



Prayer by the Cross



As he celebrated the Way of the Cross on the waterfront of Copacabana beach on the Friday of World Youth Day, Pope Francis invited the young people to reflect on their relationship with the crucified Christ. The three questions posed by Pope Francis that evening are an ideal basis for a time of prayer on this National Youth Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King.

The suggested outline below can be adapted according to the age group, the time available and the location.

- The group gathers around a cross, either a crucifix or the form of a cross made of nightlights. Music may be played or a hymn sung, such as the Taizé chant *"Jesus, remember me"*.



- The leader introduces the group to the three questions Pope Francis asked the young people. The questions are posed one at a time, with space given for reflection in between the questions.
 - **What have you left on the Cross, dear young people?**
 - **What has the Cross of Jesus left for you, in each one of you?**
 - **Finally, what does this Cross teach us?**

Where possible, it is helpful if the young people can concretely express their response to these questions. For example, after the first question they could be invited to light one of the candles forming the cross (or to leave a candle by the crucifix) to represent what they desire to leave on the cross of Jesus. Likewise, they could be encouraged to make a prayer of thanksgiving (aloud or silently) in response to the second question.

After having had time to reflect on the third question, some or all of Pope Francis' teaching on the meaning of the Cross (below) could be read.

- The time of prayer concludes with an Our Father and a hymn, such as the Taizé chant *"Crucem Tuam"*.

Extracts from Pope Francis' Address

Dear brothers and sisters, no one can approach and touch the Cross of Jesus without leaving something of himself or herself there, and without bringing something of the Cross of Jesus into his or her own life. I have three questions that I hope will echo in your hearts this evening as you walk beside Jesus: What have you left on the Cross, dear young people? What has the Cross of Jesus left for you, in each one of you? Finally, what does this Cross teach us?

Jesus, with his Cross, walks with us and takes upon himself our fears, our problems, and our sufferings, even those which are deepest and most painful. With the Cross, Jesus unites himself to the silence of the victims of violence, those who can no longer cry out, especially the innocent and the defenceless; with the Cross, he is united to families in trouble, and those who mourn the tragic loss of their children.

On the Cross, Jesus is united with every person who suffers from hunger in a world which, on the other hand, permits itself the luxury of throwing away tons of food every day; on the Cross, Jesus is united to the many mothers and fathers who suffer as they see their children become victims of drug-induced euphoria; on the Cross, Jesus is united with those who are persecuted for their religion, for their beliefs or simply for the colour of their skin; on the Cross, Jesus is united with so many young people who have lost faith in political institutions, because they see in them only selfishness and corruption; he unites himself with those young people who have lost faith in the Church, or even in God because of the counter-witness of Christians and ministers of the Gospel.

How our inconsistencies make Jesus suffer! The Cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of mankind, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: "Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life" (cf. *Jn* 3:16).

The full version of Pope Francis' address can be found at

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/july/documents/papa-francesco_20130726_gmg-via-crucis-rio_en.html

Jesus, remember me

♩ = 69

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

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Crís-to re-cuér-da-me cuan-do en-tres en tu Rei-no. Crís-to re-cuér-da-me cuan-do en-tres en tu Rei-no. / **Jè-zau, at-mink ma-ne** sa-vo Tè-vo Ka-ra-lis-tèj. Jè-zau, at-mink ma-ne sa-vo Tè-vo Ka-ra-lis-tèj. / **Je-zu, w kró-les-twie Twym** wspom-nij na swo-je-go sku-gę. / **Chri-sto, ri-cor-da-mi**, quan-do an-drai nel tu-o re-gno. Chri-sto, ri-cor-da-mi, quan-do an-drai nel tu-o re-gno. / **Je-sus, Filho de Deus**, no teu Rei-no, lem-bra-te de mim. / **Jesús, ó, minnstu mín**, er bú kemur í pitt ríki.

(Jesus, denk an mich, wenn du in dein Reich kommst. / Jésus, souviens-toi de moi quand tu viendras dans ton Royaume. / Помяни меня, Господи, когда прийдешь во Царствие Твое. *Lc 23, 42*)

Music: J. Berthier

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Crucem tuam

♩ = 69

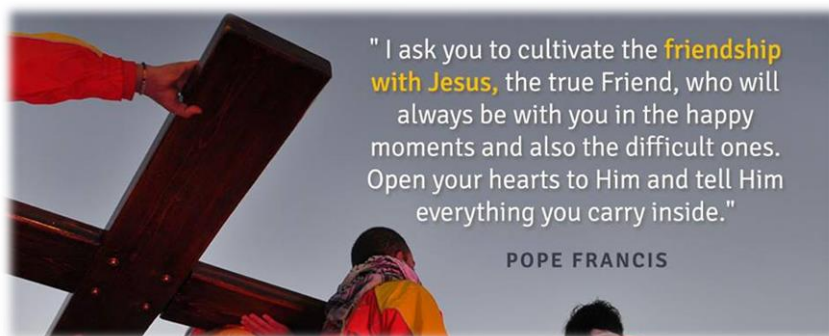
Cru - cem tu - am a - do - ra - mus Do - mi - ne, re - sur - rec - ti - o - nem

tu - am lau - da - mus Do - mi - ne. Lau - da - mus et glo - ri - fi - ca - mus.

Re - sur - rec - ti - o - nem tu - am lau - da - mus Do - mi - ne. Cru - cem tu -

Music: J. Berthier

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"I ask you to cultivate the **friendship with Jesus**, the true Friend, who will always be with you in the happy moments and also the difficult ones. Open your hearts to Him and tell Him everything you carry inside."

POPE FRANCIS