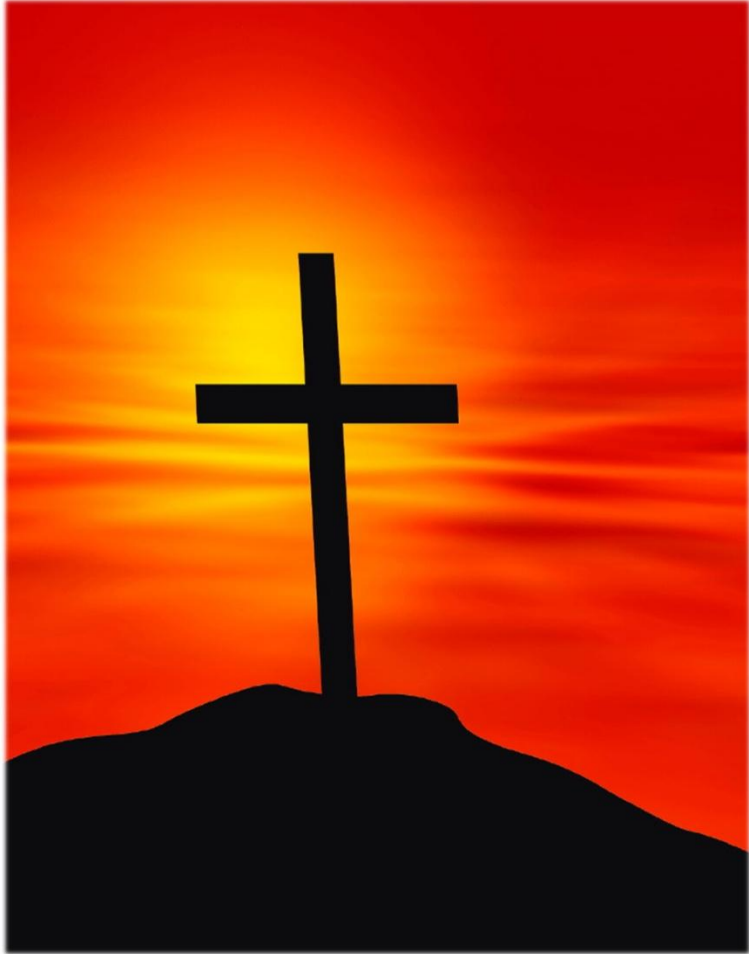


Stations for Vocations



Stations of the Cross to promote awareness of vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

Stations for Vocations

The prayerful reflection on the Way of the Cross of our Lord reminds us of the great love with which Jesus embraced His Passion and Death – the same love that He shows us in His own vocation. We are all called to live lives of service, sacrifice and love in imitation of Christ. May these reflections serve to inspire us all to follow God’s call in our own lives and to serve Him with joy.

“Stations for Vocations” is taken from the USCCB
Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations

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PREPARATORY PRAYER

ALL: Gracious God, each of us is called to discipleship with Your Son Jesus through the sacrament of Baptism. We are sent to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus, to share the good News of God's saving love. Hear our prayer as we ponder the redemptive vocation of Jesus who continues to call men and women to walk in His way, renewing His Church and caring for His people. We give You thanks for the mystery of every vocation and we pray for all who have answered Your call. Send forth Your Holy Spirit upon the faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love, drawing many young men and women to dedicate themselves with an undivided heart to the love of Christ and His Kingdom. Amen.

THE FIRST STATION: PILATE CONDEMNNS JESUS TO DIE

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider how Jesus Christ, after being scourged and
crowned with thorns, was unjustly condemned by Pilate
to die on the cross.

(Kneel)

**R: Jesus, we ask that You call young men and women
today to publicly accept Your invitation to follow You
in spite of what others may think or say. Give to them
a passion for reaching out through Your love to the
needs of Your brothers and sisters.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

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

THE SECOND STATION: JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider Jesus as He walked this road with the cross
on His shoulders, thinking of us, and offering to His
Father in our behalf, the death He was about to suffer.
(Kneel)

**R: Jesus, help those You call to see in the cross the
symbol of union with You. Give to them the zeal and
talent to minister to those who are burdened with
pain, sorrow, confusion and alienation. Let them see
that in the cross is life.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*O, how sad and sore depressed / Was that Mother
highly blessed / of the sole Begotten One*

THE THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider the first fall of Jesus. Loss of blood from the scourging and crowing with thorns had so weakened Him that He could hardly walk; and yet He had to carry that great load upon His shoulders. As the soldiers struck Him cruelly, He fell several times under the heavy cross. (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, let those You call know that they do not have
to be perfect. Let them be open to Your transforming
grace that can accomplish more than anyone could
imagine. Give to those who respond to Your call to the
priesthood and consecrated life, a deep trust that You
will complete what You have begun in them.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*Christ above in torment hangs / She beneath beholds
the pangs / of her dying, glorious Son*

THE FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS AFFLICTED MOTHER

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider how the Son met His Mother on His way to
Calvary. Jesus and Mary gazed at each other and their
looks became as so many arrows to wound those hearts
which loved each other so tenderly (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, instill in young men and women the desire to
come to know Your Mother and find in their prayerful
reflection of the scriptures, a woman of faith, hope
and love whose vocation is an example for all. Help
parents to promote and support vocations among
their children, families and church communities.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*Is there one who would not weep / 'whelmed in miseries
so deep / Christ's dear Mother to behold.*

THE FIFTH STATION: SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider how weak and weary Jesus was. At each step He was at the point of expiring. Fearing that He would die on the way when they wished Him to die the infamous death of the cross, they forced Simon of Cyrene to help carry the cross after Our Lord.

(Kneel)

**R: Jesus, send forth your grace upon those you call to
church leadership. Help them to accept and affirm
others' gifts in the building of community, in
proclaiming the message and in reaching out in
service.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

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

THE SIXTH STATION: VERONICA OFFERS HER VEIL TO JESUS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world.** (Rise)

V: Consider the compassion of the holy woman,
Veronica. Seeing Jesus in such distress, His face bathed
in sweat and blood, she presented Him with her veil.
Jesus wiped His face, and left upon the cloth the image
of His sacred countenance. (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, call forth numerous men and women to see
Your face on all whom they meet. Help Your servants
to truly understand that whatever good is done to the
least of Your brothers and sisters is done to You.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

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

THE SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider how the second fall of Jesus under His cross
renews the pain in all the wounds of the head and
members of our afflicted Lord. (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, teach those You call to the priesthood and
consecrated life to accept their own and others'
limitations, relying on God's merciful grace. Help them
in these times of darkness to reach out especially to
those whom the world calls "fallen"—persons who are
addicted, imprisoned, poor, aged, of ill health.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

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

THE EIGHTH STATION: JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider how the women wept with compassion
seeing Jesus so distressed and dripping with blood as He
walked along. Jesus said to them, ``Weep not so much
for Me, but rather for Your children." (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, remove any prejudices or biases from all
whom You call to walk with You as priests or in the
consecrated life. Let those who follow You see that all
God's people are created equal, male and female,
regardless of race or culture, and that our heavenly
Father has no favorites. Let their words and example
speak of Christ's justice, peace and joy.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

O sweet Mother! Fount of Love / Touch my spirit from
above / Make my heart with yours accord.

THE NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider how Jesus Christ fell for the third time. He
was extremely weak and the cruelty of His executioners
was excessive; they tried to hasten His steps though He
hardly had strength to move. (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, help those You call to know that all vocations
are grace-filled; that priests, sisters, brothers, deacons,
consecrated men and women, married and single are
all favored by God. Instill in them the understanding
that nothing can separate them from the love of God
who is actively present in good times and in bad.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*Make me feel as You have felt / Make my soul to glow
and melt / With the love of Christ, my Lord.*

THE TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider how Jesus was violently stripped of His clothes by His executioners. The inner garments adhered to his lacerated flesh and the soldiers tore them off so roughly that the skin came with them. Have pity for your Savior so cruelly treated. (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, grant that all those being called to the
priesthood and consecrated life will clothe themselves
with sincere compassion, humility, kindness,
gentleness and patience, forgiveness and
thankfulness...and over all these virtues, let them put
on love. May they understand that their vocation
discernment is their deepest response to Your love.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*Holy Mother, pierce me through / in my heart each
wound renew / of my Savior crucified.*

THE ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider Jesus, thrown down upon the cross, He stretched out His arms and offered to His eternal Father the sacrifice of His life for our salvation. They nailed His hands and feet, and then, raising the cross, left Him to die in anguish. (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, instill in youth today a deep desire to make a
difference in the world no matter what the cost. Let
the courageous example of modern martyrs inspire
them to meet all challenges with faith, hope and love.
Fill them with Your presence and the grace to respond
to the call to "go out to all the world."**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

*Let me share with you His pain / Who for all our sins
was slain / Who for me in torments died.*

THE TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

**R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed
the world. (Rise)**

V: Consider how Jesus, after three hours of agony on
the cross, is finally overwhelmed with suffering and,
abandoning Himself to the weight of His body, bows His
head and dies. (Kneel)

**R: Jesus, give to all who are considering their vocation
a deep love of the Eucharist, the Most Holy Sacrament
of Your passion, death and resurrection. Let them find
in the Mass a daily renewal of Your invitation to live
their lives through You, with You, and in You, giving
glory and honor to God our Father.**

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

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

THE THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how, after Our Lord had died, He was taken down from the cross by two of His disciples, Joseph and Nicodemus, and placed in the arms of His afflicted Mother. She received Him with unutterable tenderness and pressed Him close to her bosom.

(Kneel)

R: Jesus, touch the minds, hearts and spirits of those You call to serve the people of God. Fill them with the assurance of our Blessed Mother's love and care for them, especially as they grow to embrace their vocations. Enable them to respond to Your call to bring Your redeeming presence to a world grieving, fearful and hungry for Your Truth through prayer and service.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

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

THE FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS PLACED IN THE SEPULCHER

V: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(Genuflect)

R: Because, by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the world. (Rise)

V: Consider how the disciples carried the body of Jesus to its burial, while His holy Mother went with them and arranged it in the sepulcher with her own hands. They then closed the tomb and all departed. (Kneel)

R: We thank you, Jesus, for the infinite power of Your death and resurrection which brought salvation and healing to the world. We thank You for all whom You have called to follow You in the past 2000 years, men and women formally dedicating their lives to the building up of Your Church. We pray for all seminarians and novices in formation. Let all young men and women today reflect on the lives of the saints, and let them come to meet and know priests, religious, and lay ministers in our times who continue to respond to Christ's call, "Come, follow me."

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be...)

Virgin of all virgins blest / Listen to my fond request / Let me share your grief divine.

PRAYER TO JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

My good and dear Jesus, I kneel before You, asking You most earnestly to engrave upon my heart a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity, with true repentance for my sins, and a firm resolve to make amends. As I reflect upon Your five wounds, and dwell upon them with deep compassion and grief, I recall, good Jesus, the words the Prophet David spoke long ago concerning Yourself:

“They pierced My hands and My feet; they have numbered all My bones.”

The faithful who, after receiving Communion, recite this prayer before a picture of Christ Crucified may gain a plenary indulgence on any Friday in Lent and a partial indulgence on other days of the year, with the addition of prayers for the Holy Father's intention. (Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, no. 22) A Plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who make the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross. Those who are impeded can gain the same indulgence if they spend at least one-half an hour in pious reading and meditation on the Passion and Death of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, no. 63)



Office of Vocations
Archdiocese of Baltimore
320 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

410-547-5426

vocations@archbalt.org

www.BecomeAPriest.org

Facebook: B'More Vocations