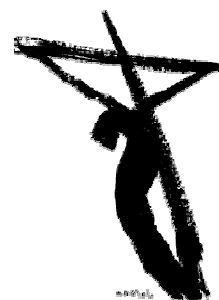


PREPARATORY STATION: THE CROSS

The Son of God came on earth to create the Holy Family.

V. Glory be to God alone in Jesus Christ

R. **Through Mary and St. Joseph.**



Narrative

And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary of whom was born Jesus whom we call the Christ (Mt 1:16). The Word of God became flesh and he dwelt among us (Jn. 1:14). Those whom the Lord foreknew would become saints by their correspondence to grace, he predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son so that he would be the first-born of a great number of brothers (Rm. 8:29). Now he went amongst men doing good to all and before leaving them he said to them, “My dear children, I have only a short time to remain with you” (Jn. 13:33). “If you love me, keep my commandments” (Jn. 14:15). “I give you my peace so that your heart may not be troubled or afraid because of my going (Jn. 17:30) because I will not leave you orphans” (Jn. 14:18). And, in fact, when he was crucified the mother of Jesus and the sister of Mary, wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene were beside his cross. Now Jesus, seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved beside her, said to his mother, “Behold your son” and to the disciple, “Behold your mother” (Jn. 19:25-27). Everything being thus accomplished (Jn. 19:28), he breathed his last breath (Jn. 19:30) not only for the salvation of his people but in order to gather together into one single family all the children of God who were scattered in other nations (Jn. 11:52).

Reflections

1. The Son of God came on earth to create the Holy Family and he wanted the first three members of this family to be models for those who would later become part of it. He proposed himself as the model for everyone, for women, men and children of all ages and conditions. But it was above all to his apostles and their successors that he addressed the words, “I have given you the example so that you may do what you have seen me doing.” He wanted Mary also to become the model for all women, and St. Joseph to be the model of all men who aspired to be just.

- How committed am I to giving time, on a regular basis, to the contemplation of the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph?
- In what ways do I try to model myself on them?
- What are the qualities in me which show people that I belong to this Holy Family?

2. St. John was the first adopted son that Jesus incorporated into the Holy Family and, as such, the well-beloved disciple could consider Mary to be his mother and she in turn would treat him as her son. The same conditions should obtain for all the other adopted children of the Holy Family

- What does it mean to me to be an adopted child of the Holy Family and to have Mary as my mother?
- What are my feelings for Mary my mother?

3. The Holy Family spent some time on earth in order to fulfil God's plans. All their thoughts and desires were centred on God and God's mission. They sought only God alone in all things.

- How centred am I on God alone and how single minded am I in listening to and doing God's will?
- In what ways can I change so as to follow more closely in the footsteps of Jesus, Mary and Joseph?

Prayer: Let us ask Jesus, through the intercession of Mary and St. Joseph, to grant us all the dispositions necessary to walk in their footsteps and to increase the number of their imitators.

Let us pray for the whole Association and for all its Vocations.

V. Heart of Jesus burning with love for me

R. **Inflame my heart with love for you.**

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God

R. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

V. St. Joseph, our father, pray for us.

R. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**