

## **APPENDIX 7 - STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

The Stations of the Cross is a devotion in which we meditate upon the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. In the Stations, we focus on the fact that Jesus freely suffered and died out of infinite love for us and for all of mankind. We remember with gratitude that it is through His complete offering of Himself to the Father that it becomes possible for us to enter into the unending joy of heaven. Finally, while the Stations are a meditation on our Lord's Passion and Death, we remember that death does not have the final word, but rather that it leads to Resurrection – His and our own.

Typically the Stations of the Cross proceeds according to the following order:

- **INTRODUCTORY PRAYER**

In public recitation this is usually done by a priest or deacon.

- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE STATION**

e.g. "The 4<sup>th</sup> Station, *Jesus meets His mother*"

In public recitation this is usually done by a priest or deacon

- **VERSE and RESPONSE at each Station**

**Verse** (priest or deacon): *We adore you O Christ and we bless You.*

**Response:**(all): *Because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.*

- **SCRIPTURE READING OR MEDITATION**

This should be brief. It is usually read by the priest or deacon.

- **PRAYER**

This should be brief and should be related to the reading or meditation. It is usually prayed in unison by those present.

- **HYMN**

A verse of the *Stabat Mater* is sung.

- **CLOSING PRAYER**

This prayer is usually said by a priest or deacon.

- **PRAYER FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER.**

**Note to Catechist:** It should be remembered that indulgences are attached to this devotion following the normal prescriptions. One of the prescriptions is prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. One *Our Father*, one *Hail Mary* and one *Glory be* is traditional for this purpose.

An indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven. A properly disposed member of the Christian faithful can obtain an indulgence under prescribed conditions through

the help of the church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial if it removes part of the temporal punishment due to sin, or plenary if it removes all punishment. – CCC Glossary

**The 14 Stations of the Cross are:**

First Station	Jesus is condemned to death.
Second Station	Jesus takes up His Cross.
Third Station	Jesus falls the first time.
Fourth Station	Jesus meets His sorrowful mother.
Fifth Station	Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His Cross.
Sixth Station	Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
Seventh Station	Jesus falls a second time.
Eighth Station	Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem.
Ninth Station	Jesus falls the third time.
Tenth Station	Jesus is stripped of His garments.
Eleventh Station	Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
Twelfth Station	Jesus dies on the Cross.
Thirteenth Station	Jesus is taken down from the Cross.
Fourteenth Station	Jesus is placed in the sepulcher.