

XIV. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Faith implants in hearts and minds the firm conviction that only this Love is able to conquer evil and death. Faith invites us to look toward the future with the virtue of hope, in the confident expectation that the victory of Christ's love will come to its fullness (2013).

V. Lord Jesus Crucified... **R.** Have mercy on us.

V. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI,

R. The Lord preserve him and give him life, make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

Concluding prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon thy servant Pope Benedict XVI, our Supreme Pontiff, and direct him, according to thy loving-kindness, in the way of eternal salvation; that, of thy gift, he may ever desire that which is pleasing unto thee and may accomplish it with all his might. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Stations of the Cross

For the Intentions of Our Holy Father

Reflections from Pope Benedict XVI's Lenten Messages



“Do not be surprised by the present storms.

The ship of Peter has weathered many such.”

-Bl. Charles de Foucauld

I. Jesus is Condemned to Death

Justice, in common usage implies ‘to render to every man his due’... in reality, however, this classical definition does not specify what ‘due’ is to be rendered to each person. What man needs most cannot be guaranteed to him by law. In order to live life to the full, something more intimate is necessary that can be granted only as a gift (2010).

V. Lord Jesus Crucified... **R.** Have mercy on us.

V. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI,

R. The Lord preserve him and give him life, make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies. (*aspirations after each Station*)

II. Jesus Takes Up His Cross

[New life in Christ the Lord] was already bestowed upon us on the day of our Baptism, when we ‘become sharers in Christ’s death and Resurrection’, and there began for us ‘the joyful and exulting adventure of his disciples’... Baptism is not a rite from the past, but the encounter with Christ, which transforms the entire existence of the baptized, imparting divine life and calling for sincere conversion (2011).

III. Jesus Falls the First Time

The victorious battle against temptation is an invitation to become aware of our own fragility in order to accept the Grace that frees from sin and infuses new strength in Christ—the way, the truth and the life. It is a powerful reminder that Christian faith implies, following the example of Jesus and in union with Him, a battle ‘against the ruling forces who are masters of the

darkness in this world'... Christ emerges victorious to open also our hearts to hope and guide us in overcoming the seductions of evil (2011).

V. Lord Jesus Crucified... **R.** Have mercy on us.

V. Let us pray for our Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI,

R. The Lord preserve him and give him life, make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

IV. Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

Let us entrust ourselves to the Virgin Mary, who generated the Word of God in faith and in the flesh, so that we may immerse ourselves— just as she did— in the death and resurrection of her Son Jesus, and possess eternal life (2011).

V. Simon Helps Jesus to Carry the Cross

Christian admonishment is always moved by love and mercy, and springs from genuine concern for the good of the other. It is a great service to help others and allow them to help us, so that we can be open to the whole truth about ourselves, improve our lives and walk more uprightly in the Lord's ways. There will always be a need for a gaze which loves and admonishes, which knows and understands, which discerns and forgives, as God has done and continues to do with each of us (2012).



VI. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

The question that Jesus puts to the Samaritan woman: "Give me a drink", expresses the passion of God for every man and woman, and wishes to awaken in our hearts the desire for the gift of "a spring of water within, welling up for eternal life": this is the gift of the Holy Spirit... Only this water can extinguish our thirst for goodness, truth, and beauty! (2011)

VII. Jesus Falls the Second Time

Sadly, there is always the temptation to become lukewarm, to quench the Spirit, to refuse to invest the talents we have received, for our own good and

for the good of others. All of us received spiritual or material riches meant to be used for the fulfillment of God's plan, for the good of the Church and for our personal salvation. The spiritual masters remind us that in the life of faith those who do not advance inevitably regress (2011).

VIII. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

[The word 'concerned'] introduces our exhortation to look at others, first of all at Jesus, and not to remain isolated and indifferent to the fate of our brothers and sisters. The great commandment of love for one another demands that we acknowledge our responsibility towards those who, like ourselves, are creatures and children of God (2012).

IX. Jesus Falls the Third Time

The Christian life consists in continuously scaling the mountain to meet God and then coming back down, bearing the love and strength drawn from Him, so as to serve our brothers and sisters with God's own love (2013).

X. Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

By immersing ourselves into the death and resurrection of Christ through the sacrament of Baptism, we are moved to free our hearts every day from the burden of material things, from a self-centered relationship with the 'world' that impoverishes us and prevents us from being available and open to God and our neighbor. In Christ, God revealed himself as love (2011).

XI. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

What is the justice of Christ? Above all, it is the justice that comes from grace, where it is not man who makes amends, heals himself and others. The fact that 'expiation' flows from the blood of Christ signifies that it is not man's sacrifices that free him from the weight of his faults, but the loving act of God who opens Himself in the extreme, even to the point of bearing in Himself the 'curse' due to man so as to give in return the blessing due to God (2010).

XII. Jesus Gives Up His Spirit

Before the justice of the Cross, man may rebel, for this recalls how man is not a self-sufficient being, but in need of Another in order to realize himself fully. Conversion to Christ, believing in the Gospel, ultimately means this: to exit the illusion of self-sufficiency in order to discover and accept one's own need—the need of others and God, the need of His forgiveness and His friendship (2010).



XIII. Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

The Lenten journey, in which we are invited to contemplate the Mystery of the Cross, is meant to reproduce within us 'the pattern of his death', so as to effect a deep conversion in our lives; that we may firmly orient our existence according to the will of God... opening us to the love of Christ (2011).