



THE SIXTH STATION

Jesus and Veronica

V. We adore thee O Christ and we bless thee,

R. Because by thy Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

AS Jesus toils along up the hill, covered with the sweat of death, a woman makes her way through the crowd, and wipes His face with a napkin. In reward of her piety the cloth retains the impression of the Sacred Countenance upon it.

The relief which a Mother's tenderness secured is not yet all she did. Her prayers sent Veronica as well as Simon--Simon to do a man's work, Veronica to do the part of a woman.* The devout servant of Jesus did what she could. As Mary Magdalene had poured the ointment at the Feast, so Veronica now offered Him this napkin in His passion "Ah," she said, "would I could do more! Why have I not the strength of Simon, to take part in the burden of the Cross! But men only can serve the Great High Priest, now that He is celebrating the solemn act of sacrifice." O Jesus ! let us one and all minister to You according to our places and powers. And as You did accept from Thy followers refreshment in Thy hour of trial, so give to us the support of Thy grace when we are hard pressed by our Foe. I feel I cannot bear up against temptation, weariness, despondency, and sin. I say to myself, what is the good of being religious? I shall fall, O my dear Savior, I shall certainly fall, unless You do renew for me thy vigor like the eagle's, and breathe life into me by the soothing application and the touch of the Holy Sacraments which [He instituted for us].

Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, etc.