

Prayers with
Blessed Klara Szczesna

Rosary

Way of the Cross

THE ROSARY

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

1. THE ANNUNCIATION

The conception of a human being is enveloped in God's mystery. The Annunciation and conception of the Son of God in Mary's human heart and body were the work of the most pure and profound love of God for people.

The first moments of Louise (Ludwika) Szczesna's life are very vague. It is known that when she reached a certain stage of maturity, she firmly chose pure love of God and neighbor by a decision to become a religious.

2. THE VISITATION

The love and joy of experiencing God did not permit Mary to conceal this mystery in herself. She hastened to share it with others and to carry God's Word to them.

Louise Szczesna revealed God's truths, especially the greatest one, His love, to girls in Warsaw and Lublin. She did this by performing the professional work assigned to her by her first superiors and through her teaching and hidden life.

3. THE NATIVITY

Jesus Christ, the God-Man, was born into the tribe of Judah, the house of David, the family of Joseph and Mary. This is the most beautiful example of God's cooperation with people and His union with a human nature for our salvation.

A new religious family came into existence in the Catholic Church in Poland. Sr. Klara Szczesna became its spiritual mother. She esteemed God's decrees, united herself to them, and undertook their requirements.

4. THE PRESENTATION

The Presentation of Jesus is inherent in each human being dedicated to God, in the heart and actions and in the sacrifices made by individuals and communities.

The countless sacrifices of Mother Klara, given to God for our sake and in the name of our Congregation, call us to a perfect presentation and offering of ourselves to God.

5. THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

The Blessed Mother and the Guardian of Jesus, forgot about His maturity and the main purpose of His life. They felt comfortable in His presence. During their return trip to Jerusalem when He became lost to be light for other people, they suffered and searched for Him. Jesus understood their pain and returned home to continue His earthly, hidden and difficult life for a little longer and to experience its wisdom. They tried to understand Him.

Mother Klara and the other Sisters experienced many difficulties, afflictions, and sufferings caused by immature persons who entered the Congregation and by those who were constantly lost on the way of their religious life. How many tense situations were caused by

differences among their characters, by misunderstandings between generations, by insufficient skill in dialogue and lack of cooperation!

THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

(Not in original text by Krakow, added later to correspond with new Mysteries)

1. BAPTISM OF JESUS

And when Jesus was baptized...the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on Him, and lo, a voice from heaven, saying "this is My beloved Son," with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17)

Fruit of the Mystery: Openness to the Holy Spirit

2. WEDDING AT CANA

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you."... Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. (John 2:5-7)

Fruit of the Mystery: To Jesus through Mary

3. PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM

"And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give without pay." (Matthew 10:7-8)

Fruit of the Mystery: Repentance and Trust in God

4. TRANSFIGURATION

And as He was praying, the appearance of His countenance was altered and His raiment become dazzling white. And a voice came out of the cloud saying, "This is My Son, My chosen; listen to Him!" (Luke 9:29, 35)

Fruit of the Mystery: Desire for Holiness

5. INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

And He took bread, and when He had given thanks He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you." ... And likewise the cup after supper, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

(Luke 22:19-20)

Fruit of the Mystery: Adoration

THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

1. AGONY IN THE GARDEN

The power of Jesus' prayer to God the Father's Heart manifests itself in this mystery. What about Mother Klara's prayer? In our home on 10 Holy Cross Street, she was absorbed in

lengthy prayer every evening with her faced bowed to the altar steps or she knelt there in a position full of humility and rapture. Her great faith, love and abandonment to Jesus might have been observed during individual or common prayer. She was strengthened and consoled with a vision a few days before her death. According to her description, St. Joseph came to her. He was her beloved patron saint.

2. The Scourging

Jesus endured the scourging from human hands. He accepted it as a punishment for our sins because He loved us very much.

A religious following the Sacred Heart of Jesus, desires His love, wants to experience poverty, contempt and suffering. Therefore, she also has a dislike for the wicked world and all vanities.

3. The Crowning with Thorns

The tormented thoughts in Jesus' throbbing head were centered on every being, on me too. What occupies my thoughts most frequently? Do I resemble the ideal religious described Mother Klara?

A spouse of Christ is so closely united with her Bridegroom that both of them have the same fears, the same thoughts, the same knowledge, the same desires and the same love.

4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus did not look at His Cross. He saw other people's crosses in future generations – especially the crosses belonging to those people who are responsible for many persons.

Mother Klara wrote the following in her meditation on obedience: Let us try to lighten our superiors' burdens. Their responsibility is tremendous. Let them not command us with anguish and anxiety. Let them be sure that they will find hold and sincere love for God in us. What is love? Obedience!

5. Death on the Cross

Standing under the Cross, the Sorrowful Mother offered herself wholeheartedly in union with the sacrifice of Jesus. Let us think of what would be an appropriate gift to offer to our Mother. What kind of gift on our part would please her and make her offer it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus? What does she expect from us? Perhaps better care of a sick Sister? An expression of forgiveness – offering, as the Lord Jesus did, an act contrary to the harm done to us? Perhaps mortification for those who do not know what they are doing? Or greater openness towards others?

THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

1. THE RESURRECTION

Mother Klara wrote down the following sentence: Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene because she had: 1) great sorrow, 2) great love, 3) sought Jesus.

Mother Klara desired that the Sisters would imitate Mary Magdalene's spirit and would often meet personally with the Risen Lord in the Sacraments.

2. THE ASCENSION

Jesus opened Heaven for us and lovingly observes our efforts of striving for it. Let us not become lost in what serves only earthly life. Let us remind ourselves of the words the Mother Klara left us written in her hand: Our aims and aspirations are different. It is necessary to tell ourselves, imitating St. Augustine: O how repulsive the earth seems to me when I look toward Heaven.

3. THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In union with each other, God the Father and God the Son sent the Holy Spirit down upon us to reveal their love, to unite us with the Blessed Trinity, and to unite us with each other.

Mother Klara wrote: The Holy Spirit says that love is stronger is death. What kind of love is it which will not bear anything that discourages us or which grows disgusted with little things? O how rare is a holy, perfect, and mutual love?

4. THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED MOTHER

We have the best Mother in Heaven. Which one of us would not want to see her?

One of the Sisters remembered Mother Klara in the following way: She spoke about the Blessed Mother with the affection of a child. She considered Mary her Mother. Mother Klara often spoke of her. She never missed Marian devotions. She recited the Rosary every day.

5. THE CORONATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

After the Assumption the Blessed Mother was raised above all creatures and admitted to reign with God in eternity. She earned this great privilege by her attitude of willingness and active cooperation in the spirit of service with her Divine Son, Savior of humanity. This was accomplished by the daily, ordinary womanly duties she rendered towards Jesus, St. Joseph, Elizabeth, the Apostles and all whom she met during her earthly life.

Our Mother Klara imitated the Heavenly Mother very zealously. Her willingness to serve was obvious to everyone she met. In meditation, she contemplated: Daily practice of the Rule is the practice of God's love. What is sweeter? What increases the abundant treasure of merits and assures a more magnificent crown?

Let us earnestly pray that she will be canonized and be our example and support on the royal road of loving service.

The Way of the Cross

Introductory Prayer

In a moment, the quiet, humble Suffering Servant will embrace the cross of the sins of all people of all time.

United with our entire religious family, let us form a prayerful procession walking in the footsteps that the suffering Jesus left on this earth. Let Mother Klara guide us on this holy journey while we keep our loving eyes on the Bridegroom. Her life, the fruit of daily union with the chaste, poor and obedient Savior, is a personal example for each of us. May she help us to hasten our steps toward Heaven!

I. CAPTIVE IN FREEDOM (Jesus Condemned to Death)

Human beings, whom Jesus came to deliver from the slavery of sin, tied the Divine hands and led God before Pilate, the judge. The kindness, silence and humility of the Nazarene – expressing His inner freedom – were much too uncomfortable for him. Therefore, Pilate decided the deadly fate of the Prisoner. How great must have been the suffering of the free Heart of the Savior at this time.

O Mother Klara, you know what it means to suffer from being a captive in freedom. To be faithful to your promise to God, you had to escape when your father was forcing you to marry.

Teach us to humbly accept the situations in which we unintentionally make others feel uncomfortable. Let our freedom not manifest itself by protesting, but let it be shown by loving faithfulness to a *Man of Suffering accustomed to infirmity* (Is. 53:3).

II. CONSISTENT IN WORDS (Jesus accepts the Cross)

Jesus once said, Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day and follow in my steps (Lk 9:23). Later, not only did He take up the daily cross of His life, but, at the climax of His earthly journey, He placed the actual beam of the cross on His shoulders and carried it to the Place of the Skull. Together with the cruel weight of the wood, He accepted all the consequences of His words.

Mother Klara, gazing intently at the Lord, whom you chose as Bridegroom, you consistently fulfilled the words of your promise made to the Lord. Consequently, during your five-year stay in Mlawa, you looked for a way to accomplish His Heart's eternal plans for you.

Obtain for us from the Sacred Heart the grace that the words of our promise will be consistently accomplished in our lives, in conformity with His designs.

III. UNDERSTANDING THE FALL (Jesus Falls the First Time)

The harlot, the tax collector Matthew and all tax collectors and sinners, and the thief on the cross are all friends of the great Teacher from Nazareth. He, who never committed even the smallest sin, did not isolate Himself from people with wicked hearts. He specifically gave them His Heart, even resigning Himself to the fact that someone may reject It and trample It underfoot.

Mother Klara, from the beginning of your religious life, you painfully suffered from the results of human weakness. Secretly working in the apostolate for servants, you met with the sin of denunciation that forced you to leave Lublin.

Help us to embrace those people who have been rejected by others because they have been considered unworthy and sinful. Help us to love truly those who are not loved, even if our contact with them will jeopardize our good reputation in the eyes of others.

IV GAZING ON THE MOTHER (Jesus Meets His Mother)

Whoever does the will of My heavenly Father is brother, sister and mother to me (Mt 12:50).

Was there anyone who fulfilled the will of the Most High better than the Blessed Mother? Was there another who more perfectly than the Blessed Mother realized the purpose of her life which Love had planned for her since before time began? Certainly not.

Then let us stop for a moment! Let us penetrate into the loving eyes of the Son as He gazed on His Mother. After all, it was He who in union with the Father and the Holy Spirit defined the very difficult plan of her earthly life with this gaze. She realized it without a word of complaint. Therefore, she stood there, submissive to the Father's will, although she, the most sorrowful of women on earth was pierced by suffering. For all ages she has stood like this, gazing intently into the eyes of her children. Quietly, she prays that each of them will choose to sign FIAT under God's will.

Therefore let us take Mary's gaze with us on our journey through life. Our own favorite picture of her, for example like the one which Mother Klara received from her spiritual director, Rev. Anthony Nojswewski (a picture of Mary, Mother of God, with the Child Jesus having a Heart imprinted on His breast) may be a great help for us in fulfilling God's will.

V. NEEDING A HUMAN BEING (Simon of Cyrene Helps Carry the Cross)

The Almighty God, the Son of the Creator of the world, and the King of all nations, showed His weakness during His journey for man's redemption. He gratefully accepted the help of a brother, one who was made to carry the crossbeam along behind Jesus (cf. Lk 23:26). Even though he was tired from hard work in the fields, Simon found enough strength to help the Accused. Did he know that love of God and neighbor are one; they cannot be separated (Mother Klara)? He probably did not have any idea of this.

Mother Klara, your way of life was marked by an increasing awareness of love for others. As your love for God increased, your love for others grew.

Give us the daily lesson on love of neighbor, a lesson that you will always begin with prayer together with us.

VI. REWARDING COURAGE (Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus)

During the last hours of God's earthly life, man held Him up to ridicule, slapped Him, spat on Him and acknowledged Him a criminal worse than Barabbas, the murderer. The accumulation of sin blinded people's eyes to the truth of the humanity and deity hidden in Jesus' blood-stained body. Great courage was needed to profess faith in the Accused who was rejected by everyone.

Mother Klara, the courageous heart of Veronica, endlessly loving the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus was in you. You chose a new religious family out of love for Him.

Thanking you for your courageous love, we ask you to obtain for us the strength to walk on the path of His love always and everywhere, especially in difficult circumstances.

VII. TIRED WITH LIFE (Jesus Falls the Second Time)

Jesus fell on the ground crushed by the sins of humanity. After all, He said that *unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. (Jn 12:24).*

I should not be surprised that I fall on the ground crushed by my sin. *Even though I want to do what is right, a law that leads to wrongdoing is always ready at hand (Rom 7:21)* I should be astonished only when I agree to lie on the ground and in my weakness do not seek help from the Sacraments. I should be appalled when I decide of my own free will to waste the Most Precious Blood that has permeated the ground.

O Mother Klara, you gave your whole heart to the new religious family living on Holy Cross Street. Teach me sincere sorrow for my falls!

VIII. GIVING REBUKES (Jesus Meets the Weeping Women)

Jesus, the Eternal Word of truth, rebukes the women: *Do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children (Lk 23:28).* He turned their attention on the fact that their life was not free from weaknesses. It was as though He wanted to say: Just because you are following Me, does not mean at all that you are without sin. Being beside Me does not justify your misdeeds. Please reform your lives: your thoughts, words and actions! With My help, make sure that your conscience is right! Compare the Gospel and your Law with your conduct! Are you unwittingly missing the beam in your own eye when looking at yourself in the mirror of the examination of conscience?

Beloved Mother Klara, you constantly amended your life and strove for holiness. Together with us, listen again to the discourse delivered by St. Joseph Sebastian at the founding of our Congregation and teach us sincere penance! *First, strive for true sanctification of soul, zealously bending your steps toward the mountain of perfection to fulfill the Lord's command: "You must be made perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect (Mt. 5:48).*

IX. EXHAUSTED TO THE LIMIT (Jesus Falls the Third Time)

The Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity (Is. 53:10) so that man would be willing to consider His Cross a great gift and a great responsibility.

Let us kiss our life's cross with faith. Let us nail the following inscription over every difficulty that hurts us deeply today, "Gift of love from Jesus of Nazareth – King of the Jews and my King."

Today, it may not be necessary for us to carry a wooden cross through the Main Square and the streets of Krakow that lead all the way to Garncarska Street, as of our Sisters once did. It is enough if we, like Mother Klara, would treat the Cross of the life of Christ as a constantly-read book.

O Mother Klara, open before us this holy book, the Cross of the Savior! Close our mouth when it wants to complain against God, neighbor and self! Then, show us Jesus, exhausted to the limit, lying on the ground crushed beneath the Cross, with the mouth closed by the mud of the street!

X. SURRENDERED TO HUMAN WICKEDNESS (Jesus is Stripped of His Garments)

The anguish of the cross did not appease the people's thirst for revenge. Spittle, bleeding wounds on His back --evidence of the scourging, the crowning with thorns, the ignominious mantle of purple and the royal scepter – these were not enough for them. Sin, devoid of regret, is

like hell, a bottomless abyss. To appease their insatiability, it was still necessary to strip Jesus of His garments with a view of the naked body of the Son of Man.

Our Bridegroom, we cover you with our Sacred Heart Sisters' habit! Armed with your strength, with you we will go to the girls who sell or offer their bodies for immorality. We will take the pornographic novels and magazines from their hands and offer them good Catholic reading. We will lead them away from immoral places or cohabitation outside of marriage and we will teach them admiration for the most pure immaculate Virgin.

Mother Klara, you pressed to your heart thousands of morally threatened girls! Go ahead of us, right behind our most holy Bridegroom, joining in our prayerful procession throughout the world! As before, lift up the moral state of contemporary girls. Teach us how we should imitate you in this today!

XI. REDEEMING WITH SILENCE (Jesus is Nailed to the Cross)

The Lord's hands and feet were pierced through with blunt nails. The answer for this cruel pain and skillful ill-treatment included silence and the prayer of the Sacred Heart for those who inflicted that suffering.

Let us reflect on our silence for a moment. Let us look into the suffering eyes of our exhausted Spouse and let our thoughts wander together with Jesus, reviewing our practice of religious silence. Today, let us pause longer for a while in places where the Most Sacred Redeemer tells us: "Sister, I desire your great love marked by the silence on your lips." May this reminder remain with us in our corridors, cells and in the areas near our chapels, as well as during night grand silence and daily hour of silence. This admonition should always take into consideration the circumstances of the house and the love that sometimes demands talking in spite of the rule of silence. Nevertheless, do not justify the careless negligence that disregards place, person and subject of the conversation.

Mother Klara, you were in love with attentive silence and with the constant listening to God's Word! Repeat to us your words: "*A novice, and of course each Sister after vows, should not disregard anything that leads to perfection.*" Teach us to become fond once again of silence, an essential condition of holiness.

XII. FULFILLING THE FATHER'S WILL (JESUS dies on the Cross)

Now it is finished (Jn 19;30). The Son accomplished the work that the Father entrusted to Him before the creation of the world. He drank the chalice of life to the end, although it was strongly seasoned with our bitterness.

With each stroke of the clock, people leave this world. They go to meet the Father to give an account of their fulfillment of the plan that was also prepared for them before the foundation of the world. The history of the world, nations, and communities depends on peoples' fulfillment of the Divine plan.

Glory to you, Lord, that our Mother Klara Szczesna walked through her life fulfilling your holy, infallible will. Thanks to her faithfulness, we exist as a religious family.

Mother Klara, obtain for each of your daughters a holy life according to God's plan. Remembering your blessed death during the noon Angelus, obtain from the Lord a holy agony for us. May it be, like yours, a short passage from earth, straight to our heavenly mansion.

XIII. GIVING HIS HEART (Jesus Taken Down from the Cross)

The God-Man died. But after His death, He still offered humanity an everlasting gift – the gift of His Heart from which flowed His most precious Blood and Water.

Let us approach the unscarred wound. Do not let us depart from it as long as a holy desire for communion with the Crucified Spouse is not born in us!

O Mother Klara, you delighted in continual union with the Sacred Heart! Speak with Jesus today about each of our Sacred Heart communities! Whisper our afflictions into His ear. Ask Him to instill peace and good into our religious houses!

We desire that Jesus and our Holy Father Founder, St. Joseph Sebastian, looking down upon us from the heights of heaven, will together with you, Mother, be able to say of us with joy, *“Look how they love one another!”*

XIV. COMMANDED TO WAIT (Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb)

Jesus spoke of His resurrection so many times. He commanded the Apostles to wait faithfully for the fulfillment of the promise of His final victory.

Today, Blessed Klara, we, all your Sisters who bear the Sacred Heart embroidered on our scapulars, kneel in spirit before your earthly remains or relics. We want to fill the time of waiting for your canonization with faith in your holiness. *“Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! Mother, teach us to imitate you. May we be together with you at the throne of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus!”*

XV. OVERJOYED WITH VICTORY (Jesus is Resurrected)

We love you, victorious Sacred Heart! We will eternally sing the Song of Songs to you, our Spouse, for calling us to be your Servants. Even here on earth, we will praise you without end for the mansion you have prepared for each of us in heaven.

At the end of this journey, permit us as you did St. John the Apostle, to rest upon your Heart and listen to Its beat.

Beloved Mother Klara, come down from heaven to us to help us prepare our Sacred Heart Cenacles for the blessed moment of our loving encounter with Love!