

ROSARY OF THE SEVEN DOLORS

ACT OF CONTRITION.

AFTER EACH DOLOR: OUR FATHER; HAIL MARY (SEVEN TIMES)

FIRST DOLOR: THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON.

WHEN, ACCORDING TO CUSTOM, MARY AND JOSEPH PRESENTED THE INFANT JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM, SIMEON TO WHOM IT HAD BEEN REVEALED THAT HE WOULD NOT DIE UNTIL HE HAD SEEN THE CHRIST, TOOK THE CHILD IN HIS ARMS AND SPOKE TO MARY: 'THIS CHILD IS SET FOR THE FALL AND THE RISING OF MANY IN ISRAEL, AND FOR A SIGN OF CONTRADICTION AND A SWORD WILL PIERCE YOUR OWN SOUL, THAT THOUGHTS OUT OF MANY HEARTS MAY BE REVEALED.' (LK 2:22FF)

SECOND DOLOR: THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.

AFTER THE VISIT OF THE MAGI, AND ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM AND TOLD HIM TO TAKE THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER, TO FLEE INTO EGYPT, AND TO REMAIN THERE UNTIL HE WOULD BE TOLD WHAT TO DO; FOR HEROD WAS ABOUT TO SEARCH FOR THE CHILD TO DESTROY HIM. AND JOSEPH ROSE AND TOOK THE CHILD AND HIS MOTHER BY NIGHT, AND DEPARTED TO EGYPT. (MT 2:13-15)

THIRD DOLOR: THE LOSS OF JESUS FOR THREE DAYS.

WHEN JESUS WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD HE WENT WITH HIS PARENTS TO JERUSALEM FOR THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER. AFTER THE FEAST, THE GROUP FROM NAZARETH HAD TRAVELED ONE DAY BEFORE MARY AND JOSEPH REALIZED THAT JESUS WAS NOT WITH THEM. AFTER RETURNING TO JERUSALEM AND SEARCHING FOR HIM, THEY FOUND HIM IN THE TEMPLE, LISTENING TO THE TEACHERS AND QUESTIONING THEM. WHEN MARY ASKED, 'SON, WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS TO US, FOR WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING YOU SORROWFULLY?' HIS PARENTS DID NOT UNDERSTAND HIS ANSWER THAT HE MUST BE IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE. HIS MOTHER KEPT ALL THESE THINGS IN HER HEART. AND HE RETURNED WITH THEM TO NAZARETH AND WAS OBEDIENT TO THEM. (LK 2:41 FF)

FOURTH DOLOR: MARY MEETS JESUS CARRYING HIS CROSS

AS JESUS CARRIED HIS CROSS, HEAVY WITH THE WEIGHT OF ALL THE SINS OF THE WORLD, HIS SORROWING MOTHER, SHARING IN HIS PAIN, ANGUISH AND DISTRESS, EXPERIENCED IN HER OWN SHOULD THE SWORD WHICH SIMEON HAD PROPHESED TO HER. AS SHE LOOKED INTO THE PAIN-FILLED EYES OF HER DIVINE SON, HER HEART SPOKE AGAIN HER FIAT OF OBEDIENCE TO THE DIVINE WILL.

FIFTH DOLOR: MARY STANDS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS.

WHEN JESUS, SAYING ON THE CROSS, SAW HIS MOTHER AND JOHN, THE BELOVED DISCIPLE, STANDING NEAR HIM, HE SAID TO HIS MOTHER, 'WOMAN, BEHOLD YOUR SON'; AND TO JOHN, 'SON, BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER.' FROM THAT HOUR JOHN TOOK MARY TO HIS OWN HOME. (JN 19:26,27)

SIXTH DOLOR: MARY RECEIVED THE DEAD BODY OF JESUS.

WHEN THE SOLDIERS SAW THAT JESUS WAS ALREADY DEAD, THEY DID NOT BREAK HIS LEGS. WHEN ONE OF THE SOLDIERS PIERCED HIS SIDE WITH A LANCE, THERE CAME OUT BLOOD AND WATER. THEN THE BODY OF JESUS WAS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS, AND MARY HIS MOTHER WHO HAD ONCE SO JOYFULLY RECEIVED THE NEWBORN CHILD IN HER ARMS, NO SORROWFULLY RECEIVED THE DEAD BODY OF THE LAMB WHO HAD GIVEN HIS LIFE FOR HIS SHEEP. (JN 31:32FF)

SEVENTH DOLOR: MARY WITNESSES THE BURIAL OF JESUS.

JOSEPH OF ARAMATHEA, A SECRET DISCIPLE OF JESUS, ASKED PILATE FOR THE BODY OF JESUS; AND NICODEMUS, ANOTHER DISCIPLE BROUGHT EMBALMING SPICES. THEY WRAPPED THE BODY OF JESUS IN LINEN CLOTHS WITH THE SPICES AND LAID IT IN A NEW TOMB NEARBY, BECAUSE THE JEWISH FEAST OF PREPARATION WAS BEGINNING AT NIGHTFALL.

IN HONOR OF THE TEARS SHED BY THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY DURING HER DOLORS: HAIL MARY (THREE TIMES)