

PRAYER 14.

*A devout Prayer for conformity to the sacred life
and crucified image of Jesus Christ.*

O UNITY above all understanding! O adorable Trinity of God I beseech You, by the Humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took upon Him, and which was crucified, bow down the abyss of Your Godhead to the abyss of my lowliness, and driving away all my wickedness, create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me.

O good Jesus, by that immense love who drew You from Your Father's heart and bosom into the womb of the Virgin unstained; by Your taking on You, our human nature, in which You became my servant, and delivered me from everlasting death, draw me out of myself to You my God; and may Your love, O my God, recover for me Your grace, and perfect and increase in me whatever is imperfect in me; may it raise up what is fallen down, restore what has been destroyed, conform me to Your most holy life and loving conversation; and may it make me one with You, and enclose me within You, and engrave on the fleshly tables of my heart, and in all my behavior, Your holy life with all its virtues, as well as the goodness of Your behavior. Loosen my spirit, O my God, from all lower things, rule my soul, and, at the same time, work together with my body, holy and just works.

By Your holy Nativity purify me for a new life. By Your holy conversation perfect me in all virtues. By Your sacred doctrine, enlighten the eyes of my mind, and teach me the short and complete path of truth. By Your lowly washing of the feet of Your disciples, and even of him who betrayed You, cleanse and purify the feet of my corrupt affections, and whatever in me has a leaning unto vice, and

preserve them from being ever again defiled by filth. By the making ready of the Cenacle, by the institution of the most excellent Sacrament, where out of love unutterable You have given Yourself for our food and drink, form within me by Your own power, and fit up for Yourself a fitting place, and make in me Your cenacle, adorning it with all kinds of spices and flowers of virtues, that it may be worthy to draw You within itself, and this by Your own merits, and gratuitous and rightful preparation. Permit, also, to be Yourself both the house and the Master of the house, the Priest and the Sacrifice, the Giver and the Receiver, and change me wholly and consume me in Your burning love, and transform me, and make me one with You, that I may die to myself, and live to You alone; and be You, Yourself Your own praise before Your most holy Father in heaven and on earth; and grant, O Jesus, my sweetness and my life, that I may never be found ungrateful to Your love. By Your immense lowliness, where You allowed Yourself to be sold by Your own disciple, grant me, O my God, that I may never sell You, my God, for any passing thing or mere empty breath of empty glory, and that I may try to bear all contempt of myself for the honor of Your blessed Name with loving meekness, and that I may sell myself to You for the kingdom of heaven, which is ever to be bought, and give my whole self up to You by a certain divine commerce, since it is You Who say “Son, give Me Your heart. I am wounded for the love of You. Give Me Your heart, and I shall be healed; give Me Your heart, and take Me as Your reward.”

By Your intense sadness, distress and fear; by Your devout prayer and humble resignation; by Your bloody sweat, grant that I may have ever recourse to You in all adversity and temptation, that I may trust in You alone, forsake myself, and offer myself in resignation to You.

By that admirable love of Yours, where You allowed Yourself not only to be betrayed by Judas, but to be given up to Your enemies; grant me, O good Jesus, that I may never betray You either in myself or in my neighbors, nor refuse to mine enemies the offices and courtesies of love.

By that love, where You desired to be taken and bound by wicked sinful men, absolve me from the bonds of my sins, and again bind me with the cords of Your commandments and Your counsels, in union with Your gracious will, so that all the members of my body, and all the powers of my soul, may constantly persevere in the presence of Your divine Majesty, and never, at any time, be let loose through any fault of mine, to follow after the lustful liberty of the flesh.

By Your burning love, where for my sake You borne much reproach and confusion, and allowed Yourself to be inhumanly and cruelly treated, have mercy on my sinful and guilty soul, and unburden it from all its heavy load of sin! I have so shamefully disfigured Your divine image, and wronged and condemned Your holy Name in myself. Grant, I beseech You, O most loving Jesus, that I may gladly and willingly bear, for the honor of Your sacred Name, all the shame and confusion that may come upon me.

By that priceless love, whereby You did not shrink from painful scourgings, forgive me, O most merciful Jesus, for having times without number, scourged You by my own evil actions, and grant that I may ever confess You both in my heart and by my mouth, and that all my works may, by a pure intention, be in harmony with Your gracious will, and be done in accordance with the same; and may the image of Your countenance persevere whole within me.

By the loathsome and hateful spittle, with which for my sake You allowed Your adorable and sweet Face to be defiled by the wicked Jews, forgive me, O kind Jesus, for having stained with numberless evil thoughts and impure desires, my own face in my own conscience, where You dwell, and which ought clearly to reflect Your shining countenance and image, and for having received Your most

sacred Body in the filthy spittle of a conscience stained with sin, and without reverence; and grant unto me, at the same time, that I may never defile the fair face of Your image within me by unclean actions and thoughts.

By that love, where for my salvation You allowed Your glorious Face, on which the angels desire to look, to be veiled with a filthy linen cloth, that the image of Your divine countenance, which in my inward soul was hidden and darkened, might again be uncovered within me, and that the purity of Your bright light may again arise within me, and shine once more; by that love, I say, enlighten me inwardly with the pleasant light of Your heavenly grace, and grant that Your Face may from now on be never clouded over within me; but rather take away from my heart every veil of ignorance and sin.

O most patient Jesus, Who for my salvation was led from judge to judge, bestow upon me, I beseech You, the light of truth; rule all my actions, instruct my reason according to Your gracious will, teaching it in Your light how it ought to go forward in the royal path of virtue, and to pass from virtue to virtue.

O Jesus, meekest Lamb of God, Who for my sake permitted to be cruelly bound, and horribly scourged all over Your fair Body, because I had abused my whole body and all my members by sin and hurtful lusts, grant me, that I may expose and subject all my members to corporal sufferings, and patiently accept the scourges of Your fatherly correction, nor ever scourge You by my vices or sins.

O gracious Jesus, Who for the love of me conceded to be crowned with thorns, that You might restore and mend Your image in my soul which had been injured by sin, as that to which You have

united the whole of Your blessed Trinity—for by the power of the Father You justifies my memory; by the wisdom of the Son You are the light of my understanding, and by the love of the Holy Ghost You posses and dwell in my will, so that without You I can retain nothing, understand nothing, do no good thing, but all this is done by Your most Holy Trinity, which have made its own heaven within me, and whose kingdom is my soul. For which reason also, You allowed Yourself to be mockingly adored as a King, and Your venerable Face to be defiled by the filthy spittle of wicked men, namely, that You might cleanse and wash Your most holy Face within me, that had become defiled by sin. Therefore, grant that I may adore You, my true God in spirit and in truth, and hail You my King with due worship, and that Your kingdom may be founded and established in me, and may endure, so as to deserve in an eternity of bliss to receive the crown of life.

O most merciful Jesus, Who, although innocent, was sentenced to a cruel death for the race of man, inasmuch as I have not feared the judgments of Your justice, grant that I may ever behold You sitting as Judge in my soul, which is Your tribunal, where You may bring all my thoughts, and words, and works to judgment, my own conscience bearing witness against them—for, indeed, it bit into me sharply, and accused me of all my vices—so that, at the last judgment, I may appear with a safe conscience, and bear with even mind the unjust judgments of men.

O Jesus, gentle Sheep, Who for my sake was pressed down under the heavy burden of the Cross, grant that I may gladly embrace the cross of penance, and make all crosses light by Your Humanity, in union with the love of Your Godhead, where You will unburden me of every load, and make me feel that Your yoke is indeed sweet, and Your burden light; and this will be more grateful and pleasing unto You, than if I cling to my own crosses, and persist in them according to the feeling of my impotent nature.

O most merciful Jesus, Who was stripped of Your own garments, because I had lost the first state of innocence, and was commanded to sit on a hard rock, while the rough wind burned into Your wounded Body, and You Yourself were waiting for the Cross to be made ready for You, grant that, by a simple confession of my sins, I may put off and lay aside the old man, and be clothed in Your sight with the garments of virtue, so that I may not be found naked, and that, stripped of all passing and temporal things that might endanger my salvation, I may deserve to be founded and established in the rock, which is Christ, even in Yourself.

O sweet Lord Jesus Christ, Who allowed Yourself to be so inhumanly stretched upon the Cross, that all Your bones could be numbered, grant that all my members, and all the powers of my body and soul, being ever stretched out, and raised up in worthy praise of You, may be lovingly united to You, and that my nature may be so fixed in Your love, that I may never depart from Your commandments, but may remain fastened to Your Cross by the nails of Your fear.

O unconquered Jesus, Who allowed Yourself to be raised up on the Cross, in order to draw all souls unto You, draw me wholly to You, that, lifted up from all earthly affections and desires, I may in spirit walk in the heavenly places, and there firmly abide in Your heart, O Jesus, my life, my hope, and my salvation, You heaven of delight, You hope and refuge of sinners, and of all heavy laden and afflicted hearts.

O most gracious Jesus, I beseech You, by the bitterness of the sorrows which for my sake You suffered on the Cross, and especially when Your noble Soul went forth from Your Body, have mercy on my soul at its passing away; take it into Your hands, and grant that the merits of Your most holy

Humanity may profit it, so that in me You may have peace, and joy, and delight, both in time and throughout all eternity. Amen.

