

**A PRAYER BY POPE FRANCIS
OFFERED ON GOOD FRIDAY 2019**

Lord Jesus, help us to see in your Cross
all the crosses of the world:

The cross of people hungry for bread and for love.

The cross of people alone and abandoned
even by their children and kin.

The cross of people thirsty for justice and peace.

The cross of people who lack the comfort of faith.

The cross of the elderly who struggle
under the weight of years and loneliness.

The cross of migrants who find doors closed in fear
and hearts armored by political calculation.

The cross of little ones who are wounded
in their innocence and purity.

The cross of humanity that wanders
in the darkness of uncertainty
and in the obscurity of temporal culture.

The cross of families separated by betrayal,
by seductions of the evil one,
or by murderous levity and selfishness.

The cross of consecrated men and women
who tirelessly seek to bring your light into the world,
but feel derided, rejected, or humiliated.
The cross of consecrated men and women,
who along the way, have forgotten their first love.

The cross of your children,
who believe in you,
who seek to live by your word,
but find themselves rejected or marginalized
by their families and their peers.

The cross of our weakness,
our hypocrisy, our betrayal, our sins,
and our many broken promises.

The cross of your Church,
that faithful to your Gospel,
still struggles to spread your love
even among the baptized.

The cross of your Church, your Bride,
that feels forever assailed
from within and without.

The cross of our common home
that is gravely withering
before our selfish eyes,
blinded by greed and power.

Lord Jesus, revive in us
the hope of your resurrection
and definitive victory
over all evil and death.

Glory to the Father,
to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen!

*This prayer was written by Pope Francis
and offered during the Way of the Cross in Rome
on Good Friday, April 19, 2019.*