Sacred Passion.

Holding Him, with His tiny Sacred Heart so near to yours, brings you such tremendous comfort.

How much our Lord and Blessed Mother care for us!

IT IS SMALLER HEARTS WE NEED

Hold the Love of your eternal life in your arms as God presents Himself to you so little, the all-powerful Who came to conquer evil through weakness and love us all unconditionally with a Sacred Heart the size of a child’s.

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Sacrificial love is the most powerful force in the universe. Sacrificial love is so strong that the bonds formed by it cannot ever be broken, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Allow sacrificial love to bind your soul to God, forever.

Allow sacrificial love to power your unconditional “Yes!” to God so He can transform you into a tremendous channel of grace for the massive conversion of sinners.

PRECIOUS WATERFALLS

You say to the Divine Infant, *“Jesus, make our hearts smaller, like Yours.”*

As you look into the loving eyes of One so little and make your petition, Baby Jesus looks up at you and because you have already given your consent, God’s love begins pouring forth from your entire being.

As you look into each others' eyes, you love Jesus in return with the most magnificent combination of His pure love and your unconditional surrender.

Tears begin falling from your eyes.

THE DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE

Tears of love and gratitude fall so generously they become precious waterfalls cascading down your face, which has become a representation of the Holy Face of Jesus.

May we always mirror His likeness. May others always see Him in us.

Your tears fall in precious droplets and land on the crown of the Divine Baby's Sacred Head.

SURRENDER TO GOD WITH THE HEART OF A CHILD

"We are not called to great penances...but the Holy Hour is a sacrifice in union with Christ." ~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

As your tears land on Jesus' tiny Head, you see that *the places where they fall are transformed into wounds caused by the crowning with thorns.*

As your tears run down His Holy Face, they become His Sacred Blood flowing from those very wounds.

With that, you conclude the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

PRAYING THE HOLY ROSARY WHILE HOLDING OUR NEWBORN SAVIOR

As you journey with the Divine Child and His Most Holy Mother through the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, you kiss His Sacred little Face during His agony in the Garden, unite your weakness to the Babe in your arms during the scourging at the pillar, and submit to the Lord's authority completely during the crowning with thorns as your tears cover His little Face.

"Jesus," you say to Someone so loving and so small, "thank You for growing up and dying on a Cross for me." Kiss the little Sacred Hands and Feet that carried the Cross and bore the weight of our sins and then were nailed to the Cross by our defiance.

SURRENDERING EARNS US TWO CROWNS

Jesus is greatly comforted by the tears of love that fall from our eyes as His love pours forth from our being and returns to Him.

Sacrificial love manifested in our tears combine with our consent, which has been freely and completely given. These powerful tears are just packed with love! These tears are similarly shed by the devout faithful through all time and space.

They fall onto the Sacred Head of the Divine Child we hold in our arms, and bring Him great comfort as He poured forth all the love He could possibly give us.

Surrender unconditionally to God with the heart of a Child.

Our unconditional surrender earns us two crowns: first a crown made of thorns we wear in this life, and then a crown made of His glory we wear forever in the next.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES WITH THE CHILD JESUS

JOIN JESUS FOR VERY POWERFUL MOMENTS OF DIVINE
INTIMACY ALONG THE WAY OF THE CROSS WHILE
PRAYING FOR OTHERS AND MAKING REPARATION THROUGH
THE DEVOTION TO HIS MOST HOLY FACE.

God is so in love with us all.
Perhaps one morning while you are praying a Holy Hour before the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Child Jesus appears and stands on the pew right in front of you.

The adorable little Boy turns to face you, and He smiles at you.

Why has little Jesus come to you? The Divine Child has come because He loves you. He is also there to pray with you for the salvation and sanctification of all of humanity.

The small Boy from heaven says the following, just as He has said it to you before, expressing it with such simplicity and the pure love of a child, *“I am going to grow up and die on a Cross for you, because I love you that much.”*

You and little Jesus join hands and begin praying for others while caressing their precious, immortal souls within your hands. Do you remember our grown-up Jesus praying this way with you earlier in this book?

Present those souls, along with their intentions, to His most Holy Mother who is the dispenser of God’s graces. After showering them with the love of God expressed through her maternal and Immaculate Heart, she returns them to the tiny Sacred Hands of little Jesus.

Hold the Divine Child in your arms and carry Him to the Cross at the altar before or after Holy Mass. There, He places your intentions into His very own Sacred Heart, the Sacred Heart of adult Jesus hanging on the Cross.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES WITH THE CHILD JESUS

Perhaps later you will return to the church to spend more time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

He is, after all, the Love of your eternal life.

Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries together with the Christ Child while meditating on His Sacred Passion.

Jesus is pleased when we meditate on His Sacred Passion daily.

You and little Jesus hold hands and look into each others' eyes while traveling along the Way of Sacrificial Love with adult Jesus as He suffers.

Blessed Mother is there, also. As you travel along the Way of Sacrificial Love in prayer, she tends to her small Son and protects Him from harm as the fists fly, as the instruments of execution become visible, as the hostile mob passes, as people come and go, and as the Cross is carried to Calvary...

While praying, the Lord makes it known to you that you are praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and traveling along the Way of the Cross with Jesus, along with the Child Jesus and His most holy Mother, as a means of offering reparation to God the Father through the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus.

Begin by joining our Savior in a Garden.

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

As Jesus prays a short distance from you by Himself, little Jesus takes your hands and the two of you hold the souls of those you are praying for, together in your joined hands.

He is so small, our Jesus. He is so little, so gentle, and so mighty.

As adult Jesus prays, sheds tears of Blood, and sweats Blood, you go over to Him and wipe His Holy Face.

Little Jesus has also cried tears of Blood while praying. You absorb the tears on His little Holy Face using the hearts of those you are praying for, and the hearts of those who have become hardened.

Once these hearts touch the small Face of Jesus, they soften.

Then, the Divine Child absorbs your tears of compassion there in the Garden, using the purificators and hearts of His priests.

THE SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

You and little Jesus now stand at the pillar, right next to adult Jesus. He is stripped of His garments and is about to receive the first brutal strike.

The Lord inspires you to meditate on the first Wound to His Sacred Body that should have been yours, the first debt Christ paid in particular for the sins committed within your relationships and associations.

Think about that for a moment.

Then, the Lord has you ask Him, *“Jesus, which Wound was the first one inflicted on Your Pure and Sacred Body by my marriage? By my family? By my business practices? By my associations? By my charitable causes? By my friendships? By my parish? By my choices? By my work for the Lord?”*

Then, little Jesus has you place your patient suffering, mortification, good works, etc., within those Wounds to offer reparation to God for those offenses.

The Lord shows you that He has transformed those Wounds into precious doorways that lead to confessionals. The doors through which we enter to be forgiven by and reconciled with God and one another are always open, but they are closed to various degrees by our sin and defiance.

When we place our prayers, good works, and sacrifices in those Wounds, the doors are opened wider again.

They widen the doors to the confessionals for us and also for our spouses, families, associates, friends, parishes...and for everyone.

THE THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

As our Jesus is crowned with thorns, you and little Jesus hold hands and pray while looking into each others' eyes. The Divine Child wears a little Crown of Thorns also, and bleeds from the Sacred Wounds in His

small Sacred Head. You wear a crown of thorns as well, and compassionately tend to each others' injuries.

As we venerate the Holy Face of our suffering Jesus and also the Sacred Face of the suffering Child Jesus, He loves us so gently and lavishly in return.

Honor our Savior as the King of your heart every day, while praying with Him for the intentions of others.

THE FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

As Jesus carries the Cross to Calvary, grab hold of It and carry the Cross with Him. As you do so, courageous little Jesus comes to your side to help carry It with you. Look into each others' eyes and as you do, mystically see yourself visibly wounded all over your body from the mistreatment of other people throughout your life.

Little Jesus appears similarly wounded from the suffering He has already endured throughout His young life.

THE FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CRUCIFIXION

Hold the Divine Child in your arms as you stand with Blessed Mother before the Cross on Calvary.

Study the Wounds on Christ's Sacred Body, especially the ones caused by the sins committed within your relationships and associations.

As Jesus atones for them all, thank Him, praise Him, and make reparation for your sins and also for the sins of all those who have no remorse and do not make reparation.

Little Jesus and Blessed Mother help you take the hearts of others and use them to collect His Precious Blood and Sacred Tears as our Savior is Crucified on the Cross before you.

Collect Them with your heart also. Then take your heart, healed and made more perfect and more loving by the power of His sacrificial love, out into the world and continue living, loving, serving, and patiently suffering in imitation of Christ and His most holy Mother.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES WHILE CRADLING THE SACRED HEART OF BABY JESUS

BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR HOLY HOUR AND MEDITATE EACH DAY
ON CHRIST'S PASSION THROUGH HIS SACRED INFANCY.

God is so in love with us all!

“By being faithful to our Holy Hour, and letting nothing interfere with it, we use it as the sign and symbol of our victimhood.” ~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

UNITE YOUR VICTIMHOOD TO THE VICTIMHOOD OF OUR REDEEMER

As you begin making a Holy Hour during Eucharistic Adoration, Jesus immediately begins a new lesson as you pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Jesus has you hold His infant Sacred Heart in your hands. That moment is so beautiful it brings you to tears. Jesus has you place your heart within your hands as well.

Lord, what a loving Teacher you are. How much You care for each one of us.

And so you cradle the Sacred Heart of our Infant Savior along with your own heart in your hands as you pray. Jesus has more hearts for you to hold; He places the hearts of all the Holy Innocents in your hands as well. You cradle these little hearts so carefully in your hands as they rest against your own heart.

Lastly, Jesus gives you the Immaculate Heart of His Most Holy Mother and places It in your hands.

WOUNDED HEARTS

As you continue praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Lord shows you that His little Sacred Heart is impaled by a nail. You see that Blessed Mother's Immaculate Heart and the hearts of the Holy Innocents are impaled by swords. Then you are shown that your heart is impaled by a nail just like the Sacred Heart of Baby Jesus.

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES WHILE HOLDING THESE WOUNDED HEARTS

Begin by bringing these hearts into a Garden.

Jesus eagerly anticipated your arrival and you join Him in prayer as His Passion begins.

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

As you kneel beside our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus looks into your eyes and takes your hands in His Sacred Hands. It is one of the most loving encounters you have ever had in your life. How gentle and caring Jesus is; we are loved and valued beyond measure.

Together, you and Jesus shed tears of blood as you pray. As these tears fall from His Holy Face and yours, they land upon the hearts within your hands, which now includes the hearts of all those you are praying for. Be sure to include every soul through all time. Jesus is showing you how to become a powerful channel of God's grace for other people.

Just imagine the care they are receiving, being prayed over by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane as He sheds tears of His Sacred Blood over them, while the sacrificial love of the Holy Innocents through all time combines with the sacrificial love of Jesus and Blessed Mother.

All that love is combined with your merits, and love absolutely pours forth upon the precious hearts held so carefully in your hands.

When you and Jesus have concluded this mystery, it is time for Him

to depart from the Garden and be taken into custody. Before Christ rises from prayer you kiss His Holy Face, look into His majestic eyes, and say to Him with all your heart, "*Jesus, thank You.*"

Then you unite the submission of your will and all your efforts and merits to those of Christ and Blessed Mother, Who offer everything to God the Father for the salvation and sanctification of the entire human race.

THE SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

As Jesus submits His Sacred Body to the brutal scourging at the pillar, you continue holding the Sacred Heart of the Christ Child, the Immaculate Heart of Blessed Mother, the hearts of the Holy Innocents, your heart, and the hearts of all those you are praying for in your hands. While carefully cradling every heart, you open your hands to expose the hearts of all those you are praying for.

As Jesus' Sacred Flesh and Blood project out into time and space, sowing the seeds of faith, you cry mystical tears of blood that fall upon the precious hearts in your hands. Jesus' Precious Blood lands upon them also; one drop of His Precious Blood is enough to ransom the entire human race.

Clearly, Jesus loves us very extravagantly.

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Sacrificial love is the most powerful force in the universe. Sacrificial love is so strong that the bonds formed by it cannot ever be broken, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

Christ's sacrificial love is present in His Precious Blood and in His Sacred Tears. It is present in the tears of our Blessed Mother, and in your tears. Together, all the sacrificial love in all these tears lands on the hearts in your hands and becomes the glue that binds the souls you pray for to Christ, forever.

SO MUCH LOVE AND MERCY SO FREELY GIVEN

As you conclude this mystery and the scourging ends, you say to our Lord, who is beaten beyond recognition, *“Thank You, Jesus. I love You.”*

The tears you shed for Him land on His tiny Sacred Heart in your hands, and they console Him. We cry so many tears in this life for so many different reasons. Let us shed more than a few for our suffering Lord, who loves us beyond measure.

THE THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

As Christ is crowned with thorns you bow before Him with reverence and submission, still holding all those precious hearts in your hands. You continue praying and shed more tears of sacrificial love. Then, all of a sudden, you see a channel open!

This channel originates from God the Father and passes through our suffering Lord, then through you, and into your hands. Grace is absolutely pouring through this channel upon the hearts of all those you hold within your hands.

You are absolutely astounded and delighted to see that the supernatural graces then pour forth from those hearts you are praying for, because they have also transformed into channels of grace. So many channels, so much grace! So much of God's love pouring out upon all mankind!

As this mystery concludes, you thank our suffering Lord while cradling His Infant Heart so close to you within your hands.

THE FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

As our catastrophically injured and suffering Lord carries the Cross along the Way of Sacrificial Love, you join the Sacred Procession headed to Calvary and shout ahead to Him, *“Jesus, I will follow You all the way to heaven!”*

In your hands you hold the Sacred Heart of Baby Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Blessed Mother, the hearts of all the Holy Innocents, your

own heart, the hearts of all those you are praying for, and now also the hearts of all those who will be affected by the sacrificial love pouring forth from all those you have prayed for.

God's just love cannot be contained.

“Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends...” (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

God's love is timeless, limitless, priceless, and miraculous! He is so in love with us all.

As Jesus struggles with all His might to drag the Cross to Calvary so that He can be crucified there for our sake, the Sacred Heart of Infant Jesus being cradled within your hands pours forth even more love with every effort, as Christ exhausts Himself and holds nothing back.

Love and graces absolutely pour forth from our Savior upon all the hearts you hold in your hands. As an act of veneration and reparation, you adore the Most Holy Face of Jesus along the Way of the Cross.

THE FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY: THE CRUCIFIXION

As you stand with Blessed Mother on Calvary at the foot of the Cross, Jesus pours over all His holiness. As sacrificial love absolutely gushes forth from the Sacred Body of Jesus onto the precious souls in your hands, you thank Him with all your heart.

You also pray with complete confidence for the salvation and sanctification of every single soul through all time. Then, at the foot of the Cross with Blessed Mother by your side, you renew your vows to our Lord.

Jesus, this is my body, which is given up for You. I love You, and give myself completely to You without holding anything back. I promise to love You in good times and in bad, for poorer, in sickness and in health. Jesus, I trust in You, and promise to love and honor You, all the days of my life.

MAKE HIS HEART YOUR HOME

As you conclude praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary, you kiss the Sacred Feet of Jesus as He hangs crucified on the Cross before you. His Precious Blood is on your lips, and Jesus and Blessed Mother inspire you to kiss the immensely valued hearts cradled in your hands.

Then you return the Sacred Heart of Baby Jesus to His Most Holy Mother and after doing so, hand her the hearts of everyone else. Our Mother then takes the precious hearts of all of her children and places them in the Sacred Heart of her Son through the lance wound in His side.

PART III

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Suffering, Sacrificial Prayer, and Praying for Priests

A Lesson in Determination

The Devil's Great Weapon Against Humanity

Meditating on Our Savior's Crown of Thorns

Traveling Along the Way of the Cross with Two Opposing Forces

Our Defiance and the Nail in the Sacred Host

The Foxhole, the Battle, the Souls, and the Devotion

Very Special Keys that Open the Hardest of Hearts

A Mother/Son Rescue and the Powerful Weapon in Your Hand

*“The field of battle between God and satan is the human soul.
It is in the soul that the battle rages every moment of life.
The soul must give free access to the Lord so that it be fortified
by Him
in every respect and with all kinds of weapons;
that His light may enlighten it to combat the darkness of error;
that it be clothed with Jesus Christ,
with His justice, truth, the shield of faith,
the word of God, in order to conquer such powerful enemies.
To be clothed with Jesus Christ is necessary to die to oneself.”*
~ Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

SUFFERING, SACRIFICIAL PRAYER, AND PRAYING FOR PRIESTS

THE MEMBERS OF THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS
CHRIST NEED YOUR PRAYERS AND SACRIFICES, NOW MORE
THAN EVER BEFORE.

Material for the following chapter was obtained from *The Value of Prayer and Sacrifice for Priests* by Servant of God, Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.⁵³

Whose responsibility is it to pray and sacrifice for priests? It is the responsibility of every single Catholic. Every one of us *must* support our priests, and there are many, many ways this can be accomplished, practically and heroically, every single day.

“Among the truths of our faith, there is none more precious, more important, than what Christ tells us is the precious, priceless value of suffering.” ~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.⁵⁴

PRAY UNREMITTINGLY

“No words I can use would be too strong to state that the Catholic Priesthood needs prayer and sacrifice as never before since Calvary...

“Every Catholic Church from the smallest Chapel to the Cathedral of Notre Dame or St. Peter’s in Rome. These are all, we believe, literally houses of God. Jesus Christ, the Son of

God who became the Son of Mary really dwells. But without the priesthood, Jesus Christ would not be on earth. That is our Catholic faith.” ~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

How humble our Lord is to come to us through His creatures; how much our priests need to be loved and nurtured and supported by the devout faithful. The giving and receiving must be mutual as our Fathers sacrifice and suffer much for their flocks. We must fight the battles as a team; together, we make up the Mystical Body of Christ and every single member is not only vital but irreplaceable.

“Why do priests need special graces from God? They need special graces because they have extraordinary responsibilities before God. They are to be more than ordinarily holy, more generous, more zealous, more patient. In a word, those who are responsible for Christ’s presence on earth they are to be, of all people, most Christ-like. They are to be patterns of what Christ wants all of us to be.

“Count all of the grave crises in the Church over the centuries. Every single one of them, somehow at heart, was due to the fact that priests had failed the people of God.

“It is no overstretch of language to say as the priesthood goes, so goes the Church.

“One saint after another has declared that the devil’s principle target on earth is the Catholic priest. Stands to demonic reason—if the devil can deceive and delude a Catholic priest and draw him away from Christ, what happens? What happens is what we see happening in our world today. Priests are subject to extraordinary temptations from the devil, first and mainly, but also from the world.

“We should pray for priests and bishops because this has been the practice of the Church since apostolic times. It’s a matter of revealed truth. It is a divine mandate.”

~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

Father Hardon gave the following example: *“Whatever we find, certainly in the Scriptures of the apostolic age, we believe has been revealed by God. In the Acts of the Apostles, we are told Herod had James the Apostle beheaded. He then put Peter in prison. Then says Saint Luke, I quote, ‘All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed for him unremittingly.’ I like that adverb, unremittingly. As a priest, may I beg you to pray unremittingly for Christ’s unworthy servants whom He ordained as priests.”*

Every army needs commanding officers, and God’s army is not being sufficiently trained to support its priests. This must change. Countless needed graces are lost each day because people are unaware that they must pray and suffer for priests, or have never been taught how to go about it.

GRACES PRIESTS NEED MOST

“There is no doubt in my mind that the one grace that the priest most needs is to embrace the Cross. His union with Christ Crucified is the priest’s key to an effective priesthood. His power as a priest comes from the Cross as he identifies himself with the Crucified Lord.”

~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

Every single follower of Christ is called to embrace the Cross. In doing so we offer more to God for our priests, who travel each day along the Way of Sacrificial Love for the benefit of humanity.

“A priest who is penetrated with the spirit of his priesthood, is a man of sorrows. He bears the burden of other souls, their troubles, faults and needs. To become a priest is to be chosen by the Holy Ghost to follow Christ in His agony in the garden, to rise up with the Divine Master and to climb in His steps, up the Mount of Calvary...”

~ Dom Pius de Hemptinne

“...The priest must be willing and able to have happen to him what happened to his Master in Palestine. As I’ve told so many priests and by now have so often told myself, I am only as much a priest and genuinely priestly as I am ready and willing, like Jesus Christ, to suffer for souls.”

~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

THE PRINCIPLE CROSS EXPERIENCED BY PRIESTS

According to Father John A. Hardon, S.J., the principle cross our priests experience is *“the suffering they feel with the situation in the Church today.”*

POWERFUL WAYS TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS

“Why, then, pray for priests? Because through prayer we gain graces for them which otherwise they would not obtain. If we all need the help of one another, and we do to receive the graces we need, how much more should we pray for priests from whom we have received Jesus Christ in the Eucharist—and by whom we have been so often absolved from our sins. I don't want to even think of the state of soul I would be in except for the absolutions that over the years I have received from priests. As fellow members of the Mystical Body priests need, desperately need, our help and in no way more urgently than to obtain through the prayers we offer for them the graces from God of which, in my judgment, no one stands in greater need than do priests.” ~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

MEDITATE DAILY ON CHRIST'S PASSION

Father Hardon recommended that a most effective way of praying for priests is by making the Way of the Cross, or praying the Stations of the Cross. *“To make the Way of the Cross, uniting oneself with Jesus Christ, no longer suffering in His physical Body, but suffering in His Mystical Body, which is the Church.”*

Meditate on Christ's Sacred Passion every single day. While doing so, remember to pray for all priests through all time.

OFFER AT LEAST ONE PRAYER A DAY FOR PRIESTS

Father John A. Hardon, S.J. also recommended that the faithful offer at least one prayer for all priests every day, especially for those who have done the most for them in their lives.

Father Hardon said that throughout his life he tried *“to remember at Mass every day the priest who baptized me, the priest who heard my first*

Confession, who gave me my First Holy Communion, the bishop who ordained me, the bishop who confirmed me. I recommend, therefore, that all the faithful daily in a special and concrete way, pray for priests.”

How often do you pray for priests? How often do you pray for the priests who have done the most for you in your life, and for the priests who are most in need of your support? We cannot do without one another.

OFFER THE MOST DIFFICULT SACRIFICE OF YOUR DAY FOR PRIESTS

“I further strongly recommend that all the faithful offer up each day some sacrifice. I am tempted to say some little sacrifice. NO! I suggest it be the most difficult sacrifice of the day for priests.”

~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

SACRIFICIAL PRAYER

“Why sacrifice for priests? Our prayer for priests should be joined with sacrifice. In other words, our prayer should be united with the practice of patience, selfless charity and mortification. Why? Because the most effective prayer is the prayer that costs—costly prayer, otherwise known as sacrificial prayer. How powerfully before the throne of God are the sufferings of the sick, the lonely, the abandoned, the poor, the crushed offered up to God for our purpose, when offered up for priests.”

Father Hardon told hundreds of priests, “Fathers you are not only to offer the Mass, you are to live the Mass.

“But if priests are to be truly priestly, they need, how they need, to have the faithful to offer their own trials and temptations to obtain from the great High Priest, Jesus Christ, the light and strength that the priesthood demands.”

~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

BE AN EXAMPLE OF HOLINESS

Live a sacramental life and work hard at growing in sanctity. Our Fathers are very powerful channels of grace for us, and our obedience, humility, and patient suffering can obtain much needed grace for them.

“Well, then, my daughter, learn now that every Religious should be a living crucifix.”⁵⁵ ~Jesus to Sr. Mary of St. Peter

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Praying before the Blessed Sacrament is an ideal, powerful, and very suitable way to pray for our priests.

“True, Our Lord hears our prayers anywhere, for He has made the promise, ‘Ask, and you shall receive,’ but He has revealed to His servants that those who visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament will obtain a more abundant measure of grace.” ~ St. Alphonsus Ligouri

MORE POWERFUL SUGGESTIONS

Assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as often as possible, praying the Holy Rosary, fasting, mortification, praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy daily, and listening to the most beautiful inspirations of our most loving Lord in this regard are powerful things we can do to help our Fathers.

Don't take anything for granted; even actions that seem small or insignificant are helpful, and they help us grow in sanctity in the process.

They include dressing appropriately for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; bowing reverently when we greet Jesus; folding our hands respectfully and reverently in prayer; receiving Jesus in the Eucharist with great respect on our tongues and while kneeling (physically if possible and always within our hearts); assisting at Holy Mass with great love and devotion; learning more about our faith; and remaining in church after Holy Mass has ended to spend quiet time with Jesus after having received Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

PROPAGATE THE APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER AND SACRIFICE FOR PRIESTS

Our own humility is a powerful weapon to defeat the demons that attack the members of the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ. So to help priests, work at growing in humility. Petition our Lord often with the powerful plea, “Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine.”

Father Hardon also encouraged the faithful to see humiliations as precious opportunities to grow in the virtue of humility. We must value them, and profit from them. They are absolutely invaluable to us and also to others! Offer them up for the sanctification of our priests.

THE WORK OF REPARATION THROUGH THE DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE

Discover or rediscover the Work of Reparation through the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus, given to us personally by our Savior Himself, Who called it “the most beautiful work under the sun.” How well do you know this powerful means of offering reparation to God and petitioning for the conversion of sinners while growing in personal sanctity by leaps and bounds?

Be sure to pray throughout each day for priests. Pray before getting out of bed at the start of each new day and again before retiring for the night.

Memorize The Golden Arrow Prayer and launch those precious golden arrows while waiting for your turn in the confessional. Pray it for your confessor, for yourself, and for other penitents. Pray for the celebrant(s) prior to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Any time is a great time to say the Golden Arrow prayer (on page 27) for our priests!

OUR EFFORTS ARE VITAL

Be sure to play an active role in strengthening the priesthood, not only in our time, but through all time!

Offer your prayers, sacrifices, and good works for all priests through all time. Our efforts are not limited to time and space and can benefit

priests who have lived before us, who are to come after us, and whose lives are at risk of being lost to abortion. Pray to save a life; pray to save a priest!

“Needless to say, the Church of the future will not only survive, but please God in our own country, will thrive. But that will occur only where and insofar as the priests will not only be faithful to their vocation, but have lived their priesthood how I like to say this, in a living martyrdom in union with the first martyr, Jesus Christ. It is, therefore, no mere recommendation or exhortation as far as I can make an imperative. Pray and sacrifice for priests.”

~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

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53. Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *The Value of Prayer and Sacrifice for Priests*, copyright © 1998 by Inter Mirifica.
54. Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *Conference on the Gospel of Life, Talk 2, Part 2*. Copyright © 2000 - 2013 by www.therealpresence.org.
55. Edited by Dorothy Scallan, Translated by Fr. Emeric B. Scallan, S.T.B., *The Golden Arrow: The Autobiography and Revelations of Sister Mary of St. Peter on Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1990), p. 192.

A LESSON IN DETERMINATION

THE ONLY SPIRITUAL DEFEATS ARE THE ONES WE ARE
WILLING TO ACCEPT.

The following lesson is presented to provide encouragement to the devout faithful to remain strong and not feel defeated, because as Jesus reminds us, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20) and, “with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

Don’t ever just be Catholic; be PROFOUNDLY Catholic! Especially during Advent, the time of year when we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of our Lord. There is always so much more of His love to discover and then keep rediscovering.

Our Savior longs for our love in return; accept His love! He loves us all so lavishly. Love Jesus lavishly in return. Find yourself blissfully lost in His Divine embrace; be enveloped within love so great we just cannot even fathom It. Christ’s waiting, welcoming, loving, compassionate, and merciful arms are open wide, for you!

Go to Him, discover Him, then discover Him ever more intimately, and as you do so guide other precious, immortal souls to Christ. Bring Him everywhere.

A LESSON IN PERSEVERANCE

The following lesson pertains to the seasons of Advent and Christmas in particular, but can also be generalized to any time of the year.

“We must have no illusions about the enemy who is exceedingly strong, if we do not intend to surrender. In the light infused by God the soul understands the great danger to which it is exposed, if it is not continually on its guard.” ~Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, Letter to Padre Agostino, May 9, 1915

A powerful weapon the devil uses to assault Christ's followers in our time is discouragement, and it is quite plain to see it pouring forth from the hearts of the devout faithful as soon as Advent begins.

Many had already long been dreading the arrival of the modern day assault against humanity that occurs during Advent and Christmas in full force.

So much attention is focused on spending, shopping, creating marketplaces, selling, and advertising. God spare us from the aggressive marketing and manipulative fundraising. It seems we cannot even escape from these things because they have infiltrated our society like a rapidly spreading cancer.

The cure? The Sacred Body and Precious Blood of Christ.

The counterstrike: Offer up all temptations to feel discouraged for the conversion of sinners. This turns the devil's assaults against him and ransoms many precious, immortal souls held captive in the black abyss.

Businesses and fundraising are meant to be good and holy, but far too often in our times what was intended by God to serve people, care for them, and help them, has become the devil's way to get people to batter others just to acquire money and power, and far too often this is being done in God's Holy Name.

We must remain mindful of this trick of the devil to make us feel discouraged and defeated by all the excessive spending, shopping, collecting, and focusing on things very contrary to the simple and holy life of poverty and service chosen by our Lord, the King of all kings, and His most holy Mother.

Certainly it is going to take an act of God to stop it.

Nevertheless, every assault from the devil can be turned against him and into an opportunity to grow in virtue, educate others, save precious,

immortal souls, and be powerful representations of the Holy Face of Jesus. There is no situation in which Christ is absent, and we must bring Him everywhere we go! Be Christ's living, traveling tabernacle.

Do not allow yourself to be overcome by the lack of self-mastery that absolutely surrounds us, because great good can be accomplished during Advent, and in so many simple ways, while not falling prey to another one of the devil's tricks of encouraging us to be excessively busy.

Avoid excessive busyness and excessive business like the plague, especially if it keeps you from spending time with our Lord in prayer and especially if it leads you to disregard the needs of others. Take time each day to be with our Lord by going to Holy Mass. Go, and be unified with Him in the Blessed Sacrament for everyone in your family who does not go. Do not despair.

Go to the Lord with complete confidence and persevere. Spend lots of peaceful and quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Make sacramental confessions of devotion regularly. Saint John Bosco referred to confession as "the devil's bankruptcy."

"Do you want to become saints? Here is the secret: confession is the lock; confidence in your confessor is the key. This is how you open heaven's gates." ~ Saint John Bosco

Serve in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother, and defend the rights of God, particularly in His own house, in your house, and everywhere else. Wish everyone a very joyous "Merry Christmas!"

Smile, a lot. This is a powerful way to defeat the devil as he tries to discourage us. He strikes at the heart of our human dignity and he has many well intended people working very hard for him, but our Lord knows the condition of everything and He reminds us, "Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5)

To encourage you in your efforts to live a sacramental life of heroic virtue, Jesus provides you with the following personal lesson.

MORE DIVINE UNION ALONG THE WAY OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE

While meditating on Christ's Passion today, look at the Holy Face of Jesus, which He presents to you bleeding so profusely as Christmas draws near. Jesus very briefly yet powerfully has you unified with Him during a particular moment along the Way of the Cross.

You realize that Jesus still has a way to go before making it to Calvary, and are shown the determination on His Holy Face, the determination to suffer as much as possible before surrendering His life on the Cross for our Redemption.

He allows you to not only see this, but you can also feel it.

PROFOUNDLY CATHOLIC DETERMINATION

Jesus, Your Face, your Most Holy Face! Look into His eyes as you share this moment so deeply with our Savior. Meditate on that one moment along the Way. The wicked and barbaric disfiguring of Christ's Holy Face was unable to stop His inner beauty from pouring forth from It. See it pouring forth like His Precious Blood is, as both beauty and Blood are pumped out completely by the unfathomable and uncontainable love within His Sacred Heart.

Look upon His Holy Face and see It radiantly projecting that look of determination, which so powerfully bears the expression of sacrificial love. Jesus, our First Priest, our High Priest! Our Father, and Brother. Teacher. Counselor. Friend! The Love of our eternal lives.

This determination of His, Jesus wants you to share in it, because His followers must possess it. Ask our Lord for great determination to save souls and He will give you lots of it.

THE EMOTIONAL SHREDDING OF CHRIST DURING HIS PASSION AND CRUCIFIXION

The Lord presents you with an additional lesson today.

This second lesson has to do with the mental, emotional shredding that occurred simultaneous to His physical agony while He suffered as God

Who became Man. By taking on our humanity, He subjected Himself to a horrific mental agony, so much could be written about it, so many different types of mental suffering, such an unfathomably large amount.

What a striking lesson, to have Jesus present this mental anguish to you as an emotional shredding that paralleled the shredding of His Sacred Flesh at the pillar.

Jesus allows you to experience this in small measure, and it takes you several hours to recover from the experience. The mental suffering is so overpowering you are astonished that our Savior was even able to walk, let alone carry the Cross and then offer Himself to be crucified upon it, let alone keep forgiving while remaining patient, gentle, and humble.

Go to Him for what you need to accomplish God's holy will, and He will provide everything.

Sweet Jesus, please provide me with great determination.

DIVINE INTIMACY AND SPIRITUAL VICTORIES

This part of the human condition He took on for our sake is something we must always share in union with Him, for we all experience mental suffering, sometimes even extreme anguish, to varying degrees and throughout life.

All of it is important and provided to us by God for a reason. So much of it we don't even recognize and these are important moments of Divine intimacy through which we draw closer to Christ.

Let us profit from the Lord's providence for our souls.

"Do whatever He tells you." (John 2:5)

THROUGH THE VICTIM WE ATTAIN VICTORY

It is through these mysteries, through sacrificial love—which includes patient suffering, complete surrender, and a generous, forgiving, and courageous heart graced with fortitude—that grave, widespread, and deeply rooted evil is defeated.

Truly, the only spiritual defeats are the ones we are willing to accept.

Often, we accept them because the devil has been our only teacher.

THE DEVIL'S GREAT WEAPON AGAINST HUMANITY

WE LIVE IN THE TIME OF THE GREATEST ASSAULT AGAINST THE HUMAN PERSON IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND. THE DEVIL USES A POWERFUL WEAPON AGAINST US. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS? DOES HE USE IT ON YOU?

The devil's plan is to prevent life before conception and if he is unsuccessful, his next goal is to destroy life before birth. If he is once again unsuccessful, his goal then becomes to destroy life after birth in any possible way.

How has the devil been so successful at destroying and dividing people? What a paradox, to try to destroy those whose company he covets with such fervor.

The devil wants us to keep him company in hell forever. Keep in mind that the devil is a liar, manipulator, deceiver, and a killer, and he has been from the very beginning.

Lucifer is very clever, and he and his legions of demons have been extremely successful (take a good look around) because of one particular weapon they use against us. Do you know what it is? Perhaps it will surprise you.

So many people don't know it, and they are quite unaware of the fact that they are actually cooperating with—helping—the devil.

THE DEVIL IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY SKILLED TEACHER

The devil a very good and convincing teacher, and he rewards us quite well when we learn. He pretends to be many things he is not, and he has many devoted pupils. Some of his best students are good people with good intentions, including many who call themselves Christian and Catholic.

He allows his students to call themselves whatever they like.

KNOW THE ENEMY WHO KNOWS YOU SO WELL

Battling the devil is complex because he abides by no rules. He is also adept at changing the rules to suit his goal of destroying souls. Without God, mankind has a serious disadvantage on the battlefield. How important it is to know our enemy. How much more important it is to know God.

How important it is to remember to *always* fight evil with good. Sacrificial love is the most powerful force in the universe and through it, the devil's stranglehold on so many precious, immortal souls can be broken.

Sacrificial love is so powerful that the bonds formed by it cannot ever be broken. It is so powerful that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. The devil knows this well and so he tries to teach us in so many ways to be selfish. In fact, he has established many systems that reward people for being selfish. Satan conquers us through our pride, but is defeated by our humility.

WHO IS TEACHING YOU?

The devil is an excellent teacher and too often, he is the only one teaching people. His influence on popular culture and popular opinion has had devastating effects on individuals, families, organizations, churches, schools, businesses, and every system intended by God to love and serve humanity in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother.

The reason so many people behave badly and then celebrate such harmful behavior, even in the name of God, is that they do not know their Faith. The reason leaders allow bad behavior and corruption, sometimes even selling themselves out for very little, is that they do not know their Faith. The reason people get disgusted with corruption and defect from the Sacraments against the Lord's wishes is that they do not know their Faith.

The reason so many of the devout faithful are suffering even more in the pews is that they do not know their Faith, and few are telling them what they need to know because they don't know their Faith. The reason we do not have more strong moral leaders and evangelizers is that far too few people know their Faith.

The reason for the colossal modern moral crisis is that so many people do not know their Faith.

THE TEACHER RESPONSIBLE FOR SO MUCH SHAMEFUL AND LARGELY TOLERATED BEHAVIOR

The devil has taught us to kill our unborn children, serve ourselves, forget about God, take advantage of other people, use them through fundraisers, and tie them up with marketing, solicitations, requests for donations, and anything else under the sun. He has taught us to dress without dignity, to create class systems and place ourselves at the top and others underneath us, to worship money and power, and to crush anyone who gets in our way.

He has taught us to get involved in everything possible and then ignore the presence of our neighbors, their needs, their dignity, and their Creator. The devil is the king of obstructing our vision, and has taught us how to see other people as invisible unless of course we can use them in some way or must insist that they get out of our path.

The devil has caused destruction outside and inside of our churches, and has taught so many well meaning people who call themselves Catholic to serve themselves in God's name. He has made them experts in committing blasphemy in the name of good and has provided them the very knives they use to gut the Church from within.

The devil actually encourages such people to call themselves Catholic and they are very good at driving good people out of the Church. They often have power, human respect, and money, all of which facilitate their downfall because they do not know their Faith. They lead to the downfall of so many others who behave in like manner, celebrate it, encourage it, allow it, or fear it because they don't know their Faith, either.

So many people know so many things and yet they know so little.

WHOSE SOULS WILL YOU BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR?

Ask the Lord whose souls you will be held accountable for on judgment day. The devil likes to teach us that our actions don't matter, that we are the only ones that do matter, and that we exist to bring ourselves as much pleasure as possible.

How many good people have been driven out of their parishes by others claiming to work for the Lord whose behavior did not support such a noble intention? The devil loves convincing people that leaving the Catholic Church is justifiable and even necessary.

Our Good Shepherd is summoning all those who have left to return. He teaches that if we leave the Church we are endorsing the divorce mentality. Jesus wants each one of us to remain, peacefully defend the rights of God and His Family, and contribute to the welfare of Her members.

ONE OF THE DEVIL'S FAVORITE LIES: SUFFERING HAS NO VALUE

The devil makes it a point to teach us that suffering has no value and that we are to avoid it all cost. He is a liar and master manipulator who appeals to our fallen human nature during every single lesson.

THE TRUTH ALWAYS REVEALS THE SOLUTION

God is the answer to all of humanity's problems. We must always fight evil with good. We must live sacramental lives of heroic virtue to combat evil. We must ransom sinners from the clutches of the devil by living, loving, forgiving, suffering, and serving in imitation of Jesus and Blessed Mother.

We must always strive to love in greater measure. We must approach the communion rail absolutely covered mystically with the Blood of the Sacrificial Lamb.

Far too many Catholics know too little about their Faith and far too much about anything else.

We must possess a great desire to know God very, very, very intimately.

The untapped amount of grace available to humanity is absolutely staggering, and far too few people even know what can and must be done to access it to defeat the colossal evil assault against us.

We must realize that if good people do nothing, if they make no attempt to learn their Faith, and as a result share nothing, what happens is NOT that others are taught nothing. What happens is far, far worse. What happens then is the devil is our only teacher.

The demons are highly organized, extremely intelligent, manipulative, and convincing; it is their goal to have every single person's soul join them in hell for all of eternity. They have fooled many people into believing that could never happen. But it does. The devils' work is made easy by good people who do not learn their Faith and as a result, cannot teach the Faith to others.

THERE'S A WAR ON FOR EVERY SINGLE HUMAN SOUL

Aggressively battle evil by living a sacramental life of heroic virtue while continuing your Faith formation throughout your life. How well would you say you know your Faith? Be sure to study the lives of the saints!

Here is an example of what is possible to inspire you to keep learning more.

KNOW YOUR FAITH

Earlier it was stated that we are to approach the communion rail absolutely, mystically covered in our own Redemption, in Christ's Sacred Blood. How is that accomplished?

The covering of ourselves in His Precious Blood can be accomplished in so many ways: When we make sacramental confessions; when we are forced to endure injustices in God's house; when we place ourselves at the feet of our Lord at the pillar upon entering the church; when we wipe the Holy Face of Jesus as He travels by us carrying the Cross during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; when we follow Him to the Cross on the bloody pathway as we approach the altar to receive Him in the Eucharist; when we stop to place our hands in His Bloody Handprints marking the

places where He fell; and when we ask that our hearts be torn open by the lance in tandem with His Sacred Heart to create a generous gateway where He may enter.

We are covered with the Price of our Redemption when we lay prostrate at the foot of the Cross in His Sacred Blood and hand ourselves over to Him and to Blessed Mother completely; when we kiss the Bloodstained wood upon which He is impaled; when we receive Him into our arms from the hands of His most holy Mother after He is taken down from the Cross; and when we are unified with our Savior's Sacred Body and Precious Blood in the Blessed Sacrament and spend priceless, intimate time alone with Him within the bridal chambers of our souls.

WHEN THE STUDENT'S SOUL IS READY, THE TEACHER APPEARS

Learn more about your faith! Then, lead others right into the waiting, welcoming, loving, compassionate, and merciful arms of Jesus. There is so much more of God's love to discover and then rediscover. He is so in love with us all!

Ask all the martyrs, the saints, the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and the tens of millions of Holy Innocents to help you fulfill God's plan for your life. They are powerful friends and intercessors who are ready, willing, and able to help each one of us. May we continue praying for one another.

And of course, our Blessed Mother loves us and beckons each one of us to "Come to me."

MEDITATING ON OUR SAVIOR'S CROWN OF THORNS

THE DEMONS AVOID AND FLEE FROM THOSE WHO THANKFULLY
REMEMBER THE LIFE AND PASSION OF JESUS.

Have you ever considered the moment when the Crown of Thorns was removed from our Lord's sacred head following His death on the Cross?

Just imagine what that moment was like. Such meditations are immeasurably valuable to our souls because they draw us into closer union with Jesus. Truly, we are loved and valued by God beyond measure.

Our Blessed Mother urged us to never forget the mysteries of the Incarnation, Passion, and Death of her Divine Son. She also urged us to give thanks in order to compensate for the great number of people who neglect to meditate on these sacred mysteries.

Meditating on the life, Passion, and Death of Jesus are also very beneficial to us as we resist and fight the forces of evil.

Blessed Mother revealed in *City of God: The Divine History and Life of the Virgin Mother of God, as manifested to Venerable Mary of Agreda for the Encouragement of Men*:

*"...I assure thee that the mere memory and contemplation of these mysteries are terrible to hell, torment and drive away the demons, and that they avoid and fly those who thankfully remember the life and passion of my divine Son."*⁵⁶

When you pray to prepare your heart before Holy Mass, share precious moments of divine intimacy with Jesus by reflecting on the individual

moments of His Passion. Unite your own suffering with our Lord's suffering during the scourging at pillar, along the Way of the Cross, or when He was nailed to the Cross. Meditate on His wounds. Unite your heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus torn open by the lance.

Ask the Lord to direct your thoughts to those moments of His Passion that are of most benefit to your soul, or ask Him to teach you something new so your appreciation and thanksgiving will be more satisfactory.

Let us consider the moment when the Crown of Thorns was removed from Jesus' Sacred Head.

PREPARING TO REMOVE JESUS' SACRED BODY FROM THE CROSS

At the time when our Savior's body was to be taken down from the Cross, Joseph of Arimathea felt that our Lady's sorrow would be renewed when Jesus' Sacred Body would be lowered and touched by His Mother, so he advised St. John to take Her aside and distract her.

St. John responded that as she had been there since the beginning of the Lord's torments "*she would not leave him whom She venerated as her God and loved as the Son of her Womb.*"⁵⁷

Despite this, they urged Blessed Mother to retire for a while until Jesus had been lowered from the Cross.

HUMILITY IN IMITATION OF CHRIST AND BLESSED MOTHER

She replied, "*My dearest masters, since I was present when my sweetest Son was nailed to the Cross, fear not to allow me to be present at his taking down; for this act of piety, though it shall affect my heart with new sorrow, will, in its very performance, afford a great relief.*"⁵⁸

What incredible love and humility Blessed Mother expressed to her new sons and daughters!

That having been said, they began making arrangements to remove the Sacred Body of our Savior from the Cross.

First they removed the Crown of Thorns from the Sacred Head of Jesus, exposing the lacerations and deep wounds caused by the crowning.

“They handed it down with great reverence and amid abundant tears, placing it in the hands of the sweetest Mother. She received it prostrate on her knees, in deepest adoration bathed it with her tears, permitting the sharp thorns to wound her virginal countenance in pressing it to her face.

“She asked the eternal Father to inspire due veneration toward the sacred thorns in those Christians, who should obtain possession of them in future times.”⁵⁹

St. John, the pious women, and the other faithful present adored the Crown of Thorns in imitation of Blessed Mother.

ADORING OUR LORD'S SACRED BODY

In a similar way, they adored the nails, and then *“the great Lady placed Herself on her knees and held the unfolded cloth in her outstretched arms ready to receive the dead body of her Son...she looked upon Him with supreme worship and reverence, shedding tears of blood.”⁶⁰*

Think about that moment during Holy Communion, as you caress our Lord's Sacred Body on your tongue.

Seated on the ground, Blessed Mother held Him in her arms so that the others could also adore their Lord and Savior.

What incredible love; what heroic generosity!

“Her sorrow exceeded all that could ever be felt by mortals...she enlightened all in the understanding of the sacrament now transpiring under their hands.”⁶¹

Remember our Lord's crowning with thorns during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and be sure to venerate our Savior as the King of kings. Thank Jesus and our Blessed Mother for their unfathomable love for all mankind and for you personally. Be sure to love them in return.

“Jesus Christ gave more glory to God the Father by submission to His Mother during those thirty years than He would have given Him in converting the whole world by the working of the most stupendous miracles. Oh, how highly we glorify God when, to please Him, we submit ourselves to Mary, after the example of Jesus Christ, our sole Exemplar!”⁶² ~ Saint Louis De Montfort

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56. *City of God: The Divine History and Life of the Virgin Mother of God, as manifested to Venerable Mary of Agreda for the Encouragement of Men* (Washington, New Jersey: Ave Maria Institute, 1971), p. 698
57. Ibid p. 706
58. Ibid p. 706
59. Ibid p. 707
60. Ibid p. 707
61. Ibid p. 708
62. St. Louis De Montfort, Translated by Father Frederick William Faber, D.D., *True Devotion to Mary* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1985), p. 13

TRAVELING ALONG THE WAY OF THE CROSS WITH TWO OPPOSING FORCES

PRAY THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY
WITH JESUS AND BLESSED MOTHER; DISCOVER HOW
THE ASSAULTS OF THE DEVIL UNITE US TO CHRIST'S
SUFFERING, AND HOW GOOD TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL WHEN WE
LIVE, LOVE, SERVE, AND SUFFER IN IMITATION OF CHRIST.

Begin praying the Holy Rosary by kneeling at the foot of the Cross,
just below our Crucified Savior.

Lean your right shoulder against the beam for support during
your journey with Jesus through His Passion. Then take the base of the
beam in your hands and embrace It.

As you do, Jesus manifests His Presence above you in a very powerful
way. His Precious Blood drips down upon you, and runs down the Cross
and onto your hands.

You feel the Blood of the Lamb on your hands and under your hands,
which intimately draws you into the mystery of Christ's suffering and our
Redemption.

Jesus wants His relationship with you to be very personal and deeply
meaningful.

As you begin praying, you join Blessed Mother as she takes the hearts
of everyone you are praying for and presses them against the base of the
Cross. As their hearts absorb the Precious Blood of Christ, which contains

more than enough love and mercy for all, you weep with gratitude knowing God values us that much.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

God's love mystically pours forth from His Sacred Body on the Cross, and flows upon you as you pray for strength to accomplish God's will in imitation of our Savior in the Garden.

There are so many ways we share in Christ's Passion and suffering along the Way of the Cross and during His Crucifixion on Calvary. Jesus enlightens you from the Cross about another way He has you share in His suffering. Our Lord shows how your encounters with satan mirror those of Christ's during His Passion and Crucifixion.

As you pray the First Sorrowful Mystery with Jesus and Blessed Mother in the Garden of Gethsemane, you share in Christ's interior suffering while He prays. You also share in His victory as the forces of darkness are countered and beaten by their spiritual opposites of submission, unconditional love, humility, and forgiveness.

“The devil is afraid of us when we pray and make sacrifices. He is also afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much. He runs away when we make the Sign of the Cross.” ~ Saint Anthony of the Desert

THE SCOURING AT THE PILLAR

As Jesus is scourged at the pillar, you see our Savior scorned, ridiculed, despised, rejected, mocked, and absolutely hated. You also see the times you have been treated like He was. Our Savior responds with submission, gentleness, unconditional love, and forgiveness and in this way, defeats the forces of evil.

Those who want to accomplish the will of the devil are present, but also present are many who seek to accomplish the will of God. So much good is accomplished through the devout souls who allow the Lord to work through them unconditionally.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Jesus shows you how His Passion and Crucifixion came about because of evil that seeks to destroy humanity. This evil manifests itself against the most loving of men through the malice of men.

As Jesus is crowned with thorns He conquers evil by remaining forgiving, unconditionally loving, and always focused on accomplishing the will of God our Father.

God's will is the salvation and sanctification of every single precious, immortal soul through all time.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Jesus suffers more extreme cruelty as He carries the Cross to Calvary. He is catastrophically wounded, disfigured, covered with His Sacred Blood, and is truly the most despised of all men.

Listen as our Savior insistently petitions His Father to help Him complete the journey along the Way of Sacrificial Love to Calvary for our sake, as He continues to love, forgive, and remain gentle and submissive while focusing resolutely on completing His mission to the full.

Not all in the crowd or in the Sacred Procession have hearts filled with hatred; there are those who courageously show Jesus compassion, and He is grateful for the love He is shown along the Way.

THE CRUCIFIXION

The Sorrowful Mysteries are concluded where you began, at the foot of the Cross of your Redeemer. The rejection and mistreatment of Jesus does not conclude after He was nailed to the Cross by mankind's defiance. Think about that for a moment. The mistreatment continued even after His death when His Sacred Heart was torn open by malice through the thrust of a lance.

Our Savior's patience, forgiveness, love, compassion for us, humility, and surrender throughout His entire life were followed upon His death by an outpouring of more love and unfathomable mercy from His Sacred Heart.

The devout faithful through all time including Blessed Mother, all the Saints, and all Saints-in-the-Making also kneel reverently beneath the Cross and together with you, surround Jesus on all sides and love Him in return.

SOWING MORE PRECIOUS SEEDS OF FAITH

Jesus' goodness touches you deeply as you kneel below His Cross today.

As you thank Him and love Him in return, a mystical tear of blood flows down your cheek. As it does, a drop of Jesus' Precious Blood falls from His Sacred Body, lands on your face, and combines with your tear.

This special drop of sacrificial love, yours unified with His, rolls off your face and falls onto the ground.

Jesus, what is to become of that drop of your Precious Blood mixed with my tear?

Our Lord tells you it has been absorbed into the ground and has transformed into a seed of great faith.

These precious seeds with eternal value can be planted any time and in any place. Begin by kneeling down at the foot of Christ's Cross; lean your right shoulder against the beam for support as you journey with Jesus through His Passion. Take the base of the beam in your hands, embrace It, and begin again.

God is at work in you! Thank you.

OUR DEFIANCE AND THE NAIL IN THE SACRED HOST

IRONIC HOW MANY THINGS NOT VISIBLE TO MOST CAN BE
SEEN QUITE CLEARLY BY ONLY A FEW, WHILE MANY THINGS
VISIBLE TO ALL CANNOT BE SEEN BY SO MANY.

Mankind has become incredibly defiant. Our defiance has become so colossal that humanity is self-destructing. Mankind is absolutely gutting itself, and its weapon of choice is defiance.

ASSIST AT THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS WITH HUMILITY, INTEGRITY, GRATITUDE, SINCERITY, AND COURAGE

Be there to assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; the Lord has so much to show us, and so much to teach us, as we witness the re-presentation of His Passion and Death by Crucifixion.

We are present at the moment of our redemption. We are there to love God on His most perfect terms and not our own. We are there because He wants us there, every day if at all possible, and it is God's will that we unite ourselves with Jesus and with Blessed Mother and offer ourselves to God.

We stand on Calvary, holy face to Holy Face with our Lord on the Cross. He calls each one of us by name, and not only does He tell us that we are loved and valued beyond measure, He shows us.

How can we serve Him best? We serve God best by living, loving, serving, suffering, and sowing in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother.

Ask God what He wants, and ask Him often. Say to Him often, "Sweet Jesus, Your wish is my command."

"COME TO ME FOR WHAT YOU NEED"

How important it is for us to ask the Lord when we face Him during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to help us see ourselves as God sees us, so we are completely aware of what we are doing right and what we need to change.

"My children, we are in reality only what we are in the eyes of God, and nothing more." ~ Saint John Vianney

Shouting out to Jesus from our place among the crowd on Calvary (just imagine the scene) and pleading to Him for mercy for ourselves and for others is no small thing, it's BIG! God hears us, and He is always faithful.

STRIPPING OURSELVES IN IMITATION OF CHRIST

As the Lord is before us stripped of everything, wounded, and nailed to the Cross, suffering beyond our comprehension while always thinking of us, we are to mirror His likeness.

We must strip ourselves of everything and present ourselves to Christ on Calvary as we really are. We must expose our wounds to Him, always loving Him and others in return.

MIRROR HIM

How easy it is to ignore our Lord, even during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and while making sacramental confessions! How easy it is to focus on ourselves and on other people. We must train ourselves to think differently, and remain focused moment by moment on accomplishing God's most holy will.

Our most merciful and loving Lord wants to give us so much, and instead our fallen human nature inclines us to demand much, focus on things that are meaningless, and plead for so much that we do not need, things that will only lead to our ruin.

When we stand face to face with Jesus during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the re-presentation of the most important moment in the history of the human race, we must mirror His actions.

This bears a striking resemblance to what takes place during another Sacrament of Divine Intimacy. Do you know what it is?

When we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we face our Crucified Lord on Calvary, strip ourselves of everything, and our wounds mirror His Sacred Wounds. We humbly ask the Lord to help us see ourselves as we really are, and beg Him to help us overcome our faults, heal us, and strengthen us for battle.

We are loved and valued beyond measure; may we always be thankful. May we always be accepting! May we always be willing to share God's love and mercy with everyone in imitation of Christ.

Jesus wants to help us change for the better and He wants to heal our wounds. He wants to work through us as tremendous channels of grace for the massive conversion of sinners.

Unfortunately, some people do not go to Holy Mass and do not make sacramental confessions. This has absolutely catastrophic consequences for humanity.

IT IS VITAL FOR OUR ETERNAL WELFARE THAT WE RECEIVE BOTH SACRAMENTS OF DIVINE INTIMACY OFTEN

Why do so many people defy the will of our loving and merciful God by not receiving the sacraments and thereby denying themselves and others through them such riches of eternal value? Why are so many people so willing to learn and spend time on things that are of no value to their eternal salvation?

THE TREMENDOUS LACK OF PROFOUNDLY CATHOLIC TEACHING

Tragically, many Catholics have never been taught much about their Faith. It begins in childhood, with horrible Catechism programs that encourage young people to leave the Church the first chance they get. Many of them do.

Far too many Catholics practice their Faith superficially, if at all, and are not asking Jesus to teach them, repair them, strengthen them, and help them heal. They don't know to ask for graces for themselves, and they don't know to ask for graces for others, either.

So many people have not been taught that it is God's will for each one of us to be channels of grace for other people, and so we learn instead from the devil, who teaches us to serve ourselves and use other people. The devil teaches all the wrong things, but he is a very skilled educator.

Jesus is the model of obedience and the devil is the model of disobedience. Who have you chosen to be your teacher? Are we leaving the responsibility of teaching ourselves and others to the devil?

NO KNOWLEDGE OF CATHOLICISM WHATSOEVER

Some people don't know anything at all about Catholicism, and cannot defend or defy the God they don't know. These brothers and sisters of ours need us to ask for graces for them, and evangelize to them. But first, we must know our faith correctly.

SELF-WORSHIP

Still other people know better, but don't go to Holy Mass because they are defiant. Some in this group choose to worship themselves instead of God because they have chosen the devil as their teacher. They have learned all the wrong lessons from him quite well, and he rewards them well for practicing what he teaches.

LEAVING TO SEEK HAPPINESS ELSEWHERE

Some defy God by leaving the Catholic Church all together, even when the reasons for doing something so catastrophic seem justifiable.

We defy God when we choose to not go to Holy Mass, when we choose to abstain from receiving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament without sufficient reason and do nothing to change this, and when we choose not to make sacramental confessions.

We defy God when we stop receiving the Sacraments all together.

We defy God when we abandon our faith, when we encourage others

to leave the One True Faith, or when we target devout Catholics and insult them with all sorts of falsehoods about Catholicism that come straight from the mouth of the devil.

DEFIANT CATHOLICS

Catholics also defy God. We do it all the time, and then assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass! This is very, very serious indeed. *More effort needs to be expended to stop it; we must absolutely shout at the top of our lungs on Calvary, as if our eternal lives depend upon it—because they do—that the veils of arrogance, ignorance, and selfishness are lifted from our eyes!*

Catholics defy God when we help the devil disfigure the face of the Church instituted by Jesus Christ by choosing to serve ourselves in God's name (that's blasphemy and it's a serious offense). We defy God when we receive the Lord in the Eucharist and are not in a state of grace. We defy God by not being obedient to our confessors.

We defy God when we don't smile and say hello to people. We defy God when we always promote our own causes and never offer to reciprocate a kindness; when we offer to reciprocate, but really only care about our own work; and when we burden others to promote our own projects. So many Catholics use people so they can help others of their choosing. We defy God when we use social networking sites and personal information to solicit people we could care less about, just to sell to them and acquire more money, or even worse, to shamelessly promote ourselves instead of making every effort to remain hidden in Christ.

We defy God when we demand other people give us money for our various causes, *oh so many causes that must have money*, instead of serving people in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother. Catholics defy God when we treat others like they are worthless unless we can use them in some way, or when we ask them to get out of our way. We defy God when we refuse His generosity, when we don't wait for Him to provide for us and instead choose to aggressively solicit good people we contact only to acquire more money.

We defy God when we treat others like human garbage unless they have money or power, and when we worship other people instead of the Lord. We defy God when we are kind to people only because we want something from them, or when we become so busy serving the Lord that we no longer love and care for those around us.

We defy God when we are not pro-life. So much behavior in the Catholic world contributes to the abortion mentality, as such people displaying it adamantly claim to be pro-life, because it is self-serving and disregards the dignity of the human person. Catholics will be held especially accountable to God for this behavior, and we must include it in our examinations of conscience and in our confessions.

This behavior is absolutely rampant within the Catholic Church in the United States. It is disgraceful; it has been largely tolerated, sometimes is even reinforced and celebrated, and it has been causing Christ's Church to hemorrhage worldwide from within.

The efforts of the devout faithful are necessary to help stop the massive internal bleeding. The work of Reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus is essential.

Disobedient Catholics may look attractive to those with worldly vision but inside they are very mean people, because instead of mirroring Jesus, they choose to mirror the devil.

DEFIANCE IS VERY COSTLY TO HUMANITY

Defiance comes with a very heavy price tag. Choosing to fulfill our own wills instead of accepting the will of God costs us, and other people, much.

We must beg God on Calvary every day while at Holy Mass and when in the confessional, to heal humanity's self-inflicted wounds and help us overcome our defiant natures.

TWO INSEPARABLE SACRAMENTS OF DIVINE INTIMACY

We see here the inseparable nature of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, where we are unified with Jesus in both His Divinity and in His Humanity, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

During both, we take our places at the foot of the Cross of Jesus, ask for grace, forgiveness, and healing and then receive them all through the redeeming power of His Precious Blood. Christ instituted these Sacraments for our benefit; it is His will that we receive them often, and all we need can be obtained from Him by our obedience.

DISCOVER OR REDISCOVER THE POWER OF HOLY HOUR

Consider making a Holy Hour before the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass; doing so is an ideal way to prepare your heart to enter into a Mystery. Or make a Holy Hour following Holy Mass while unified with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, or return to church later and give Christ the pleasure of your company. He is so in love with you!

Remain with Him, speak to Him openly and honestly, be silent and listen to Him. Don't forget to ask the Lord what it is you can do for Him. We just cannot measure the value of these loving actions. Their delightful effects on humanity are absolutely colossal, because God is so generous.

Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary while traveling along the Way of Sacrificial Love from the Garden to Calvary, and then pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. While praying the last Sorrowful Mystery, the Lord shows you one of His Sacred Hands up close, nailed to the Cross.

He shows to you, "I hold mankind's defiance in My Hand." There in His Hand you see a nail, running right through It. You see that our defiance nailed Jesus to the Cross.

Mankind has become incredibly defiant. Our defiance has become so colossal that humanity is self-destructing. We are absolutely gutting ourselves, and our weapon of choice is our defiance.

In the Presence of our Savior, we must ask the Lord to pour forth graces upon defiant humanity, and we must ask for the grace to overcome our defiant natures and then work diligently to do so.

We must take the important Work of Reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus seriously. Our Lord wants to help us and provides us with the means to do so; if only we would cooperate! If only every human heart and soul

would open itself up to all He wants to give it, and all He wants to accomplish for others through it.

OPERATION SEARCH AND RESCUE: COMBATING HUMANITY'S DEFIANCE

Our Lord inspires you to request that tiny particles of the Sacred Host that still repose on your tongue as you pray be collected by the angels, placed in monstrances, and positioned on the altars within every single human heart through all time.

Perhaps the Lord will show you one of them up close and you see that the Sacred Host is impaled with a nail.

God is so in love with us all.

Pray every single day for the conversion of sinners, that the devout faithful are strengthened on the battlefield, for the souls of the dying, and for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. God is at work in you!

THE FOXHOLE, THE BATTLE, THE SOULS, AND THE DEVOTION

BLESSED MOTHER TAKES YOU TO THE RIM OF A FOXHOLE
SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE DURING WORLD WAR II. WHAT
ON EARTH DO THE SOLDIERS IN THE FOXHOLE AND THE
BATTLE THEY FOUGHT HAVE TO DO WITH YOU?

This lesson encourages you to continue growing in sanctity and to pray daily for the salvation of souls, in particular by incorporating the powerful Work of Reparation through the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus into your days and nights.

One morning while preparing to begin the day, you suddenly find yourself standing at the rim of a foxhole during the Second World War. There are several men in the foxhole, and they are American soldiers.

The Virgin Mary has brought this moment to you; she is interceding for the men as their most loving Mother. The soldiers in the foxhole were in mortal and spiritual peril. Were their souls prepared to meet the Lord?

Blessed Mother requests your prayers for the men.

THE BATTLE FOR PRECIOUS, IMMORTAL SOULS

So you begin praying for them and then offer the entire day's efforts and all suffering to the Lord for their sake. You also offer up the Blessed Sacrament you will receive soon during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

On that particular weekend, the Church is celebrating the Baptism of our Lord, who not only Redeemed us all but also showed us how to believe and how to serve God as profound Catholics. How interesting and highly significant that Blessed Mother would choose that very Holy Mass as the one offered up for the intentions of the men in battle.

WORSHIPING THE LORD IN PLACE OF OTHERS

At Blessed Mother's request, you prepare your heart before Holy Mass, first by greeting the Lord and then by speaking to Him intimately through prayer. Then, you assist at Holy Mass in place of the men in the foxhole. Through Divine inspiration, you pray and sing as reverently and lovingly as you can throughout for their sake. You also shed a few tears in place of everyone.

During the Responsorial Psalm, you sing on everyone's behalf, "O Bless the Lord my soul!"

You listen to the Readings for everyone, and accept God's love for everyone as it pours forth from His Living Word.

This is the Second Reading:

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of our great God and savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people as his own, eager to do what is good.

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life (Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7).

You sing "Alleluia!" in place of everyone.

As the gates of heaven stand open before you, with the entire congregation of the filled-to-capacity church facing the Throne of God and the occupants of heaven, you listen to the Gospel Reading not only through your ears but also through the ears of the men in the foxhole, process it with all of your intellects, and believe for everyone:

The people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

*After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "**You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.**" (Luke 3:25-16, 21-22)*

At the conclusion of the Gospel Reading, you exclaim with great affection, "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!" while bowing reverently and gratefully in place of everyone at the mention of His great Name.

During Father's beautiful homily, accept the love of God streaming through His devout shepherd as It fills the entire church and is absorbed by everyone present and by everyone included in the prayer intentions.

WE ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED

Throughout the Profession of Faith, pray in place of the soldiers in the foxhole. Perhaps they never knew God, lacked faith, had fallen away, or were lukewarm. Perhaps they were devout or became so and needed strength and encouragement during the battle. How much they have in common with every one of us.

During the Prayers of the Faithful, as the congregation worships and praises God from their places in church, you find yourself once again standing at the rim of the foxhole. A fierce battle rages on before your very eyes!

Now even more mindful of the welfare of the men, you sing in their place as the gifts are brought to the altar during the Offertory, and present everyone to the Lord so that His most perfect will is accomplished.

All through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, allow yourself to be used by the Lord as a channel of grace. Clear any obstructions by completely surrendering your will to Him.

Ask God to pour His love and grace upon the men in superabundant measure through every single moment of every event throughout the entire Holy Mass.

During this mutual exchange of gifts with the Divine, stand before God and welcome Him into your life in place of the soldiers. One can only imagine their thoughts in the foxhole that day.

At that moment you are inspired to pray that every member of their families through all time benefits also from the graces extended to humanity throughout the Holy Mass.

TWO BATTLES THAT ARE ONE AND THE SAME

Just before the Consecration, the Lord explains that you are witnessing two separate battles at once. He also tells you that the two battles are one in the same.

The battle you were taken to at the foxhole is a metaphor for the battles against evil that we must fight in our time, battles that are fought and won in church when we receive the Sacraments frequently and on behalf of everyone.

The men in the foxhole represent every precious, immortal soul in need of grace.

Truly, everyone through all time confronted or will confront the battle between good versus evil, and in our time, we are being reminded to use the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus as a powerful weapon to fight this war with eternal consequences and win the battles for immortal souls.

LOVE AND RECEIVE HIM IN EVERYONE'S PLACE

Receive Holy Communion very reverently on your tongue, while kneeling if physically possible, in place of the men in the foxhole. In light of the Lord's revelation, receive Him also for every single soul deceased, living, and yet to be born.

"Bring Him everywhere." ~Father Benjamin Kosnác

BRING HIM EVERYWHERE

As the Sacred Body and Blood of our Lord dissolves into many pieces on your tongue, you are inspired by the unfathomable love and mercy of Jesus to ask Him to place a particle of the Sacred Host in a monstrance and then place the monstrance in the middle of the foxhole.

Then, you ask the Lord to put more pieces of the Sacred Host into more monstrances, and place them inside every foxhole there ever was, is, or will be.

Finally, you ask the Lord to fill even more monstrances with more particles of the dissolving Host reposing on your tongue, and place them onto every battlefield through all time, meaning every place where people were, are, and will be.

THANK HIM FOR EVERYONE

As Holy Mass concludes, you exclaim, *"Thanks be to God!!"* to our most loving and merciful Creator on behalf of all of humanity.

THE WORK OF REPARATION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

So many Catholics have no knowledge whatsoever of the Work of Reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus, or underestimate the incredible power of using this Devotion to help us grow in sanctity and as a means of petitioning the Lord for the intentions of others.

Please make good use of this powerful devotion and petition the Lord for the salvation of every single soul through all time. Pray for the conversion of sinners, assistance for the dying, and for the suffering souls in purgatory.

Our Lord requested that this devotion be practiced and spread throughout the world as a means of making reparation to God for the offenses against Him and to obtain graces for ourselves and for others.

Two highly recommended books on the subject are *The Golden Arrow: The Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus* by Sr. Mary of St. Peter and *The Life of Venerable Leo Dupont, the Apostle of the Holy Face Devotion* by Dorothy Scallan.

VERY SPECIAL KEYS THAT OPEN THE HARDEST OF HEARTS

OPEN YOUR HAND AND SEE WHAT JESUS HAS PLACED
WITHIN IT.

“He whispers, for His voice is hushed...” ~ Mother Mary Potter

Imagine that you are praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary in church before the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when Jesus comes to you and kneels down as a caring gentleman would. He is there to propose to you!

WED YOUR LIFE TO HIS

Jesus would like you to wed your life to His. Our Savior is so loving, kind, and humble!

Do you ever hear Him whispering to your heart? What does He say to you? Jesus is our model of how to love! He is so in love with you.

The Love of your eternal life takes your hand and places something in it.

WEDDING PRESENTS

You ask the One you are growing so much closer to, “Is it a key?”

Jesus replies, “It’s a key.”

Eager to see the key, you immediately open your hand and see a nail. Jesus placed a nail in your hand. He explains that the nail works like a key

and shows you how it opens locks, particularly the locks of those bound and chained by the devil, which are the most difficult to open.

While praying the Third Sorrowful Mystery, Jesus tells you the thorns in His Crown of Thorns also act like keys, and they are especially capable of opening the locks that keep the hardest hearts in darkness.

The nail Jesus placed in your hand and the thorns in His crown represent mortification, patient suffering, sacrificial love, and the voluntarily surrendering of our wills to God.

They are incredibly powerful ways to rescue precious, immortal souls in spiritual bondage.

A MOTHER/SON RESCUE AND THE POWERFUL WEAPON IN YOUR HAND

DISCOVER AND THEN KEEP REDISCOVERING IN THIS IMPORTANT LESSON WHAT YOU NEED TO FIGHT THE SPIRITUAL BATTLES AND WIN. HOLD ONTO IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT. GOD IS AT WORK IN YOU!

When the student souls is ready, the Teacher appears. His lessons are always so valuable, and so interesting! The Lord presents the following story to you as part of His ongoing series of lessons.

Once upon a time there was an individual who was doing some work for the Lord. Let's call this person you and have the story take place in the present time.

THE BATTLE FOR PRECIOUS, IMMORTAL SOULS

One night you were doing some work at home for the Lord.

The work you were accomplishing for the Lord pleased Him very much because He was having you do it for the eternal benefit of many people.

Your work made the devil very angry because he hates people, and he did all he could to stop the work from progressing.

However, he could not stop God's will from being accomplished. The devil is very prideful, so that made him even angrier. He planned revenge and had a meeting with some of his collaborators.

SO MANY DEMONS THEY FILLED THE ENTIRE ROOM

That night, you suddenly awoke to find yourself surrounded by demons. You saw them everywhere you looked.

There were so many of them they filled the whole room, and every one of them was trying to grab hold of you. They hate the work you are doing for the Lord so much that they gathered together to come after you and tear you to pieces.

The room was filled with chaos as every one of them fought to get past the others to get to you. A great many of them were grabbing hold of you, and they were trying to pull you down toward the floor.

Immediately you called out to Jesus and Blessed Mother. Immediately They came to your assistance. Immediately the demons retreated.

THE POWERFUL WEAPON FROM HEAVEN

You then found yourself alone and everything had returned to how it was, except for one thing. You noticed that your right hand was closed very tightly into a fist.

You realized that the entire time you were resisting the demons, you had been holding something in your hand and held onto it for dear life.

You did a very good job holding on!

In awe, you wondered, *What is in my hand?*

So you looked at your hand and gave it permission to open. Guess what you were holding in it?

Humility.

What you held in your hand is the foundation of all the virtues.

“He who wants to learn true humility should reflect upon the Passion of Jesus” (267).⁶³ ~St. Faustina

63. *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul* (Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press, 2007), p. 128.

PART IV

COME EARLY AND REMAIN

“Come Early”

“Empty Yourself of Everything”

“Go For Everyone in Your Family”

“Don’t Hide”

“Hold Me and Remain”

An Incredibly Beautiful Story from the Life of Leo Dupont,
Apostle of the Holy Face Devotion

“Christ promises the meek and gentle moral power over the hearts of others. That includes melting the hardest hearts, convincing unbelievers, having Christ’s teachings accepted, meriting repentance, converting sinners, leading others in the apostolate, and having supernatural influence.”⁶⁴

64. Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *Basic Catholic Catechism Course Workbook* (Bardstown, KY: Eternal Life with permission of Inter Mirifica, 1987), p. 72.

“COME EARLY”

YOUR INVITATION TO SPEND TIME ON CALVARY PRIOR TO
JESUS’ ARRIVAL AND, AFTER BEING UNIFIED WITH JESUS
IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, TO REMAIN.

God is so in love with you! He values your company.
Honor His Real Presence with your presence. Be sure to love
Him lavishly in return.

A NEW LESSON

This Friday as you pray in church during Eucharistic Adoration prior to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus has you pray simultaneously on Calvary on the day of mankind’s Redemption, in anticipation of His arrival and Crucifixion.

How does the Lord do it? He brings Calvary right into the church.

“With God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26)

“COME EARLY”

You kneel so close to Christ’s Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament, clearly visible in the monstrance on the altar, and at the same time you are also on Calvary.

Jesus invites you to be unified with Him because He loves you, and because you are an important part of our Savior’s life and mission.

BE THERE

“So, could you not watch with me one hour?” (Matthew 26:40)

Make a Holy Hour prior to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and spend precious, priceless time with your Savior.

As you pray, others enter the church and also begin praying and preparing their hearts to enter into a mystery prior to the re-presentation of Christ's Passion and Crucifixion on Calvary.

Separately and together, everyone worships God in His house.

Become familiar with your surroundings. Ask Jesus to show you Calvary through His eyes.

CELEBRATING HOLY MASS ON CALVARY PRIOR TO CHRIST'S ARRIVAL

“All Jesus Christ did, He did for us. His prayers, His tears, His watchings, His fasting, His preaching, His journeys, His conversations, His miracles—all those were for us.”

~ Saint John Vianney, Sermon on Love for God

During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass the congregation sings, listens to God's Word, prays, and is loved by God in so many ways as everyone loves Him in return.

As you worship the Lord in church while also standing on Calvary, Jesus simultaneously suffers His Passion and travels along the Way of the Cross. Our Lord begins in a Garden, where He submits Himself to the will of God the Father, prays for our salvation and sanctification, and pours forth His love upon everyone through all time and space. As you pray on Calvary, Jesus sweats and cries tears of Precious Blood in the Garden of Gethsemane.

During the readings, you listen from your place in church and on Calvary as Jesus stands at the pillar and is scourged. His Sacred Flesh and Precious Blood project from His pure Body during the horrific scourging. Jesus sows the seeds of Faith consisting of Himself out into time and space, having already become our spiritual Food and Drink at the Last Supper, our sustenance, our strength, and our direction.

You see our Savior crowned with thorns, struck, mocked, despised, scorned, rejected, and spit upon as He spends Himself for us, and His spilled Blood defines our way to God and to Heaven through Jesus.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except but by Me." (John 14:6)

Christ's behavior is our model, His love our beacon of light, His sacrifice an eternal gift to us, His Body and Blood our sustenance along the Way.

From your place on Calvary you hear the sounds of a sacred procession approaching in the distance. Jesus is coming and He is carrying the Cross. In the midst of the chaos you hear His loving appeals to God the Father, asking that He be allowed to make it to the place of the skull where the devil planned His elimination.

Blinded by pride, he could not anticipate that ultimate victory is claimed by Love alone.

The Author of sacrificial love was about to transform a place of execution into the site of our Redemption.

As Jesus makes His way past every person in the church including you, He petitions each one personally, "Soul, help Me!" If your heart is completely open, you will clearly hear His summons. If your heart is open a little, then you will hear Him a little. Open your heart wide, listen for Jesus' summons, and respond to Him generously with a prayer:

Yes, Jesus, I will help You! I give myself entirely to You, and promise to love and honor You all the days of my life.

SO MANY GIFTS SO FREELY GIVEN

As the gifts are brought up and then as the celebrant prepares for the Consecration, you see Jesus at the altar preparing for the Last Supper.

At the same time and in the same place, you are shown images of various people performing different duties simultaneously. Parents prepare the table for the family's dinner, students are taught at a table, and others serve in various capacities through time and space. There at the altar, you are shown people fulfilling their God-given missions and living, loving, serving, and sacrificing in imitation of Christ.

WORKING TOGETHER AS THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST FOR THE SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION OF EVERY SOUL THROUGH ALL TIME

You do not love and suffer alone. You love and suffer with Christ, and He loves and suffers through you. You suffer with the mistreated, the ignored, the invisible, the unwanted, the despised, the wounded, the shunned, and the martyred. Individually and together as the Mystical Body of Christ, all those who choose to travel with our Savior along the Way of the Cross and offer our lives to God along with Jesus.

During the consecration you are there on Calvary for the re-presentation of Christ's Passion and Crucifixion. See His Sacred Heart torn open by a lance as the ultimate act of defiance, deicide, is conquered by an innocent Victim Whose Sacred Body became a magnificent waterfall cascading torrents of love and mercy upon us all.

Present in the crowd are the people of that time along with the devout faithful through all time, the saints, the martyrs, the lukewarm, and those who do not go to church and those who do not believe. When you pray for others, you bring them with you to the foot of His Cross.

Keep praying for everyone through all time.

STRIPPED OF EVERYTHING IN IMITATION OF CHRIST

On Calvary you are completely exposed just like Jesus, and appear as you really are. Nothing about you is hidden from God; He loves you that much. You appear most like Christ to the extent that you have chosen to live in imitation of Him. How do you appear on Calvary? How would you like to appear on Calvary?

Live like Jesus and be transformed into Him. Become weak, poor, giving, patient, submissive, gentle, humble, merciful, forgiving, wounded, welcoming, and loving. Become a representation of the Holy Face of Jesus and a tremendous channel of grace for the massive conversion of sinners.

UNIFYING YOUR EMPTINESS WITH HIS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

As you kneel to receive our Lord reverently and with great love during Holy Communion, physically if able to and always within your heart, open your heart completely and find it empty, ready to be filled with the Lord and all the graces you need to accomplish the mission of love God determined would be yours from all eternity.

“He is The Bread sown in the virgin, leavened in the Flesh, molded in His Passion, baked in the furnace of the Sepulcher, placed in the Churches, and set upon the Altars, which daily supplies Heavenly Food to the faithful.” ~ Saint Peter Chrysologus (400-450)

DIVINE UNION AND CREATION

As your emptiness is joined with the emptiness and sacrificial love of Christ and your union with Jesus is consummated during Holy Communion, even more sacrificial love is created. More and more love is generated every time we receive the Real Presence of Jesus while in the state of grace.

After being unified with Jesus, enter into your soul’s bridal chamber with the Love of your eternal life and spend precious, priceless time with Him there.

What is created from your union with Jesus depends upon how much you believe, trust in God, and have forgiven everyone of everything. What is created also depends upon the extent to which you are willing to love sacrificially and empty yourself so that God may enter completely and love you extravagantly in so many ways.

EMPTIED OF ALL TO RECEIVE ALL

God loves us lavishly, uniquely, and individually, and He does this directly and through other people. The Lord loves others lavishly and uniquely, individually and collectively, directly and through us.

“For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:21)

REMAIN

At the Lord’s request, you remain in church following the conclusion of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and spend more precious, priceless moments with Jesus while unified with Him—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Blessed Sacrament. Enjoy His most loving and mystical embrace. God is so in love with you!

Be sure to love our Lord lavishly in return.

“EMPTY YOURSELF OF EVERYTHING”

ANOTHER LESSON FROM THE SACRED HEART OF THE
ONE WHO CONTINUES TO GIVE US EVERYTHING.

“The more we empty ourselves, the more room we give God to fill us.”

~ Blessed Mother Teresa

Immediately when you enter the church, while genuflecting by the pew to honor God and submit to His authority, the Lord commands you to be emptied of everything.

ARRIVING AND EMPTYING IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

“The most demanding sacrifice—the most difficult we are called to make—is to surrender that most precious creature that happens to have your name.”⁶⁵ ~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J.

As the Lord speaks, you give your consent and then feel a powerful forward movement as the Hand of the Lord calls forth what feels like a soft, gentle waterfall pouring from your entire being, head to foot.

This is how we are to begin celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We are to empty ourselves in anticipation of our union with God and in imitation of our Savior, Who emptied Himself of everything for us. We must allow Jesus to fill us with Himself in order to be transformed into His likeness.

LIVE THE MASS

*“We should live the Mass. The human race was redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. But, unlike Calvary, the sacrifice of the Mass is not only Christ offering Himself to his heavenly Father. The Mass is also our sacrifice. Through the Mass, we obtain the grace of self-surrender to the will of God. But we must put this grace to use. We must surrender our wills to the will of God. The measure of our self-surrender to the divine will is the measure of our profiting from the Mass, not just for ourselves but for the whole world.”⁶⁶ ~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *The Sacrifice Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist**

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Sacrificial love is the most powerful force in the universe. Sacrificial love is so strong that the bonds formed by it cannot ever be broken, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. Empty yourself and allow sacrificial love to bind your soul to God forever.

*“...the Mass is a sacrifice twice over. It is a sacrifice which Jesus makes when the priest consecrates the bread and wine separately, to signify the separation of Christ’s blood from his body which caused his death. The Mass is also our sacrifice in separating our selfish will in order to surrender ourselves to the will of God. The degree of this self-surrender is the norm by which we profit from the Mass. The more sacrificial our lives the more beneficial is every Mass offered on all the altars of the world every day.”⁶⁷ ~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *The Sacrifice Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist**

Empty yourself so that God can use you as His instrument of love and as a tremendous channel of love and grace for others.

DAILY DYING TO SELF INDICATES A PROFOUND UNDERSTANDING OF CHRIST'S SACRIFICE AND OF OUR REDEMPTION

"One must learn how to obey before he can command."

~ Saint John Bosco

Throughout the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus shows you how He emptied Himself of everything for us.

You see Him shed tears of Blood and sweat Blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. His Precious Blood projects in every direction as He is scourged at the pillar, and streams down His Holy Face and all the way around His Sacred Head from the crowning with thorns.

The Sacred Blood of our Redeemer continues to flow from every wound in His Body as He struggles to remain living and carry the Cross to Calvary so He can be crucified there for our sake.

Jesus, You say to Him without speaking a word, I love You. Thank You for loving us all so much and for having such great courage.

Every step of the way, with every indignation, insult, shove, strike of someone's fist, projection of spit, physical injury, and look of disdain, you watch as He continues to empty Himself of His own preferences and desires.

NOT COSTS, BUT GAINS

Jesus saw all those things not as costs to Himself but as gains for us, as precious opportunities to spend lavishly and empty Himself for our eternal salvation. May we imitate Jesus, and profit by His example.

Our Lord used every action of self mastery to purchase our Redemption.

"The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, faith tells us, is a re-presentation of Calvary. It is the Cross continued until the end of time... We are to live Calvary, which means live the Mass. We assist at Mass physically once a day. Faith tells us there is in the Mass the selfsame, identical Son of Mary on the altar and He just as truly and totally offers Himself to His Heavenly Father on the altar as He did on Calvary. (Both prepositions

fit.) There is a real human being on the altar with a real human will. The double consecration is meant to signify Christ's sincerity in wanting, were He able to do so, to die, and die, and die again. But HE can no longer die, but we sure can. And we are supposed to. Either we keep dying to ourselves day after day after day or the deep meaning of Calvary has only minimally touched our soul."⁶⁸ ~ Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *Retreat on the Credo: Faith in the Passion of Christ*

Now each day as He has done in the past and will continue to do until the end of time, Jesus feeds, sustains, pays, loves, and forgives us with His own Sacred Flesh and Precious Blood. He not only draws us close to Himself during Holy Communion, we are actually unified with God in the Blessed Sacrament, and beautiful things are created from our union day after day after day after day. May we mirror His limitless generosity.

Jesus, help me empty myself of everything that is an obstacle to Your dwelling within me and to Your working in me and through me. I give myself entirely to You, and promise to love and honor You all the days of my life.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

"All the good works in the world are not equal to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass because they are the works of men; but the Mass is the work of God. Martyrdom is nothing in comparison for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man."

~ Saint John Vianney

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, Jesus continues to empty Himself of everything for us.

See Him before you preaching, teaching, reaching out to others, caring, forgiving, loving, and working at certain moments during His lifetime.

As the altar is prepared for the consecration, Jesus shows you how He emptied Himself at the Last Supper.

He is so in love with us all.

Our Savior tells you that He continuously emptied Himself for us throughout His entire life; in fact, Jesus began emptying Himself for us

even before He was born. He began serving us, by emptying Himself for us, from the moment of His conception.

Satan does the opposite, because he serves himself instead of God. The devil works unceasingly to convince us to choose our own will, at all costs. Who have you chosen to be your teacher?

SPIRITUAL OPPOSITES

"If humble souls are contradicted, they remain calm; if they are calumniated, they suffer with patience; if they are little esteemed, neglected, or forgotten, they consider that their due; if they are weighed down with occupations, they perform them cheerfully." ~ Saint Vincent de Paul

Jesus teaches us to empty ourselves for the benefit of other people and value, care for, defend, and protect the life and dignity of every person.

The devil encourages us to serve ourselves, to fill ourselves up with anything and everything for our own benefit and disregard, use, take from, divide, and destroy. He teaches us to do anything and everything to obtain our own way instead of seeking God's way, so we become blind and no longer see God or the needs of other people.

"The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it." ~Saint Vincent de Paul

We are to empty ourselves every day in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother. We are given countless opportunities to do so throughout our lives, far most than we realize. So many of them pass us by unrecognized. These opportunities are woven into the rich fabric of our lives; they happen anywhere and everywhere, and can be found in every situation.

When we understand this, then trials become treasures. Suffering becomes sacrifice. Humiliations become tremendous human triumphs. We grow closer to God and become more willing instruments in His Hands.

"Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues hence, in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance." ~Saint Augustine

Self-denial, sacrifice, mortification, self-mastery: these are all tremendous treasures of inestimable value for each one of us and for other precious, immortal souls through all time.

During the Crucifixion, Jesus continues to empty Himself of everything so that by the end of His mission, the salvation of the human race is accomplished. That is the mission every Christian shares, to accomplish God's will by living in imitation of Christ and His most holy Mother.

PROFOUNDLY CATHOLIC TEACHING

“Holiness is a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident—in the most audacious way—in His Fatherly goodness.”

~ Saint Therese of the Infant Jesus

Why is Jesus sharing this lesson with you today?

He wants to use you as a powerful witness, a tremendous channel of grace for the massive conversion of sinners, and a co-conspirator in the salvation and sanctification of every single soul through all time.

We must continue emptying ourselves in order to leave room for God to work through us optimally, completely, with no obstructions, and most perfectly on His terms. Our Creator wants what is best for us all; we can and must trust in Him.

“To doubt is the greatest insult to the Divinity.” ~ Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

A VERY SPECIAL PATHWAY WHERE HEAVEN MEETS EARTH

We travel along a very important path throughout the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and during every moment of our lives. This path is called the Way of Sacrificial Love, commonly known as the Way of the Cross. See it there in the center aisle, leading to the altar.

There is also another special pathway present during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Do you know it? Have you seen it? This pathway can be found in the center aisle of the church. This continuation of the Way of the Cross extends beyond the altar and leads us to heaven.

During the Consecration as heaven joins earth, you are shown a person dear to you who had been called by God to enter into eternal life. You see your loved one walking up the center aisle toward the altar, toward God, and toward heaven through Christ.

You are also given a glimpse of the moment in time when you, too, will have completed a lifetime of emptying yourself and are called to your eternal reward so filled with the love of God that you have been transformed into Love Himself. At the end of this path you find a warm welcome and a new beginning that starts in the waiting, loving, compassionate, and merciful arms of Jesus.

65. Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *The Sacrifice Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist*, Copyright © 1998 by Inter Mirifica.

66. Ibid.

67. Ibid.

68. Father John A. Hardon, S.J., *Retreat on the Credo: Faith in the Passion of Christ*, Copyright © 1998 by Inter Mirifica.

“GO FOR EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY”

THE LORD ENCOURAGES EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US TO
LIVE SACRAMENTAL LIVES OF HEROIC VIRTUE TO OBTAIN
GRACES FOR THE SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION OF
EVERYONE IN OUR FAMILIES, LIVING AND DECEASED.

How many times have you made attending Holy Mass the priority and had the devil let you have it, directly or through other people, perhaps even before you left for the church? “Why do you have to go?” asks the master manipulator. Often he doesn’t stop there. “You’re going to Holy Mass *again*?!? You just went. Stop going!! People think you’re crazy.”

KEEP GOING

The devil tries to convince us not to go to Holy Mass and receive the sacraments in the Catholic Church because he is well aware that this is God’s will for each one of us. The Lord made it a commandment to keep the Sabbath holy.

The devil is also well aware that God loves humanity lavishly, so lavishly that His only Son, Jesus Christ, gave up His life to Redeem us and sustains us with His very own Sacred Body and Precious Blood. Satan wants to keep us from such loving and beneficial encounters. He knows that the graces we receive for ourselves and for others have real and everlasting benefits.

Jesus asks that we assist at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for everyone in our family. Perhaps you are the only one who goes.

Go to Holy Mass and assist at the re-presentation of Christ's Passion and Death. Be there to accept His lavish love and graces on behalf of everyone who does not go for whatever reason.

Go for every single person in your family and keep going.

UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOAL OF THE ENEMY IS TO HAVE US KEEP HIM COMPANY IN HELL FOREVER

The devil works very hard to discourage us; he wants us to give up our vital work because our efforts unified with Christ's sacrifice rob him of many souls. How is the devil trying to discourage you?

Some of Satan's strategies include labeling (calling us directly or through others unbalanced, crazy, extreme, and fanatical); using our loyalties to other people to get us to stop receiving the sacraments; filling up our schedules with activities that keep us away from going to church to receive the sacraments and spend time with the Lord in prayer; creating chaos in our lives any way he can (attacking our health and our relationships are two ways he is very successful in our time); manipulating us through our feelings; and manipulating us to think that disobedience, greed, arrogance, serving our own interests, and using people are good things when in fact they lead to our perdition.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about spiritual warfare and properly equip yourself to fight the battles for precious, immortal souls. First be sure that you are fighting on the right side, on God's side. The devil has many intelligent and well-intended people fooled into working for him. Be sure you are not one of those people.

In our time, not nearly enough is taught to the faithful about spiritual warfare, so we must step up and train ourselves and then properly train other people.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

Servant of God, Father John A. Hardon, S.J. Archives: Excellent and profoundly Catholic material in print, audio, and video, all free. Pick a topic, learn more, go on to another one, and teach others as you learn. Understand that God wants to use you as a tremendous channel of grace for the massive conversion of sinners. www.therealpresence.org/archives/archives.htm

Joseph Karl Publishing's Website: Award-winning material including books, articles, images, audio, and video, all free. Welcome to the era of profoundly Catholic restoration and education. God is at work in you! www.josephkarlpublishing.com

ACCEPT GOD'S LOVE AND GRACES ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE

Be there at the foot of the Cross on Calvary and accept God's graces on behalf of those in your family who are not accepting them for whatever reason. The Lord is very lavish with His love and allows us to accept necessary graces for other people.

Continue living a sacramental life of heroic virtue, continue suffering patiently, and persevere as you develop a strong prayer life. Trustfully and courageously persevere because many people and systems in our time have fallen under the influence of the demonic. Your efforts to obtain graces for others are absolutely vital. Remain vigilant because the enemy seeks to discourage you and convince you to give up, and will continue to assault you directly and through other people (who may not even be aware that this is occurring).

THANK YOU

Know that your prayers are working! You need to know it, and many people will be thanking you forever in eternity for helping guide them into the waiting, welcoming, loving, merciful, and compassionate arms of Jesus and for helping them get to heaven.

GOD'S LOVE KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Perhaps God in His goodness provides you with the following illustration during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass to encourage you to persevere and to show you that your efforts are bearing much fruit. Be encouraged, and encourage other people. Together, we make up the Mystical Body of Christ. Together, we are stronger.

BRING YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY WITH YOU TO THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Prior to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, you pray for all the intentions of the living and deceased members of your family. As Holy Mass begins, you ask Jesus to bless your mouth before kissing His Sacred Wounds. Immediately Jesus presents Himself on the Cross and draws you very close to Him.

VENERATING OUR LORD'S SACRED WOUNDS AND PRECIOUS BLOOD

There at the foot of the Cross, kiss the wound in Christ's side. This wound is the gateway to His Sacred Heart. As you venerate His wounds and thank Him for suffering and dying for us, Jesus presents His side to you very profoundly and your love for Him deepens. You find yourself being drawn in to a mystery, into Divine union with your Creator and Savior.

The Lord inspires you to run your right hand down His battered side and as you do so, it becomes covered with His Precious Blood. You are so close to His Sacred Body that your hair is streaked with the Precious Blood still flowing from His torso.

God is so in love with us all.

BRING YOUR FAMILY TO CALVARY

Bring your family members to Calvary. You can. You must! To prove this, the Lord shows them to you standing in the center aisle all the way up to the altar.

YOUR FAMILY RECEIVES A SPECIAL BLESSING THROUGH YOU

You see the living members of your family gathered there first. Inspired by the Lord, you go to them and using the hand covered with His Precious Blood, make the sign of the cross on each person's forehead.

Those most in need of the Lord's graces stand in the front, closest to the altar. Jesus, in His great mercy, has them blessed first at the foot of the Cross.

DECEASED FAMILY MEMBERS JOIN THE LIVING IN THE CENTER AISLE

Later during Holy Mass, you see that deceased members of your family have joined your living family members standing in the center aisle. More join them as Holy Mass continues.

These family members, especially those who died suddenly, step from the moments of their death into the center aisle. This reminds you of the importance of praying every day for the dying through all time.

SPECIAL BLESSINGS AND UNION DURING HOLY COMMUNION

During Holy Communion, you see members of the Sacred Priesthood step out of eternity at the altar. They came forward in a line, one by one, and approach your family members living and deceased. Each one makes the sign of the cross on their foreheads, and blesses them.

God is so good.

As you receive Jesus in the Eucharist, you do so on behalf of everyone in your family, living and deceased, especially those living under the influence of the demonic, those who do not know Jesus, those who will enter into eternity soon, and those you were shown who died suddenly so that, through you, they receive the graces prior to their passing.

Remember, our Lord is not limited to time and space and with God, nothing is impossible. He is so in love with us all.

GOD IS AT WORK IN YOU

Keep praying! Keep going to Holy Mass. Keep making Sacramental Confessions. Keep suffering patiently and with great courage; and keep living with heroic virtue. Persevere with great faith; trust in the Lord completely; surrender to His will; hold nothing back; and empty yourself completely.

Be a powerful example of someone who believes in the One True Faith so completely and with all your heart that you are willing to surrender your life in imitation of Christ.

“DON’T HIDE”

ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE LED ALONG THE WAY OF THE
CROSS BY THE HONESTY AND OPENNESS OF THE CHRIST
CHILD. BE SURE TO ACCEPT HIS LOVE AND THEN LOVE
HIM IN RETURN WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

Integrate a Holy Hour, Sacramental Confession, the Work of Reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus, and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary into your morning celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as you travel along the Way of Sacrificial Love with a very special and very small Companion.

God is so in love with you!

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO ENTER INTO A MYSTERY

While entering the church, you see the Christ Child standing on Calvary just prior to the arrival of a Sacred Procession.

The Divine Child is there to welcome you before beginning a Holy Hour prior to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Jesus has a special lesson planned for you today. It involves sensitive matters of the heart, so He has come to lead you through it and He is very little. After genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament, you hug the joyful little Boy.

How happy He is to see you! How comforted you are by His presence and holiness.

“It is love alone that gives worth to all things.” ~ Saint Teresa of Avila

PRAYING THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY WITH THE OPENNESS OF THE CHRIST CHILD WHILE MAKING REPARATION TO HIS MOST HOLY FACE

Little Jesus takes you by the hand and leads you from Calvary into a Garden. He leads by example. Ask little Jesus to help you be completely open and honest as you pray. Look into His small Holy Face and tell Him that you love Him. Be sure to thank Him.

What else do you say?

As the Divine Child leads you into the Garden, He pauses and gives you one more hug while saying in His little voice with great love, *“I’m going to grow up and die on a Cross for you, because I love you that much.”*

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Jesus begins pouring forth everything for our Redemption as His Passion begins in the Garden of Gethsemane. Our Lord has begun emptying Himself one final time, this time of everything following a lifetime of preparation.

May we live, love, serve, and suffer in imitation of Christ.

You see Jesus of the Passion kneeling in the Garden. The arms of your Savior are open wide; He has been waiting for you, and so tenderly welcomes You into His arms.

The two of you embrace and it’s not a casual hug, it is intimate, meaningful, powerfully unifying, and incredibly loving. What preparation as you embark upon the journey with Jesus through His Passion and Crucifixion for our Redemption.

Really savor that moment in His arms. Reciprocate His loving gesture each time you are unified with Him in the Blessed Sacrament, or the next time you pray with Him in the Garden.

Jesus is so happy that you have joined Him and as our Savior holds you so close to His Sacred Body, you understand and feel profoundly how much Jesus loves and values you and your eternal salvation.

Praying the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary with Jesus reminds us that our Savior loves us passionately. Love Him with great passion in return.

PRAYING WITH OPENNESS AND HONESTY

Kneel by Jesus' side and position yourself so close to Him that you are actually touching Him. Join hands with Jesus and pray as if you are one. Your intentions are the same: The salvation and sanctification of every single precious, immortal soul through all time.

As you pray in the Garden prior to our Lord's arrest, make reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus.

Pray throughout the entire Holy Rosary with great devotion; pray with honesty, openness, and abandonment. The Lord is absolutely delighted when we are completely open and honest with Him. So much more could be written about it. Strip yourself of everything, most importantly by letting go of any bitterness you hold in your heart against anyone. Always and immediately forgive everyone of everything, in imitation of Christ and Blessed Mother.

DIVINE INTIMACY

Reveal something personal and meaningful about yourself to Jesus while concluding this mystery.

Share one thing that you have been holding back from Him. Keep in mind that nothing is hidden from the Lord anyway and He wants to help you grow in holiness. Full disclosure is necessary in order to become more intimate with God. Jesus wants your relationship with Him to be genuine and personal. He also wants to use you as a magnificent channel of love and grace for others.

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Little Jesus says it is time to take you to the pillar. You pick up the Divine Child, hold Him in your arms, and pray this powerful mystery.

While holding the Divine Child close, and as Jesus at the pillar prepares Himself for the first strike, you whisper in the Child's hear, "*Jesus, unite all that I am with all that you are.*"

As you pray, your words travel to Jesus at the pillar during the terrible scourging and enter into His wounds, making reparation to God the Father for the sins of all mankind.

Venerate Jesus' Holy Face. Kiss His little Face, tell Him you love Him, and be sure to thank Him.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS, THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS, AND THE CRUCIFIXION

Try it now on your own. Be led by the Divine Child through the final three Sorrowful Mysteries.

Hold His little Hand, or hold Him close in your arms. Pray with openness and devotion, offering reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus. Kiss His little Face, tell Him you love Him, and thank Him for loving us all so much.

At the conclusion of each mystery, little Jesus gently reminds you, "Don't hide yourself from Me. I love you!"

Reveal something to Jesus that you have been hesitating to share with Him. The Christ Child knows what it is, and wants you to come to Him with it. The Lord longs to help us with everything, but we must be humble, willing, and possess the trust of a little child.

Through these powerful interactions, your relationship with Jesus will grow much deeper. And with great love, it can happen in a hurry. You won't ever regret opening your heart to Jesus. You can trust Him with it, for He is so kind and gentle.

SACRAMENTAL CONFESSION PRIOR TO HOLY MASS

To encourage you further in this important lesson, little Jesus shows Himself to you standing outside the confessional door. He is wearing a Crown of Thorns signifying submission to the will of God the Father. Our little Savior is waving for you to come to Him, go in, and submit your will to God the Father like He did.

You go to little Jesus and He takes you by the hand and leads you in. Then, He helps you make an open and honest sacramental confession from the heart of a child.

"In failing to confess, Lord, I would only hide You from myself, not myself from You." ~ Saint Augustine

So many graces are obtained by our openness and honesty with God. Little Jesus has prepared you to approach Him, and has a loving reminder for you as He presents you at the foot of His Cross where His love, mercy, and peace are always available to all, without exception.

"Don't hide from Me," He says. "I love you!"

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Travel with the Divine Child along the Way of Sacrificial Love throughout Holy Mass when the Passion and Crucifixion of our Lord is re-presented as we join Him on Calvary from our places in church.

Having arrived early to pray and make a sacramental confession, your heart is well prepared to enter into the mystery. The Lord rewards your devotion and continues His lesson.

The Divine Child remains with you throughout. You hold Him in your arms during the readings. Little Jesus is so trusting, so honest, so open, so pure, so caring. Absorb these qualities as you hold Him in your arms. Hold our young Savior close as Christ is scourged at the pillar, and as the Sacred Procession travels by your place in church.

Perhaps you now hold the Divine Child even closer to you. Kiss Him during the homily, accept His love, which is manifested continuously and in so many ways throughout the entire Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Love Him in return; love Him for others. Accept His graces; accept them for others. Offer reparation to His Most Holy Face; offer reparation for others.

During the prayer intentions, look into Jesus' little eyes and petition Him for the needs of others. Thank the Divine Child, and ask what you can do for Him. Perhaps little Jesus scampers off to join the procession bringing the gifts up to the altar. Jesus is like all little children; He loves gifts, surprises, and receiving our love! He loves to be among us; He is our gift, and we are His treasures. Look for Him during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Jesus returns to you during the Last Supper; kneel next to the little Child during the consecration and Kiss His Holy Face. Thank Him, and offer yourself to Him completely in return.

“Lord,” you say to someone so little in such a big, big way by your genuineness, openness, and complete honesty, “I am not worthy that You should enter into my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” Little Jesus loves looking at you as you speak the loving words He longs to hear, and He smiles.

Little Jesus then happily accompanies you to the altar during Holy Communion. Are you holding His Sacred little Hand, or are you carrying Him in your arms? If He walks by your side, then He will kneel next to you as You are unified with Him in the Sacrament of Love. The little Boy is so pleased when You receive Him reverently, without hiding anything from Him, and with great love.

DIVINE UNION AND CREATION

Little Jesus accompanies you back to your place in church and kneels by your side as you ask Him to create something special through your union. “Jesus,” you say to Him silently with great love and longing, “I have faith the size of a mustard seed. I have faith the size of a *basketball!*”

Little Jesus puts His Hand to His mouth and giggles; He found that so delightful because it sounds like something a child would say. Love Jesus in return, with the heart of a child. Think BIG! And don't ever hide from Jesus. You don't need to; He is so in love with you!

RENEW YOUR VOWS TO JESUS

Conclude a powerful morning by renewing your vows:

Jesus, I give myself to You completely, without holding anything back. I promise to remain obedient to you in good times in bad, for poorer, in sickness and in health, never to be parted, and promise to love and honor You, all the days of my life.

You have just made the Divine Child one very happy little Boy. Again!

“The time best spent is that which is spent for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.” ~ Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

“HOLD ME AND REMAIN”

A SPECIAL LESSON FROM OUR LORD THAT ENCOURAGES
US TO HOLD HIM OFTEN, AND IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.
HE IS SO IN LOVE WITH US ALL!

*“This is my body which is given for you. Do this in
remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19)*

During this lesson, Jesus shows you how to pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary while holding Him close in many different ways and then urges you to remain with Him while unified in the Blessed Sacrament. By design God’s love just cannot be contained; be sure to share with others what the Lord teaches you.

“By a beautiful paradox of Divine love, God makes His Cross the very means of our salvation and our life. We have slain Him; we have nailed Him there and crucified Him; but the Love in His eternal Heart could not be extinguished. He willed to give us the very life we slew; to give us the very Food we destroyed; to nourish us with the very Bread we buried, and the very Blood we poured forth. He made our very crime into a happy fault; He turned a Crucifixion into a Redemption; a Consecration into a Communion; a death into Life Everlasting.”⁶⁹ ~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST'S PASSION THROUGH AN INFANT IN A MANGER

Begin by praying in a manger on Christmas Day.

“To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.”

~ Saint Augustine

Kneel in front of Baby Jesus and worship Him along with your angel guardian, who kneels next to you on the left. The Baby's bed is the altar, and His swaddling clothes the altar cloth.

Above Jesus swaddled in His cradle of extravagant poverty you peer into eternity. There, you see the gates of entry to heaven prepared to open wide at mankind's impending Redemption. Venerate our little but mighty Lord in the company of Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph, and all the angels.

Blessed Mother picks up her Divine Son and places the Baby in your arms. You shelter His small Sacred Body against your own, an expression of love initiating union with the Divine, which is consummated during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when you receive His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Begin traveling along the Way of the Cross in Bethlehem with God, your Creator, in your arms. Consecrate yourself and your family to Him through His Most Holy Mother and remain by her side always.

So many people join you in the manger; they come from all time and space to honor our King. Together, we journey along the Way separately and yet together as the Mystical Body of Christ, always striving to live, love, serve, and patiently suffer in imitation of Jesus and Blessed Mother.

As you pray the Sorrowful Mysteries with Jesus, Blessed Mother and the devout faithful through all time hold Jesus in your arms at different times throughout His life. Hug Him, caress Him, and kiss His Most Holy Face.

Show Him affection throughout His public ministry while you accomplish yours.

Be there with Jesus in the Garden; hold our Lord, keep Him company, thank Him, console Him, and love Him in return. Join our Savior as He

prays for us during His Passion, which began at His conception, was hidden through His youth, revealed in a Garden, and ended with His Sacred Body nailed to a Cross by our defiance.

Remain close to Jesus by living a sacramental life of heroic virtue. Expect our Lord to keep you very close to Him.

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Kneel next to Jesus and put your arms around Him. Hold Him lovingly and gently as He presents Himself before the Divine Tribunal in place of every single member of the human race through all time, takes every one of our sins upon Himself, is judged and sentenced in our places, and as His final suffering for our Redemption begins.

Kiss His Holy Face as He sweats and cries tears of Blood. Hold Him close and whisper in His ear, "Jesus, this is my body, which is given up for You."

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Remain close to Jesus at the pillar as His Sacred Body is shredded during the scourging. Bring your entire family to the pillar in an action of thought similar to a prayer. Witness your faith by venerating our Lord as He offers His Sacred Body up to the savage scourging.

Kneel down before our King and receive His Sacred Body and Blood on your tongue from off the ground. Hold Him gently, and reverently. Say to Him softly, "Jesus, I love You!"

After kissing the beaten and torn flesh on His Holy Face, place yourself face down in the shape of a Cross before the pillar. Join all those through all time as they stand at the pillar with our Savior, or kneel by His side, or receive precious Holy Communions off the ground, or place themselves face down in the shape of crosses.

Before the scourging ends, stand up and hold up your work. Hold up pictures of your loved ones, your prayer intentions, your family, community, nation, our world, and every soul through all time so that they are covered with the Precious Blood of Christ, the seeds of faith contained in each precious drop as Jesus completely pours forth His love, mercy, and courage from His Sacred Body for us all.

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

Kneel before Jesus as the King of Our Hearts submits to being mocked and crowned with thorns, all for us. Stand in front of Him as you see someone about to spit in His Holy Face, and shield Him from the malice.

Submit to God our Father in imitation of Christ and accept your Crown of Thorns also. Feel the warm blood as it flows down in streams around your entire head. Every thorn wound is a precious act of submission to the perfect will of God.

Hold Jesus gently in your heart as you model the behavior of our loving Teacher.

Hold Jesus lovingly in your will by forgiving everyone of everything and returning all malice, scorn, and injustice with humility, forgiveness, and fraternal charity like He did.

THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

Travel with Jesus along the Way of Sacrificial Love as He carries the Cross to Calvary. He is mocked, spit upon, scorned, hated, rejected, battered, insulted, ridiculed, and pushed as He and His Sorrowful Mother petition God the Father for the strength and assistance to make it to Calvary so He can be crucified there for our sake.

Offer Him your love and support along the Way. Reach up and caress His Holy Face in your hands in imitation of Saint Veronica, and hold this sacred image in your hands. It becomes precious fuel that inspires you to love and serve in imitation of our Savior. As you travel along your own personal Way of the Cross, become a living representation of the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus. Hold Him always so lovingly in your heart.

What else can you add? Ask our Lord to teach you something new.

THE CRUCIFIXION

Join Jesus at the foot of the Cross and hold His impaled Feet in your hands. Complete this part of the lesson together with Jesus while praying the final Sorrowful Mystery.

MEDITATING ON CHRIST'S PASSION DURING HOLY MASS

Meditate on these mysteries throughout the daily Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Consider that after having received Jesus in the Sacrament of Love, you have our Lord's Sacred Body within you and share a privilege that was granted first to His Most Holy Mother. You, like her, have become a living tabernacle.

Be sure to thank God for this incredible privilege and for loving us all so lavishly.

"REMAIN"

After Holy Mass ends, remain for more precious, priceless moments venerating God. Hold Him within you; caress Him on your tongue and then within your heart. As you do so, our First Priest, the High Priest, kneels next to you and holds you in His loving and merciful arms.

He is so in love with you.

*"After you have had the wonderful happiness of receiving Holy Communion, you should rise with modesty and return to your place. You should stay a moment with our Lord Jesus Christ, Whom you have the joy of having in your heart, where, for a quarter of an hour, He is present in both Body and Soul as during His mortal life. Oh, infinite happiness! Who will ever understand it!"*⁷⁰ ~Saint John Vianney

To keep steady throughout the trials along the Way of Sacrificial Love, keep both feet planted firmly on Calvary every single moment of your life.

*"My God, 'When I come before Thy tribunal, may I be able to reply frankly that I have never sought anything during my days here below but Thy pure glory, Thy honor, and the salvation of the souls created by Thee!'"*⁷¹ ~ Saint Joseph Cafasso

"HOLD ME"

Jesus says onto us, "Hold Me as an Infant in your understanding. Hold Me intimately in the tabernacle of your heart.

"Hold Me with interest in your mind. Hold Me reverently in your arms after My Sacred Body was lowered from the Cross. Hold Me compassionately on your tongue.

“Hold My Sacred Hand in the tomb prior to My Resurrection. Hold My Sacred Heart carefully in your hands. Hold My holy words on your lips. Hold My playfulness in your eyes. Hold My affection in your heart. Hold My poverty in your intellect. Hold My mercy in your conscience. Hold My Passion in your soul. Hold My surrender in your will. Hold My majesty in your mind’s eye. Hold My submission as a crown of thorns on your head.

“Hold My unfathomable love for you in your thoughts. Hold My longing in your tears. Hold My compassion in your interactions with others. Hold My gentleness in your demeanor. Hold My strength through your difficulties. Hold My thirst for souls in your zeal. Hold My courage in your steps. Hold My generosity in your behavior. Hold My joy in your memories.

“Hold Me in so many ways, all throughout your days and nights. I am so in love with you!”

“Those who share in Christ’s sufferings have before their eyes the Paschal Mystery of the Cross and Resurrection, in which Christ descends, in a first phase, to the ultimate limits of human weakness and impotence: indeed, he dies nailed to the Cross. But if at the same time in this weakness there is accomplished his lifting up, confirmed by the power of the Resurrection, then this means that the weaknesses of all human sufferings are capable of being infused with the same power of God manifested in Christ’s Cross. In such a concept, to suffer means to become particularly susceptible, particularly open to the working of the salvific powers of God, offered to humanity in Christ. In him God has confirmed his desire to act especially through suffering, which is man’s weakness and emptying of self, and he wishes to make his power known precisely in this weakness and emptying of self.”⁷² ~ Pope John Paul II

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AN INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL STORY
FROM THE LIFE OF LEO DUPONT,
APOSTLE OF THE HOLY FACE
DEVOTION

READ THIS POWERFUL STORY AND THEN ASK YOURSELF,
“HOW WELL CAN I SEE?”

At the time these events took place, Leo Dupont (1797–1876) was a law student in France. His father had already entered eternal life and left the family with a sizable fortune. Leo received a handsome allowance and enjoyed a privileged life while studying in Paris.

He lived at a hotel and had an indoor servant named Luke. Leo also had a new horse-drawn carriage and wore fine clothes. At one point, Leo decided that in addition to having an inside servant he also wanted an outside servant, so he hired a boy named Clement to serve as the driver of his carriage. Such a servant was called a jockey, or groom.

Clement had been a street sweeper, and was recommended to Leo by the hotel doorman. The boy was a wonderful jockey to Leo, who by then considered himself a Parisian in the fullest sense and a gentleman of the world.

Everything was turning out for him just as he wanted. He was twenty-one years old, living and studying in Paris, was a frequent guest of parties at palaces, and he had both an indoor servant as well as one for outdoors.

What else could a man want?

Leo was very content, that is until the day when Clement arrived late for work. When his employer demanded an explanation, Clement said he was at a meeting with a man named Mr. Bordier. It turned out that the man was a fine gentleman who gathered chimney sweepers and other youths from the street and taught them Christian doctrine and prepared them to receive the sacraments.

Leo became intrigued by such charitable behavior, and asked to meet Mr. Bordier. He wanted to know what type of person would gather youth from the slums of Paris and teach them religion outside in the heat.

One day, Leo visited Mr. Bordier and they had a nice discussion about those lessons.

Subsequent to that, Leo visited a former school friend of his who had become a priest. Leo had some grand thoughts on his mind. What follows is the exquisite fruit from that meeting.

Leo brought Father Frayssinous up to speed on his latest activities, and told him that once he had hired a driver, he believed that at last he had everything he could possibly want. Then Leo said, “Suddenly I was brought face to face with contradiction. Clement, the last and most cherished of my worldly ambitions, turns into a symbol of reproach. How strange.”⁷³

Father Frayssinous asked Leo if Clement had done anything wrong. Leo said that he had not, and continued explaining.

“It is only that Clement, whom I secured to satisfy my worldly ambition, Clement, who, as the groom at my side, completed for me that desirable setting, that final pinnacle in fashion and elegance which I fancied went into the making of a Parisian gentleman—yes, this Clement, through a force of circumstance, suddenly hurled me into a world I never expected to learn about...you see, *Clement brought me face to face with my own soul.*”

Leo told his friend about his having met Mr. Bordier.

“Just think of it, Father, I meet a gentleman of fine circumstances, Mr. Bordier, who gathers dirty and neglected chimney sweeps from the gutter to teach them catechism and to prepare them for the sacraments! And suddenly I see myself as I am.

“Oh, I managed to have Clement sought out because I wanted an outdoor servant to add to all my other worldly possessions, whereas Mr. Bordier, on the other hand, seeks out Clement, not to hire him, mind you, but rather to hire himself out to Clement, without charge, to serve Clement’s spiritual needs.

“Now, there’s the rub, as the poet Shakespeare would put it. Mr. Bordier is farsighted. He is working for heaven. I am nearsighted. I work only to satisfy my earthly ambitions. And yet, we both have only one lifetime in which to work for eternity. When that one lifetime is finished, we’ll be given no second chance.”⁷⁴

“The time best spent is that which is spent for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.” ~ Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

73. Dorothy Scallan, *The Holy Man of Tours: The Life of Leo Dupont* (Rockford, IL: TAN Books and Publishers, Inc., 1990), p. 20.

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CONCLUSION

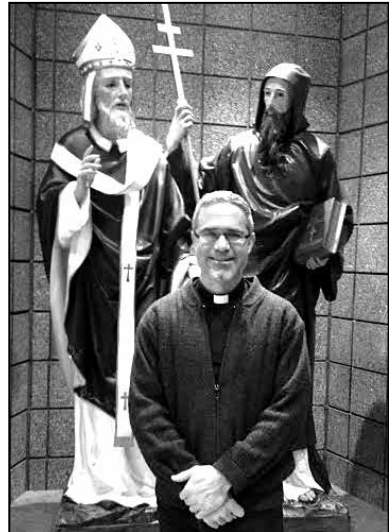
BY FATHER JOHN SIMONEAU

My dear Lord, I really do not know what I get myself into sometimes. However, You know me and You have put me here. Every hair on my head has been counted, every place I would go to, every breath, every heartbeat...forgive me for asking You “why?” when You have loved every second of my life into existence.

My sin seems only to have drawn me closer to You. You have sealed me in Your heart through Your pierced side and sealed me in it to rise, to triumph, to rejoice with You, in You.

Every beat of Your heart, every breath from Your lips was spent on me. They ask me how I know.

Could I ever explain my mother’s love? Can biology, the visible, the comprehensible explain the kiss of a mother: a mass of cells randomly contacting a group of other cells; hormones boiling in a soup of red substance? I met You in the love of my mother; I met You in the strength of my father; I felt You in the pain of rejection and the joy of acceptance.



Father John Simoneau

This life, Lord, is Your passion. My life is Your passion. It is not to be understood but to be lived in love or loved in life. You are love. You are life. You live in me; I live in You.

They say that this takes away liberty, but it is You who sets me free. The Cross, Your Blood freed from Your veins, freed me. All that makes me passionate was made by You. You are passion itself. You are the reason for life and love. May my life be proof of Your passion's power. May my life prove the existence of love. May my life be love. Thank You!

***Father John Simoneau** was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. He was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 2004 in the Basilica of St. Mary Majors in Rome. Father John has worked in Ireland, Slovakia, and in Hungary, where he was chaplain of St. Benedict Academic Center in Budapest from 2001-2003 and 2005-2010. He is currently the associate pastor of St. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A.*

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Michele

Christmas 2013