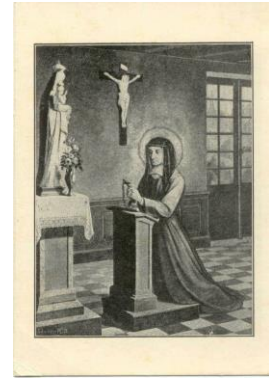


STATIONS OF THE CROSS

In the Spirit of Louise de Marillac



Call to Prayer

Leader. “The charity of Jesus Christ crucified, which animates and sets afire the heart of the Daughter of Charity, urges her to hasten to the relief of every type of human misery. . . to seek out “*the poorest and most abandoned.*” Constitutions, p. 1 and C. 11b

O Holy Cross! O suffering!

All. How amiable you are since you are honored and will be eternally honored because of the power which you have given souls to praise and love God!

O Holy Cross! O suffering!

All. How amiable you are since the love of God has given way to you in His Son to gain through you the power to give paradise to those who had lost it.” Louise, A 20

1. Pilate condemns Jesus to die.



Let us pray for all those in prisons, especially all those condemned to death.

“How consoled we should be to see ourselves, with the Son of God, subjected to the accusations and judgment of others and entirely destitute of the consolation of creatures. From now on, I shall think of you in this state and shall pray for you before God. I implore him to be your strength.” Louise, L 284

2. Jesus accepts his cross.



Let us pray for abused children and for those suffering from mental anguish.

“Implore our dear Crucified Jesus to bind us firmly to his Cross so that being closely united to him in his holy love, our slight sufferings and the little we do may be in and for his love.” Louise, L 46

3. Jesus falls the first time.



Let us pray for the unemployed, for those with disabilities, and for all who are unable to work.

“I have great sympathy for all the sufferings I know you have had. This is a sign ...of the love which Our Lord has for you, having chosen you to honor him in his sufferings.” Louise, L 529

4. Jesus meets his mother.



Let us pray for all mothers and fathers, especially those who mourn for lost children.
 “God asks me to give my will to Him. I shall do this by entire confidence and abandonment to His most holy will. . . .It is then that the invention of His Divine Love teaches me and permits me to attach myself to the greatest means He has given me for reaching my end, the most holy humanity of His Son. With the help of His grace, this sacred humanity shall be the only example for my life.” Louise, A 19

5. Simon helps carry the cross.



Let us pray for unskilled laborers, migrant workers, and domestic servants, and for all those who do not receive just wages for their work.
 “Souls chosen by God are very particularly destined to suffer, and this is such a sweet and agreeable privilege for them that they would rather die than not suffer since they consider loving and suffering as one and the same thing.” Louise, A 20

6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.



Let us pray for all those suffering from mental disorders.
 “Meekness, cordiality, and support should be the practice of the Daughters of Charity as humility, simplicity and love of the holy humanity of Jesus Christ, which is perfect charity, is their spirit. This, my dear sisters, is what I planned to give you as a summary of your rules.” Louise, L 377

7. Jesus falls the second time.



Let us pray for the abandoned poor, for the lonely, and for all those suffering from chemical dependency.
 “Our Lord wanted us to understand the dignity of suffering when He told Saint Paul that he would be honored by the privilege or suffering in His name. This belief is a truth which must be deeply rooted in our hearts. Effectively, what are we accomplishing on earth when we suffer? We are applying to ourselves the merit of the sufferings of Jesus Christ.” Louise, A 20

8. Jesus speaks to the women.



Let us pray for the poor who have evangelized us and have taught us how to care about and to share with one another.
 “I have keenly felt your pain regarding all the matters of which you told me. We should not find strange all these calumnies which lying persons wish to say of us since we are Christians and, as well, Daughters of Charity. We are obliged to bear with all this as we are taught by that great lover of sufferings, Jesus Christ.” Louise, L 614

9. Jesus falls the third time.



Let us pray for victims of violence, all those suffering persecution and oppression, and for all those without hope.

“The love by which God wishes you to go to him is by the royal road of the Cross. I do not doubt you will allow yourselves to be led this way, willingly and joyfully, in order to carry out his holy will.” Louise, L 500

10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.



Let us pray for the farmers who have lost their farms, for the homeless, for refugees and for missionaries.

“To please God, it is not necessary to always feel joy and consolation. Since the Son of God accomplished the work of salvation of the whole world through grief and pain, it is quite reasonable that if we wish to participate in his merits, we should overcome ourselves and so accept sufferings.” Louise, L 605

11. Jesus is nailed to the cross.



Let us pray for the victims of injustice everywhere and especially for all who suffer because of our indifference and the lack of justice, especially minorities.

“Our Lord inspires you to remain at peace at the foot of His cross, completely submissive to the guidance of His Divine Providence. It seems to me, my very dear Sisters, that you have found the philosophers stone of devotion when the firm resolution to do His will calms your anxieties.” Louise, L 363

12. Jesus dies upon the cross.



Let us pray for the sick, the terminally ill, the dying and the forgotten and for all who will die this day.

“ Jesus thirsted upon the Cross after He saw that all had been accomplished. His afflicted body, like a deer, sought the relief of water. He had suffered a double thirst: that of His body and that of His spirit. He bears witness to this by crying out simply “I thirst.” . . . He willed to forgo even necessities so as to use every moment of His life to the fullest. Listen to Him, O my soul, as if He were speaking to you alone, ‘I thirst for your faithful love.’”

Louise, A 21

13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.



Let us pray for all who are mourning, and feel that God is far from them.

“We who have been baptized in Jesus Christ have been baptized into his death.” Romans 6:3

“This death into which we are baptized is caused by the love which Our Lord has for us from all eternity.” Louise, A 23

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Let us pray for the hungry and the street people, and for missing children and their families.

“Let us live, then, as if dead in Jesus Christ and, as such, no more resistance to Jesus, no more actions except for Jesus, no more thoughts except in Jesus, in a word, a life only for Jesus and for the neighbor, so that in this unifying love, I may love all that Jesus loves.”

Louise, A 23

15. Jesus rises from the dead.

Let us pray for all catechumens, the newly baptized, those discerning religious vocations, and all giving birth to new life.

“Our Lord will have had you taste the sweetness which souls, filled with his holy love, feel in the midst of the sufferings and anguish of this life. If this has not been the case and if you are still on Calvary assure yourself that Jesus Christ is pleased to see you make your retreat there. He wishes you to have sufficient courage to be willing to remain on your Calvary as he did on his, for your sake. Be assured your ‘coming down’ will indeed be glorious.”

Louise, L 545

Conclusion

℟ Let us pray together.

You, O my God, who are so good,
grant me an awareness of my sins
and the contrition
I must have for having offended you.

By the merits of your death,
by your precious blood shed upon the Cross,
have pity on all those who have offended you.
Grant them mercy
so that together
we may all praise you forever.

Elisabeth Charpy, D.C., adapted from Louise, A 49b

Betty Ann McNeil, DC
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DAUGHTERS of CHARITY
OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

