

# THE SORROWFULL MYSTERIES

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This Rosary Meditation is presented for your prayerful use by a committee of the 2020 Spirituality Commission of the National Council of Catholic Women. This meditation was presented on the October 13, 2020 Rosary Call.

## For the 2020 Presidential Election and Elections at All Levels

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

“So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is...fear itself, nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance. In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and of vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. And I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days.”

**Franklin D. Roosevelt, Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933**

Lord Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, you prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39) Our country is experiencing terrible fears—fears from the pandemic, loss of jobs and income, social and racial tensions, and deep political divisions. Lord, help all of us to face and overcome our fears.

*One Our Father - Ten Hail Mary's - Glory Be - Fatima Prayer*

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

“We seek peace, knowing that peace is the climate of freedom. And now, as in no other age, we seek it because we have been warned, by the power of modern weapons, that peace may be the only climate possible for life itself.”

**Dwight D. Eisenhower, Second Inaugural Address, January 21, 1957**

Lord Jesus, you were scourged at the pillar, suffering a brutal beating at the hands of the Roman soldiers. So many of our citizens of all persuasions, ethnic and racial backgrounds have suffered from violence in our cities, our streets and neighborhoods. We ask for your help Lord, to help all citizens and people of good will to end these violent acts so that peace and freedom prevail.

*One Our Father - Ten Hail Mary's - Glory Be - Fatima Prayer*

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

“The American dream endures. We must once again have full faith in our country—and in one another. I believe America can be better. We can become stronger than before. Let our recent mistakes bring a resurgent commitment to the basic principles of our Nation, for we know that if we despise our own government we have no future. We recall in special times when we have stood briefly, but magnificently united. In these times no prize was beyond our grasp. Our commitment to human rights must be absolute, our laws fair, our natural beauty preserved: the powerful must not persecute the weak and human dignity must be enhanced.”

**Jimmy Carter, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1977**

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Lord Jesus, the Roman soldiers jammed a crown of thorns onto your head, mocking you with “Hail, King of the Jews.” Yet, even in your beaten and bloody state, you were still a model of dignity and forbearance. May we imitate you even when we are reviled and scorned because our faith, which requires us to speak out against evil and injustice, to admit our failures and shortcomings, and to resolve to never commit these sins again.

*One Our Father - Ten Hail Mary's - Glory Be - Fatima Prayer*

### **The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross**

“Let us not despair, but act. Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future.”

**Senator John F. Kennedy, Address to Loyola College, Baltimore Alumni Banquet,  
February 18, 1958**

Lord Jesus, you bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross to your execution. The cross we bear in this election year is heavy for all of our citizens. We are faced with difficult choices to make in electing our leaders at the national, state and local levels. Many candidates will not satisfy us with their positions on issues that are important to us, and we may have to decide the better choice for the long run rather than the short term. Help us, Lord, to make the right decision, and guide our leaders no matter the party, to make the right decisions for our country.

*One Our Father - Ten Hail Mary's - Glory Be - Fatima Prayer*

### **The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion**

“America is never wholly herself unless she is engaged in high moral principles. We as a people have such a purpose today. It is to make kinder the face of the Nation and gentler the face of the world. My friends, we have work to do... We will turn to the only resource we have that in times of need always grows: the goodness and the courage of the American people. For our problems are large, but our heart is larger. Our challenges are great, but our will is greater. And if our flaws are endless, God’s love is truly boundless.”

**George H.W. Bush, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1989**

Lord Jesus, “Crucifixion” does not and cannot, begin to express the terrible penalty you endured to redeem us from our sins. Crucifixion is quite probably the most dreadful torture ever devised by man—the pain, humiliation and death by suffocation is too much for most of us to even think about. Yet, you willingly gave your total self out of your great love for us. For you, as for us, death was and is not, the end but a beginning and our lives are changed, not ended. May 2020 be a year for rebirth and change of all kinds in the United States of America—may we conquer the coronavirus, end injustice and prejudice, and overcome our economic and social disparities. May we always seek your guidance and blessings, and may your Blessed Mother intercede for us.

*One Our Father - Ten Hail Mary's - Glory Be - Fatima Prayer*

*Hail, Holy Queen - Prayer After the Rosary*