

## THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## OPENING SCRIPTURE READING

He said, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." Then he said to all, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (Luke 9: 22-24)

## OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help me to be open to you, to your spirit and your presence, as I begin this journey to Calvary with you. Help me to find in your passion and death the strength to take up my cross and to follow you.

## PRAYER BEFORE EACH STATION

I adore you, Lord Jesus, and I praise you, because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. (Meditation on the passion and death of Jesus.)

## PRAYER BEFORE EACH STATION

**Our Father**, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**Hail Mary**, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**Glory be to the Father**, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## CLOSING SCRIPTURE READING

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day." And they remembered his words. (Luke 24: 1-18)

## CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help me to walk with you each day of my life, even to Calvary. The sorrow and joy, the pain and the healing, the failures and the triumphs of my life are small deaths and resurrections that bring me closer to you. May the gift of faith and trust in your saving grace be with me as I walk my path with you, daily. Amen.

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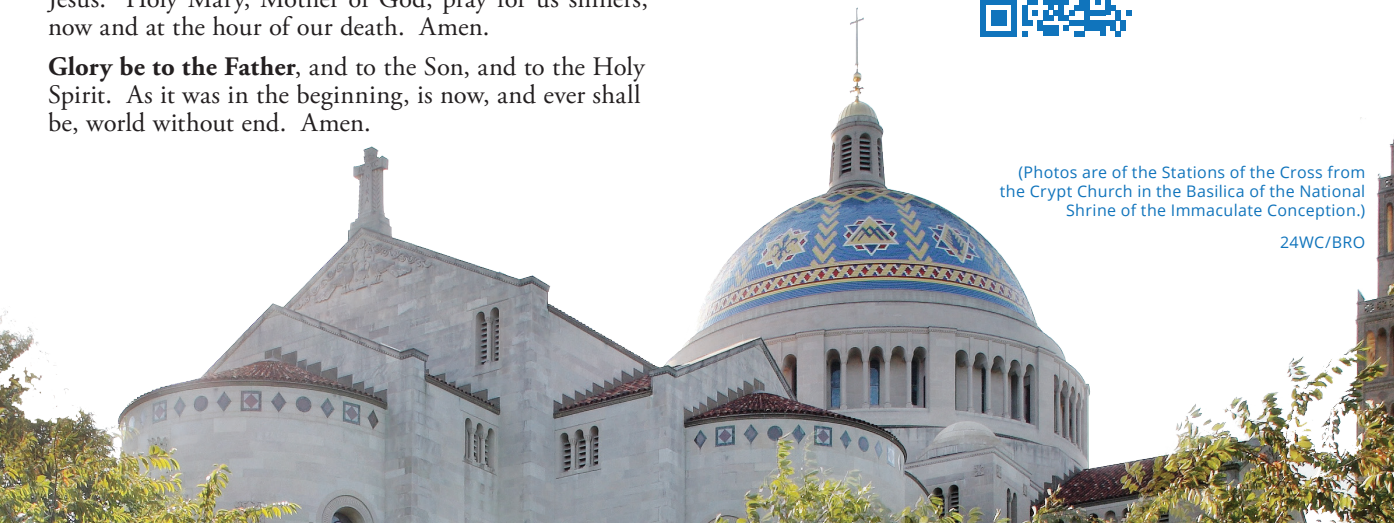
(Photos are of the Stations of the Cross from  
the Crypt Church in the Basilica of the National  
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.)

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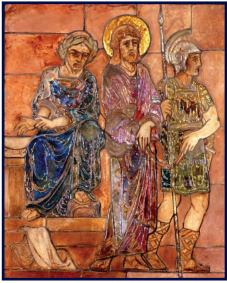
# MY DAILY WAY OF THE CROSS



BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
400 Michigan Ave. N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20017-1566

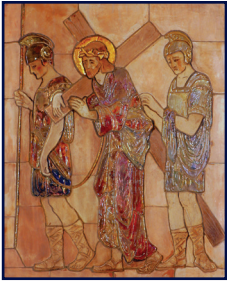






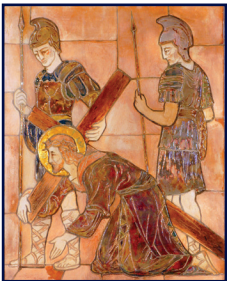
### 1. JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Lord Jesus, often I judge others and fail to be understanding or loving. Help me to see the people in my life through your eyes, not the eyes of a Pontius Pilate.



### 2. JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

Lord Jesus, you embraced your cross to redeem the world. Help me to embrace the crosses in my life — the hardships, struggles, disappointments, pain. Only by recognizing my own weakness, can I discover your strength.



### 3. JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Lord Jesus, you know how often I fall trying to follow you. Yet you are always there to lift me up. Help me always to trust in your loving care for me.



### 4. JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Lord Jesus, your mother Mary's grief was surpassed by her love for you. So often you come to me in others and their love gives me new life. Help me to see how often you love me through the people in my life.



### 5. JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON

Lord Jesus, sometimes I am indifferent to the needs of others in my life. I even neglect those whom I love. Help me to see that loving others is the surest way to find you in my life.



### 6. VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Lord Jesus, at times I am afraid to reach out to others. I do nothing when I should act, I say nothing when I should speak out. Give me a deeper and more courageous faith. Help me to trust that you are with me.



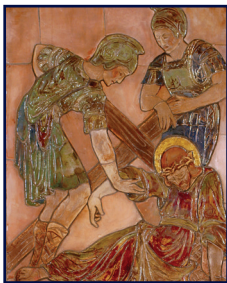
### 7. JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Lord Jesus, failure and disappointment sometimes lead me to despair. I hide behind my pride and self-pity, withdrawing from you and others. Give me the hope I need and help me never to be afraid to begin again.



### 8. JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Lord Jesus, your great compassion for others overwhelms me. I feel petty and selfish when I think of you and the way you love. Help me to pour out my love, that you might fill me with your love.



### 9. JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

Lord Jesus, your failing strength makes me see how helpless I am. Without you, I can do nothing. Help me to rely on your strength, to see how much I need you.



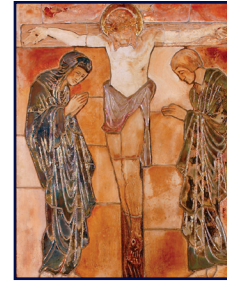
### 10. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Lord Jesus, seeing you so cruelly humiliated makes me realize how I cling to my accomplishments, my possessions, my ways. Help me to let go of those things in my life that prevent me from growing closer to you and others.



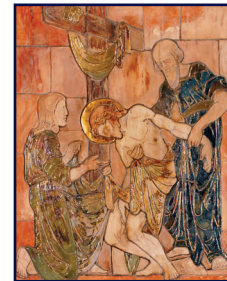
### 11. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Lord Jesus, I can never doubt your great love for me when I see you crucified. Help me to see your cross as the great sign of your love for me.



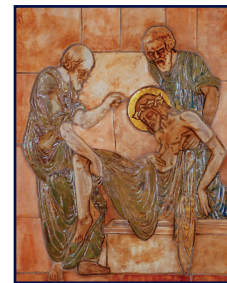
### 12. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Lord Jesus, your broken and lifeless body calls me to deeper faith. You chose death, even death on the cross. Help me to see my crosses as ways of loving you.



### 13. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Lord Jesus, seeing your body taken from the cross reminds me how fearful I am of letting go of my own life. I am frightened when I think of being unimportant, useless or helpless. Help me to place my life in your hands.



### 14. JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Lord Jesus, when I see the great stone sealing your tomb, I feel alone and abandoned. Even though you sometimes seem distant or absent in my life, help me always to believe in your closeness and your loving presence.



### ABOUT THE ARTIST

The Crypt Church is ornamented with the Pewabic ceramic tiles of Mary Chase Perry Stratton, including the fourteen Stations of the Cross. This Lenten meditation on the passion and death of Jesus, has its origins in the early pilgrimages to Jerusalem.