



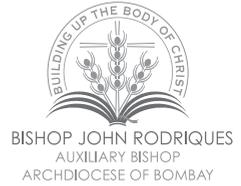
ANNIVERSARY

1964 - 2014

XXXVIII INTERNATIONAL
EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

*Liturgies, Holy Hours
and Way of the Cross*

November 28th December 7th 2014



To,
Parish Priests / Priests-in-charge
Archdiocese of Bombay

Dear Rev. Father,

In the course of the next weeks most of our parishes will spend a day in adoration before the Eucharistic Lord. As the Eucharistic processions move from one parish to the next we will have an opportunity to experience our link with the neighbouring parishes and with the Archdiocese. For those parishes on the route of the Circle of Life (Eucharistic adoration and processions in November) a copy of the permission granted by the Police is enclosed (one per Parish). Please show this copy at your local police station when you contact them about the procession in your parish. This permission only applies for the boundaries of Mumbai Municipality.

The days from November 28 to December 6 mark the actual days of the Eucharistic Congress of 1964. As mentioned in the Cardinal's circular the following programmes will be held in each parish and will be coordinated by the Parish Priest. Liturgical helps are being provided to you in the enclosed booklet as indicated below.

November 28, Friday	<p>Evening Mass - Votive Mass of the Eucharist. Kindly refer to the Roman Missal p. 1167, Preface of the Eucharist I or II p. 564 or 565.</p> <p>Lectionary Readings: 1st Reading: 1Cor 11: 23-26 (Corpus Christi – Year C) Psalm: Ps 115 (116): 12-13, 15-18 (Corpus Christi – Year B) R: v. 13 The cup of salvation I will raise. I will call on the Lord's name Gospel: Jn 6: 51-58 (Corpus Christi – Year A)</p> <p>The Video message of Cardinal Oswald Gracias is to be screened. PPC members, associations, groups, etc. to be encouraged to attend.</p>
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December 2, Tuesday	Some parish programme / prayer service could be held involving the lectors or cantors /choirs or PLT members. Alternatively, a programme could be planned for children or for language groups. The PPC could help to plan this.
December 3, Wednesday	Solemnity of St. Francis Xavier (Day for the Sick) Refer to Roman Missal p. 879, Preface of Pastors p. 582 1st Reading: Acts 17: 22-28, Psalm: Ps 70 (71): 1-5, 15, 17 R: v. 15 My lips will tell of your justice. 2nd Reading: 2 Cor 4: 7-15, Gospel: Lk 10: 1-16 <i>The Sacrament of Anointing may be celebrated after the Homily.</i>
December 4, Thursday	Renewal of Commitment by priests and religious at a convenient Mass. Kindly refer to the booklet. Holy Hour in the evening or even an All Night Vigil. Kindly choose from the four samples provided in the booklet. You may use the others on any other occasions.
December 5, Friday	Way of the Cross in the evening. Please see the booklet. Parishioners are to be encouraged to avail of the Sacrament of Confession, which will be available throughout the day
December 7, Sunday	Instead of the Childrens' Mass invite families to come to Mass together. The liturgy will be of the Second Sunday of Advent.

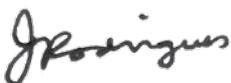
- Kindly involve your parishioners in preparation and celebration of these programmes.

- A special prayer for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Eucharistic Congress has been composed. Please use this prayer, a copy of which is enclosed, at Mass and at other prayer services in the next few weeks.

- Please encourage your parishioners to participate in the other programmes being organized, for which the Coordinators will send you the necessary information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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✠ Bp John Rodrigues
Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay

December 4, 2014

Liturgy of the Eucharist with Renewal of Commitment for Priests and Religious

INTRODUCTION

As those chosen and called, we remember and renew the act of grace and consolation, that in Christ, we are not only marked out, we are re-created, reconfigured in some way to more fully resemble Christ. As Priests or Sisters, Jesus presents us to the Father, who gives us a share in His fatherly love, and we become spiritual guides, leading the people of God, or witnessing to the world through our ministries. Today we pray in a special way for all priests sisters and brothers serving in the Archdiocese of Bombay.

READINGS

First Reading - Is: 26:1-6

Psalm - Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27

Gospel - Mt. 7:21, 24-27

First Reading - Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9

Psalm - Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27

Second Reading - Rv 1:5-8

Gospel - Lk 4:16-21

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Cel: Gracious Father, inspire those who are called to serve you with zeal to proclaim the Word through witness, living their lives as Christ's presence in the world. We place our prayers and petitions before you for their welfare. Our response is **Lord hear our Prayer.**

For all priests in the Archdiocese of Bombay

That our Cardinal Archbishop, bishops and priests may experience God's grace and support from those whom they serve. We pray to the Lord.

For Religious Priests

For all men who are called to the priesthood of Jesus Christ that as priest, through the charism of their founder saints, that they deepen their relationship with Jesus as they celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. We remember brothers who serve selflessly in the Archdiocese. We pray to the Lord.

For Religious Sisters and Brothers

Who through many and varied ministries respond to the call of Christ and

the charisms of their founders and work dedicatedly in mission centres, rural and urban institutes that they have painstakingly built to serve people across caste and religion. We pray to the Lord.

For men and women discerning their call to ministry

That they may be inspired by the lives of the saints and find the courage to respond to the call they hear. We pray to the Lord.

For our parish community

That we have the courage to recognize the ministry provided by all priests, and Religious and support them through our prayers and spiritual sacrifices. We pray to the Lord.

For our retired priests and sisters

Who tirelessly served the people of God in various ministries, that they not be forgotten by us and all whom they served in the name of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

For all deceased priests and sisters

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord for the good they did in this world in the name and love of Jesus Christ . We pray to the Lord.

Cel: Gracious Father we thank you for the many wondrous ways in which you inspire and care for your priests, and religious sisters and brothers. Be with them in their times of need. We make this prayer through Christ your Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

AFTER THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER: RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT

Cel: As Priests and Sisters, we are teachers, guardians and protectors; as priests we are in Persona Christi at the Altar of Christ. Jesus Christ is alive in us. Indeed, St. Paul proclaims, 'It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. We must allow Christ to take us over, more and more. 'He must increase. We must decrease.'

God calls us to be priests. Let us not fail to be signs of God's forgiveness and healing by frequently making ourselves available for Confession. Let us be fatherly in comforting the sick, and come quickly to their aid in the Sacrament of the Anointing. Let us cherish the privilege and responsibility of offering the Holy Sacrifice of Mass daily for the salvation of souls, or witnessing the Eucharist through our lives.

Let us not be ashamed to proclaim the truth faithfully even when the world

rejects us. Let us be joyful and daring, ready to do great things against all odds so that others will have to conclude that we draw our hope and strength from God. We will now make our prayers of Renewal of Commitment.

RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT PRAYER

Father in Heaven, in Baptism we have received divine filiation: were made children of God, washed with the blood of Christ and received the Holy Spirit. The most precious gift we have is the gift of our Faith, knowledge of the person of Jesus Christ, membership into His Church, strength of the Sacraments and the mandate to go out and preach the Good News of God's love to all the world.

Each one of us has also personally received the gift of our vocation to the priesthood or religious life. We have been called to live lives of love of God and love of our neighbour: a vocation to service. It has been a calling to follow Christ more closely as Prophet, Priest and King; to follow Christ praying, Christ proclaiming the Kingdom of God, Christ doing good to people, Christ in dialogue with people of this world, Christ always doing the will of the Father.

You have called us through no merit of our own, but just because You loved us. We express deep sentiments of gratitude for our calling. At the same time we confess that we have often failed in fulfilment of our vocation. We ask Your forgiveness for the times we have not served You enough; when our selfishness came to the fore and when by our words and by our deeds, by our indifference and by our acts of commission or omission we have not been bearers of the Gospel.

On the occasion of our Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress we priests and religious, in the presence of the Church and our faithful, renew our commitment to discipleship of Our Lord Jesus Christ and of service to His people. We pray that You strengthen our resolve, deepen our dedication and generosity of heart in serving our people. May we live the commitment we have made, on the occasion of our Ordination to the Priesthood or our Profession in Religious life with even more fervour. May we become true disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we seek to adore, love and serve. May the person of Jesus become more and more present in our lives by our reception of the Eucharist. We pray to Mary our Mother that through her guidance, protection and intercession we may become ever more committed in our lives of service.

December 4, 2014

An Hour of Prayer on Eucharist as Covenantal Meal

Leader 1: We begin this hour of prayer with a few moments of silence in which we seek to quieten our minds and hearts. Take a few deep breaths and exhale slowly and rhythmically. We feel the gradual slowing down of our pulse rate, the growing inner peace and tranquility... Pause as we continue to focus on our breathing for a while... till we are ready to enter into the prayer.

Any Suitable Hymn...

Leader 1: In this hour of prayer, we shall reflect on the Eucharist as Covenantal Meal and the family. Meals are a daily and frequent occurrence in every family, be it rich or poor, educated or illiterate, Indian, African, European and American. In fact, our entire day revolves round the dining table. We recall how in the process of making a Covenant with the Chosen People of Israel, God invited them to a special meal which He Himself provided for them on top of Mt. Sinai.

Lector: Exodus 24: 9-11

Leader 2: God sealed the Covenant with Israel in and through a meal eaten on the top of Mt. Sinai. The mountain is God's dwelling place to which He invited Moses and the leaders of Israel and there He provided them with a meal. Although the text read says that "they ate and drank", yet since it was God who provided them with that meal, we can presume that God also shared in that meal. God had invited the entire Chosen people in the person of their seventy elders precisely because He wanted to enter into a very close living relationship with every single one of them. And through this shared meal, Yahweh draws Israel into communion and oneness of life both with himself and with one another. For the Israelites, to share a meal with another meant to share life itself with that person. All those who eat at the same table and of the same food become one with a very deep bond of fellowship! That is the reason why non-Israelites were not allowed to join them in the Passover Meal, unless and until those foreigners were circumcised. (*pause*)

Leader 3: All through their history, Israel regarded every meal, but very specially the weekly Sabbath and the annual Paschal meal, as a special call to communion with Yahweh and with one another. That is why at the start of the meal, the head of the family began by taking a loaf of bread or the topmost matzoh (unleavened bread) and breaking it into pieces, he gave a piece to each of the family members present. In partaking of this shared bread, the family bond of unity was expressed and deepened.

In this simple gesture, which acts like the “Grace before meals” for the family gathered round the dining table, we recognize and understand what Jesus himself did on the night before he suffered. He too took the bread and broke it before giving it to his disciples to eat. But he drew their attention to the real meaning of this bread that He broke and shared: ‘Take and eat, for this is My body which is given for you.’ This was no mere Passover bread that Jesus shared as any other head of the family would have done. Rather, through this bread He gave of himself for the redemption of the world. In asking His disciples to “do this in memory of Me” Jesus sanctifies every family meal asking that not only the head of the family, but every member too give of him/herself for the benefit of the others in the family and also for those beyond it.

- We pause in silence for a few minutes and review the quality of our Eucharistic celebrations and also of our efforts to draw the families of our parishioners together through their family meals. We cannot hide the fact that even today most Christians still see themselves as individuals before God even as they celebrate Eucharist as a community!

- A question which brings out this fact very forcefully is: “When I receive Jesus in Holy Communion at the Eucharist, who receives the grace of that sacrament?” The spontaneous answer of most Christians would be: ‘Why, I – of course!’ Yet at Eucharist, there is no ‘I’, but only a ‘We.’ It is the entire Church that benefits from every Eucharistic celebration and communion. And something similar happens with every meal shared in the family: The entire family, including those not present, is drawn into a deep unity and fellowship among themselves.

AFTER A SUFFICIENTLY LONG PERIOD OF PRAYERFUL SILENCE

Leader 1: The response to our group prayer is : *In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer and bring us together as one family.*

1. Merciful Father, You provided your covenanted people with a banquet of love and peace on Mt. Sinai. Grant that the food we receive from Your goodness and share within our families may unite us more deeply and make us ready to serve one another. We pray to the Lord.

2. God of the Covenant, You fed your people with manna in the desert, but warned them not to collect more than they needed. May we too learn to be thoughtful of those who journey with us through life and share our blessings with open and grateful hearts. We pray to the Lord.

3. Ever faithful God, You strengthened the disheartened Elijah with the miraculous bread provided by ravens so that he was able to take up again his commitment to Your people. May we too be nourished and strengthened by each meal we share in our families and commit ourselves to its growth in unity and love. We pray to the Lord.

4. Yahweh, the God of life, You preserved the lives of Hagar and Ishmael by providing them with water in the desert. Come to the aid of all children who are neglected, abandoned, exploited and abused because of the greed and self-centredness of their elders. We pray to the Lord.

5. Loving Father of all living beings, You promised a banquet of rich food and wines on Your holy mountain to all who accept and do Your will. May we remember Your generosity and share lavishly with all our brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord.

Other petitions could be added spontaneously, if time permits

We gather all our petitions now and present them with love and confidence to the Father, praying the way Jesus taught us: Our Father ...

Leader One: Almighty ever-living Lord, You are the source of all life and love. Grant that following the example of Your chosen people, we may walk the journey of life by placing our trust each day in You as we celebrate the Eucharist together. Deepen in our families the bond of togetherness and enable us to genuinely care for one another. May each of our homes be a haven of peace and loving acceptance of one another. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

Any Suitable Hymn...

ALTERNATE READING WITH MEDITATION

Lector: Lk. 10:38-42

Leader 1: This Gospel passage shows us Jesus sharing in the meal in the house of Martha and Mary. This was a casual, domestic meal reminiscent of the Eucharistic gatherings in which all share equally: men, women and children. At festive meals only men took part and that too by reclining at table – we see an example of this in the meal Jesus shared in the house of Simon, the Pharisee. Jesus not only shared in this meal with Martha and Mary but also transformed a potentially explosive situation into an occasion of self-awareness for Martha and positive affirmation for Mary. Filled with self-pity and perhaps anger too, Martha was ready to give her sister Mary a piece of her mind and sought to drag Jesus into the fray! Very calmly and deftly Jesus drew the attention of each of the two to their strengths and weaknesses too!

Jesus is present as an unseen guest in every family meal even today and He comes to us with His blessings of peace and fellowship. He is fully aware of the various unchristian attitudes that we usually bring to our family gatherings round the table. (Bring these attitudes to mind and seek His blessings of peace and fellowship.)

Leader 2: We shall now stay in silence and listen attentively as the Lord brings to our minds the concrete ways in which we create or even foster disunity in our families. And in the silence of our hearts we respond to Him with our prayer of praise and adoration, of thanksgiving, petition or contrition as the Spirit inspires us.

Leader 3: We conclude this period of prayer with short litanic prayers, our response to which will be : ***‘Lord make us instruments of peace in our families.’***

* Lord Jesus, through Your presence at the meal in the home of Martha and Mary You brought about a deeper unity, understanding, acceptance and harmony in their home. Be present in our own families too, especially as we partake of food together and show us the way to deeper harmony in our lives. We pray to the Lord.

* Father, You sent Your Son Jesus to reconcile us to You and to one another. Make us more alert to His promptings through the Spirit so that like Zacchaeus, we can respond to Him with a change of heart and life, bringing about greater respect and consideration for others in our homes, we pray to the Lord.

* Lord Jesus, in the story of the Prodigal Son, you show us the Father pleading with the elder son that he accept his wayward brother with love and forgiveness. Strengthen us to be the first to reach out as agents of reconciliation in our families when quarrels arise over property and material benefits, over honour and prestige. We pray to the Lord.

* Jesus our Saviour, to the man who asked You to intervene in his family dispute with his brother who had deprived him of his inheritance, You recommended that he learn to trust in the Father's loving providence. Enable us to bring our family problems to You and surrender our self-centredness so that our difficulties can be amicably solved and peace established. We pray to the Lord.

Leader 1: We gather all our petitions and place them before the Father with trust and confidence as we pray the Lord's prayer while holding hands together : Our Father ...

Leader 1: Father in heaven, teach us to follow Christ your Son with humility and faith. Enable us to be so open and receptive to His word that we may always experience within us the joy of His self-giving for the benefit of others and thus live in harmony and peace in our families. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

Before we conclude our prayer, we spend a few minutes in deep silence and stillness. We listen to one concrete action the Lord suggests to us that will make the atmosphere in our families more widely and deeply Christian.

THE SERVICE COULD END WITH BENEDICTION AND/OR
AN APPROPRIATE HYMN

December 4, 2014

An Hour of Prayer on Eucharist as Berakah (Praise)

Leader: We begin this hour of prayer with a few moments of silence in which we seek to quieten our minds and hearts. Take a few deep breaths and exhale slowly and rhythmically. If possible, feel your pulse slow down and your forehead relax ... Feel yourself go limp even as you maintain a fairly erect posture. Feel God's peace fill your entire being ...

Any Suitable Hymn...

Lector: John 11:32-44

Leader: In this passage we see the entire family at Bethany in the grip of deep grief since the man in the family had died. They had sent a message to Jesus in good time, pleading that He come and save the situation, but we read that Jesus consciously delayed saying that this illness was not unto death but so that God's glory may be revealed. Every one of us can sympathize with Mary's pain-filled complaint: 'If you had been here, Lord, our brother would not have died.'

Jesus enters into their pain and grief but then sets out to transform the situation and reveal the glory of the Father. As He began His public ministry Jesus had proclaimed that the Kingdom of God had arrived in the midst of these people.

Unless things had reached the point of no return, God's power and glory, the truth of His kingdom, would not have been revealed to the people. "Jesus looked upward and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (Jn 11:41-43). *(pause)*

Could we now spend some time looking at some of the unpleasant situations in our own communities/parishes; but now we consciously choose to see them as occasions first of all to praise and thank God!
[If the group praying is small, some could be invited to mention some unpleasant

situations they have experienced recently: financial crises, sickness, death, misunderstandings in communities/parishes (Pause to allow such sharing...)]

We pause on the thought that the Lord has some good purpose in allowing these things to happen. *[Pause in silence for a while].*

Having seen them in a new and positive light, we can now praise and thank God for these events, especially if they have passed and we now see something of God's loving plan in them. It would be good if we could praise the Father also for some current negative situation that we are going through, even though we are not yet able to see God's goodness in it.

SILENT PRAYER: If anyone would like to share a prayer aloud, you may do so. However, limit yourself to praising God, don't make a petition.

Leader: We now enter into group Intercessory prayer and our response is (*sung*): "Always, you have given an answer to our prayer, always."

- Loving Father, You reminded the Israelites that all through their desert journey, "the clothes on their backs did not wear out, their feet did not swell" (Deut. 8:4). We know that Your love for us is so great that You will not allow us to suffer any real harm. Keep us always reminded of Your unfailing love and concern, especially in time of suffering and trial. We pray to the Lord.
- Merciful Lord, Your ways are mysterious yet are always directed towards our growth. Teach us to understand the place of suffering in our Christian family life so that in moments of tension and trial, we can express our faith in You most emphatically. We pray to the Lord.
- Almighty and all powerful God, Your love for us knows no limits and is shown most clearly when we come to You in our need. Enable us to use the hardships and disappointments in life as stepping stones to our positive and definitive return to You. We pray to the Lord.
- Jesus our Brother, You came among us to share our trials and sorrows. As you wept at the death of Lazarus Your friend, so You grieve with us especially in our family sorrows. Comfort those who suffer and grieve today; give them a new understanding of Your loving designs for them

and make them shining witnesses of Your power and love. We pray to the Lord.

- Most faithful God and Father, when friends and relatives abandon us because our sorrow or shame is unbearably great, we know that You will always stand by us. May we experience Your loving care deeply and be ever ready to share it abundantly with those sorrowing around us. We pray to the Lord.

[More personal intercessions may be added according to the need of the group]

We gather up all our petitions and present them to the loving heart of our Father, as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: Our Father ...

Leader: Father in heaven, teach us the all-important lesson that suffering is but a stepping stone to intimacy with You. May we use every negative situation to sing Your praises with humility and love and in doing so witness to Your loving presence among us. We make this prayer through ...

Any Suitable Hymn...

ALTERNATE READING WITH MEDITATION

Leader 1: Once again we turn to God's word and listen attentively.

Lector: Mk. 5:21-24, 35-43 (the story of Jairus only)

Leader 1: We shall remain in silence and try to identify ourselves with the feelings of Jairus as we see Jesus almost deliberately delay His progress towards the home of Jairus. This resulted in the death of the little girl. When the message of the girl's death reached Jairus his hopes would have been dashed to the ground. It is at this point that Jesus challenges him to believe for true faith in Jesus can work wonders.

SILENT PRAYER

Leader 1: Had Jesus done exactly what Jairus suggested, neither he nor the family would have experienced the joy that they did ultimately receive. This behaviour of Jesus is typical of the way God deals with us in our day-to-day family life. Just when we want things to go smoothly for us, something is inevitably bound to go wrong. Or when

we wish a crisis to pass quickly, it never seems to end as it is prolonged indefinitely; it gets worse with each passing day or hour. All our prayers and entreaties seem to fall on deaf ears and the situation goes from bad to worse, until it reaches a point of no return. We are shattered and broken and rendered totally helpless – but then comes the challenge like that of Jairus - to place the entire situation in God’s hands and let Him handle things His way. “Do not be afraid, Jairus; only believe.”

Our human tendency is to want to be in control of every situation in our lives. Now if God lets things occur according to our thoughts and plans, we would certainly get very little, since our thoughts and plans are totally different from those of the Lord! And what is worse, we would tend to take the credit of the outcome to ourselves and perhaps totally forget God. So, Jesus slowly but surely takes the situation totally out of our control and then, in the most unexpected ways reverses the unpleasant situation – to our advantage! But that can happen only if we truly let go of the painful event and let God work things out His way! If we persist in subtly telling Him what He should be doing, we will only experience more and more frustration and failure.

So, the secret of transforming our family problems into occasions for praising and thanking God is to realize first of all our innate tendency to want to control each event of our lives.

[Pause in silence for a few moments to recall at least one instance in which you can see clearly in yourself the tendency to control the situation with your own resources]

Secondly, we need to learn the art of letting-go and letting God be the master of our lives. After all, with His track record of loving us no matter what, and always wanting the best for us, we could be a lot more comfortable entrusting our lives into His hands. We recall what Paul tells us of his own trust in Jesus:

Leader 2: “It is only on account of this that I am experiencing fresh hardships here now; but I have not lost confidence, because I know who it is that I have put my trust in, and I have no doubt at all that he is able to take care of all that I have entrusted to him until that Day” (2 Tim. 1:12).

Leader 1: In silence we shall now pick out some areas in our day-

to-day family/personal lives in which we would benefit from placing them totally and trustfully into the Lord's watchful care. Lovingly we entrust these to Him now and listen to whatever He has to say to us.

SILENT PRAYER

Leader 1: We gather up our personal prayer into a few intercessions. Our response is sung: "All to Jesus I surrender, all to him I freely give."

1. Father most loving, knowing that we often come to the brink of despair when we rely only ourselves, teach us not to wait till that happens, but to place our problems into Your powerful hands right from the start and experience Your marvelous care of us. We pray to the Lord.

2. Lord Jesus, make us fathom the depth of Your love for us, the love that led You to give Your very life for us on the Cross. May Your crucified image on the Cross enable us to surrender especially our family problems into Your loving hands without any fear or regrets. We pray to the Lord.

3. Spirit of God abiding within us, awaken us when we tend to rely on our own resources and enable us to accept our nothingness and helplessness so that we can experience the Father's loving care more powerfully. We pray to the Lord.

4. Jesus our Brother, in Your passion and suffering especially on the Cross, You too felt as if the Father had abandoned You. Share with us Your tenacious faith so that we can experience the truth of Your resurrection. We pray to the Lord.

5. Father of tender love and compassion, enable us to help one another in our families by mutual support and encouragement so that nothing separates us from Your love and care. May each family crisis serve only to deepen our faith and love of You. We pray to the Lord.

[We add our own petitions too if needed]

Leader 1: Gathering all our petitions, even those not expressed, we place them in the loving heart of our Saviour as we pray the way He taught us: Our Father ...

We offer one another the sign of peace as a pledge that we will work together to make our lives, especially in our families, a continuous hymn of praise to God's loving kindness.

Leader 1: Father all loving, we have learnt how to praise you even in unpleasant circumstances. May we be witnesses of Your faithful love for each one of us and a pillar of strength to others in their trials. Help us bring all our friends and neighbours to praise you always and everywhere. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord: Amen.

Any Suitable Hymn... *The Magnificat [My soul proclaims the Lord, my God] is strongly recommended here.*

December 5, 2014

The Way of the Cross

(The text used by Blessed Paul VI during the
XXXVIII International Eucharistic Congress, Bombay, 1964)

Leader: Gathered here today to contemplate the passion of Our Lord, let us first proclaim our faith in the mystery of Redemption by reciting together the “ I Believe”.

All: The “Apostles Creed”

Hymn: God of mercy and compassion, Look with pity upon me;
Father let me call Thee Father, 'Tis Thy child returns to Thee.

Ch: Jesus, Lord I ask for mercy, Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins I now detest them, Never will I sin again.

FIRST STATION

Jesus is condemned to death

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Mt. 27, 23-25)

Reader: They said: Let Him be crucified. And when the governor said: Why; what wrong has he done? They cried louder than ever: Let Him be crucified. And so, finding that his good offices went for nothing, and the uproar only became worse, Pilate sent for water and washed his hands in full sight of the multitude, saying as he did so: I have no part in the death of this innocent man; it concerns you only. And the whole people answered: His blood be upon us and upon our children.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O Lord. (After every invocation)

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

- Through the mystery of Your Holy Incarnation...
- Through the sufferings You endured on the way to Calvary...
- Through Your cross and painful agony...
- Through Your death and burial...

Priest: Almighty and everlasting God, grant that we who actively participate in the Mysteries of the Passion of our Lord, may deserve thy forgiveness. Through the same Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.

SECOND STATION

Jesus carries His Cross to Calvary

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Mt. 27, 27-31)

Reader: After this, the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the palace, and gathered the whole of their company about Him. First they stripped Him and arrayed Him in a scarlet cloak; then they put on His head a crown which they had woven out of thorns, and a rod in His right hand, and mocked Him by kneeling down before Him and saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and they spat upon Him and took the rod from Him and beat Him over the head with it; at last they had done with the mockery; stripping Him off the scarlet cloak, they put His own garments on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Leader: O Jesus, forgive us. (After every invocation)

All: O Jesus, forgive us.

- Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins...
- Heart of Jesus, despised and insulted...
- Heart of Jesus, laid low by our sins...
- Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation...

Priest: Almighty God, look with pity upon our daily sufferings and deliver us from our sins through the passion of Thine only begotten Son. Through Christ our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: Through her heart, His sorrows sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword had passed.

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Is. 53, 5-6)

Reader: And all the while it was for our sins He was wounded; it was guilt of ours that crushed Him down; on Him the punishment fell that brought us peace, by His bruises we were healed. Strayed sheep all of us, each following his own path, and God laid on His shoulders our guilt, the guilt of us all.

Leader: Deliver us, O Jesus. (After every invocation)

All: Deliver us, O Jesus.

- From every evil...
- From every sin...
- From the temptations of the devil...
- From the spirit of impurity...
- From eternal punishment...

Priest: O God, who will not rejoice in the death of the sinner but rather that he be converted and live, accept our prayers and, in Thy mercy free thy servants from the chains of sin which bind them. Through Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: O, how sad and sore distressed
 Now was she, that Mother blessed
 Of the sole-begotten One.

FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets His sorrowful Mother

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Lk. 2, 22-36)

Reader: And when Jesus was forty days old and the time had come for Mary's purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem, to present Him before the Lord there....And there was a man named Simeon ... who told her: " Behold this Child is destined to bring about the fall of many and the rise of many in Israel, to be a sign which men will refuse to acknowledge; as for thy own soul, it shall have a sword to pierce it."

These words were revealed to Our Lady in her mission. She was to save the human race and become the Mother of Sorrows.

Leader: O Mary, pray to Jesus for us. (After every invocation)

All: O Mary, pray to Jesus for us.

- Through your Immaculate Conception...
- Through your divine Maternity...
- Through your perpetual Virginity...
- Through your glorious Assumption...
- Through your universal Mediation...

Priest: Almighty and everlasting Father, who ordained that the Blessed Virgin Mary should assist at the Passion of Thy only begotten Son, grant us that while recalling her sorrows we may share in her joy. Through Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: Is there one who would not weep,
Whelm'd in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

FIFTH STATION

Simon helps Jesus to carry the Cross

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Lk. 27, 26; Mk.15, 22 cir.)

Reader: As they led Him off, they caught hold of a man called Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and loaded him with the cross, so that he could carry it after Jesus. And so they took him to a place called Golgotha, which means: The place of the skull, where they were to crucify Him....

Leader: We implore Thee, O Jesus. (After every invocation)

All: We implore Thee, O Jesus.

- Preserve, direct and defend your Holy Church...
- Grant to all peoples the spirit of peace and harmony...
- Grant unity to all those who confess your Holy Name...
- Grant that the spirit of brotherly love may animate all those who seek to serve God...
- Make your church holy and spotless...

Priest: Almighty God, do not punish us as we deserve, rather grant us Thy merciful forgiveness and in Thy mercy bring us back to the right path. Through Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: Who could mark, from tears refraining,
Christ's dear Mother uncomplaining,
In so great a sorrow bowed?

SIXTH STATION

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH (Is. 53, 2- 4)

Reader: No stateliness here, no majesty, no beauty, as we gaze upon Him, to win our hearts. Nay, here is one despised, left out of all human reckoning; bowed with misery, and no stranger to weakness; how should we recognize that face? How should we take any account of Him, a man so despised? Our weakness, and it was he who carried the weight of it; our miseries, and it was He who bore them. A leper, so we

thought of Him, a man God had smitten and brought low.

Leader: We wish to console You, O Lord. (After every invocation)

All: We wish to console You, O Lord.

- For the forgetfulness of men...
- For the insults hurled against Thy Divinity...
- For the abuse of Thy graces...
- For the souls that are lost in spite of Thy love...

Priest: Almighty Lord and supreme Redeemer, keep alive in us the certainty that the death of Thy Son will obtain for us eternal life and that our good works will be rewarded in the glory of heaven. Through Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled
She beheld her tender Child,
All with bloody scourges rent.

SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls the second time

READING FROM PSALM 87 (1-8)

Reader: The anguish of David and of the Jewish people in exile are but a figure of the material and spiritual sufferings of the Messias. "Lord God, day and night I cry bitterly to Thee; Let my prayer reach Thy presence, give audience to Thy entreaty, for indeed my heart is full of trouble. My life sinks ever closer to the grave...I count as one of those who go down in the abyss, like one powerless. Heavily Thy anger weighs down on me, and Thou dost overwhelm me with its full flood. Thou hast estranged all my acquaintances from me, so that they treat me as a thing accursed."

Leader: O Lord, hear our prayer. (After every invocation)

All: O Lord, hear our prayer.

- Grant us the grace of sincere conversion...
- Direct our thoughts to the eternal truths...
- Deliver us, our relations and friends, from the punishment of hell...
- Grant the glory of heaven to all the faithful departed...

Priest: Almighty and eternal God, Who hast redeemed us by the Passion of your Son, accomplish in us Thy work of Thy mercy and

make us ever live in Thy holy friendship. Through Christ Our Lord.

All: Amen.

All: For the sins of His own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation
Till His spirit forth He sent.

EIGHTH STATION

The women of Jerusalem weep over Jesus

READING FROM THE GOSPEL (Lk.23, 27-32)

Reader: On his way to Mount Calvary, Jesus was followed by a great multitude of the people, and also of women, who beat their breasts and mourned over Him; but He turned to them and said: “It is not for me that you should weep, daughters of Jerusalem; you should weep for yourselves and for your children. Behold a time is coming when men will say: It is well for the barren, for the wombs that never bore children, and the breasts that never suckled them. It is then that they will begin to say to the mountains: Fall on us and to the hills: Cover us. If it goes so hard with the tree that is still green what will become of the tree that is already dried up?”

Leader: Have mercy, O Lord. (After every invocation)

All: Have mercy, O Lord.

- On all those who are persecuted for the faith and for justice...
- On all those who suffer in body and soul...
- On all exiles, forced to live far from their dear ones...
- On all those who are deprived of bread to eat & unable to find work.

Priest: O God, who didst sanctify the shame of the cross by the most precious Blood of Thy Son, grant us the grace to love the cross and help us to bear it. Through Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen

All: O dear Mother, fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
Make my heart with yours accord.

NINTH STATION

Jesus falls the third time

READING FROM THE PROPHET JEREMIAH (Jer. 11,18-19)

Reader: Thou, Lord, didst make it all known to me past doubt, warning me before hand of their devices. Hitherto, I had been unsuspecting as a lamb that is led to the slaughter-house; I knew nothing of the plots they were hatching against me, as they whispered: Let us give him a taste of the gallows-tree, let us rid the world of him, so that his very name be forgotten.

Leader: Have mercy, O Lord. (After every invocation)

All: Have mercy, O Lord.

- On all those who have lost their faith...
- On all obstinate sinners...
- On all children who are exposed to corrupting influences...
- On all those who refuse Thy graces...

Priest: O Lord Jesus Christ, who hast come down on earth, and in atonement of sins, hast shed Thy most precious Blood; grant, we beseech Thee, that on the last day we may, through Thy mercy and goodness, be numbered amongst Thy Blessed. **All:** Amen.

All: Make me feel as you have felt,
Make my soul to glow and melt,
With the love of Christ, my Lord.

TENTH STATION

Jesus is stripped of His garments and is given bitter gall to drink

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Mk. 15, 23-24)

Reader: As they arrived on the place of the skull, they offered Him a draught of wine mixed with myrrh, which he would not take; and then they crucified Him, dividing His garments among them by casting lots, to decide which should fall to each.

Leader: We beg Thy forgiveness, O Lord. (After every invocation)

All: We beg Thy forgiveness, O Lord.

- For the dishonesty and the impurity that debase our lives...
- For the corruption that aims at destroying innocence...
- For the profanation of days dedicated to Thee...
- For the blasphemies so often hurled against Thee...
- For the public sins of nations that trespass against the rights

of Thy Church...

Priest: May our supplications reach Thy throne, O Lord, so that having been punished for our sins, we may now feel the blessing of Thy pardon and mercy. Through Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: Holy Mother, pierce me thro’;
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Saviour Crucified.

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Mk. 15, 26ss)

Reader: It was the third hour when they crucified Him. A proclamation of His offence was written over Him: “The King of the Jews” and with him they crucified two thieves, one on the right and the other on His left. The passers-by blasphemed against Him shaking their heads: “Come now, they said, come down from that cross, and rescue Thyself.” In the same way the chief priest and scribes said mockingly to one another: “He saved others, He cannot save Himself. Let Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross here and now, so that we can see it and believe in Him.” Jesus meanwhile was saying: “Father forgive them: they know not what it is they are doing.”

Leader: O God, all Holy, almighty and eternal, have mercy on us.
(After every invocation).

All: O God, all Holy, almighty and eternal, have mercy on us.

- O Christian people, what more could I do for you that I have not done?...

- I offered my life in sacrifice for you...

- I left you the sacraments containing the grace of my Redemption...

- Is this why you continue to renew the sufferings of my Passion by your sins?..

Priest: Hail, our King! Thou alone hadst pity on us poor sinners; in obedience to Thy Father, Thou wert condemned to the cross and didst go as meek as a lamb destined for the slaughter house. To Thee all

glory, all triumph and victory.

All: All praise to Thee, O Lord.

All: Let me share with you his pain,
Who for all my sins was slain,
Who for me in torments died.

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the Cross

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Lk. 23, 44; Jn. 19, 22-29; Mt. 27, 50)

Reader: It was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness all over the earth until the ninth hour. The Mother of Jesus, some pious women and John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, had taken their stand beside the Cross of Jesus. And Jesus seeing His Mother there, and the disciple too, whom he loved, standing by, said to his Mother:

“Woman, this is thy son.” Then he said to the disciple: “This is thy Mother.” And Jesus said: “I am thirsty.” There was a jar that was full of vinegar; so they filled a sponge filled with vinegar and put it on a stick of hyssop, and brought it close to His mouth. Jesus drank the vinegar and said: “It is achieved.” Then Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

Leader: Soul of Christ, make me holy.

All: (Repeat each time)

Leader: Body of Christ, save me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me

Remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

Priest: O Lord, we pray Thee, look down upon Thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ did not refuse to be delivered into the hands of wicked men, and to endure the torments of the Cross. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: Let me mingle tears with thee,

Mourning Him Who mourned for me,
All the days that I may live.

THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus is taken down from the Cross

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Jn. 19,31 ss.)

Reader: After the death of Jesus, the Jews would not let the bodies remain crucified on the Sabbath, because the Sabbath day was a solemn one; and since it was now the eve, they asked Pilate that they might have their legs broken, and be taken away. And so the soldiers came and broke the legs both of one and of the other that were crucified with Him; but when they came to Jesus, and found Him already dead, they did not break His legs, but one of the soldiers opened His side with a spear; and immediately blood and water flowed out... Then they took Him down from the Cross.

Leader: Have mercy on us. (After every invocation)

All: Have mercy on us.

- Heart of Jesus, pierced by the lance...
- Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation...
- Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection...
- Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation...
- Heart of Jesus, salvation of all who trust in Thee...

Priest: Almighty and everlasting God, look upon the Heart of Thy well-beloved Son, and upon the praise and satisfaction which he rendered to Thee on behalf of sinners; and being thus appeased, grant them the pardon which they seek from Thy mercy. Through Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: By the cross with you to stay
There with you to weep and pray
Is all I ask of you to give.

FOURTEENTH STATION

Jesus is laid in the Sepulchre

READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL (Jn. 19, 38-41: Mt. 27,61)

Reader: After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him leave... Joseph took possession of the body, and wrapped it in a clean winding sheet: then he buried it in a new grave, which he had fashioned for himself out of the rock, and left it there, rolling a great stone against the grave-door.

Reader: Have mercy on us. (After each invocation)

All: Have mercy on us.

- O Jesus, God almighty...
- O Jesus, God of peace...
- O Jesus, our refuge...
- O Jesus, our good shepherd...
- O Jesus, our Way and Life...

Priest: O God, Who didst sacrifice Thy divine Son Jesus on the Cross to deliver us from the slavery of sin, grant us the grace to share in His glorious resurrection. Through Christ Our Lord. **All:** Amen.

All: While my body here decays
May my soul Your goodness praise
Safe in Paradise with You.
Amen.

CONCLUSION

Leader: Remember me in Thy Kingdom, O Lord, as on the cross Thou didst have mercy on the good thief.

All: An Act of Contrition: O my God, I am sorry and beg pardon for all my sins, and detest them above all things, because they deserve Thy dreadful punishments, because they have crucified my loving Saviour Jesus Christ, and most of all, because they have offended Thine infinite goodness; and I firmly resolve, by the help of Thy grace, never to offend Thee again, and carefully to avoid the occasions of sin. Sweet Jesus, have mercy on me and pardon me.

Leader: Let us pray for the intentions of the Holy Father to gain the indulgences.

All: Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory be...