



Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church

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Dear Friend,

“That was so powerful! Sister, that felt so real!” Such were the responses one of our Sisters heard from students at the conclusion of a prayerful remembrance of the Stations of the Cross. For centuries, Christians have experienced the emotional and spiritual intensity of the Stations of the Cross, the beloved devotion that has moved hearts and transformed lives.

Sister Mark learned to know and love the Stations of the Cross from her childhood, as she accompanied her mother on her daily walk with Jesus during Lent. Now, 61 years a Sister, Sister Mark shares: “Reflecting on the beginning of my devotion to the Way of the Cross, I see the finger of God directing me through this great act of love. From age eleven to the present, the *Via Dolorosa* has guided and transformed my relationship with Jesus and His Mother.”

In the Stations of the Cross, sometimes called The Way of the Cross or the *Via Dolorosa*, through prayers and reflections, we accompany Jesus during His final journey on earth. As we contemplate the last hours in the life of Our Lord, we are reminded of the great price He paid in love for our salvation. In uniting our suffering to His, we receive the courage to face the pains and challenges of our own lives. The Stations of the Cross teach us to understand our sorrows in the light of Jesus’ Passion and Death, and to remember that He walks with us in our journey to the Resurrection.

Friend, this Lent we invite you to journey with the Sisters of Charity on the road to the Resurrection. We offer you a very special gift, the enclosed **MY TREASURED STATIONS OF THE CROSS PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS**, to help you remember in love the suffering and death of Jesus, leading to His glorious Resurrection. By focusing your heart and mind on the love with which Jesus gave His life for you, you are invited to deepen your love for Him. In these meditations you will encounter Jesus in the light of your own trials and sufferings, and so find the strength you need to bear the burden of your own crosses.

From our meditations on the Stations of the Cross, we Sisters of Charity find the strength to help others carry their burdens. In our ministries we walk with many who, like Jesus, have been stripped of their dignity and been beaten down by the challenges of life.

Can we count on you to help us bring hope to the poor we serve in our Homeless Shelter and Food Pantry, the elderly in our healthcare facilities, the children in our schools, our own dear elder and infirm Sisters and our young Sisters preparing for ministry? **Friend, your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or your most generous gift will truly lighten the burdens of those struggling under the heavy weight of their crosses.**



YOU and your loved ones are remembered in the prayers of Sister Mark and all our Sisters as they pray the Stations of the Cross.

The MY TREASURED STATIONS OF THE CROSS PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS booklet was prepared especially for you by the Sisters of Charity. In it, we also share with you images of the beautiful Stations of the Cross located in our Motherhouse Chapel. As you pray these meditations gaze intently upon the images. Try to experience the intensity of each Station, and let Jesus teach you how to carry the cross of the sufferings of your life.

When you are insulted and judged unjustly, let Jesus, standing before Pilate, teach you how to respond. When your sins and failings press upon you and you fall repeatedly, let Jesus, who fell many times, give you the courage to get up again. When, like Jesus, you are stripped of your dignity and humiliated, let Him strengthen you to continue on in His love. Suffering, in whatever way it comes to us, is an inevitable part of life. We can't avoid it, but we can learn from Jesus how to transform it through love.



YOU bring hope to the children in our Homeless Shelter. Sister Lucette shares with you their sincere gratitude.



In Mary, Mother of the Church,
Mother Mary David, SCMC
Mother Mary David, SCMC
Superior General



YOU help provide for the needs of Sister Stella Maria and all our elder Sisters. They send you their heartfelt thanks.

This Lent, pray the Stations of the Cross with deep faith, devotion and love, especially on the Fridays of Lent when we remember and give thanks for the great gift of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Sisters too will be praying the Stations every Friday during Lent. We will be united with you in this great prayer as together we give thanks to Jesus who loved us so much that He took our sins upon Himself. **Please share with us your needs and petitions on the enclosed reply card.** We will carry you in our hearts as we pray for your intentions. Please pray for us.

P.S. We hope our special gift to you of MY TREASURED STATIONS OF THE CROSS PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS booklet will help you know the power of the love of Jesus which turns our sufferings, pains and humiliations into healing, strength and new life. And, **in your goodness, we ask you to help us bring hope to those we serve in our ministries who, like Jesus, have been stripped of their dignity and beaten down by the challenges of life.** Please help us with your most generous gift today. Thank you and God bless you.



SCAN TO
SHARE WITH US
YOUR PRAYER NEEDS.