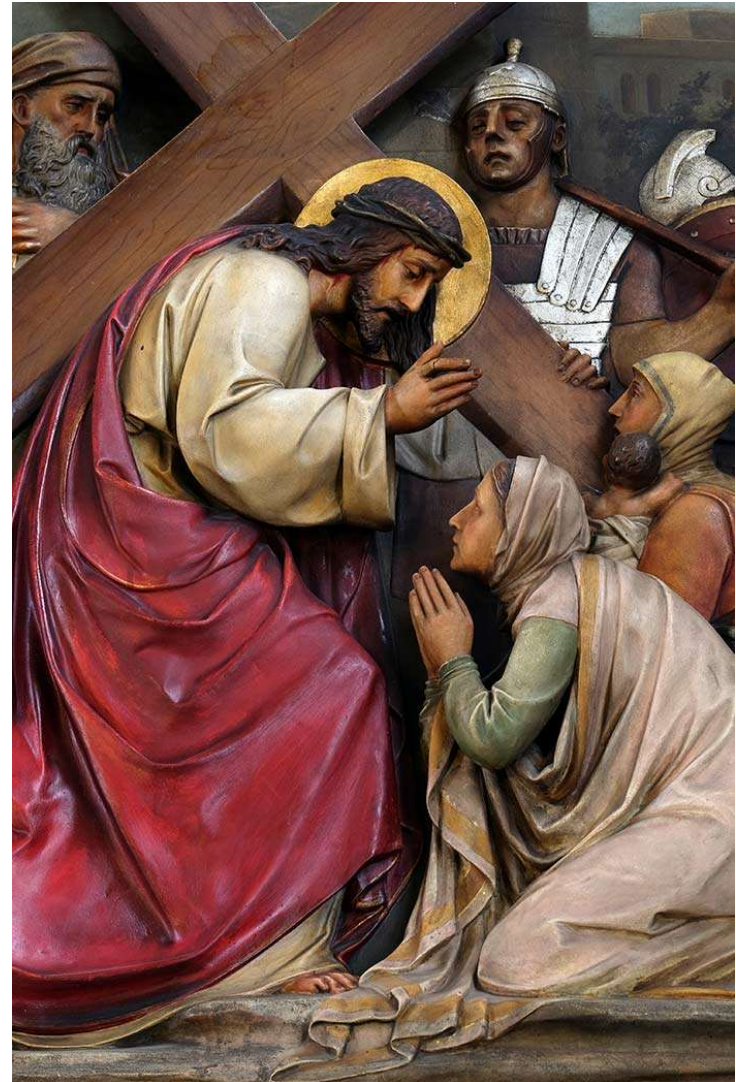


# Everyman's Way of the Cross



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## Introduction.

*Christ speaks:*

*These fourteen steps that you are now about to walk you do not take alone.*

*I walk with you. Though you are you, and I am I, yet we truly are truly one—one Christ.*

*And therefore, my way of the cross two thousand years ago and your 'way' now are also one.*

*But note this difference. My life was incomplete until I crowned it by My death. Your fourteen steps will only be complete when you have crowned them by your life.*

## Conclusion.

*Christ speaks:*

*I told you at the start, my other self, my life was not complete until I crowned it by My death. Your 'way' is not complete unless you crown it by your life.*

*Accept each moment as it comes to you, with faith and trust that all that happens has My mark on it.*

*A simple **fiat**, this is all it takes; a breathing in your heart, 'I will it, Lord.'*

*So, seek Me not in far-off places. I am close at hand. Your workbench, office, kitchen, these are altars where you offer love. And I am with you there.*

*Go now! Take up your cross and with your life complete your way.*

BY THE CROSS MY VIGIL KEEPING  
I WOULD SPEND THOSE HOURS WEeping  
QUEEN OF SORROWS AT THY SIDE

**FOURTEENTH STATION**  
**JESUS IS BURIED**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the World*

***Christ speaks:***

*So ends My mortal life. But now another life begins for  
Mary, and for Magdalen, for Peter and for John, and you.*

*My work as man is done. My work within and through My  
Church must now commence. I look to you, My other self.  
Day in, day out, from this time forth, be My apostle—  
victim—saint.*

***Man replies:***

*My Jesus, Lord, you know my spirit is as willing as my flesh is  
weak.*

*The teaching You could not impart, the sufferings You could  
not bear, the works of love You could not do in Your short life  
on earth, let me impart, and bear, and do through You.*

*But I am nothing, Lord. Help me!*

***Kneel:*** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.



BY THE CROSS HER VIGIL KEEPING STANDS THE QUEEN OF  
SORROWS WHILE WEeping WHILE HER SON IN TORMENT  
HANGS

**FIRST STATION  
JESUS IS CONDEMNED**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

**Christ speaks:**

*In Pilate's hands, my other self, I see My Father's will.  
Though Pilate is unjust, he is the lawful governor, and he  
has power over Me.*

*And so, the Son of God obeys a son of man.*

*If I can bow to Pilate's rule because this is My Father's will,  
can you refuse obedience to those whom I place over you?*

**Man replies:**

*My Jesus, Lord, obedience cost You Your life. For me it  
costs an act of will—no more—and yet how hard it is for  
me to bend.*

*Remove the blinders from my eyes that I may see that it  
is You whom I obey in all who govern me. Lord, it is You.*

**Kneel:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

TILL LIFE FAILS I WOULD NOT FAIL HIM  
STILL REMEMBER, STILL BEEWAIL HIM  
BORN THY SON AND CRUCIFIED

**THIRTEENTH STATION  
JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

**Christ speaks:**

*The sacrifice is done. Yes, My Mass is complete; but not My  
mother's and not yours, My other self. My mother still must  
cradle in her arms the lifeless body of the Son she bore. You,  
too, must part from those you love, and grief will come to  
you.*

*In your bereavements think of this: a multitude of souls were  
saved by Mary's sharing in My Calvary. Your grief can also  
be the price of souls*

**Man replies:**

*I beg You, Lord, help me accept the partings that must  
come—from friends who go away, my children leaving  
home, and most of all, my dear ones when You shall call  
them to Yourself.*

*Then, give me grace to say: 'As it has pleased You, Lord, to  
take them home, I bow to Your most holy will. And if by just  
one word I might restore their lives against Your will, I  
would not speak.' Grant them eternal joy*

**Kneel:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be



NOW SHE FEELS – O HEART AFFLICTED  
BY THE SWORD OF OLD PREDICTED  
MORE THAN ALL A MOTHER’S PANGS

**SECOND STATION  
JESUS TAKES HIS CROSS**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

***Christ speaks:***

*This cross, this chunk of tree, is what My Father chose for Me. The crosses you must bear are largely products of your daily life. And yet My Father chose them, too, for you.*

*Receive them from His hands. Take heart, my other self, I will not let your burdens grow one ounce too heavy for your strength.*

***Man Replies:***

*My Jesus, Lord, I take my daily cross. I welcome the monotony that often marks my day, discomforts of all kinds, the summer’s heat, the winter’s cold, my disappointments, tensions, setbacks, cares.*

*Remind me often that in carrying my cross, I carry Yours with You. And though I bear a sliver only of Your cross, you carry all of mine, except a sliver, in return.*

***Kneel:*** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

SAD AND HEAVY STANDS BESIDE HIM  
SHE WHO ONCE HAD MAGNIFIED HIM  
ONE BEGOTTEN, ONLY BORN

**THIRD STATION  
JESUS FALLS**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

**Christ speaks:**

*The God who made the universe, and holds it in existence  
by His will alone, becomes as man, too weak to bear a piece  
of timber's weight.*

*How human in His weakness is the Son of Man. My Father  
willed it thus. I could not be your model otherwise. If you  
would be My other self, you also must accept without  
complaint your human frailties.*

**Man replies:**

*Lord Jesus, how can I refuse? I willingly accept my  
weaknesses, my irritations and my moods, my headaches and  
fatigue, all my defects of body, mind, and soul.*

*Because they are Your will for me, these 'handicaps', of my  
humanity, I gladly suffer them. Make me content with all my  
discontents but give me strength to struggle after You.*

**Kneel:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

LOVE EXCEEDING HANGS THERE BLEEDING  
MY CAUSE PLEADING MY LOVE NEEDING  
BID HIM SHARE HIS CROSS WITH ME

**TWELFTH STATION  
JESUS DIES**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

**Christ speaks:**

*The cross becomes a pulpit now— 'Forgive them, Father...You  
will be with Me in Paradise...There is your  
mother...There...your...son...I thirst...It is complete.'*

*To speak I have to Praise Myself by pressing on My wrists and  
feet, and every move engulfs Me in new waves of agony. And  
then, when I have borne enough, have emptied My humanity,  
I let My mortal life depart*

**Man replies:**

*My Jesus, God, what can I say or do? I offer You my death  
with all its pains, accepting now the time and kind of death  
in store for me. Not by a single instant would I lengthen my  
life's span.*

*I offer You my death for my own sins and those of all my  
fellowmen. My God! My God! Forsake us not. We know not  
what we do.*

**Kneel:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

MOTHER IF MY PRAYER BE GRANTED  
THOSE FIVE WOUNDS OF HIS IMPLANTED  
IN MY BREAST I FAIN WOULD SEE

**ELEVENTH STATION  
JESUS IS CRUCIFIED**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

**Christ speaks:**

*Can you imagine what a crucifixion is? My executioners stretch My arms; they hold My hand and wrist against the wood and press the nail until it stabs My flesh. Then with one heavy hammer smash they drive it through—and pain bursts like a bomb of fire in My brain.*

*They seize the other arm; and agony again explodes. Then raising up My knees so that My feet are flat against the wood, they hammer them fast, too.*

**Man replies:**

*My God, I look at You and think: is my soul worth this much?  
What can I give You in return?*

*I here and now accept for all my life whatever sickness, torment, agony may come. To every cross I touch my lips. O blessed cross that lets me be—with You—a co-redeemer of my fellowmen.*

**Kneel:** *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

WHILE SHES THAT RICH ATONING  
LONG THE MOANING DEEP THE GROANING OF HER  
MOTHER HEART FORLORN

**FOURTH STATION  
JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

**Christ speaks:**

*My Mother sees Me whipped. She sees Me kicked and driven like a beast. She counts My every wound. But though her soul cries out in agony, no protest or complaint escapes her lips or even enters on her thoughts. She shares My martyrdom—and I share hers. We hide no pain, no sorrow, from each other's eyes. This is My Father's will*

**Man replies:**

*My Jesus, Lord, I know what You are telling me. To watch the pain of those we love is harder than to bear our own.*

*To carry my cross after You, I, too, must stand and watch the sufferings of my dear ones; the heartaches, sicknesses and grief of those I love.*

*And I must let them watch mine, too. I do believe—for those who love You all things work together unto well. They must!*

**Kneel:** *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

WHO CHRIST'S MOTHER CONTEMPLATING  
IN SUCH BITTER ANGUISH WAITING  
HAS NO HUMAN TEARS TO SHED?

**FIFTH STATION  
SIMON HELPS JESUS**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

***Christ speaks:***

*My strength is gone; I can no longer bear the cross alone.  
And so, the legionnaires make Simon give Me aid.*

*This Simon is like you, My other self.*

*Give Me your strength.*

*Each time you lift some burden from another's back, you lift  
as with your very hand the cross's awful weight that crushes  
Me.*

***Man replies:***

*Lord, make me realize that every time I wipe a dish, pick up  
an object off the floor, assist a child in some small task, or  
give another preference in traffic or the store; each time I  
feed the hungry, clothe the ignorant, or lend my hand in any  
way—it matters not to whom—my name is Simon. And the  
kindness I extend to them I really give to You.*

***Kneel:*** *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

LOVE DIVINE WITHIN ME BURNING  
THAT DIVINER LOVE RETURNING  
MAY THY SON THIS HEART ACCEPT

**TENTH STATION  
JESUS IS STRIPPED**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

***Christ speaks:***

*Behold, my other self, the poorest King who ever lived. Before  
My creatures I stand stripped. The cross—My deathbed—even  
this is not My own.*

*Yet who has ever been so rich? Possessing nothing, I own all—  
My Father's love. If you, too, would own everything, be not  
solicitous about your food, your clothes, your life*

***Man replies:***

*My Lord, I offer You my all—whatever I possess, and more,  
myself.*

*Detach me from the craving for prestige, position, wealth.  
Root out of me all trace of envy of my neighbour who has  
more than I. Release me from the vice of pride, my longing  
to exalt myself, and lead me to the lowest place.*

*May I be poor in spirit, Lord, so that I can be rich in You*

***Kneel:*** *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

MOTHER, FOUNT WHENCE LOVE FLOWS TRUEST  
LET ME KNOW THE PAIN THOUGH KNEWEST  
LET ME WEEP AS THOU HAS WEPT

**NINTH STATION  
THE THIRD FALL**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

***Christ speaks:***

*Completely drained of strength I lie, collapsed, upon the  
cobblestones. My body cannot move. No blows, no kicks, can  
rouse it up.*

*And yet My will is Mine. And so is yours. Know this, my other  
self, your body may be broken, but no force on earth and  
none in hell can take away your will. Your will is yours.*

***Man replies:***

*My Lord, I see You take a moment's rest then rise and  
stagger on. So, I can do because my will is mine.*

*When all my strength is gone and guilt and self-reproach  
press me to earth and seem to hold me fast, protect me  
from the sin of Judas—save me from despair! Lord, never let  
me feel that any sin of mine is greater than Your love.  
No matter what my past has been I can begin anew.*

***Kneel: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be***

WHO WOULD LEAVE CHRIST'S MOTHER SHARING  
ALL THE PAIN HER SON IS BEARING  
BY THOSE TEARS UNCOMFORTED?

**SIXTH STATION  
VERONICA HELPS JESUS**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

***Christ speaks:***

*Can you be brave enough, my other self, to wipe My bloody  
face?*

*Where is My face, you ask?*

*At home whenever eyes fill up with tears, at work when  
tensions rise, on playgrounds, in the slums, the courts, the  
hospitals, the jails—wherever suffering exists—My face is  
there. And there I look for you to wipe away My blood and  
tears.*

***Man replies:***

*Lord, what You ask is hard. It calls for courage and  
self-sacrifice, and I am weak. Please, give me strength.  
Don't let me run away because of fear.*

*Lord, live in me and act in me and love in me. And not in me  
alone—in all men—so that we may reveal no more Your  
bloody but your glorious face on earth.*

***Kneel: Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be***

VICTIM–PRIEST OF JEWRY’S NATION  
THERE HE HANGS IN EXPIATION  
SCOURGE AND NAIL HAD THEIR WILL

**SEVENTH STATION  
JESUS FALLS AGAIN**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

***Christ speaks:***

*This seventh step, My other self, is one that tests your will.  
From this fall learn to persevere in doing good.*

*The time will come when all your efforts seem to fail and you  
will think, ‘I can’t go on.’*

*Then turn to Me, my heavy-laden one, and I will give you rest.  
Trust Me and carry on.*

***Man replies:***

*Give me Your courage, Lord. When failure presses heavily on  
me and I am desolate, stretch out Your hand to lift me up. I  
know I must not cease but persevere in doing good.*

*But help me, Lord. Alone there’s nothing I can do. With You,  
I can do anything You ask. I will.*

***Kneel:*** *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

EARTH AND HEAVEN HIS CAUSE FORSAKING  
NOW HIS NOBLE HEART IS BREAKING  
NOW THE LABOURING BREATH IS STILL

**EIGHTH STATION  
JESUS CONSOLES WOMEN**

*We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you  
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the  
World*

***Christ speaks:***

*How often had I longed to take the children of Jerusalem and  
gather them to Me. But they refused.*

*But now these women weep for Me and My heart mourns for  
them—mourns for their sorrows that will come. I comfort all  
who seek to solace Me. How gentle can you be, My other self,  
how kind?*

***Man replies:***

*My Jesus, your compassion in Your passion is beyond  
compare.*

*Lord, teach me, help me learn. When I would snap at those  
who hurt me with their ridicule, those who misunderstand,  
or hinder me with some misguided helpfulness, those who  
intrude upon my privacy— then help me curb my tongue.  
May gentleness become my cloak. Lord, make me kind like  
You.*

*But help me, Lord. Alone there’s nothing I can do. With You,  
I can do anything You ask. I will.*

***Kneel:*** *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*