**THE WAY OF CROSS – JUBILEE 2025**

***And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.* (Rm 5)**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: “Power belongs to you, God, and with you, Lord, is unfailing love”; and, “You reward everyone according to what they have done.”* (Psal 62).

**MEDITATION**

God, in whom, by faith, we are called to rest our soul, our heart, our mind, our spirit together with our whole body, is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We rest in Him for He is eternally faithful to His love since eternity. We rest in Him if we rest in His Word. The Word is the Father’s heart. By resting in His Word, we rest in the Father’s heart. In the Father’s heart, the death of the righteous is life and suffering bears eternal joy.

**FIRST STATION**

**JESUS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**

*You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.* *I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.*  (Psal 63).

**MEDITATION**

Jesus is not condemned to death, He lets Himself be condemned so that the world may know how great the love for His Father is in Him. He cannot repay evil with evil. He must repay with all the might of the love governing His heart. I have given you a model to follow so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Are we able to always repay evil with the strength of the Spirit and with the love of the Father that He has poured and pours into our hearts? Love is our proof.

**SECOND STATION**

**JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS**

*In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me. Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth. From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother’s womb. I will ever praise you.* (Psal 71).

**MEDITATION**

Jesus is not burdened with the cross. He lets himself be burdened. In the world of sin, of hatred against God and his truth, of unrighteousness and of abuse, of iniquity and of death, one can only love through the cross. This is the cross: Christ Jesus loves from the heart of the Father. His disciples love from the heart of their Teacher. Christ overcame the world with his purest love until the end. The Christian overcomes the world with his most pure love until the end. The Christian does not create crosses. He takes them away, by carrying them.

**THIRD STATION**

**JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME**

*But as you are just, you govern all things justly; you regard it as unworthy of your power to punish one who has incurred no blame. For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your right when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity. But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; And you gave your sons good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.* (Wis 12).

**MEDITATION**

The body falls, the spirit does not fall, the soul does not fall. When the body cannot bear the full weight of love, to which it is called, the soul and the spirit must immediately come to its rescue. They can only come when filled with the fortitude and piety of the Holy Spirit. Christ is full, filled with the Holy Spirit. With the might of the Spirit of the Lord, He rises again and resumes the path of love that must be until the end. Are we filled with the Holy Spirit to rise again?

**FOURTH STATION**

**JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**

*Lively is the courage of those who fear the LORD, for they put their hope in their savior; He who fears the LORD is never alarmed, never afraid; for the LORD is his hope. Happy the soul that fears the LORD! In whom does he trust, and who is his support? The eyes of the LORD are upon those who love him; he is their mighty shield and strong support, A shelter from the heat, a shade from the noonday sun, a guard against stumbling, a help against falling.*  (Sir 34)

**MEDITATION**

This is not an encounter of two bodies, nor is it an encounter according to the flesh. On the contrary, it is an encounter of the Son's spirit and the Mother's spirit in the Holy Spirit. The Virgin Mary breathes her Holy Spirit upon her Son so that He may love the Father until the end. The Son breathes the Holy Spirit upon the Mother so that, more than Abraham, She may offer Him, the Only Begotten of the Father, for the salvation and redemption of the world. Are our encounters in the Holy Spirit or of just body and flesh?

**FIFTH STATION**

**SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS**

*Even though our crimes bear witness against us, take action, O LORD, for the honor of your name -  Even though our rebellions are many, though we have sinned against you. O Hope of Israel, O LORD, our savior in time of need! Why should you be a stranger in this land, like a traveler who has stopped but for a night? Why are you like a man dumbfounded, a champion who cannot save? You are in our midst, O LORD, your name we bear: do not forsake us!* (Jer 14).

**MEDITATION**

Here is the true charity of the Christian: helping every brother so that one may carry his cross until the end. One helps the other by taking upon himself the cross of each of his brothers. When we carry the cross of our brothers, the Lord our God carries our cross through Christ Jesus. In truth, the Cyrenian does not carry Christ's cross, he carries his own cross, that Christ carries in his place. By carrying the cross of others, we carry our cross. Christ has made all the crosses of the world his own. Do we have this charity?

**SIXTH STATION**

**VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**

*I, the LORD, alone probe the mind and test the heart, To reward everyone according to his ways, according to the merit of his deeds. A partridge that mothers a brood not her own is the man who acquires wealth unjustly: In midlife it will desert him; in the end he is only a fool. A throne of glory, exalted from the beginning, such is our holy place. O hope of Israel, O LORD! all who forsake you shall be in disgrace; The rebels in the land shall be put to shame; they have forsaken the source of living waters (the LORD). Heal me, LORD, that I may be healed; save me, that I may be saved, for it is you whom I praise* (Jer 17).

**MEDITATION**

Christ Jesus has come to wipe away the blood that is the fruit of all our sin. His bloody face is the face of humankind, it is also the face of the Church that today seems to have made a great armistice with sin. By wiping the face of Christ, we wipe the face of humankind and of the Church. But how do we wipe the face of Christ? By wiping our soul, our spirit from every stain of sin. By walking in history full of grace, truth, justice, love, charity.

**SEVENTH STATION**

**JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME**

*The LORD appears to him from afar: With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you. Again I will restore you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin Israel; For thus says the LORD: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The LORD has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel. There is hope for your future, says the LORD; your sons shall return to their own borders.*  (Jer 31).

**MEDITATION**

Christ is the eternal love of the Father who descended to our earth. Satan does not want Him to go all the way to Golgotha. He does not want Him nailed to the cross and therefore he places obstacles in his path. However, all the might of the Holy Spirit lives in Jesus and He lifts Him up so that He may persevere until the end. If the Holy Spirit is not strong in us, He does not grow in us, for He is not revived by us, before the first obstacle Satan places in our path, we fall without ever standing up again. How strong is the Spirit in us?

**EIGHTH STATION**

**JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM**

*Abraham believed, hoping against hope, that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "Thus shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body as (already) dead (for he was almost a hundred years old) and the dead womb of Sarah. He did not doubt God's promise in unbelief; rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God and was fully convinced that what he had promised he was also able to do. That is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."* (Rm 4).

**MEDITATION**

In warning the women of Jerusalem, Jesus warns every man. In a very special way He warns us, his disciples. He wants us to look at Him in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. He also wants us to look at ourselves and at others in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. If He, the Innocent One, the Holy One of God, Righteousness, Truth, Grace, Life ascends to His Father through the ladder of the cross, can we think of ascending to the Father through the ladder of sin, of vice, of the reduction of the Gospel to lies?

**NINETH STATION**

**JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME**

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access (by faith) to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.* (Rm 5).

**MEDITATION**

By falling the third time, Jesus shows us how difficult it is for a man to attain perfect obedience to the Word of the Lord, how difficult it is to always remain in pure and true love, alive and immaculate. He falls, because the flesh is weak. He rises again because his spirit is strong. He is strong because he is filled with all the strength of the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit of God is not strong in us, we fall, but we do not stand up. We fall and drown from fall to fall. Do I know how strong the Spirit is in me?

**TENTH STATION**

**JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS**

*What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?* (Rm 8)

**MEDITATION**

Jesus lets himself be stripped, humbled and annihilated. However, He does not only let himself be stripped of his seamless tunic, he unclothes himself of his equality with God. He unclothes himself of his Almightiness and Righteousness. He unclothes himself of his divine and human dignity. He unclothes himself of his entire being. Christian, you too, if you want to love, must unclothe yourself. You must unclothe yourself of pride, of envy, of jealousy, of pride, of conceit. You must clothe yourself with the Holy Spirit and his love.

**ELEVENTH STATION**

**JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

*Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.* (Rm 12).

**MEDITATION**

Jesus lets himself be physically nailed to the cross of love. Thus He teaches us that love does not strike, does not protest, does not argue, does not stand as judge. The love of the Christian must remain eternally crucified on the Father's love, poured into his heart by the Holy Spirit. The love of the Christian is true love if, before every injustice, it always finds the strength to remain in its divine truth. If the Christian detaches himself from love he is no longer a Christian, he is no longer crucified on the cross of love.

**TWELVETH STATION**

**JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

*I do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of (your) hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might* (Eph 1).

**MEDITATION**

Jesus dies while loving, he dies while forgiving, he dies while praying the Father, he dies while surrendering his spirit to the Father. He can do this for He has always been under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit has been his unique Teacher. Jesus lives the unspeakable suffering of the cross with divine and human patience. Without the Spirit who leads us to live each cross, suffering becomes despair and despair sometimes turns into suicide. He who has no true hope is not led by the Spirit.

**THIRTEENTH STATION**

**JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

*We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.* (1Ts 4).

**MEDITATION**

The body of Jesus is laid down from the cross because the sacrifice on the altar of love has been accomplished. Nothing can be added. He is laid down from the cross because the Father must prepare Him for his glorious resurrection. However, before He is deposed from the cross, He pours out the Holy Spirit from his heart who must enliven the valley of humanity that is an expanse of barren bones. He also pours out grace in abundance and without measure for the sanctification of every man who believes in Jesus and his Gospel.

**FOURTEENTH STATION**

**JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB**

*Now if you invoke as Father him who judges impartially according to each one's works, conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct, handed on by your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ as of a spotless unblemished lamb. He was known before the foundation of the world but revealed in the final time for you, who through him believe in God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.* (1Pt 1).

**MEDITATION**

In the tomb the body of Christ is laid, but not the hope of the glorious resurrection. Hope is always buried when one loses faith in the Word of the Lord. Jesus does not see the tomb as a sarcophagus from which there is no return. He sees it as the womb of the Father from which new life will spring through Him. If the Christian in the Holy Spirit does not clothe himself of the faith of Christ Jesus, hope dies in his heart and his life is consumed by the ephemeral and by vanity.

**CONCLUSION**

The Christian is called by the Father, through Christ Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, to be true witness of hope among his brothers today, in history. He can as far as he is true witness of the faith arising from the Word of Jesus. He will be true witness of faith, if he turns his entire life into patient love, rich in mercy and piety, filled with truth and grace, full of the righteousness lived by Jesus on the wood of the cross. Everything begins in the Word of the Gospel.

**FINAL PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, true Son of the Virgin Mary, today you have given us the grace of contemplating your passion, helped by your Holy Spirit. Now we ask you another grace: make us true image of your love that remains faithful until the end. Ensure that we are never tired of loving. Let us deprive ourselves of our pride of sin and, with great humbleness, become servant of your love, of your truth, of your crucified righteousness. Mother of God and our Mother, help us stand at the cross of your Son to be made your children by Him. Amen.