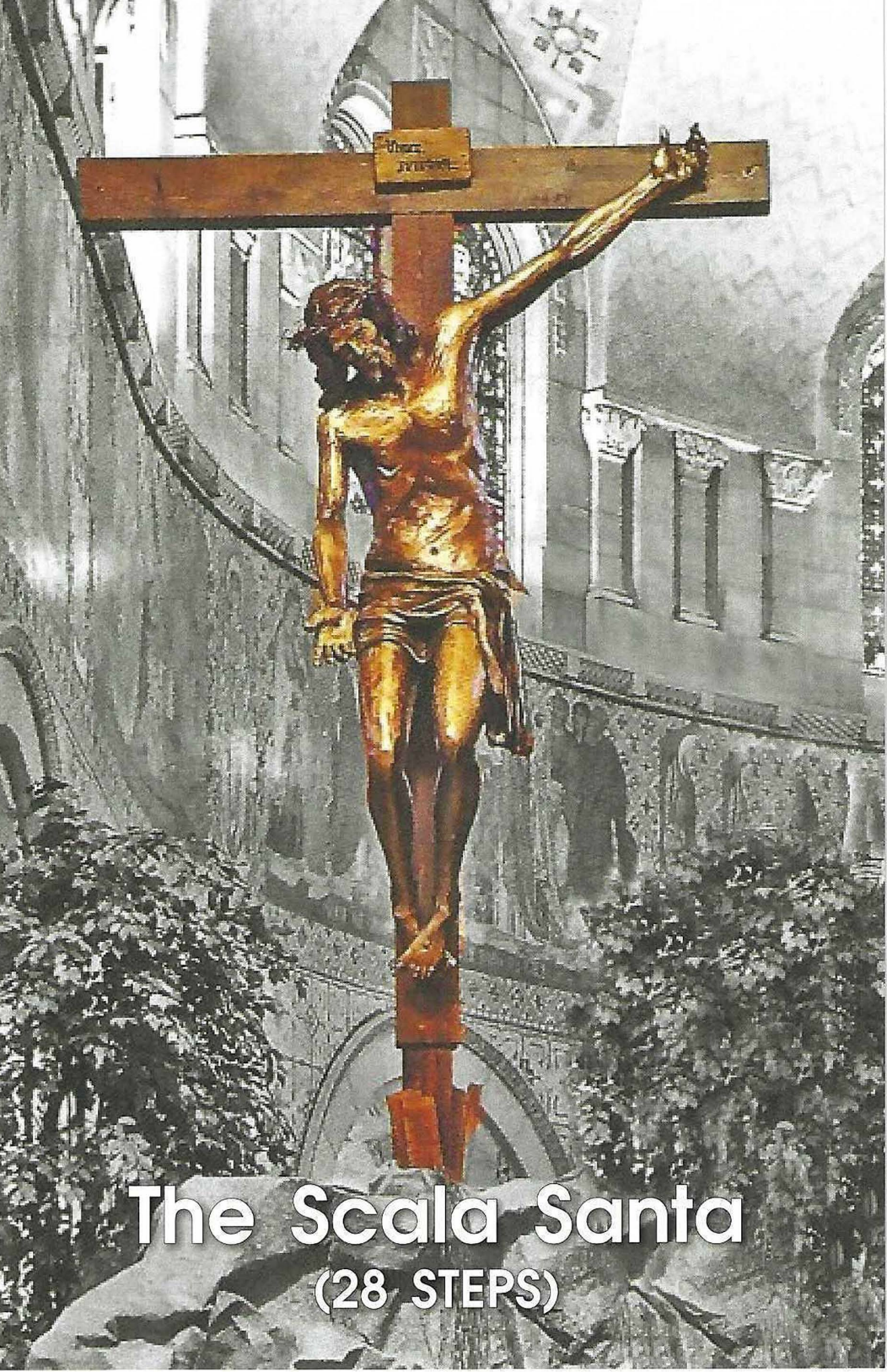

The Scala Santa

(28 STEPS)

ORIGIN OF THE DEVOTION

The original Scala Santa or Holy Stairway is the staircase which Jesus ascended during His Passion while proceeding to Pilate's Praetorium. Jesus stood on the Scala Santa at the time of his Passion on the way to his trial. According to tradition in the 4th century the stairs were taken to Rome by St. Helena.

That staircase sanctified by the Saviour's footsteps is still in existence; it is publically venerated in Rome, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran. The Scala Santa has attracted in the past and continues to attract millions of Christian pilgrims from all corners of the world.

During the last century, it became the custom in many parts of the Catholic world to erect staircases similar to the Scala Santa in Rome.

Originally, the Scala Santa was comprised from twenty-eight steps crafted in white marble.

Today, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran the staircase has side walls with frescoes on them and a vault and it leads from an ah-ium.

According to Roman Catholic custom the faithful should climb the Scala Santa on their knees.

PREPARATORY PRAYER

Merciful Jesus! For the salvation of mankind, You submitted to the suffering of the scourging and of the crowning with thorns; You allowed yourself to be dragged by impious hands on these stairs to be led before Pilate. I desire to venerate with respect the blood-stained traces of your feet, and I beg You, by the merits of Your Passion, to grant that I may one day ascend to the throne of glory, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

I shall now climb the Holy Stairs and I shall meditate on the sufferings of my dear Lord Jesus. May this meditation and this act of penance give me an opportunity to repent and to love God.

God our Father, Timplore you to obtain for me from Jesus the grace to love as He did. Jesus' great commandment is to love! He, Himself, went to the limit of love. He died for love.

Today I offer my whole self to Him.

PRAYER FOR EACH OF THE 28 STEPS

1st Step

My Jesus! by the anguish of heart You experienced on separating from Your mother to go to Your death, have mercy on me!

2nd Step

My Jesus! by the confusion You felt and that caused You t9 sweat blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, have mercy on me!

3rd Step

My Jesus! by the intense grief that filled Your Heart, on seeing Yourself betrayed by Judas, have mercy on me!

4th Step

My Jesus! by the confusion You felt when led as a malefactor through the streets of Jerusalem, have mercy on me!

5th Step

My Jesus! by the sweetness You showed when brought before the tribunal and struck in the face, have mercy on me!

6th Step

My Jesus! by the patience You showed amid the outrage and mockery of wh_ich You were the object, throughout the night preceding Your death, have mercy on me!

7th Step

My Jesus! by the insults You endured when dragged on the Sacred Stairs, have mercy on me!

S

My Jesus! by the silence You observed in the presence of those who bore false witness against You, and of Pilate who unjustly condemned You, have mercy on me!

9th Step

My Jesus! by the humiliation to which You were subjected amidst the derision of Herod and his court, have mercy on me!

lOt/1 Step
My Jesus! by the shame You felt on being stripped of Your garments and tied to the pillar to be scourged, have mercy on me!

11th Step
My Jesus! by the pain You suffered on being scourged, when Your body was covered with wounds and bruises, have mercy on me!

12th Step
My Jesus! by the torture of the thorns, with which Your adorable head was pierced, have mercy on me!

13th Step
My Jesus! by the patience You showed when, clothed with purple rags and with a reed in Your hand, You were derided and treated as a mock-king, have mercy on me!

14th Step
My Jesus! by the affliction You felt when You heard the people cry out against You, and clamour for Your death, have mercy 0l1 me!

15th Step
My Jesus! by the humiliation to which You were subjected on being compared with Barabbas, and on seeing that criminal preferred to You, have mercy on me!

16th Step
My Jesus! by the resignation with which You embraced the Cross, and proceeded with it on the road to Calvary, have mercy on me!

17th Step
My Jesus! by the sorrow You felt on meeting Your Mother, and on witne&5ing her anguish, have mercy onme!

18th Step
My Jesus! by the weariness that overcame You while bearing the burden of the cross, have mercy on me!

19th Step
My Jesus! by the bitterness You experienced when the g1 l and vinegar toud1ed Your lips, have mercy on me!

20th Step
My Jesus! by the agony You endured, when Your garments were torn off, have mercy on me!

21st Step
My Jesus! by the pain You suffered, when fastened with nails to the cross, have mercy on me!

2211d Step
My Jesus! by the charity that moved You to forgive Your executioners and pray for them, have mercy onme!

23rd Step
My Jesus! by the torment You suffered on seeing Yourself abandoned by all, have mercy on me!

24th Step
My Jesus! by the goodness with which You gave paradise to the penitent thief, and Mary unto John, as his Mother, have mercy on me!

25th Step
My Jesus! by the burning thirst with which You were tortured on the Cross, have mercy on me!

26th Step
My Jesus! by the love for me with which Your Divine Heart was in.flamed on breathing forth Your last sigh, have mercy on me!

27th Step
My Jesus! by the kindness You manifested in permitting Your side to be opened, have mercy on me!

28th Step
My Jesus! by the condescension with whid1 You permitted Your body to be placed in the arms of Your Mother and afterwards in the sepulchre, have mercy on me!

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