

I

Supper

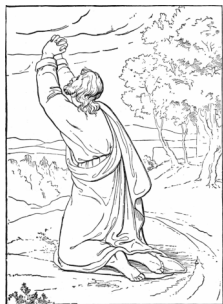


All were surprised that
In the middle of the supper
That she prepared,
Mother blurted—
Smiling and excited
Her decision to teach
Again, just like before.
To pursue again
The profession she loved—
Great is responsibility
In that mission in the
Church,
To become a catechist.
This did not surprise
Father and his children
Since she was often
In the church.
Father reminded:
“Do not forget us though,
Nor set aside us.”
Mother answered,
“Not at all, Dear,
All of you are still,
my first,
Obligation. ”
Everybody smiled
During a delicious dinner
And after eating,
Mother as usual
Clears and washes the
dishes.
This is the first
Way of the Cross
of a servant-catechist,
For a meaningful servitude.

II

Gethsemani

Before plunging into
The challenge of catechism,
Mother has attended
The weekly trainings
About the bible,
Some catechism-documents
Of Christian Catholics
Of Filipino Catholics
It never came easy
Listening again
To the priest while
preaching
And catechetical directors
For it is more difficult
To teach precisely
The teachings of the
Church.
Similar to the meditation
Of Jesus at Gethsemani,
There is sorrow in the
training
Such that only profound
knowledge
May be truly shared.
This is the second
Way of the Cross
Of a servant-catechist,
For a meaningful servitude.

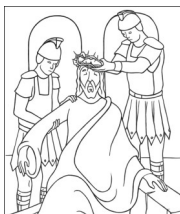


III

Sanhedrin



When Mother gladly
received
Her teaching assignment—
As a new catechist
In a public school,
She prepared for the day
Of her visit to the school
Of her meeting with the
principal
To get- the schedule.
Only four time slots to
choose from:
Earliest in the morning,
In between breaks,
After lunch,
Or just before dismissal.
Like Jesus
Standing before the
Sanhedrin,
She bowed in humble
submission Before the
mighty
She held no objection
For her mission to set in
motion,
At any given time,
For catechesis to finally
begin.
This is the third
Way of the Cross
Of a servant-catechist,
For a meaningful
servitude.



IV

Crown of Thorns

The first time she taught,
There was so much joy
In every day
Mission of catechizing
The playful children.
But as time passed by
The catechist had observed
The gradual loss
Of the children's
Interest to listen
Children weighed down
Eyes forlorn
Because their lives
Are a wearisome battle
With serious problems at
home:
Their parents do not go to
mass,
Who are jobless,
Separated, not married.
It seemed to the catechist
That she had been crowned
With thorns that pierced her
heart,
Because it seemed not
enough
To simply understand the
sacraments.
This society that the
Children lived in
Desperately needs catechism.
This is the fourth
Way of the Cross
Of a servant-catechist,
For a meaningful servitude.

V

Cross

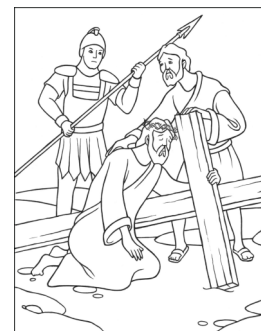


Every day, she clasped a cross
In her palm, being the
catechist
Servant of the Church.
From the house, she would
first
Carry out her duties
She would then hastily leave
To get promptly at school
Where the children are waiting.
Though she lacked money for
the fare,
She would find a way to get
there
Even the money needed for the
chalk
She would find means
For the paper they use
The catechist would shoulder
The expense.
Whatever the price,
Even when it appeared
Foolish and illogical.
Difficult it may seem
To bear sacrifice and suffering
Since acceptance of the cross
Adheres to the catechetical
mission.
This is the fifth
Way of the Cross
Of the servant-catechist, For
meaningful servitude.

VI

The Fall

Due to pain and
exhaustion
There are times
Too, the catechist falls,
Becomes ill, weakens
In resolve. Cursed.
Maligned by friends,
Mocked as a pretender,
Accused as shallow
Whose life contrasts
From the lesson she
preaches
As catechist.
The weakness is a reality,
It is not a joke,
But a reality of life
The dissipation of
strength
Until every little thing is
Surrendered to God, the
Creator!
This is the sixth
Way of the Cross
Of a servant-catechist,
For a meaningful
servitude.



VII

Simon Cyrene



In time of need
For some catechetical
duties
Many are like Simon of
Cyrene--
They are morally upright
Who lend a hand to the
catechist.
From the dependable
Fathers
And many other
companions
In our busy household,
To give free ride to
Mother who is a catechist
To whatever gathering,
Likewise she will be
fetched
After the session.
Even extending help
To fellow catechists
Peers and friends,
Willing to help them with
Long term loans.
Why she won't leave her
vocation
Remains the mystery in
Her mission as a catechist,
A teacher who is a Mother.
This is the seventh
Way of the Cross
Of a servant-catechist,
For meaningful servitude.

VIII

The Encounter

Being a catechist
Despite the sacrifices,
Brings glad tidings
Brought by mission's noble
path.
There are many people to
chance upon
Who would always ask
questions,
The right answers
Must always be at hand.
When is the baptism?
When is the wedding?
Who is the confessor?
How about the confirmation,
when?
Where is the route of the
procession?
Why is the Priest missing?
Where is the Priest?
Does the Priest have a
wedding to officiate?
Could I request for a
blessing
Even if the Priest is having a
siesta?
All these information
Are seemingly obligations
To the catechist who is
Always present in the
Church.
This is the eight
Way of the Cross
Of the servant-catechist,
For a meaningful servitude.

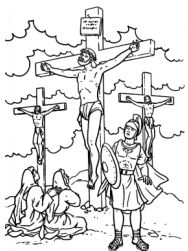


IX

Crucifixion



The crucified Christ
Brought enchantment
and awe
To every missionary
catechist
At every meeting and
assembly.
Doing the sign of the
cross
Symbolizes the reverence
For the Father, the Son
And the Holy Spirit.
It is a reminder of the
sacrifice
For the salvation of sins.
The cord that holds
Snaps from affection,
Perfected by love
Even when veins erupted
As blood stirred and
Revolted in silence,
There is no hatred,
But overflowing love
from the crucified Christ.
The summation of
catechesis.
This is the ninth
Way of the Cross
Of the servant-
catechist,
For a meaningful
servitude.



X

Dimas

Is there anyone among us
Who is not a thief?
When there are moments
That should have been
Dedicated to the Lord.
Who among us
Did not steal
The happy smiles
From young children thirsting
For the teachings of the
Church?
Who among us
Have not been robbed
Of the catechetical
opportunity
In every visit
To each chapel and cathedral,
In the Priests' homily
Even Bishop's
Through simple welcoming
Of fellow Catholics,
In prayer meetings
Which is regularly attended by
people,
At a time when
We feel Christ's presence
So near, who seems just beside
us
So that even for a Fleeting
moment,
We exchange stories.
'Dimas is truly lucky'
For he talked to Christ
Despite his pain, He spoke
About the promise of eternity
Owing to the repentance of sins.

A repentant catechist
is
True to his mission.
This is the tenth
Way of the Cross
Of a servant-
catechist,
For a meaningful
servitude.

XI

Bequest

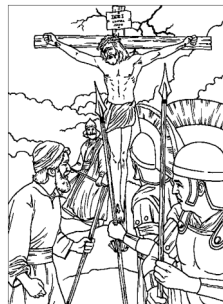


Being a catechist
Entails big responsibility
Given the trust
To carry out His word
And for the Faith to be
imbued,
In every lesson of the Word
In every story in the Bible
In every tradition imparted
In every tale of holiness
He was sustained by the
guidance
Of the apostle John
Who was endeared to
Jesus his friend.
Clutched in His palm
The love of Mary, our Mother
Who is grief-stricken
Her heart was pierced
As she silently witnessed
The sufferings of her Son.
She nurtured the Church
Which Jesus bequeathed,
During the time
When hope was gone
When threat of total disarray
Faced the world of the living.
Mary is the catechist's refuge
Holding rosary at her hand
In a society in disharmony
Humming the catechism's
hymn.
This is the eleventh
Way of the Cross
Of the servant-catechist,
For her meaningful servitude.

XII

The Death

The death of Christ had
been
Contemplated a number of
times
By the servant-catechists.
In the daily cross
That they hold
For the mission of
Spreading the Word
Of the Living Christ.
But in the death
Of our Lord Jesus Christ,
There is also a lesson
conveyed-
There is a destined place
For each one, an inevitable
fate
In our consciousness
There is a preordained end,
And in their prayer
At the end of time,
They should tightly
embrace
The promise of
togetherness
In the promised heaven
Because the final mission
Is fulfilled
In thanksgiving!
This is the twelfth
Way of the Cross
Of a servant-catechist,
For a meaningful
servitude.



XIII

Laid to Rest

According to many,
The life of a catechist
Is filled with joy
With deeply-rooted happiness
That springs from
The willing heart of a giver
Who has the voice of faith
Who echoes the words of
kindness
And hums the tune of affection
Chants the songs of love.
When Jesus was laid to rest
He whispered to
The servant-catechists,
That in His silence
From a temporary slumber
During the three days of
darkness-
That they should sing songs of
praise and
Thanksgiving, that they must
reflect
And be steadfast and believe
That
whatever adversaries and
Darkness may come, there is
the
Promise of life and light.
This is the thirteenth
Way of the Cross
Of the servant-catechist,
For a meaningful servitude.



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XIV

Resurrection



Their chosen mission is
To become a catechist
But in truth-
They are carefully chosen
By the Father Almighty,
To become His followers
And active caretakers
Of the beloved Church.
They must resurrect the faith
That has become cold and
idle
There is no let-up in
reminding
Them of the valuable
teachings
In connection with the
preparation
For the Resurrection!
The catechists are the wealth
Of the Church.
This is the fourteenth
Way of the Cross
Of the servant-catechist,
For a meaningful servitude.

*Sinulat sa Sun Residences
at UST Chapel,
April 19, 2019, Biyernes
Santo, mula 10:00 ng umaga
hanggang 3:00 ng hapon.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS OF A SERVANT-CATECHIST

MGA TULANG-PANANALIKSIK HANGO SA NATIONAL CATECHETICAL STUDY (NCS) 2016-2018

ni Clarence M. Batan, University of Santo Tomas

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