

# Scriptural Rosary for Priests

(from *Praying for Priests: A Mission for the New Evangelization* by K. Beckman)

## ***The First Sorrowful Mystery: The Agony in the Garden***

**Scripture** – Matthew 26:38-39

Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little further he fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.”

**Reflection** from *Pastores Dabo Vobis*

First of all, obedience is indeed “apostolic” in the sense that it recognizes, loves and serves the Church in her hierarchical structure. Priestly obedience has a particular “pastoral” character. It is lived in an atmosphere of constant readiness to allow oneself to be taken up, as it were “consumed,” by the needs and demands of the flock.

**Petition**

*Eternal Father, you willed Jesus to be the icon of obedience. Graciously dispose the priest to glorify you by the gift of his free will. Grant that nothing on the earth cause him to compromise the promise of obedience that helps him to disappear from his own sight. We implore you to form the priest’s heart into a canvas of charity, humility, mortification, surrender, recollection and obedience for love of you and the Church.*

## ***The Second Sorrowful Mystery: The Scourging at the Pillar***

**Scripture** – Matthew 27:24-26

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this righteous man’s blood; see to it yourselves.” And all the people answered, “His blood be on us and on our children!” Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

**Reflection** from *Pastores Dabo Vobis*

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church his body. He is the “head” in the new and unique sense of being a “servant”, according to his own words: “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mk. 10:45). Jesus’ service attains its fullest expression in his death on the cross, that is, in this total gift of self in humility and love.

**Petition**

*Eternal Father, graciously grant the priest to discover the joy of being configured to Christ who came to serve, not to be served. Please shape the expectations of the priest to conform to the divine expectation of priesthood, and help him to embrace a life of humility and love, with prayer, simplicity, and patience.*

## ***The Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns***

**Scripture** – Matthew 27:28-30

And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him saying, “Hail King of the Jews!” And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.

## **Reflection** from *Pastores Dabo Vobis*

The priest's spiritual and pastoral life, like that of his brothers and sisters, lay and religious, depends, for its quality and fervor, on the frequent and conscientious personal practice of the sacrament of penance. If a priest were no longer to go to confession or properly confess his sins, his priestly being and his priestly action would feel its effects very soon, and this would also be noticed by the community of which he was the pastor.

### **Petition**

*Eternal Father, graciously encourage the priest to avail himself of the sacrament of confession as a penitent, so that he minister the same sacrament of mercy with a pure heart. Help him to realize that as he receives divine mercy in the confessional, he can more joyfully extend the same divine mercy to others. Grant him to be a good penitent and in turn, a good confessor.*

## **The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: Jesus Carries His Cross**

### **Scripture** – Matthew 27:31-32

And when they [the Roman soldiers] had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him. As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon, by name: this man they compelled to carry his cross.

## **Reflection** from *Pastores Dabo Vobis*

Jesus brought his role as mediator to complete fulfillment when he offered himself on the cross, thereby opening to us, once and for all, access to the heavenly sanctuary, to the Father's house (Cf. Heb. 9:24-28)... With the one definitive sacrifice of the cross, Jesus communicated to all his disciples the dignity and mission of the priests of the new and eternal covenant.

### **Petition**

*Eternal Father, as the priest carries his cross daily in service to the Church, grant that he experience the presence of Mary and the welcomed help of the lay faithful. We pray that the weight of his cross not crush his spirit, though it may break his heart. At the end of each day, when the priest is in the silence and solitude of his room, grant him peace and lead him to surrender the burdens of his ministry, laying them at the foot of the Cross.*

## **The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion of Our Lord**

### **Scripture** – Matthew 27:35-37

And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews."

## **Reflection** from *Pastores Dabo Vobis*

In accordance with Saint Paul's words to the Christians at Philippi, the priest should have "the mind which was in Christ Jesus," emptying himself of his own "self," so as to discover, in a charity which is obedient, chaste and poor, the royal road of union with God and unity with his brother and sisters (cf. Phil. 2:5).

### **Petition**

*Eternal Father, Your Son's self-emptying love is inspiring and challenging to the priest. Jesus drank the chalice to the dregs, his poverty is complete, and he hides his glory, and strips himself of every possession and domain. Please protect the priest from the enemy who strategizes to destroy his vocation, and tempts him to extremes of discouragement and doubt, and then, pride and vanity. Graciously teach the priest the science of the cross and the art of loving as Jesus loves.*

*Loving Father, we entrust all priests to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*