

Vocational Stations of the Cross



*“He called those whom He
wanted.”*




humilitas
MISSIONARIES OF ST. CHARLES
SCALABRINIANS

Initial Rites

L. In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

Amen.

I Station:

Jesus Is Sentenced to Death

L. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.



Bible Text

"Pilate said to them, 'What do I do with Jesus, who is called the Messiah?' They answered, 'Crucify him!'" Pilate insisted, "But what evil has he done?" They shouted even louder, "Crucify him!" Then Pilate, seeing that he was accomplishing nothing and that the tumult was increasing, took water, washed his hands before the people, and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man. Look to it yourselves!" Matthew 27:22-24.

The Vocation to Life

The first call we receive from God is the Vocation to Life. This call, unfortunately, does not reach us all. Millions of babies die before they can leave the womb when they are aborted. We have learned to use "politically correct" language to say "termination of pregnancy," yet the purpose is the same: to prove to these people their valuable gift of life. Other people are condemned to live in misery and a state of eternal subordination that does not allow them to live their lives but only to survive and find no reason to thank God. There are also those who cannot find their vocation and die without knowing that they have received a call from God.

Prayer

Let us pray for these people and for ourselves so that we may know how to be grateful for the life we have and be able to live it to the fullest.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing



II Station

Jesus Carries the Cross

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

"Then they took Jesus, and he carried his cross and went out to the place called 'The Skull,' which in Hebrew is called Golgotha."

John 19:17.

The Vocation to the Christian Life

Through baptism, we receive the call to the Christian life, to the life of the faith. In baptism, we become co-heirs of God's love and grace and are called to live out the dimensions of being: Priests, Prophets, and Kings. And this is not easy: "carrying the cross" in our lives is not a simple task; it is to bear witness to an authentic conversion every day and to work tirelessly in these dimensions to make the call to the Christian life effective. The world needs people capable of listening, reading, and proclaiming the Word of God (priestly dimension) with full and active participation in the Church's liturgy. We need courageous people who know how to carry their Cross to proclaim the Kingdom of God, to denounce structures and situations that are contrary to God's love (prophetic dimension), and people who have a sincere desire to serve their brothers and sisters, caring for the needs of others (real dimension).

Prayer

Let us pray for the times we do not have the strength, the grace, or the enthusiasm to live our vocation as Christians so that we can serve God in the way He deserves.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing

III Station

Jesus Falls for the First Time

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.



Bible Text

"He endured our sufferings and bore our sorrows; we considered him punished, wounded by God and humiliated. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Challenges of Vocation

Receiving God's call for the state of life that will help us fulfill our mission comes with many challenges. The first is to be able to listen to God's voice in a world that finds it difficult to be silent. Silence in our lives is difficult because, in our reality, it is overstimulated by different noises. Many vocations fall because of the lack of listening to the Voice of God. Family detachment is another challenge. There is also a considerable number of vocations that "fall" due to excessive attachment to the family and the difficulty of "cutting" the moorings in order to sail in God's will. For Pope Francis, "Falling is part of the journey. Jesus falls because he is human, because the Cross is heavy, because suffering is tiring. How many brothers fall today! But the worst thing is not falling, but that there is no one to pick you up. The drama of our world is not only the falls, but the loneliness of those who fall, and no one helps.

Prayer

Let us pray for all young people who succumb to challenges and fail to find and follow God's call for their personal fulfillment and the fulfillment of their vocation.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing



IV Station

Jesus Finds His Mother

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

“Simeon said to Mary, ‘And a sword will pierce your own soul, so that the intents of many hearts may be revealed’” (Luke 2:35).

Family and Vocation

In practical experience, the family's role is very important. How many mothers and fathers “wear out their knees” praying for the vocation of their sons and daughters! And how many fathers and mothers continue to support their sons and daughters spiritually and materially. Walking alongside those who fervently desire to follow God's will is also a mission, and in the family, it is an essential part of our Christian life. The presence of Mary as Mother of Vocations enthuses the vocational response, as she undoubtedly gave comfort to Jesus on the way of the Cross. And how many mothers and fathers weep in silence at the distance of their sons and daughters, especially missionaries who are far from home, of those who suffer persecution but who, thanks to the support of their families, remain firm in their vocation.

Prayer

Let us pray for all the fathers and mothers who closely follow the vocation of their sons and daughters, and also for those who remain adamant in supporting their sons and daughters, so that the Lord may touch their hearts.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing

V Station

Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.



Bible Text

«“On their way out, they found a man from Cyrene named Simon, whom they forced to carry the Cross of Jesus” (Mark 15:21).

Supports in Vocation

The vocational path is not easy. If, on the one hand, there is the joy of responding to God's call, the hope of fulfilling the mission that God has asked of us; We cannot deny that there are also difficult moments of loneliness, of misunderstanding, of bitterness that seem to slow down the spirit of the answer. It is then that the vocational “Cyrenians” come in, that is, those people who offer “their shoulder” to help them walk carrying the vocational Cross. These supports include: family, formators, friends, benefactors, parish communities and people who anonymously support and sustain vocations. Pope Francis invites us to reflect that “Simon of Cyrene is an ordinary man, alien to the history that is being lived, but the suffering of Jesus makes him a protagonist in the history of salvation. Jesus does not carry the cross alone; he carries it with Simon. Jesus does not say, “Suffer alone.” He asks us to bear with others, to suffer with others. Every time we help someone carry their Cross, we are walking alongside Jesus.”

Prayer

We pray to you, Lord, for all the “Cyrenians” of our vocations, so that the Lord may continue to inspire them to accompany candidates for religious life, and in the case of men, for the priestly vocation.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing



VI Station

Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

"And other women accompanied Jesus during his public life, providing for his needs." (cf. Mk 15:40; Lk 8:2-3)

Cleansing the Face in Vocation

Veronica's gesture seems insignificant, but it reflects immense love. Today, in a world that prioritizes efficiency and productivity, gestures like Veronica's, listening attentively, accompanying those who suffer, and defending the weak, attract attention. The Vocational Path is not easy; many times, sweat, effort, and tears need to be cleansed and consoled. Moments of loneliness, indifference, sadness, and suffering need to be consoled; they need people like Veronica who, in the face of those who suffer because of the consequences of their vocation, see the face of Jesus. The "Veronicas" are necessary and are an essential part of many people moving forward by responding faithfully to their vocational calling.

Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord for all men and women who, like Veronica, wipe away the tears of those who wish to serve the Lord in a specific vocation and motivate them to move forward.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing

VII Station

Jesus Falls for the Second Time



L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

"He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities. Upon him came the chastisement that gives us peace, and by his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

Relapses in Vocation

The second fall of Jesus reveals the exhaustion of the journey, the weight that seems unbearable. This fall is not only physical; It symbolizes the times humanity relapses into old mistakes. In the vocational process, there are also relapses into old patterns and ways of assuming life that cause setbacks or difficulties. There is no path without falls, but neither without the possibility of getting up together. We are called to be a community of support, to help those who fall away so that they can move forward. Not to remain in the fall, but to continue forward like Jesus to achieve our mission. We fall because our humanity is weak, because we often allow ourselves to be overcome by our weaknesses. That is why Jesus, through people around us, got up and followed. Jesus fell because the weight of sins was great, but he rose to move on.

Prayer

Let us pray for the people who help us get up when we seem to give up, and at the same time, let us pray for the people who stumble and fall in the face of difficulties.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing



VIII Station

Jesus Comforts the Women of Jerusalem

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

"Jesus turned to them and said to them, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children'" (Luke 23:28).

Consolation in Vocation

Jesus, though suffering greatly, does not focus only on his pain. He knows that his passion is not just a personal suffering, but a suffering shared by many. Suffering in vocation does not stop people from thinking only about their suffering, but also about being able to console people who suffer from their own realities. Being pastors through vocation, being pastoral caregivers leads us to know that joys and sorrows are shared. Jesus made women hopeful by his presence. Jesus takes upon himself the suffering of humanity and does so through the people who follow his call. Being sowers of hope is the call that God makes to us through the Church.

Prayer

We pray to you, Lord, for the suffering people of the world, that they may continue to find people who will give their lives to mitigate the pain of those who feel abandoned, alone, and without hope.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing

IX Station

Jesus Falls for the Third Time



L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

"He was rejected and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, who knows what it is to suffer" (Isaiah 53:3).

Be Cautious in Vocation

Jesus' call to live a particular vocation is not easy. You have to be alert and cautious to avoid falls. The third fall of Jesus is the most painful. The fatigue is extreme, the weight unbearable. How many times in our lives do we feel like we can't take it anymore? Hope is not naïve; it is believing that, with God, every fall can be a prelude to a new opportunity. Jesus, with his third setback, encourages us to continue fighting, to never give up. Jesus shows us the resilience of love. Although it seems that all is lost, Jesus does not give up. And sometimes we have to press forward in our calling, knowing that we can fall, but remembering that it is increasingly heavy to get up if we do not put our lives next to Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, we know our frailty. We recognize that we need you so that your strength drives us forward. We pray for all those who have fallen in the pursuit of their vocation and have not found the strength to get up.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing



X Station

Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,
R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

“When they came to the place called Golgotha, they gave him wine mixed with gall to drink, but he did not accept it. And when they crucified him, they divided his garments among themselves, casting lots” (Matthew 27:34-35).

Stripping Ourselves of Everything in Vocation

Nudity is a state of vulnerability and helplessness, and at the same time, it is a moment of acknowledging our life and our nature as it is. In vocation, it doesn't matter what our costume is, what is the image we project. The Lord loves us and calls us as we are. To follow it, we must strip ourselves of everything: our selfishness, our pride, our self-centered thoughts, our erroneous beliefs, our false ideas of the world, and the stereotypes and profiles that the world teaches us, which lie in the importance of the person. Jesus invites us to recognize who we are so that we can follow Him.

Prayer

Lord, help us to divest ourselves of everything that keeps us from our vocation. Grant that we may serve you in the simplicity of our lives.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
 Singing

XI Station



Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,
R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

“When they came to the place called ‘The Skull,’ they crucified Him there, with the evildoers, one on the right and one on the left” (Luke 23:33).

Ties in Vocation

When we nail something, it is to fix it so that it does not move. There are times when we have “many nails” that stop us, tie us up; We have many emotional, material, and our way of thinking ties. These ties do not allow us to move towards a free life in order to feel fulfilled. Jesus took up the Cross out of love for us. We would have to release our bonds for the love of Jesus to help those who are still “tied” to their own crosses that do not allow them to advance in all vocations.

Prayer

Lord, we ask for the strength necessary to be able to overcome our bonds and respond freely to the call that You have made to us.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
 Singing



XII Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,
R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

"Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed out his spirit. And the veil of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom" (Matthew 27:50-51).

Dying to Give Life

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24) Jesus invited us to lay down our lives in order to give life. To die in order to live, and at the same time to make life flourish. We must die to the things that do not allow us to enjoy our vocation. To die to that which does not distance us from our mission. We must know how to renounce and die to our interests, our selfishness, and our community in order to dedicate ourselves to the vocation and service of others. We cannot serve God if we do not die to what separates us from Him.

Prayer

Lord, remove from us the fear of dying to ourselves so that our new Self can serve You with a free heart.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
 Singing

XIII Station

Jesus is taken down from the Cross and placed in the Arms of His Mother.



L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,
R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

"After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a clandestine disciple of Jesus, out of fear of the Jews, asked Pilate for permission to take the corpse of Jesus. Pilate granted it. He went and took the corpse." (John 19:38)

The Virgin Mary, Mother of Vocations

There was nothing else to do. Jesus had given everything, even his life. Dejected, he had given his maximum effort and every last drop of blood. And in the solitude of death, the Virgin Mary was there, at the foot of the Cross, to receive the body of her Son. Giving one's life for others is not easy. Giving the maximum effort to be able to fulfill the mission is not easy. Tiredness, loneliness, illness, misunderstanding, criticism, abandonment, sadness, persecution are not easy; however, the figure of Mary is still there, as Mother of Vocations, to gather us in her arms, in a loving embrace, begging the Father to give us strength. She does not abandon us, just as she did not abandon her Son. Mary impels us in her strength to continue the mission.

Prayer

Mary, Mother of Vocations, we entrust our vocation to you. We ask you to intercede with God to help us fulfill our mission and not to give up in times of trial.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be
 Singing



XIV Station

Jesus Is Laid in the Sepulchre

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.

Bible Text

"Joseph of Arimathea, when he had taken down the body of Jesus, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, and then rolled a stone at the entrance of the tomb" (Mark 15:46).

The World's Apparent Triumph over Vocation

This season of passion marks the moment of apparent defeat. When one chooses a state of life in one's vocation, the world, people, family, and friends do not always react positively. There is a defeat in the parameters that the world sets for us. In vocations to the priesthood and religious life, the conditions seem to go against what society proposes, the same for marriage. And so it seems that we have been buried for choosing a permanent decision, a fidelity to God, an obedience to Jesus, and above all for choosing a chastity that in the eyes of the world is not well seen or accepted. But the tomb is the preparation for the Triumph of Jesus. It is the beginning of a new rebirth that takes place in the silence of the tomb. Jesus was not defeated; his victory is our victory.

Prayer

Lord, help us to keep walking. Help us to make the silence we need in prayer to live our vocation.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing

XV Station

The Resurrection of Jesus

L. We worship you, O Christ, and we bless you,

R. Because by your Holy Cross, you redeemed the world.



Bible Text

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He is risen!" (Luke 24:5)

The Happiness of Vocation

Dying to Live. To be able to carry out the mission that God has entrusted to us produces within us a state of happiness that only God can give us. It is not only about smiling; it is a deep happiness that is born from the heart of being able to feel that our life takes on meaning. It is a daily renewal that helps us to show the joy of the heart. It is to bring the good news of a Jesus who is alive and who transmits life to us. Our mission continues, but with the full confidence that Jesus walks with us, lives in us, died for us, and rose again so that we may have life. We walk in the light of faith and hope does not disappoint us because it comes from Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the wonderful gift of faith and for the vocation you have sown in us. Help us to always respond generously to this call you have made to us.

L. Lord, I have sinned, have mercy and mercy on me.

All: Lord, we have sinned, have mercy on us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Singing

Conclusion

We have gone through these stations and contemplated that Christ is still alive. We have discovered that the Cross does not have the last word: hope, love, and new life flow from it. Our vocation makes sense. The Jubilee of Hope invited us to be sowers of hope in a world crying out for good news. Our Christian vocation requires us to transform this prayer into commitment, this contemplation into action. May this Stations of the Cross not end here, may it lead us to discern our vocation and, if we already have it, to renew our commitment to God.



SCALABRINIAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

*Gracious God, you have blessed us
with many gifts and talents.
Grant us the wisdom to recognize them
and place them at the service
of the glory of your name.
Bless your Church with generous hearts,
inspired by the Holy Spirit,
in the likeness of the missionary zeal
of Saint John Baptist Scalabrini.
Stir within us an ardent desire
to serve your people,
especially migrants and refugees,
in priestly, religious, and lay life,
within our Scalabrinian Congregation.*

Amén.



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