

## Opening Prayer

O God,  
we are about to walk with your Son through the stages of His suffering and death.  
We know that Jesus' sacrifice gave us the name Christian.  
We know that Jesus saved us and brought us new life through His sacrifice on the cross and His rising from the dead three days later.  
Help us to understand a little better and to love a little more.  
Help us to live more unselfish lives.  
Open our minds to help us see how we can better follow in Jesus' footsteps.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord,  
Amen.



## Station 1

### Jesus is condemned to death.

Jesus, you stand all alone before Pilate. Nobody speaks up for you. Nobody helps defend you. You devoted your entire life to helping others, listening to the smallest ones, caring for those who were ignored by others. They don't seem to remember that as they prepare to put you to death.

As a child, sometimes I feel alone. Sometimes I feel that others don't stand up for me and defend me when I am afraid. Sometimes I don't feel like I am treated fairly, especially if I am scolded or corrected.

As an adult, sometimes I feel abandoned and afraid as well. Sometimes I too, feel like I am treated unfairly or blamed for things unfairly. I have a hard time when people criticize me at home or at work.

Help me be grateful for what you did for me. Help me to accept criticism and unfairness as you did, and not complain. Help me pray for those who have hurt me.

### LET US PRAY:

God, many times people don't seem to understand me. Sometimes too, I

feel like the criticism of others is unfair. Help me accept the mistakes of others as you accept me when I make mistakes. Help me be big enough to ask forgiveness for the mistakes I make and to forgive as Jesus did. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Station 2

### Jesus carries his cross.



Jesus, as you accepted your cross, you knew you would carry it to your death on Calvary. You knew it wouldn't be easy, but you accepted it and carried it just the same.

As a child, sometimes I don't like the problems that come my way. Sometimes I try to get others to take care of them or solve them for me. Sometimes I become upset and crabby when I'm asked to do even the smallest thing to help others.

As an adult I sometimes feel like I'm not appreciated. Sometimes I feel as if I accept more responsibility that I need to. I can feel sorry for myself, even though the crosses others carry are much larger than my own. In my self-pity, I don't reach out to help.

#### LET US PRAY:

God, my problems may seem small to those around me, but you know how hard they are for me to carry sometimes. Help me remember and pray for those who are handicapped and those whose problems are severe. When I'm tempted to complain, help me remember Jesus and the cross He carried for me. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Station 3

### Jesus falls the first time.

Jesus, the cross you have been carrying is very heavy. You are becoming weak and almost ready to faint, and you fall down. Nobody seems to want

to help you. The soldiers are interested in getting home, so they yell at you and try to get you up and moving again.

As a child, sometimes I start to do something, but then get tired of it. I hurry to get finished and sometimes don't do my work well. Sometimes I don't pay attention to what I should be doing. When things get hard for me, sometimes I give up.

As an adult, I sometimes put things off. I give up too easily, and sometimes don't do my work as well as I know I can.

#### LET US PRAY:

God, I know there are many times when I give up before I should. I need to think of the cross Jesus carried, and how he got up again and kept moving. Help me to do my work as well as I can and to finish what I have started. When I fall, help me get up again and keep going. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Station 4

### Jesus meets his mother.



Jesus, you feel so alone with all those people yelling and screaming at you. You don't like the words they are saying about you, and you look for a friendly face in the crowd. You see your mother. She can't make the hurting stop, but it helps to see that she is on your side, that she is suffering with you. She does understand and care.

As a child, sometimes I feel like too many things are going on. Sometimes other kids pick on me and call me names. I need to look around me for a friendly face, and for the help I need. I need to share my troubles with those who truly care about me.

As an adult I sometimes feel overwhelmed by many things. Life is so competitive, and I worry so much about my future and those who have some control over it. I need to remember that being an adult does not mean having to solve every problem all by myself. I need to look around me for a friendly face, for the help I need.

### LET US PRAY:

God, you gave me my parents. Nobody can take their place. I thank you for that gift. Help me to show my love and appreciation to them. Help me to remember to pray for them often. If they have died, help me be challenged by the love they shared with me. When I feel alone, help me to realize that you are my parent, the friendly face that I can depend upon to give me the help I need. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Station 5

**Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross.**



Jesus, the soldiers are becoming impatient. This is taking longer than they wanted it to. They are afraid you won't make it to the hill where you will be crucified. As you grow weaker, they grab a man out of the crowd and make him help carry your cross. He was just watching what was happening, but all of a sudden he is helping you carry your cross.

As a child, sometimes I see people who need my help. Sometimes I pretend not to hear when my parents call me. I disappear when I know others could use my help.

As an adult, sometimes I try to do as little as I can and still get by. Others might need my help, but I ignore their needs. Even when I'm asked to help, I sometimes claim to be too busy.

### LET US PRAY:

God, help me notice the needs of those around me. Help me do more than just stand there and watch. Help me see the needs of others as opportunities for me to reach out and help as you did. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## Station 6

**Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.**



Jesus, suddenly a woman comes out of the crowd. Her name is Veronica. You can see how she cares for you as she takes a cloth and begins to wipe the blood and sweat from your face. She can't do much, but she offers what little help she can.

As a child, sometimes I know someone could use a little help and understanding. They may be picked on or teased by others, or just sad or lonely. Sometimes I feel bad that others don't step in to

help, but I don't help either.

As an adult, I notice the needs around me. Sometimes my own family members crave my attention, and I don't even seem to notice. Sometimes a co-worker, friend, or family member could use help or understanding, but I don't reach out to help lest I be criticized, or that they demand more of me than I'd like to give.

#### LET US PRAY:

God, help me see the needs of others as being as important as my own needs. Remind me to go out of my way to be helpful, even if I'm not asked. Help me not be concerned about what others may think of me. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## Station 7

### Jesus falls the second time.

This is the second time you have fallen on the road. As the cross grows heavier and heavier it becomes more difficult to get up. But you continue to struggle and try until you're up and walking again. You don't give up.

As a child, sometimes things get me down. Others seem to find things easier to do or to learn. Each time I fail, I find it harder to keep trying.

As an adult, sometimes I think I should know more than I do. I become impatient with myself and find it hard to believe in myself when I fail. It is easy to despair over small things, and sometimes I do.

Help me when things seem difficult for me. Even when it's hard, help me get up and keep trying as you did. Help me do my best without comparing myself with others.

**LET US PRAY:**

God, sometimes life is hard. Sometimes I grow impatient with myself, and even take that impatience out on others. Help me realize how much you love me, just as I am. Help me keep trying when things get hard and when I fall, just like Jesus did. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## Station 8

### Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

Jesus, as you carry your cross you see a group of women along the road. As you pass by you see they are sad. You stop to spend a moment with them, to offer them some encouragement. Although you have been abandoned by your friends and are in pain, you stop and try to help them.

As a child, sometimes I think a lot about myself. I think about what I want and would like people to spend their lives pleasing me.

As an adult, sometimes I act like a child. I become so absorbed in myself and what I'd like that I forget about the needs of others. I take them for granted, and often ignore their needs.

Help me think more about others. Help me remember that others have problems, too. Help me respond to them even when I'm busy or preoccupied with my own problems

**LET US PRAY:**

God, many times I am selfish. I expect others to serve me while doing very little for them. Help me notice and respond to the needs others have, even when I have problems of my own. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## Station 9

### Jesus falls a third time.

Jesus, your journey has been long. You fall again, beneath your cross. You know your

journey is coming to an end. You struggle and struggle. You get up and keep going.

As a child, sometimes I fail time and time again. I find it hard to get along with my sisters and brothers, sometimes I'm not honest, sometimes I'm lazy. I'm tempted to stop trying. It's just too hard sometimes.

As an adult, I often feel I should have conquered my weaknesses by now. I become discouraged when I'm confronted by the same problems over and over again. Sometimes I get weary. When I have health problems, I can become discouraged and depressed.

Help me think of the cross you carried. Help me continue to hope that I can make the changes in my life I need to. You didn't give up. I can have the strength to get up again as well.

#### LET US PRAY:

God, many times I feel like giving up. Sometimes I grow impatient with myself, especially when I make the same mistakes over and over again. Help me use this awareness to become more compassionate toward others. Help me get up and keep going, as Jesus did. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## Station 10

### Jesus clothes are taken away.

The soldiers notice you have something of value. They remove your cloak and throw dice for it. Your wounds are torn open once again. Some of the people in the crowd make fun of you. They tease you and challenge you to perform a miracle for them to see. They're not aware that you'll perform the greatest miracle of all!

As a child, sometimes I'm tempted to repeat stories I know are unclean and disrespectful. I sometimes try to act grown up by using crude and bad words.

As an adult, sometimes I repeat stories that are disrespectful of others. I can entertain thoughts that are not clean. Sometimes I give the young people around me a bad example to follow.

Help me to keep myself pure and clean. Help me say things that build up the people around me. Help me overcome worldly desires that I may become more like Jesus. Help me set a good example for others to follow.

**LET US PRAY:**

God, help me be aware of the prejudices I have against others. Help me value those around me, rather than degrading them by telling unclean stories. Help me strive to be pure in my thoughts, words and deeds. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## Station 11

### Jesus is nailed to the cross.

You are stretched out on the cross you have carried so far. The soldiers take big nails and drive them into your hands and feet. You feel abandoned by the people you loved so much. People seem to have gone mad. You have done nothing but good, yet they drive nails through your hands and feet.

As a child, sometimes I hurt others. Sometimes I join with friends and decide not to like another. We gang up against another and cause them hurt and pain. Sometimes I say or do hurtful things to my brothers

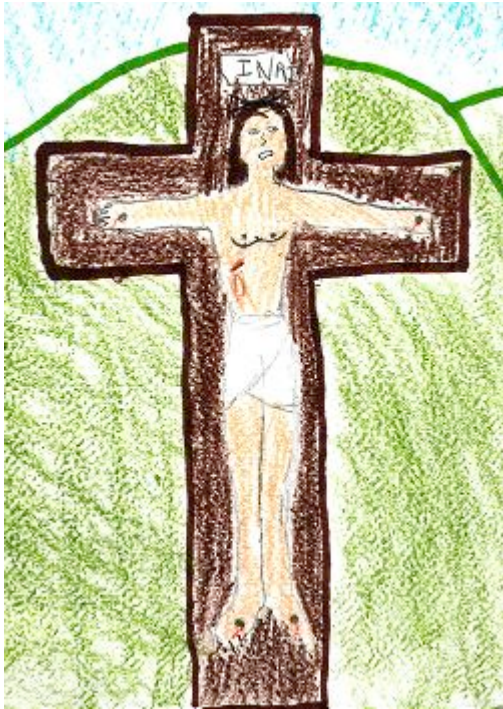
and sisters. I can wonder what they'd think about themselves if they believed everything I told them about themselves.

As an adult, sometimes I discriminate against others. Even without thinking, I judge others because of their color, intelligence, income level or name. I forget that I am to live as a brother or sister to all people. Sometimes I use harsh words when I speak to my children and family members. I can find it easy to look for something that isn't very important and make it very important.

Help me look again at the people around me. Help me see the hurt and pain I have caused in others. Be with me to help me make amends for the harm I have done.

**LET US PRAY:**

God, sometimes I act without thinking. I can be easily led, just like the soldiers and the crowd that put Jesus to death. Never let me drive a nail into another by my prejudice or hatred. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## Station 12

**Jesus dies on the cross.**

As Jesus hung on the cross, he forgave the soldiers who had crucified him, and prayed for his mother and friends. Jesus wanted all of us to be able to live forever with God, so he gave all he had for us.

Jesus, let me take a few moments now to consider your love for me. Help me thank you for your willingness to go to your

death for  
love for

me. Help me express my  
you!

**The body  
the cross.**

Leader:  
we praise  
All:  
You have



## Station 13

**of Jesus is taken down from**

We adore you, O Christ, and  
you.  
Because by your holy cross  
redeemed the world.

Jesus, how brutally you were put to death. How gently you are taken from the cross. Your suffering and pain are ended, and you are put in the lap of

your mother. The dirt and blood are wiped away. You are treated with love.

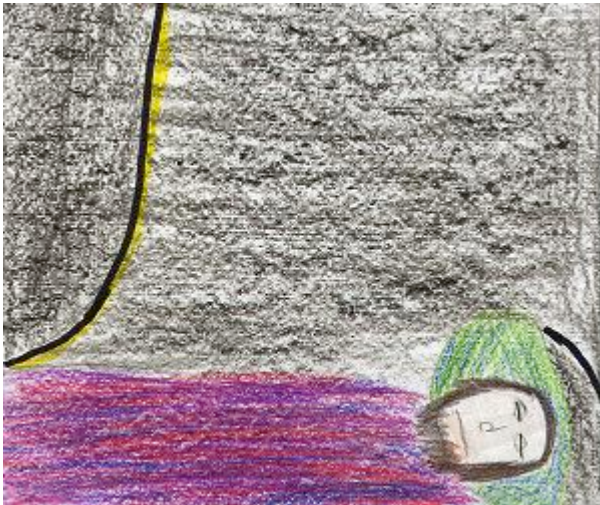
As a child, sometimes I treat others better when they're sad or in pain. When somebody dies, I become very gentle and kind. I notice the good and kind things people say about those who have died.

As an adult, I seem to be kinder when someone dies. If only I could learn to see the good things about them while they were alive. If only I would tell those around me how much I love them, while I still have the opportunity to do so.

Help me look for the good in those around me, especially those I love the most. Help me live this day as if it were the last. Help me become a more gentle and loving person through my greater appreciation for those around me.

#### LET US PRAY:

God, I never know how many more days I will live. Perhaps it will be many years, perhaps not too many days. Help me make this a better day for those around me. Help me say kind things to the ones I love while they are with me, and while I am with them. It can make my life fuller and their lives happier when I do. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



## Station 14

### Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Jesus, your body is prepared for burial. Joseph gave you his own tomb. He laid your body there and rolled a large stone in front of it, then went home. What a sad day it has been for so many people.

As a child, sometimes I try to keep everything for myself. I find it hard to share my things with my brothers or sisters and with my friends.

As an adult, I can be selfish too. I can accumulate things and keep them for myself. I try to make sure I have what I want before I share what I have with anybody else.

Help me think of Joseph of Arimathea, who risked his own life as he accepted Jesus' body for burial. Help me think of how Joseph loved Jesus so much that he gave him his own tomb.

**LET US PRAY:**

God, how uncomfortable it can make me to see the loving and generous way Jesus gave all he had for me. How selfish I can feel to hear of the generosity of Mary, Simon, Veronica, the women of Jerusalem, and Joseph of Arimathea. Help me to share my life and love more fully, out of gratitude for the great love you have shown for me.

## The Resurrection



**Jesus rises from the dead.**

Jesus, your friends were devastated in their loss. Their darkness couldn't have been any deeper. As we find ourselves in Darkness, it can seem like life has given out on us. Yet we know that it is impossible to snuff out the life God has given. Even when all seems lost, your Resurrection gives us new hope! As a child, sometimes I feel sad. I can think of those who have died and how much I miss them. I can worry about many things. As an adult, I can despair when I think of family members and friends who have died. I can forget that you died and rose again in order to save them and prepare a place for them.

Help me remember that, through Baptism, I have become a child of God. I am united with Christ, with those who live around me, and with those who have died as well. Jesus suffered all the difficulties I must face, so I know

you understand my challenges and walk with me as I face them. I know I must face certain difficulties. Even though I don't like them, help me feel your presence with me.

**LET US PRAY:**

God, you so loved the world that you gave your only son, who died and rose for all of us. Help me be thankful for the eternal life promised me. Help me approach you often for the forgiveness I need, the forgiveness Jesus won for me through his passion, death and resurrection. Help me use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to face all the challenges that confront me. I know that sin, suffering and death have been overcome by the resurrection of your son. Help me share in the joy of all who have been redeemed, that I may be renewed, made more perfect, and cry out with joy with all your people.

I believe in God, the father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he arose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty.  
from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

This appears on the Web Site [Father Pat's Place](#)

Illustrated by students of [Saint Patrick's Catholic School](#) in  
Onalaska, Wisconsin USA. Part of [Coulee Catholic Schools](#)