

**A ROSARY
AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING
THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES
OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

First Sorrowful Mystery

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Trafficking of Daughters and Sons of God

As he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus sees the suffering of all his sisters and brothers with whom he will unite himself.

All over the world, millions of our sisters or brothers are treated as objects, as commodities to be bought and sold for money or the pleasure of others. When this happens, the entire Body of Christ suffers. In the Gospel, Jesus commands us to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked and to set free the prisoners.

On finding his friends asleep when he returned, Jesus reproached them saying, "Could you not watch one hour with me?"

We are called to awaken to realities around us, to be aware of the suffering of our many sisters and brothers who have been trafficked. So we pray:

*Our Father
Hail Mary (10 times)
Glory Be*

*O GOD,
words fail us
when we hear of men, women and children
deceived, transported to unknown places,
forced into prostitution or other forms of labour,
to profit other people.*

*Surround all victims of trafficking
with Your tender love and care,
protect and deliver them, O God.*

*Give us the courage and the wisdom
to stand in solidarity with them,
so that together we will find ways
to the freedom that is your gift to all of us.
Amen.*

(adapted from a prayer by G. Cassini.)

The Second Sorrowful Mystery

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Trafficking for Labour

Christ is chained to a pillar and flogged until his entire body is covered with deep wounds.

When our sisters and brothers are denied their basic human rights and freedom, when their dignity is insulted as they are abused, tortured and forced into slavery, it is Jesus the Suffering Servant who is scourged again and again.

We remember that Jesus says, "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do it to me."

We must speak out and act if we see any person being abused or kept in slave-like conditions, and we must pray constantly for a better world:

*Our Father
Hail Mary (10 times)
Glory Be*

*LORD,
you teach us that you came
so that we might have life
and that we might live to the full.*

*You ask us for our hands
that you might use them for your Kingdom.
You ask us for our mouths
to speak out against injustice.
You ask us for our eyes
to see the pain of poverty.
You ask us for our lives
that your Spirit might work through us.*

*Help people everywhere to understand
the meaning of your birth into our world, and
teach us to take seriously
the meaning of your cross and resurrection.
Amen.*

The Third Sorrowful Mystery **THE CROWNING WITH THORNS**

Trafficking in Children

In the Praetorium, God the Son is mocked, spat upon and crowned with thorns.

Many children are trafficked and exploited. They are robbed of their childhood and prevented from living according to God's plan. This is a terrible sin that should never take place and that can never be accepted.

For as Jesus says, "Let the little children come to me ... for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" and he condemns those who harm or hurt them.

We are called to protect the innocent, especially the little ones, and so we pray:

*Our Father
Hail Mary (10 times)
Glory Be*

*ALMIGHTY GOD,
Father and Creator,
we pray for the more than 20 million people
who have been
tricked, trapped, sold or kidnapped
into slavery.*

*We pray especially for the children
who are transported and forced
into a wretched life of slavery in our own country.*

*Help us to find the courage
to put an end to these practices
so that all children
may enjoy the freedom and rights
that are due to them as your beloved children,
and friends of your Son,
our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

*(adapted from Franciscan International prayer to end
trafficking)*

The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery **THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS**

Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

His body battered and bruised from torture, Jesus carried the cross along the road to Calvary. He meets his mother on the way, and the hearts of the Mother and the Son are filled with agony at what he must endure to save us all.

When a person is trafficked and sexually exploited, systematically and repeatedly, God's gift is abused and defiled. Every woman, man and child trafficked is our mother, father, sister, brother, daughter and son in pain and anguish.

Jesus says to the women of Jerusalem, "Weep not for me, but for yourselves and your children."

Let us weep for our sisters and brothers who have been trafficked. Let us choose to live with integrity by doing our part to build a world where love and peace prevail. So we pray:

*Our Father
Hail Mary (10 times)
Glory Be*

*LORD JESUS CHRIST,
you came to restore your broken people to dignity
and to show us the way
to healing and wholeness.*

*We pray for the countless victims
of sex trafficking,
for their rescue and restoration.
May they be led to safety,
and experience comfort, solace and hope.*

*May our own hearts may be moved
and our lives transformed.
May our minds be enlightened
and our desire for righteousness be enkindled.
May we be faithful to your call
to build a world of Love and Peace.
Amen.*

The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery **THE CRUCIFIXION**

Trafficking in Organs

On Golgotha, the hands and feet of Jesus are nailed to a cross, and his side is pierced with a lance.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God united himself with humanity. When we treat a people as objects, when people are sold, blackmailed, tricked, kidnapped or killed for their body parts, we desecrate the human person who is always a temple of God's Spirit.

On the Cross, Jesus says, "Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother."

It is one thing to have lawful organ donations but it is a sin when the organs come from a person who is trafficked, and possibly killed, for them. So we pray:

*Our Father
Hail Mary (10 times)
Glory Be*

*ALMIGHTY AND LOVING GOD,
you created all people in your image
and you have joined yourself with our human
family.*

*Lead us to become individuals of deep
compassion
as we remember and reflect
on the suffering and affliction
of our trafficked sisters and brothers.*

*As we place before you today their pain and
anguish.
We ask that you help each of us
to grow in compassion and gratitude
for our own freedom and for the riches we enjoy.*

*We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*