

DAUGHTERS OF ST. MARY
OF PROVIDENCE

**THE WAY
OF THE CROSS
WITH SISTER CLARE**

This guide contains three versions of the Way of the Cross, with biblical texts and other references to Sister Clare. These are mainly taken from the biographies of Fr. Guanella and from the writings of Sister Clare herself. Those who would like to study them further can find them in the publications edited by the Guanellian Congregations, or in the Archives of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence.

Non-commercial edition

PRESENTATION

*At the dawn of the third millennium, Pope John Paul II calls the Church to be filled with a “fresh enthusiasm” which will inspire “new energies ... in the cause of the Kingdom” (cf. *Novo Millennio ineunte*).*

But where are we to find the enthusiasm for this “new impetus in Christian living”? We need, the Pope says, to “start afresh from Christ”, in order to “show his shining face to the new generations”. We need a renewed experience of Jesus, which flows from loving contemplation of his face, the face of the Only-begotten Son of the Father, the sorrowful, bleeding face of the sacrificed Lamb, the glorious face of the risen Christ.

For us, Daughters of St. Mary of Providence who in 2001 are commemorating the tenth anniversary of the beatification of Sister Clare, the Pope’s invitation to give priority in the mission to the process of contemplation has a special resonance.

In fact, Sister Clare drew from the contemplation of the crucified Christ those inner energies that made her a missionary of life and hope among the poor and the lowly. May this little book, compiled by the juniors of the international year, help us contemplate the crucified Christ in harmony with Sister Clare, so that we too may participate

*in the interior experience which prompted her to confess:
"I often feel impelled to love God, to suffer all for him, to
spend my whole self for him".*

Ch. Justina Valicenti

Superior General

Rome, February 11, 2001
Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes

Let love of Jesus and meditation on the crucified Christ be the program of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, and conform all the actions and the life of each one to him.

Fr. Guanella

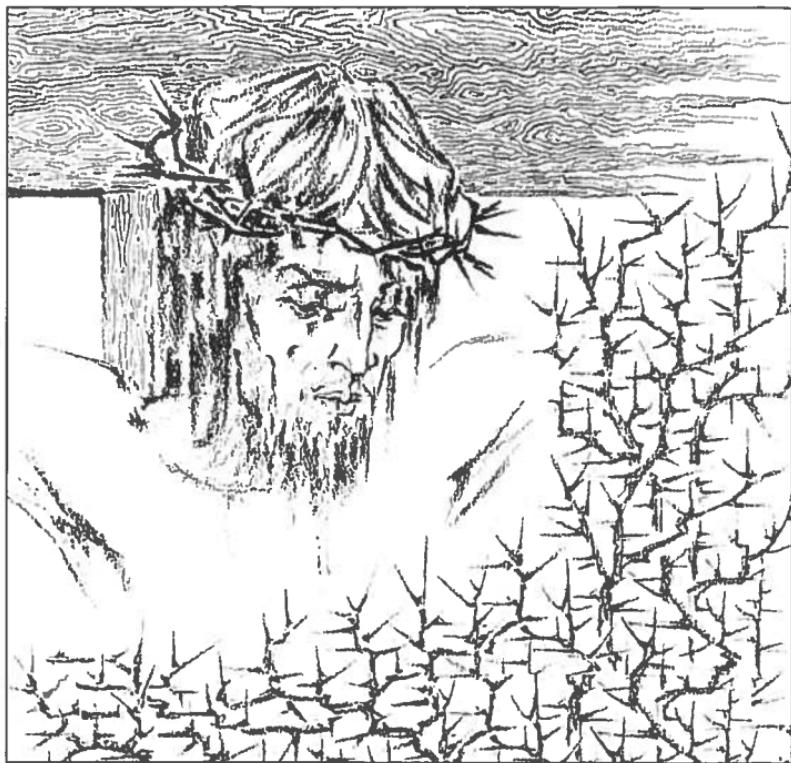
SISTER CLARE AND THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST

I have personally discovered and have particular evidence that the Servant of God Sister Clare would frequently meditate on the Passion of our Lord.

I myself found her fully absorbed in contemplation of our Lord's Passion, weeping and insisting that it was she who had crucified him; this occurred when she was already showing the first symptoms of her illness, but was not yet confined to bed and was mentally sound.

However, daily meditation on the "Way of the Cross" is established by the Rule. At every station of the "Way of the Cross", she would kiss the ground and the crucifix that she was wearing around her neck, which we all wear.... In this devout practice, Sister Clare was deeply edifying to everyone.

Sister Marcellina Bosatta



I - THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Introduction

O Jesus, in your Passion you revealed the infinite love of your Heart, pierced for our salvation.

We thank you for all you suffered for us and we offer you praise because you chose to give Sister Clare, our sister, "a heart similar to the pierced Heart of the divine Savior".

First Station

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

He was like a trustful lamb being led to the slaughter-house.

(Jr 11:19)

God led Sister Clare on the path of strong souls, a path rough and dangerous in itself, but he guided her so that she never stumbled. And she did not fall, for she surrendered with absolute docility to the hand that led her.

Blood of Christ,
spilling on the ground in his agony,

save us

Second Station

JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Jesus, carrying his own cross went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

(Jn 19:17)

Sister Clare thought to herself: "It is well known that Jesus Christ, since he is God, is essentially the King of glory and blessedness; and as man, he is the Man of Sorrows and the Prince of Martyrs; in his right hand he holds the standard of the cross and cries with powerful emotion: 'Whoever wants to follow me, let him take up his cross, put it across his shoulders, and follow me. My sufferings and joys will be your sufferings and joys, my struggles and triumphs will also be yours. But be aware that only those who have fought bravely will be crowned'. From this law, which is now general, our Lord Jesus Christ does not even exclude his own Mother, the Immaculate Virgin".

Blood of Christ,
the price of our salvation,

save us

Third Station

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

(Is 50:6).

Sister Clare meditated along these lines:

“When I but think of the Word who came down from heaven and became a man and dwelled among us, when I realize that he did this to give me an example of humility... O Holy Immaculate Virgin, you whose humility was so pleasing to God and who became the Mother of the Incarnate Word, if only a ray of your humility could be instilled in my mind!...”

Blood of Christ,
poured out on the Cross,

save us

Fourth Station

JESUS MEETS HIS HOLY MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Simeon said to Mary, his mother, 'a sword will pierce your own soul too'.

(Lk 2:34-35)

Sister Clare reflected in prayer:

"In Mary, we have the final part of Jesus Christ's testament. How good the Lord is to give us such a Mother! And how good Mary is to receive us all as her beloved children!"

Sorrowful Virgin: my troubles are few and so imperfect: but if you join them to your anguish, even my troubles will be made precious. And if, through you, I obtain that my troubles are reddened by the Blood of Jesus in the torture of his Passion, then my poor sufferings will acquire immense value, they will be worthy of God's commiseration and rewarded".

Blood of Christ,
Incarnate Word of God

save us

Fifth Station

SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took.

(1 P 2:21)

Sister Clare wrote:

“Many times I feel impelled to love God, to suffer all for him, to spend my whole self for him, my heart longs to be available to God.

If only I could be entirely consumed by suffering and by love of God! Help me, Father!...”

Blood of Christ,
peace and gentleness of heart,

save us

Sixth Station

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Without beauty, without splendor (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes.

(Is 53:2)

The Servant of God was deeply concerned to help her neighbor, especially the sick, and did not spare herself. She was all love... she was at everyone's disposal, to help everyone.

As for their sores... she wanted to offer them her own service and medication. Sister Clare loved them all as God's creatures, without distinction.

Blood of Christ,
river of mercy,

save us

Seventh Station

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

He was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins.

(Is 53:5)

Sister Clare wrote:

“I have always wanted to die; the longer I live the more this desire grows, for life is becoming ever heavier and more unbearable to me. And if the good Lord does not want it, then tell him to make me strong, constant and invincible as death and then, if he leaves me here, let him grant me to suffer everything he wants, like his own pierced heart”.

Blood of Christ,
support of the weak,

save us

Eighth Station

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children.... For if men use green wood like this, what will happen when it is dry?'

(Lk 23:28-31)

Weeping is a very exalted form of prayer. The divine Savior was often seen to weep, but never to laugh. He who despises the tears of a grieving heart is rash!... The divine Savior said: "Blessed are those who weep for their own sins and for the sins of the world; blessed are they, for they will be comforted".

Sister Clare's eyes were always brimming with tears, but they welled up in her heart in even greater abundance. However, Sister Clare's weeping was serious, the sort of weeping which the Church calls living prayer.

Blood of Christ,
comfort in weeping,

save us

Ninth Station

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Save me, God! The water is already up to my neck! I am sinking in the deepest swamp, there is no foothold; I have stepped into deep water and the waves are washing over me.

(Ps 69:1)

Sister Clare felt a deep thirst for sufferings and dived into the waters of suffering where she found further refreshment for her spirit.

Sister Clare carried in her own heart the sorrows of the Heart of Christ.

Blood of Christ,
conqueror of devils,

save us

Tenth Station

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Christ Jesus: his state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave.

(Ph 2:6-7)

Sister Clare submitted to him, holding back nothing: she no longer possessed anything of her own: she had given it all to God. Thanks to this gift of her whole self to God, the Lord liberally filled her heart with holy affection.

Blood of Christ,
hope of penitents,

save us

Eleventh Station

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

They will look on the one they have pierced.

(Zc 12:10)

In her last illness, Sister Clare turned her devout gaze to the image of the crucified Christ, which she had received when she made her profession and which she always kept by her bed, as the sweet companion and beloved comfort of her soul.

Blood of Christ,
strength of martyrs,

save us

Twelfth Station

JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

After Jesus had taken the vinegar, he said 'It is accomplished'; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit... the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.

(Jn 19:30; 32-34)

Sister Clare confided:

"I have cherished in my heart the following maxim of Blessed Alacoque who said: "Do you want to know who will penetrate deepest into the sacred room of the Heart of Jesus? The humblest and the most despised; the one who has been stripped of the most will be the one who will possess the most; the one who is most deeply humiliated will be the most caressed, the most charitable one will be the best loved; the most silent one will be the most learned; lastly, the most obedient one will have the greatest authority and the greatest power".

Blood of Christ,
comfort of the dying,

save us

Thirteenth Station

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Then a member of the council arrived, an upright and virtuous man named Joseph.... This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid.... Meanwhile the women who had come from Galilee with Jesus were following behind.

(Lk 23:50-56)

The agony of Sister Clare continued briefly, then she breathed her last serenely in the Lord. A composure, I would almost say the halo of a holy person, a virgin and martyr, remained impressed upon her face. The stream of people, one after another, exclaimed: "What beauty! She is not dead but asleep! How many blessings from heaven the beautiful soul of Sister Clare will draw down upon the Hospice and upon the whole country!".

Blood of Christ,
most worthy of all glory and honor,

save us

Fourteenth Station

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB TO AWAIT THE RESURRECTION

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'... but he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body.

(Jn 2:19-21)

Sister Clare prayed: "All for you, O Lord, I want to be yours and all yours and always yours; treat me as a slave and burden me with crosses, for I want to die crucified with Christ then rise glorious with Jesus Christ himself".

We must all believe that the Lord rewarded the trials borne by Sister Clare who, as an undaunted warrior, now rejoices all the more in heaven because of all she had to suffer here on earth.

Blood of Christ,
who frees souls from Purgatory,

save us



II - THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Introduction

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes may not be lost but have eternal life.

(Jn 3:16)

As for me, the only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.

(Ga 6:14)

First Station

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Now as Pilate was seated in the chair of judgment, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him'. The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?', they said, 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case', Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!'. Why?' he asked, 'What harm has he done?'. But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!'. (Mt 27:19-22)

Jesus, the Son of God made man, stands before Pilate, who says: "I wash my hands of him", concerned only with keeping order. This God is terribly troublesome, he puts us in a crisis by calling us to dirty our hands to serve him in our brethren, who are suffering, hungry, homeless, asking us for help.

Sister Clare says:

"How much good can I do and how many virtues can I practice, for us to be able to see the Lord and Our Lady in the poor! They are our masters. Let us see Jesus himself in the poor".

**Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.**

Second Station

JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

'Here is your King', said Pilate to the Jews. 'Take him away, take him away!', they said. 'Crucify him!'. 'Do you want me to crucify your king?', said Pilate. The chief priests answered, 'We have no king except Caesar'. So in the end Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Then they took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha....

(Jn 19:14-17)

Jesus was made to carry the Cross. He came to share, to participate in and to take upon himself human suffering: he took everything upon his own shoulders.

Sister Clare says:

"The Lord suffered so much for me, yet I am not good enough to be bearable! Let us bear something here on earth to compensate the Lord for our sins".

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Third Station

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, a man to make people screen their faces; he was despised and we took no account of him. And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried. But we, we thought of him as someone punished, struck by God and brought low.

(Is 53:3-4)

Jesus is not ashamed to fall under the weight of the Cross. Our sins wore him out and broke him down. He did not want to use his divine power to avoid suffering and death; he chose to love man to the very end, and paid the price for it.

Sister Clare says:

"Let us offer God these sacrifices, so that he may illumine poor sinners. Let us pray for their conversion. My heart cannot bear to see him suffering and me remaining cold, indifferent and so reluctant to suffer!".

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Fourth Station

JESUS MEETS HIS HOLY MOTHER

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son'. Then to the disciple he said, 'this is your mother'. And from that time the disciple made a place for her in his home.

(Jn 19:25-27)

Jesus meets his Mother, who reassures him with her "yes", ready for everything for our salvation. Help us, Mary, to return to the Lord, to surrender to his love that never humiliates anyone.

Sister Clare says:

"In Mary we have the final part of the testament of Jesus Christ. How good the Lord is to give us such a Mother, and how good Mary is to accept us all as her children! Be devoted to Our Lady who is Mother to us. Our Lady is more human than our own mothers".

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Fifth Station

SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

As they were taking him away, they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus.

(Lk 23:26)

Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the cross of Jesus: is there someone who can go to the trouble of bearing the burden of the wretchedness of a brother or sister whom she meets on the street? That is also the Cross that Jesus is carrying.

Sister Clare says:

"If I am permitted, I am prepared to make a sacrifice of my life to God and may he teach me to make it a generous and total one. I feel impelled to love God, to suffer all for him, to spend my whole self for him.

**Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.**

Sixth Station

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes; a thing despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering....

(Is 53:2-3)

A woman wipes the face of Jesus, so disfigured as no longer to seem a man. The face of Jesus is imprinted in the face of every suffering person, who is waiting for the sign of our kindness in understanding his suffering.

Sister Clare says:

"I will love everyone and I will do all the good that I can. The sick are suffering members, they are brothers and sisters, they are God's creatures. How urgently we need to help them!"

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Seventh Station

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

*We had all gone astray like sheep, each taking his own way,
and Yahweh burdened him with the sins of all of us.*

(Is 53:6)

It is not only sin that makes the Cross of Jesus heavy; the disappointment of seeing how stubbornly we cling to evil also weighs him down and crushes him. He does not want to resign himself to losing us, with his love he wants us all to be saved.

Sister Clare says:

"Burden me with crosses and have me crucified with you, O Lord. Hundreds and thousands of martyrdoms and a thousand deaths, but not a single sin. A hundred, a thousand crosses, but no sin, not even a venial sin".

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Eighth Station

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children'.

(Lk 23:27)

The women of Jerusalem wept for Jesus. No one is more disgusting than someone who is inured to the suffering of others and will not share the sorrow of his brothers and sisters by depriving himself of something in order to help others.

Sister Clare says:

"I do not know how I can be allowed to remain on earth, I am so great a sinner! Whatever could the Lord want from me? We are good for nothing, only sins. If we do something good, let us give thanks to God".

**Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.**

Ninth Station

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly, he never opened his mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughter-house, like a sheep that is dumb before its shearers never opening its mouth.

(Is 53:7)

Jesus fell the third time under the Cross, because he took upon himself the world's sin and it crushed him.

Sister Clare says:

"How people trample upon God! Let us make reparation, let us take upon our shoulders all the sins of the world! If we could but join forces to achieve the conversion of sinners and avert the punishments of God!".

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Tenth Station

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

When the soldiers had finished crucifying Jesus they took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. His undergarment was seamless, woven in one piece from neck to hem; so they said to one another, 'Instead of tearing it, let's throw dice to decide who is to have it'. In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled: They shared out my clothing among them. They cast lots for my clothes.

(Jn 19:23-24)

Hatred humiliated him, it killed him, but it did not prevent him from dying for love of us and to save us from hell.

Sister Clare says:

"Lord, give me that grace, convert that sinner and I will give you four or six years of life, of suffering, as many as you like, with the help of your grace. Lord, present me to your saints as a trophy of your mercy".

**Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.**

Eleventh Station

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

They then took charge of Jesus, and carrying his own cross he went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote out a notice and had it fixed to the cross; it ran: 'Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews'.

(Jn 19:17-19)

Jesus is nailed to the cross, yet he continues to walk all the world's highways, seeking those who are lost. His hands are nailed, but he embraces everyone in a gesture of boundless mercy. Let us be reconciled with God!

Sister Clare says:

"It was I who did all that! I crucified him with my sins and it is my fault that he is on the Cross. I crowned him with thorns and had him scourged. I see it, I see it! It was I, forgive me. Mercy, my God! I am a sinner but I am your daughter, save me. Save the soul you have redeemed with your blood".

**Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.**

Twelfth Station

JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

After Jesus had taken the vinegar, he said 'It is accomplished'; and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

(Jn 19:30)

While Jesus was dying, he cried: "It is accomplished". In this way: he overcame the devil, he conquered death, and he broke down our last resistance.

Sister Clare says:

"We pray that the Lord will soon take us up, for this world is not our place; this is an earth of mud and sin. I am firm and determined in my desire to detach myself from it all: from my pride, from my presumption, from all things, and to follow God's voice faithfully. To suffer or to die!".

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Thirteenth Station

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus – though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews – asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well – the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time – and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

(Jn 19:38-39)

Jesus was taken down from the Cross and laid in the arms of Mary his Mother, who felt her heart pierced by a sword. On Calvary she reached the peaks of suffering, to become the mother of us all.

Sister Clare says:

“Sorrowful Virgin, my troubles are few and so imperfect, but if you join them to your anguish, even my troubles will be made precious. Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, make us holy. Dear Mary, Mother of my Lord, make me a lover of his Sacred Heart!”.

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Fourteenth Station

JESUS IS BURIED

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom.... Since it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and the tomb was near at hand, they laid Jesus there.

(Jn 19:40, 42)

Jesus was laid in the tomb. He had wanted to be vanquished for love, to become poor to make us rich, to disappear to be present, to be hidden to become the light and life of the world.

Sister Clare says:

“Enable me to accomplish much in a short time, to earn heaven quickly. Here suffering is short, up there, joy lasts for ever. If I only I could go to heaven! My dearest good Jesus, make me holy and take me up there. Let us do good, if we want to attain eternal salvation”.

Through your painful Passion,

have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.

Fifteenth Station

JESUS HAS RISEN

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

There is no need for alarm. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: he has risen, he is not here.
(Mk 16:6)

The paschal mystery of Christ and our own culminates in the victory of the Resurrection.

If we die with him, we are raised with him and with him we will reign. If we are frightened by our weakness, we are comforted by the certainty of his mercy, ever faithful.

Sister Clare says:

“What happiness, I see the Lord! How beautiful heaven is! I am dying of happiness! How beautiful it is to die and to fly to heaven!”.

Through your painful Passion,
have mercy upon us and upon the whole world.



III - THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Introduction

We want to take the way of Calvary, the way of the Cross, the way of love consumed to the ultimate sacrifice, and to follow Jesus who embraces the Cross, not by force, but to offer his life for our salvation.

Let us take this way together with blessed Clare Bosatta, who knew how to give the whole of her short life the character of a generous and ever more total offering to God and her brethren, fulfilling herself in the fullness of following Christ.

Our Sister, Sister Clare, affectionate, humble handmaid of the Lord, pray for us who, like you, want to take the divine path of love, following in the footsteps of the crucified and risen Christ.

May it give us joy to follow you on the arduous way of holiness.

First Station

"BE AWAKE AND PRAYING NOT TO BE PUT TO THE TEST"

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Jesus said to them, 'My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and keep awake with me'... You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak'.

(Mt 26:38-39; 41)

For Sister Clare, prayer was a need for the soul which she felt more acutely than the need to eat or to rest her body. She would often say: "You see, just as little ones need their mother, we need to run frequently to the Lord".

Heart of Jesus, obedient unto death, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus, patient and merciful, **have mercy on us**

Second Station

“HE HANDED HIM OVER TO BE CRUCIFIED”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Pilate then said to Jesus, ‘Are you refusing to speak to me? Surely you know I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you?’. ‘You would have no power over me’, replied Jesus, ‘if it had not been given you from above’... So in the end Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

(Jn 19:10-11, 16)

Fr. Guanella had said: “To do good it is necessary to climb Calvary”, and this is how a witness spoke of Sister Clare: “I know that the Servant of God, however timid by nature, courageously abandoned herself in the Lord’s hands, saying: ‘We are completely in his hands’. I never saw her disconcerted, nor did I ever hear her complain, she was always the same, even in the midst of the harshest trials”.

Heart of Jesus, victim of sinners,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, shrine of justice,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, full of kindness and love,

have mercy on us

Third Station

“IF ANYONE WANTS TO BE A FOLLOWER OF MINE, LET HIM TAKE UP HIS CROSS...”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it'.

(Mt 16:24-25)

The more difficulties and troubles Sister Clare was obliged to bear, the more tightly she clung to the Lord and loved and thanked him, for he was allowing her to share his cup. She wrote these words: “I promise always to meditate on the life and actions of Jesus Christ, always to act conforming to his example, and always to receive gladly whatever he disposes for me”.

Heart of Jesus,

salvation of those who hope in you,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus,

hope of those who die in you,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints,

have mercy on us

Fourth Station

“THIS IS YOUR MOTHER”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, ‘Woman, this is your son’. Then to the disciple he said, ‘This is your mother’.

(Jn 19:26)

Sister Clare had deep love for Mary; in the Sorrowful Virgin she saw the perfect model of a disciple of Christ, and this is how she prayed to her: “Sorrowful Virgin, my troubles are few and so imperfect: but if you join them to your anguish, even my troubles will be made precious, and if through you, I obtain that my troubles are reddened with Christ’s blood in the torture of his Passion, then my poor sorrows will acquire immense value and will be worthy of God’s commiseration and reward”.

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy

Spirit in the Virgin Mary’s womb,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus,

eternal Son of the Father,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, house of God

and door of heaven,

have mercy on us

Fifth Station

“YOU DID IT TO ME”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross.

‘Insofar as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me’.

(Mk 15:21; Mt 25:40)

Sister Clare lived true charity; she let the poor person lie down in her own heart, to help him.

This is what she proposed to do:

“I will treat my sisters with great charity, I will always willingly lend a hand with anything they ask me to do, I will sympathize with their faults....

I will love everyone and I will do to everyone all the good that I can”.

Heart of Jesus,

source of life and holiness,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, abyss of all the virtues,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus,

generous to those who call upon you,

have mercy on us

Sixth Station

**“WITHOUT BEAUTY, WITHOUT MAJESTY,
NO LOOKS TO ATTRACT OUR EYES”**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Like a sapling he grew up in front of us, like a root in arid ground. Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes.

(Is 53:2)

Sister Clare wrote to Fr. Guanella:

“I feel like loving God, like diving into him and swimming in his sweetest heart... And then I see the Lord suffering and disfigured by all the events of his most painful Passion...”.

Heart of Jesus,
blazing furnace of love, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus,
shrine of justice and love, **have mercy on us**
Heart of Jesus,
filled with goodness and love, **have mercy on us**

Seventh Station

“OURS WERE THE SUFFERINGS HE BORE”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried. But we, we thought of him as someone punished, struck by God, and brought low.

(Is 53:4)

Sister Clare wrote to her confessor:

“I beg you, out of love, not to be concerned about my destiny but to humiliate me, to punish me, to put me last, so that I will be able to destroy my self-love and pride, the cause of so many of my sufferings”.

Heart of Jesus, from whose fullness
we have all received,
Heart of Jesus, which contains
the fullness of the divine,
Heart of Jesus, victim of sinners,

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

Eighth Station

“DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM, DO NOT WEEP FOR ME”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Large numbers of people followed him, and of women too, who mourned and lamented for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children’.

(Lk 23:27-28)

Fr. Guanella writes:

“Weeping is a most exalted form of prayer. Rash is he who despises the tears of a grieving heart!... The divine Savior said: ‘Blessed are those who weep for their sins and for the sins of the world; blessed are they because they will be comforted’. Sister Clare’s eyes were always brimming with tears, but they welled up in her heart in even greater abundance. Sister Clare’s weeping was the sort of weeping which the Church calls true prayer”.

Heart of Jesus,

source of life and holiness,

Heart of Jesus,

source of all consolation,

Heart of Jesus,

which has taken away our sins,

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

Ninth Station

"HE LEARNED TO OBEY THROUGH SUFFERING"

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Although he was Son, he learned to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation and was acclaimed by God with the title of high priest of the order of Melchizedek.
(Heb 5:8-10)

For Sister Clare, obedience was the basic track on which she could run safely... it was the threshold of grace which from time to time the Lord deigned to give her.

Sister Clare confesses:

"There was a day when the Convent of Gravedona wanted to take me; I should have liked to go there... I obeyed in not going, and from that moment the things that happen every day began in me ... what joy!".

Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us

Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us

Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us

Tenth Station

“THEY STRIPPED HIM AND MADE HIM WEAR A SCARLET CLOAK”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak.... And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

(Mt 27:27-28, 31)

Sister Clare submitted to him, holding back nothing: she no longer possessed anything of her own: she had given it all to God. Thanks to this gift of her whole self to God, the Lord liberally filled her heart with holy affection.

In her resolutions for the spiritual exercises of 1884, she writes:

“Absolute detachment from all things... absolute detachment from all people. I will love everyone, I will do to everyone all the good I can, but only for love of God”.

Heart of Jesus,	
salvation of all who hope in you,	have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus,	
hope of all who die in you,	have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty,	have mercy on us

Eleventh Station

“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM...”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Jesus said: ‘Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing’.

(Lk 23:34)

Sister Clare said:

“Let us offer sacrifices to God, so that he will enlighten sinners. Let them speak, do not listen to them and do not criticize them, because they do not know what they are doing.

Let us do good, if we want to attain eternal salvation”.

Heart of Jesus, pierced by a spear,
Heart of Jesus,
who has taken away our sins,
Heart of Jesus,
our peace and reconciliation,

have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us

Twelfth Station

**“FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT
MY SPIRIT...”**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

It was now about the sixth hour and, with the sun eclipsed, a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Temple was torn right down the middle; and when Jesus had cried out in a loud voice, he said, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit’. With these words he breathed his last.

(Lk 23:44-46)

On the day when she was clothed as a religious, Sister Clare prayed:

“Here I am then, O Jesus my Bridegroom, all yours, since you so desire, belonging entirely to your most loving Heart, entirely abandoned in your most holy hands, so that you may do with me and dispose of me as you please. All I ask you for and desire is your holy love, perseverance to the end and the perfect fulfillment of your most holy will”.

Heart of Jesus,

hope of those who die in you,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, tortured by our sins,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,

have mercy on us

Thirteenth Station

“ONE OF THE SOLDIERS PIERCED HIS SIDE”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water.

(Jn 19:32-34)

Sister Clare prayed:

“Most holy heart of my Jesus, deign to imbue and to enrich my poor heart with these beautiful virtues which I now ask of you: that I may always be obedient, humble, respectful, docile, charitable, gentle, patient, modest, collected, mortified, virtuous, fervent, pure in mind and in heart, desirous of doing good to everyone. Lastly, the grace of always being able to love you with an ardent love”.

Heart of Jesus,
source of all consolation,
Heart of Jesus, which contains
the fullness of the divine,
Heart of Jesus,
king and center of all hearts,

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

Fourteenth Station

“HE PUT HIM IN A TOMB”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

Joseph of Arimathaea went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He then took it down, wrapped it in a shroud and put him in a tomb which was hewn in stone in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day and the sabbath was imminent..

(Lk 23:52-54)

Sister Marcellina and Sister Clare prayed:

“My God, you created me for yourself alone, only for you. I would like, my God, to have a thousand lives to offer myself as a sacrifice and holocaust... but I have only one life and I offer it to you as a victim of reparation and expiation for so many sins”.

Heart of Jesus, united in substance

with the Word of God,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus,

hope of all who die in you,

have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus,

Son of the eternal Father,

have mercy on us

Fifteenth Station

“HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN”

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because with your holy Cross you redeemed the world.

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, they went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, but on entering discovered that the body of the Lord Jesus was not there... Two men, in brilliant clothes suddenly appeared at their side. Terrified, the women lowered their eyes. But the two men said to them, ‘Why look among the dead for someone who is alive? He is not here; he has risen’.

(Lk 24:1; 6)

Sister Marcellina left these words to us in writing about Sister Clare's death:

“She began to exclaim, ‘here comes Jesus... we are going to heaven... I see him, oh! How beautiful he is!’”.

Let us pray

Jesus, who with your love continually presented your life to the Father as a sacrifice for the salvation of humanity, help us to make our lives a living offering, united with yours.

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