

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Human Dignity and Solidarity— National Migrant Ministry

LENTEN ROSARY

Walking with Mary and Jesus through our desert



In these difficult times in which we live, we are certain that the Lord Jesus, who experienced hunger, thirst, uncertainty and temptation in the desert, understands our pain, our hunger and thirst, our uncertainties and temptations, and accompanies us on this journey.

We unite with all our migrant brothers and sisters: those who have been in this country for many years, and those who have been arriving in these months, moved by economic necessity, by unjust and oppressive policies, or by wars. We are all united by Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church, who lived in her own life the anguish of exile, the changes, and the uncertainty of the life and mystery of her Son. She remained strong and faithful, and invites us all to do the same.

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

First Mystery: The Agony of Jesus in the Garden

“Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.’ He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.’” (Mt 26:36-39).

“Such a battle and such a victory become possible only through prayer. It is by his prayer that Jesus vanquishes the tempter, both at the outset of his public mission and in the ultimate struggle of his agony” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2849).

In this mystery, we contemplate the anguish of Jesus and his willingness to go forward in spite of everything. We join in prayer for those who face the decision to leave their country in the face of grave danger and even death. We remember our own anguish at times when we have to undertake migration paths or make difficult decisions. We accompany Jesus in his moment of anguish and place ourselves in God's hands, confident that this will give us victory.

Our Father ...

Hail Mary ...

Glory be ...

Second mystery: The Scouring at the Pillar

“Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they struck him repeatedly.” (Jn 19:1-3).

“Jesus’ sufferings took their historical, concrete form from the fact that he was ‘rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes,’ (Mk 8:31) who handed ‘him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified’ (Mt 20:19)” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 572).

In this mystery we contemplate the rejection of Jesus, the blows he receives from those around him, the mockery and reproaches. We join with all migrants who often have to suffer rejection and discrimination from those around them, from those in authority, those who resent them because they perceive that they are receiving privileges that they have not had, or because of the discrimination and rejection of those who have been here longer and suffer contempt for their language, culture or education. We unite ourselves to the suffering Christ who gave himself, with the confidence that this greeting, "Hail, King," is in reality, the truth of God, who gives us the dignity of "prophets, priests and kings."

Our Father ...

Hail Mary ...

Glory be ...

Third Mystery: Jesus is Crowned with Thorns

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'" (Mt 27:27-29)

"It is love 'to the end' that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction. He knew and loved us all when he offered his life." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616).

We are crowned, like Christ! That love that has known and loved us gives us the assurance of reaching glory with Him. We join in this mystery with the many migrants who feel their dignity trampled upon, who see or fear new and more serious unjust laws. To the children of migrants who, perhaps by assimilating into the dominant culture, feel ashamed of their culture. We have the confidence that the King of Kings looks upon us with infinite love, that He lifts us up to Himself, that He gives us the glory of being children of God and His brothers and sisters.

Our Father ...

Hail Mary ...

Glory be ...

Fourth Mystery: Jesus Carries the Cross

"They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. They brought him to the place of Golgotha (which is translated Place of the Skull)." (Mk 15:21-22).

"By accepting in his human will that the Father's will be done, he accepts his death as redemptive, for "he himself bore our sins in his body on the tree (1 Pet 2:24)" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 612).

We unite ourselves in this mystery to the sorrowful journey of Jesus. We give thanks for all those who have been and continue to be the Cyreneans of migrants: those who have accompanied, supported and defended migrants and refugees. Those who have fought for fairer laws. Those who, with outstretched hands, have gone out to meet the migrants of the past and the many newly arrived refugees from Nicaragua, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ecuador, Cuba and many other countries. We pray that we may have the strength to also be Cyreneans and to accompany, support and help carry the cross of many on their journey.

Our Father ...

Hail Mary ...

Glory be ...

Fifth Mystery: The Crucifixion of our Lord

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.’ It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commend my spirit’; and when he had said this he breathed his last.” (Lc 33-34, 44-46)

“Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:3).
(*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 619).

We remember in this mystery those who have lost their lives trying to reach this country, in the desert or at sea. We know that God receives their death and that, mysteriously, he can bring new life out of death. We place in God's hands all our small or big daily deaths, the effort and the wound of migration, trusting in the power of the Resurrection that brings us new and abundant life.

Our Father ...

Hail Mary ...

Glory be ...

We conclude our prayer asking the Lord for the peace that only He, Christ, who broke down the walls that separated us by his Cross and Resurrection, can give us.

Prepared by Carmen Aguinaco

