



Laudato Si'

Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

The Agony in the Garden

"And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.'" (Mt 26:36-39)

Reflection:

"A spirituality which forgets God as all-powerful and Creator is not acceptable. That is how we end up worshipping earthly powers, or ourselves usurping the place of God, even to the point of claiming an unlimited right to trample his creation underfoot. The best way to restore men and women to their rightful place, putting an end to their claim to absolute dominion over the earth, is to speak once more of the figure of a Father who creates and who alone owns the world. Otherwise, human beings will always try to impose their own laws and interests on reality." (Laudato Si', 75)

Prayer:

Mary, through your intercession, may we continue to bring the will of God the Father into our prayers and actions. May it be our continued desire to follow the will of God for the care of the most vulnerable and our common home.

The Scourging at the Pillar

"Pilate released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified." (Mt 27:26)

Reflection:

"Our freedom fades when it is handed over to the blind forces of the unconscious, of immediate needs, of self-interest, and of violence. In this sense, we stand naked and exposed in the face of our ever-increasing power, lacking the wherewithal to control it. We have certain superficial mechanisms, but we cannot claim to have a sound ethics, a culture and spirituality genuinely capable of setting limits and teaching clear-minded self-restraint." (Laudato Si', 105)

Prayer:

Mary, may the example of your love deliver us from self-interest, violence to others, to our common home and to ourselves. Clothe us with a sound conscience and grant us conversion.

The Crowning with Thorns

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'" (Mt 27:27-29)

Reflection:

"It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship

with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (Laudato Si', 217)

Prayer:

Mary, when passiveness and inconsistencies drive us, remind us of our preferential option for the most vulnerable. When our efforts and concern for the environment are ridiculed, grant us the grace to forgive. When we fall short of standing with the most vulnerable, may we be willing to learn from one another and be a source of strength for each other.

The Carrying of the Cross

"And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull)." (Mk 15:21-22)

Reflection:

"God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him!" (Laudato Si', 245)

Prayer:

Mary, you taught us to follow your Son. Our motivations may not always be the purest, and in our human nature our strength will be tested. We ask you to touch our hearts with compassion and to be our consolation in our affliction.

The Crucifixion

"And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do' ... It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last." (Lk 23:33-46)

Reflection:

"In the family we learn to ask without demanding, to say "thank you" as an expression of genuine gratitude for what we have been given, to control our aggressivity and greed, and to ask forgiveness when we have caused harm. These simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings." (Laudato Si' 213)

Prayer:

Mary, when death is knocking on hope's door, remind us that we are children of the resurrection. Grant us a spirit of gratitude, self-control, and teach us to forgive.

Closing Prayer:

Mary, in contemplating the sorrowful mysteries of the most Holy Rosary, show us the way to be closer and aware of the sorrows of the most vulnerable and the pains of our common home. Lead us into action and conversion of heart. That whatever we do in speech or deed be a source of life to all. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.