

Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



“At the Foot of the Cross”

Who could not have been deeply moved on Friday, March 27, 2020, as Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, led the whole world from an empty Saint Peter’s Square in a powerful Holy Hour, imploring the Lord for an end to the Coronavirus pandemic and imparting to all an extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing? Part of that prayer was a Litany of Supplication before the Blessed Sacrament. At this critical time, rather than writing a customary column this month, I share with you that Litany of Supplication and invite you to join me in praying it before a crucifix in your home, uniting all our prayers “At the Foot of the Cross.”

We adore you, O Lord

True God and true man, truly present in this holy Sacrament.

We adore you, O Lord

Our Savior, God with us, faithful and rich in mercy

We adore you, O Lord

King and Lord of creation and of history

We adore you, O Lord

Conqueror of sin and death

We adore you, O Lord

Friend of humankind, the Risen One, the Living

One who sits at the right hand of the Father.

We adore you, O Lord

We believe in you, O Lord

Only begotten Son of the Father, descended from heaven for our salvation

We believe in you, O Lord

Heavenly physician, who bows down over our misery

We believe in you, O Lord

Lamb who was slain, who offer yourself to rescue us from evil

We believe in you, O Lord

Good Shepherd, who give your life for the flock which you love

We believe in you, O Lord

Living bread and medicine for immortality, who give us eternal life

We believe in you, O Lord

Deliver us, O Lord

From the power of Satan and the seductions of the world

Deliver us, O Lord

From the pride and presumption of being able to

do anything without you

Deliver us, O Lord

From the deceptions of fear and anxiety

Deliver us, O Lord

From unbelief and desperation

Deliver us, O Lord

From hardness of heart and the incapacity to love

Deliver us, O Lord

Save us, O Lord

From every evil that afflicts humanity

Save us, O Lord

From hunger, from famine and from egoism

Save us, O Lord

From illnesses, epidemics and the fear of our brothers and sisters

Save us, O Lord

From devastating madness, from ruthless interests and from violence

Save us, O Lord

From being deceived, from false information and the manipulation of consciences

Save us, O Lord

Comfort us, O Lord

Protect your Church which crosses the desert

Comfort us, O Lord

Protect humanity terrified by fear and anguish

Comfort us, O Lord

Protect the sick and the dying, oppressed by loneliness

Comfort us, O Lord

Protect doctors and healthcare providers exhausted by the difficulties they are facing

Comfort us, O Lord

Protect politicians and decision makers who bear the weight of having to make decisions

Comfort us, O Lord

Grant us your Spirit, O Lord

In the hour of trial and from confusion

Grant us your Spirit, O Lord

In temptation and in our fragility

Grant us your Spirit, O Lord

In the battle against evil and sin

Grant us your Spirit, O Lord

In the search for what is truly good and true joy

Grant us your Spirit, O Lord

in the decision to remain in you and in your friendship

Grant us your Spirit, O Lord

Open us to hope, O Lord

Should sin oppress us

Open us to hope, O Lord

Should hatred close our hearts

Open us to hope, O Lord

Should sorrow visit us

Open us to hope, O Lord

Should indifference cause us anguish

Open us to hope, O Lord

Should death overwhelm us

Open us to hope, O Lord

During that worldwide Holy Hour, Pope Francis stood for some time beneath the Miraculous Crucifix of *San Marcello*, contemplating the Lord's Passion. This Holy Week, as we confront whatever challenges the coming days hold, we do so standing "At the Foot of the Cross," knowing that Our Lady is standing with us in silent resolve comforting, reassuring and strengthening us, as we contemplate the Lord's Passion with Easter hope.

+ Daniel E. Thomas

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April 6, 2020, Holy Week