

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary for Victims, Survivors, and Perpetrators of Human Trafficking

+Sign of the Cross+

Apostles' Creed

Our Father

“Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery exploiting human being through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. Some people are trafficked for prostitution, pornography, and other forms of sexual exploitation. Some are trafficked for forced labor in agriculture, sweat shops, and domestic servitude. Some people are exploited both for sex and labor. Through sexual slavery, the body becomes little more than an object to be exploited. For victims of forced labor, the body is made into a disposable machine, made to work long hours for little or no pay and for the profit of others. In both cases, the person who is enslaved is treated as an object for another’s benefit. The person’s God-given human dignity is either ignored or forgotten. Our intention for today’s Rosary is for those who are victims of human trafficking, that they may find freedom and dignity.” -USCCB

Hail Mary x3

Glory Be

First Sorrowful Mystery- The Agony in the Garden

Scripture: Mark 14: 34-42: Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch." He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will." When he returned, he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him. He returned a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Reflection: We know that in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, Jesus tells his followers, "Whatever you do for the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." He also tells us that the reverse is true as well. "Whatever you did not do for the least of these brothers of mine, you did not do for me." What we see in this mystery, is Jesus' followers, Peter, James, and John, "not doing" for the Lord in His time of need. They were asleep when Jesus had asked them to keep watch and pray. When it comes to human trafficking, can we use our holy imagination to see Jesus in the victims and survivors of human trafficking? People who are forgotten by the world, who experience their own "agony" in so many ways, whose "souls are sorrowful" sometimes, "even to death." What does the Lord ask of us, his followers to do in response to the awareness of their suffering? Sometimes it feels like all we can do is "keep watch and pray." And so, we are here today to pray for our neighbors, victims and survivors of human trafficking, who are "Jesus in disguise." Let us not turn away from the Lord in his hour of need. Let us not fall asleep.

Petition: For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may increase their awareness of the problem of human trafficking and become a voice in the public square calling for its abolition.

Our Father

Hail Mary x10

Glory Be

O my Jesus

Second Sorrowful Mystery- The Scourging at the Pillar

Scripture: John 19:1: "Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged."

Reflection: In this mystery, Pilate can represent to us those who are in power, those who govern, those who move in the political sphere. If we continue with our theme of identifying Jesus with victims of human trafficking, what role does Pontius Pilate play? When we think of those who are in power in our society, those who are our government leaders, how do they address human trafficking in our communities? Do they pass laws, allocate money to prevention, have compassion on people who are victims of crimes? Or do they act like Pilate, making things more difficult and painful for those are caught in the web of trafficking? What is our role, as citizens, as constituents of those elected officials? Are we advocates for just policies? Or do we look the other way when our neighbor is being "scourged?"

Petition: For policy makers in our nation, that God grant them the wisdom to enact laws that provide greater protection for victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Our Father

Hail Mary x10

Glory Be

O My Jesus

Third Sorrowful Mystery- The Crowning with Thorns

Scripture: Mark 15: 17-20: "They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him."

Reflection: Notice in this mystery, how the guards do not recognize who Jesus truly is. They are saying the right words, Jesus truly is the King of the Jews, the King of all Creation in fact, and yet their actions do not show this reality. Do I truly recognize Jesus, present in my neighbor, those who are victims and survivors of human trafficking? Do I recognize their God-given dignity, as those who are created in His image? Do my words and actions align to proclaim the inherent truth of the dignity of every human person? What concrete actions do I take to ensure the protection of that dignity for all- especially for victims and survivors of human trafficking?

Petition: For an end to human trafficking, that the dignity of all God's children will be protected.

Our Father

Hail Mary x 10

Glory Be

O My Jesus

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery- The Carrying of the Cross

Scripture: Luke 23: 26-32: "As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to

the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed.

Reflection: In this mystery, we see Jesus carrying his cross, as well as those who accompany him. Simon, the women, even the crowd and the "two other" "criminals." When I imagine this scene, in relation to human trafficking, which role do I play? Am I Simon, in the right place at the right time to accompany victims and survivors of human trafficking? Am I one of the women, who mourn and lament the atrocities of trafficking, who is intentional about seeking out closeness to people who are suffering? Am I one of the criminals? Bringing my faults and failures but still there, following Jesus and trying to accompany those who are afflicted by trafficking? When I imagine myself in the scene, as one of those who accompanies the Lord, is there any desire in my heart for a new role? Do I want to move from just being in the right place at the right time to someone who intentionally seeks to support people who are suffering from human trafficking? Do I want to move from someone who is simply bringing my faults and failures and showing up to follow the Lord to someone who places myself in closer proximity to the problem of trafficking? Talk to the Lord about how He sees you moving closer to him in these ways.

Petition: For social service providers, that God will grant them the strength and continued commitment to help survivors of human trafficking and support them on their path to wholeness.

Our Father

Hail Mary x 10

Glory Be

O My Jesus

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery- The Crucifixion

Scripture: Mark 15: 33-41: "At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "Look, he is calling Elijah." One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Reflection: Reflecting on this final mystery, as Jesus endures the crucifixion, we know that Jesus was crucified between two thieves. In his ministry, Jesus reminded the disciples, "I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Jesus died for you and me, but also for all the world, including those who enslave the vulnerable. Let us pause to reflect on the death of our Lord, what it means for us, and the great mercy He has shown to all of us.

Petition: For perpetrators of human trafficking, that they find repentance and conversion through the cross of Christ and turn to God for forgiveness. For those trapped in the web of trafficking, that God will help to liberate them. For our youth, that they might be protected from the dangers of trafficking. We pray to the Lord.

Our Father

Hail Mary x 10

Glory Be

O My Jesus

Hail Holy Queen

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son, by his life, Death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to End Human Trafficking

Loving Father,

We seek your divine protection for all who are exploited and enslaved.

For those forced into labor, trafficked into sexual slavery, and denied freedom.

We beseech you to release them from their chains.

Grant them protection, safety, and empowerment.

Restore their dignity and provide them a new beginning.

Show us how we might end exploitation by addressing its causes.

Help us reach out in support of victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Make us instruments of your spirit for their liberation.

For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

- USCCB – World Day of Peace 2015

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