

# Meditation on the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary



## The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery

The Crucifixion and  
Death of Christ



### Method of meditation

To do a good meditation we ought to use the main three faculties of our soul: memory, intelligence, and will. This is a brief explanation of how to meditate:

- 1) Memory: firstly, I try to remember some principles, great realities of our faith or events of Our Lord's life and bring them into my mind so that they may be meditated upon.
- 2) Intelligence (knowledge of God): secondly, I consider these thoughts and try to understand their meaning and the consequences which are attached to them.
- 3) Will (love of God): finally, after a while of consideration, I produce some acts of will in order to apply concretely what I have drawn from my meditation into my own life and I ask God to help me to do so.

With this support, this method can be done like this:

- 1) Memory: read slowly the **extract from the Gospel** (page 2).
- 2) Intelligence: read and think longer about the **first series of considerations upon the Gospel** (page 3).
- 3) Will: read the **second series of considerations** which apply in a more practical way the message of the Gospel (page 4).

**End by** reading the last consideration which should lead us to make **a real resolution** to apply the examples of this mystery of the rosary in our own life (page 4).

As part of the 1st Saturdays devotions, let us do this **meditation in spirit of reparation** in order to console Our Lady against the outrages committed towards her Immaculate Heart.

## 1. Gospel Text

And they took Jesus and led Him forth. And bearing His own cross, He went forth to that place which is called Calvary, but in Hebrew Golgotha. Where they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on each side and Jesus in the midst.

And Pilate wrote a title also, and he put it upon the cross. And the writing was: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. This title therefore many of the Jews did read: because the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew and in Greek and in Latin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate: "Write not, the King of the Jews, but that He said, I am the King of the Jews."

Pilate answered: "What I have written, I have written."

The soldiers therefore when they had crucified Him, took His garments and they made four parts, to every soldier a part, and also His coat. Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said then one to another: Let us not cut it, but let us cast lots for it, whose it shall be, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saying: They have parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture they have cast lots. And the soldiers indeed did these things.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, His mother and mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalen. When Jesus therefore had seen His mother and the disciple standing whom He loved, He saith to His mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, He saith to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own.

Afterwards, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said: "I thirst." Now there was a vessel set there full of vinegar. And they, putting a sponge full of vinegar about hyssop, put it to His mouth. Jesus therefore, when He had taken the vinegar, said: "It is consummated." And bowing His head, He gave up the ghost (John 19:16-30).

## 2. Considerations

### 1st series

1. Arrived on Calvary, Jesus is again deprived of His garments. His scourged body bleeds afresh and His spirit mourns. He will do no more than taste the stupefying drink. He wills to suffer and to die for me in the full possession of His faculties.
2. Jesus is stretched out on the cross. Rough nails are driven one by one through His right hand, through His left hand, through His feet. There lies my Saviour as pale as death, bespattered with His own blood, gasping pitiable from the unspeakable torture. Not a word of complaint comes from His lips, but only the fervent prayer: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."
3. The cross of Christ is raised aloft and sheds its glory for the first time over the earth. This is the most solemn moment in the history of the world.
4. Now our Redemption is actually being accomplished on the cross. As Jesus, graciously concealed under the forms of bread and wine, speaks daily at the consecration, so visible here in the terrible crucifixion. He says also: "This is my body, which is being offered for you. This is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, which is being shed for you and for many unto the remission of sins."
5. The sun is veiled of darkness. In abandonment and pain Jesus suffers on. The heavenly Father has withdrawn from Him all consolation.
6. Mary, the dearest of mothers, stands beside the death-bed of the most beloved of sons. The strokes of the hammer, every pain and every outrage like relentless steel pierce her maternal heart. Thus she is offering sacrifice, she is suffering thus for me. Even amid the pains of death Jesus is concerned for His mother. In St. John, He gives her another son, in us, other children.
7. Jesus is dying. Exultantly He cries out: "It is finished." His last word on earth is addressed to His Father: "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit!" The suffering of the cross is over. Jesus is dead.

## 2nd series

8. I also stand under the cross of Jesus. I perceive how the wounds of His hands and feet get wider and wider. I see His breast heave. I see the pallor of death spread over His face. I see His eyes turned towards me. I hear His lips murmur: “I thirst”—for the salvation of thy soul.
9. The enemies of Jesus are gathered around Him and blaspheming, the chief is mocking, the soldiers are dividing His garments. But in the heart of Jesus dwells only love and forgiveness. No one can doubt the genuineness of Jesus’ love. He is the Divine Love amid the hate of the world. I will be His disciple.
10. O Jesus, let not Thy sufferings and Thy blood-sheddings be for me in vain. Forsake me not in the hour of my death! Have mercy on those who shall die this day.

## Resolution

My resolution: I shall consider this work of Redemption performed for the salvation of my soul every day and avoid sin which delivered my beloved Jesus to the ignominious death of the cross.