

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:
A Meditation for Mothers

By Patty Schneier

1. **Jesus is condemned:** *Lord help me not to condemn and criticize my children for their faults, but to see them as YOU see them.*
2. **Jesus takes up his cross:** *Lord, let me embrace whatever trials and frustrations I encounter today as I serve my family.*
3. **Jesus falls the first time:** *Lord, it is my sin that caused You to fall. Help me to despise all sin and resist temptation today.*
4. **Jesus meets his mother:** *Lord, as I go about my day, remind me that I am not alone. I have You and Your Mother walking along with me. Mary, help me to be more like you.*
5. **Simon helps Jesus:** *Lord, may I help someone carry their cross today—even if I have to go out of my way to help, let me see that as an opportunity to give of myself out of love for You.*
6. **Veronica wipes the face of Jesus:** *Lord, let me see You in the faces of everyone I meet today, especially in the faces of my own children...and when I wipe a child's runny nose, or change a diaper, remind me of the value of this work when I do it with love.*
7. **Jesus falls the second time:** *Lord, my weaknesses and faults cause me to stumble again and again. Every time I "blow it" with my family, let me run to the sacrament of reconciliation and begin anew.*
8. **Jesus meets the Holy Women of Jerusalem:** *Lord, there are mothers all over the world who are weeping for their children. There are mothers who have no food, who have no home, who have no medicine for their sick child. Unite my heart and my prayers with them today.*
9. **Jesus falls the 3rd time:** *Lord, when I am at my "wits end" with my children, my family, and the demands of motherhood, help me to get up and persevere. Don't ever let me quit or give up on my family.*
10. **Jesus is stripped:** *Lord, strip away my selfishness, my temper, my pride, my desire to "have it all." Strip me of anything that gets in the way of loving my family.*
11. **Jesus is nailed to the cross:** *Like the soldiers who are oblivious to the pain they are causing, I, too, have hurt my family, crushed my children with harsh words, and caused pain. Forgive me Father, so often, I know not what I am doing.*
12. **Jesus dies on the cross:** *Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom. Remember my family, too. You know my heart's desire is for us all to be together in heaven some day. Thank you for making it possible by your suffering and death. May we never take it for granted.*
13. **Jesus is taken down from the cross:** *Lord, as You were placed in the arms of Your mother, I pray for all mothers who are grieving the loss of a child. For every mother whose heart has been pierced with agony, send Your comfort and Your grace.*
14. **Jesus is placed in the tomb:** *Lord, You were dead. But I know Your story did not end with death, sadness, and tears—but rather glorious RESURRECTION! No matter what this world throws at me, no matter what trials my family endures, give us the faith to wait in joyful hope for resurrection and new life! Let us live in the confidence that love is victorious!*