



# *O Cross of Christ*

## **Prayers of Pope Francis**

### **after Stations of the Cross 2016**

#### **1.0 O Cross of Christ,**

You are the symbol of divine love and of human injustice, icon of the supreme sacrifice for love and of boundless selfishness even unto madness, instrument of death and the way of resurrection, sign of obedience and emblem of betrayal, the gallows of persecution and the banner of victory.

**All: Save us, O Cross of Christ.**

#### **2.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you raised up in our sisters and brothers killed, burned alive, throats slit and decapitated by barbarous blades amid cowardly silence.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

#### **2.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the faces of children, of women and people, worn out and fearful, who flee from war and violence and often only find death and many Pilates who wash their hands.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

#### **2.3 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in those filled with knowledge and not with the spirit, scholars of death and not of life, threatening with punishment and death, and who condemn the just.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

#### **3.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in unfaithful ministers who, instead of stripping themselves of their own vain ambitions, divest even the innocent of their dignity.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

#### **3.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the hardened hearts of those who easily judge others, with hearts ready to condemn even to the point of stoning, without ever recognizing their own sins and faults.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

### **3.3 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in expressions of fundamentalism and in terrorist acts committed by followers of some religions which profane the name of God and which use the holy name to justify unprecedented violence.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

### **4.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in those who wish to remove you from public places and exclude you from public life, in the name of pagan laicism.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

### **4.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the powerful and in arms dealers who feed the cauldron of war with the innocent blood of our brothers and sisters, and give their children blood-soaked bread to eat.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

### **4.3 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in traitors who, for thirty pieces of silver, would consign anyone to death.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

### **5.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in thieves and corrupt officials who, instead of safeguarding the common good and morals, sell themselves in the despicable marketplace of immorality.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

### **5.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the foolish who build warehouses to store up treasures that perish, leaving Lazarus to die of hunger at their doorsteps.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

### **5.3 O Cross of Christ,**

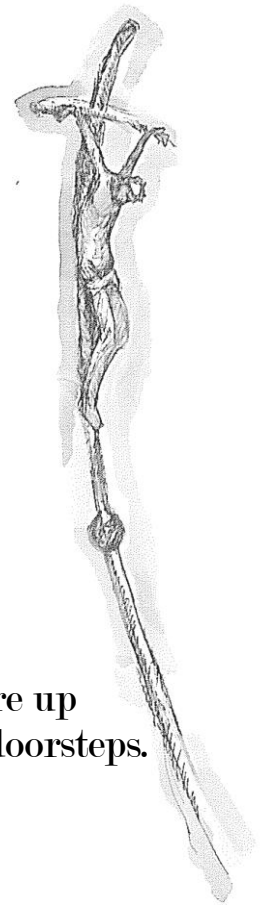
Today too we see you in the destroyers of our “common home”, who by their selfishness ruin the future of coming generations.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

### **6.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the elderly who have been abandoned by their families, in the disabled and in children starving and cast off by egotistical and hypocritical society.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**



## **6.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas which have become insatiable cemeteries, reflections of our indifferent and anesthetized conscience.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **7.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Image of love without end and way of the Resurrection, today too we see you in noble and upright persons who do good without seeking praise or admiration from others.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **7.2 O Cross of Christ,**

We too see you in ministers who are faithful and humble, who illuminate the darkness of our lives like candles that burn freely in order to brighten the lives of the least among us.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **7.3 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the faces of consecrated women and men – good Samaritans – who have left everything to bind up, in evangelical silence, the wounds of poverty and injustice.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **8.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the merciful who have found in mercy the greatest expression of justice and faith.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **8.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in simple men and woman who live their faith joyfully day in and day out, in filial observance of your commandments.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **8.3 O Cross of Christ,**

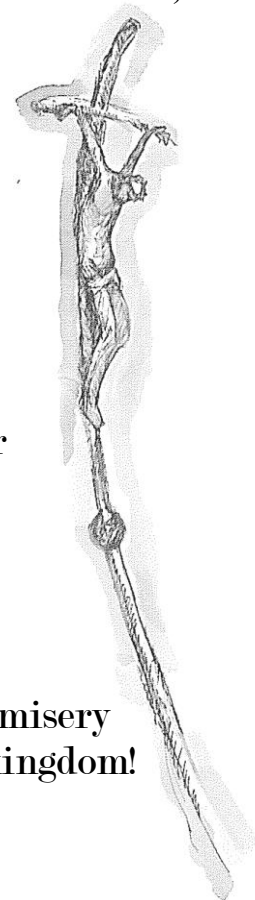
Today too we see you in the contrite, who in the depths of the misery of their sins, are able to cry out: Lord, remember me in your kingdom!

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **9.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in the blessed and the saints who know how to cross the dark night of faith without ever losing trust in you and without claiming to understand your mysterious silence.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**



## **9.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in families that live their vocation of married life in fidelity and fruitfulness.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **9.3 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in volunteers who generously assist those in need and the downtrodden.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **10.1 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in those persecuted for their faith who, amid their suffering, continue to offer an authentic witness to Jesus and the Gospel.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **10.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Today too we see you in those who dream, those with the heart of a child, who work to make the world a better place, ever more humble and just.

**All: Help us to recognize you, O Cross of Christ.**

## **11.1 O Cross of Christ,**

We see God who cares even to the end, and we see the hatred of those who want to dominate, that hatred which blinds the minds and hearts of those who prefer darkness to light.

**All: Save us, O Cross of Christ.**

## **11.2 O Cross of Christ,**

Ark of Noah that saved humanity from the flood of sin, save us from evil and from the Evil One.

**All: Save us, O Cross of Christ.**

## **11.3 O Throne of David,**

and seal of the divine and eternal Covenant, awaken us from the seduction of vanity! O cry of love, inspire in us a desire for God, for goodness and for light.

**All: Save us, O Cross of Christ.**

## **12.0 O Cross of Christ,**

Teach us that the rising of the sun is more powerful than the darkness of night. O Cross of Christ, teach us that the apparent victory of evil vanishes before the empty tomb and before the certainty of the Resurrection and the love of God which nothing can defeat, obscure, or weaken.

**All: Amen.**

