

**THE
SUCH AS
THESE
XIV**

CONGREGATION BOOKLET

xivministries.org

STATION I

LEADER

Please stand. The First Station: Jesus Is Condemned to Death.
We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand...that you are the Truth. You would not deny who you were or what is true despite being judged and condemned and punished. You came and suffered that we might know and live the truth. Though we are sinners, you did not wash your hands of us.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves:

Have I lied, or told only part of the truth, or hidden the truth in order to make things easier for myself? Have I ignored or disregarded the truth to suit my own purposes? Am I sometimes afraid to be true to myself and my values when I worry about what others will think? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, grant me the boldness to live the truth. Grant me the love that denies cowardice, selfishness and pride. May I be one who never washes my hands of truth, for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION II

LEADER

The Second Station: Jesus Takes His Cross. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that because you loved us and obeyed the Father, you took the cross. By sinning, we condemned ourselves to darkness and fear and death. When

you reached out to take the cross, you reached out to us to bring us into light and life.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Have I failed to accept my responsibilities with selfless love? Have I been slow to embrace my duties or hesitated to meet them with my best effort? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, may I never forget your redeeming love and obedience. Help me to reach out to the responsibilities that are mine and embrace the duties placed before me, For the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION III

LEADER

The Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on the Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that because of your great love for us you truly became human just like us. You grew tired. You needed water. You felt pain. You felt rejection and scorn. Lord, in your willing acceptance of the human condition, you set before us a new potential: By becoming just like us, you made it possible for us to become just like you.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: When I am tired, or in need, or in pain, or mistreated by others, do I embrace the opportunity to be like Christ? When I am suffering, am I capable of thinking of others and offering my suffering for their sakes, or can I think only of myself? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, may I never fail to recognize that like you, I can endure weariness, rejection, and suffering. For you and for the sake of others, I can be strong in faith, obedience and humility even when I am weak. Grant me the wisdom to be one who sees that being like you is not a matter of power, but a matter of sacrifice...for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION IV

LEADER

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that you look upon us with eyes that cherish us; eyes that are always glad to see us come to you and that welcome us into your presence regardless of our failures, sins and imperfections.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Is my love greater than the imperfections of others, or does my love fail where faults begin? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, your eyes look upon me with a love that appreciates me and builds me up and makes me better simply by holding me in their gaze. Grant that I be one whose eyes see the best in people and helps them recognize their goodness and gifts, for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION V

LEADER

The Fifth Station: Simon the Cyrene Is Made to Help Carry the Cross

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that you lowered yourself to near helplessness to show us we too can—and must—come to the assistance of others, no matter how difficult their situation.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Do I use helplessness and hopelessness as an excuse to neglect the great needs of the poor or of those in difficult situations around me? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, though I am seemingly only one person powerless before much of the world's problems and wrongs, help me to realize my efforts to support the least of your people is not insignificant. Just as I am one who needs, just so by Your design I am one who is needed. Let me be one who rises to the call, for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION VI

LEADER

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that if we truly look, we can see you in the beauty of nature. We can see you in the Eucharist. We can see you in the faces of our neighbors. We can see you in the sweat and blood and dirt that stain the faces of the poor and suffering.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Do I live and act as if God was out of sight and far away? Am I blinded to his presence by busyness or my own concerns? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, let me not look upon the world—even its ugliness and injustice—and complain, “Where’s God?” Help me to be one who truly looks and sees you everywhere, especially in the hidden mystery of the Eucharist and in the unconcealed reality of the poor, for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION VII

LEADER

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that the laughter, the mockery, the cruelty and the encouragement of cruelty wounded you as deeply as the whips, the thorns and the nails.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Have I hurt others with my written or spoken words: Put downs, sarcasm, gossip, derogatory name-calling, profanity? Have I hurt others with the tone or attitude with which I expressed myself? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, help me to understand my words and expressions are capable of both hurting or healing another. May I be one who uses words as instruments of help, happiness and hope, for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION VIII

LEADER

Station Eight: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem, Who Weep for Him. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PEFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that within ourselves and within those we love, is a capability for great compassion.

Even in your weariness along the Way of the Cross, Lord, you honored such compassion with your words and wisdom.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Do I let the compassion I feel within me move me to reach out to the suffering? Have I expressed gratitude to those who have acted compassionately toward me or those I love? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, help me to recognize the compassion I and others feel arises from love of you and our neighbor and leads us to fulfill the first and greatest commandment. Grant that I be one whose compassion moves me to do for anyone I meet just what I would do for you, for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION IX

LEADER

The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that you have experienced how overburdened we sometimes feel, how difficult our lives can be, how much we can hurt, how desperately sometimes we just want to quit.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: In my worst and most difficult times, have I remembered to understand...that Jesus understands? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, help me to remember that you understand. When things are at their worst, help me to be one who prays to you as one who knows what it's like to be down and not want to get up...and did. For the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION X

LEADER

The Tenth Station: Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that just as you stood before the mob and were judged in their eyes, so too shall our souls stand before you to be judged, and even now they are not hidden from your sight.

LEADER

Let us each as ourselves: Do my actions reveal a soul that is as beautiful as I want it to be? Am I ready to stand before you completely revealed? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, help me to remember that my blemished soul can be made beautiful again in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May I be one who, even as I strive for holiness, knows I need your renewing mercy, for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION XI

LEADER

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand the unbearable pain you bore for our sakes and the love that made you bear it.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Have I seen the Crucifix so often that I forget both the tremendous suffering and the tremendous love it signifies? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, grant that every time I look upon the crucifix, I look upon it as one seeing it for the first time. May I never be one who takes your suffering or your love for granted, but rather be one who looks upon the crucifix with eyes that truly see and a heart that is truly filled with gratitude, for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION XII

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand the stark reality, the uncontested truth: you died on the cross. You died. Whatever death is, whatever it is we fear, you entered into it just as one day we must. Though you are the Son of God, because of your limitless love, you were spared none of the dread consequences of sin. "No greater love does a man have than this, to lay down his life for his friends."

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Have I failed to recognize that our fallen human nature drives us to limit our love? When have I failed to love with the limitless, "no greater love than this"

love of Christ? Who in my life, right now, needs unlimited love? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, help me to keep in my heart your example of limitless love. Let my love not be limited by selfish clinging to time, or money, or comfort or convenience. Rather may I be one who gives my all to you and all who need my love...for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION XIII

LEADER

The Thirteenth Station: The Body of Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand your mother's love for you and the wondrous gift you gave when you made her our mother too.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: When was the last time I sat with Mary? When was the last time I prayed a rosary? Has it been too long? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, may I be one who frequently prays: Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.... for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

STATION XIV

LEADER

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus Is Placed in the Tomb. We adore you O Christ and we praise you.

ALL

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

PERFORMER

LEADER

Let us pray.

ALL

Lord, call us to yourself as we walk with you on The Way of the Cross.

Open our hearts to understand that as we walk The Way of your Passion and experience our own passions that it is good for us to be moved to action and conviction, but it is also good for us to “go home” -- to be still, to ponder these things in our hearts, to let our tears swell up within us. Tears do not make injustices just, nor do they raise the dead. Yet tears may cleanse souls. From the depths of tears may arise resurrections of the heart.

LEADER

Let us each ask ourselves: Do I allow myself tears? Do I allow myself to fully feel and experience deep emotions, or do I stanch them with busyness or hardness of heart? Please stand.

ALL

Lord, through the Prophet Ezekiel you promised: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you to move you....” Through my walking with you on The Way of the Cross, work within me. Renew me with a childlike heart vulnerable enough to cry and a spirit bold enough to challenge the wrongs of the world...for the Kingdom of God belongs to Such As These.

Thank you for praying the Stations of the Cross.

To learn more about the history of the
Stations of the Cross or about XIV
Ministries, please visit:

xivministries.org