

Fr. Jim Wyse's Rosary Meditations

The Sorrowful Mysteries

Agony in the Garden (anticipating an overwhelmingly difficult and painful task)

1. He comes with His closest friends, and leaves them behind
2. He is alone with the Father, and He is hit by fear
3. Tonight is the night it begins, and He thinks how horrible it will be.
4. What if He fails? What if he is too weak?
5. Can't there be another way? Please? Anything?
6. His friends are asleep. He is so very alone.
7. He thinks of the love he has for the Father.
8. He thinks of the love he has for his people.
9. He will do it. His will is like steel.
10. They have arrived. It is time.

Crowning with thorns (enduring the ridicule of most precious truths)

1. Jesus never sought an earthly crown or earthly power.
2. The Kingdom of God was His most cherished and important message.
3. The Soldiers mock what is closest to His heart.
4. They distort His message to torture Him.
5. What if someone sees this, and it makes it harder to believe the Good News later?
6. The thorns hurt so much, so very much.
7. The One most worthy of being the True King is treated as a clown.
8. With great love, Jesus sees how their mockery shows their dead souls.
9. They cannot know the sublime power of touching the truly sacred.
10. Jesus pities them and asks the Father to forgive them.

Scouring at the pillar (enduring malice and suffering helplessly)

1. They take Him to the pillar and tie his hands tightly.
2. They rip open His tunic, exposing His back.
3. The first blow, it hurts so much, and then another and another.
4. Reflexively He tries to pull away, but His bonds hold Him helpless
5. They are laughing at His pain.
6. They so enjoy lashing out at someone who cannot fight back.
7. The malice hurts more than the physical pain.
8. Jesus remembers this is the way He shall conquer evil, by His patient endurance.
9. He looks past their cruelty to their withered souls and pities them.
10. He asks the Father in love that they might come to repentance and salvation.

Carrying the cross (persistence when one's strength is gone)

1. The rough wood lands heavily on His torn back.
2. His knees are weak and they buckle.
3. How can He possibly walk all that way?
4. He has no strength. He doesn't know how he is walking.
5. He forces each step, thinking it will be the last He can do.
6. On, and on, and on.
7. With each fall, lashes rain down on Him and he is kicked.
8. It would be easier to lie down and be whipped to death.
9. His Father gave Him the task, and he will complete it.
10. He goes on.

Crucifixion (helpless reflection on things we can no longer control)

1. Electric pain shoots through His hands and feet.
2. Each breath like climbing a mountain
3. Should He have explained things one more time to the twelve? It is too late now.
4. Those He had bested at debate look on and smile.
5. Someone He had cured now mocking Him
6. Should He have taken more time? He can't change it now.
7. He feels so alone.
8. His poor mother. All He can do is entrust her to a friend.
9. What He has done will have to do.
10. He gives Himself to the Father.