THE MANNER OF HEARING CONFESSIONS

PRAYERS BEFORE HEARING CONFESSIONS [PRIEST]

These may be said according to the opportunity of the Priest.

OLORD Jesus, I desire to administer this Sacrament of Penance with that same surpassing love with which thou didst hallow this ordinance, when with most earnest desire for our salvation thou didst institute it, to be administered by the Apostles and their successors, to the praise of God the Father, and the salvation of all mankind: I beseech thee that it may profit me, and all and each unto whom I shall minister it, in union with that love of thine, to the increase of our salvation, and of our everlasting happiness. Let the grace of the Holy Spirit so enlighten and kindle my senses and my heart, that according to thy good pleasure I may fulfil the ministry laid upon me, and may be counted worthy to be defended and preserved from every assault of temptation; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

RANT me, O Lord, the wisdom that sitteth at thy right hand, I that I may judge thy people according to the right, and the poor with equity. Grant that I may so wield the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, that I may open to none to whom it should be shut, nor shut it to any to whom it should be opened. Give purity to my intention, sincerity to my zeal, patience to my charity, and fruit to my labors. Grant that I may be mild, yet not remiss, stern, yet not cruel. Let me neither despise the poor nor flatter the rich. Give me gentleness to draw sinners unto thee, prudence in examination, wisdom in instruction. Grant me, I pray thee, skill to turn men aside from evil, perseverance to confirm them in good, zeal to persuade them to better things: give wisdom to my answers, rightness to my counsels: give me light in darkness, a good understanding in confusion, victory in difficulties. Let no vain conversations entangle me, nor evil defile me: let me save others and not myself be cast away. Amen.

OLORD Jesus Christ, who didst say to thine Apostles, Whosesoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosesoever sins ye retain they are retained: look mercifully upon me thy servant; enlighten my understanding, give me a right judgement in all things, fill my heart with divine love. Grant me so to minister this thy gift of Absolution, that the hearts of these thy children may be truly turned to thee, that together with them I may attain to everlasting life. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY PENANCE [PENITENT]

Kneel in the appointed place and say:

Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.

The priest responds:

THE Lord be in thy heart and upon thy lips, that so thou mayest worthily confess all thy sins; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

At the blessing, make the sign of the Cross † and say, Amen. Then confess your sins:

Confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and to you, Father, that I have sinned very much in thought, word, deed, and omission, by my own great fault, since my last confession, which was ago, when I received absolution and did my penance, I have committed the following sins:

Confess your sins, and then say:

FOR these and all my other sins which I cannot remember, I am very sorry, I firmly resolve not to sin again, I humbly ask pardon of God, and of you, Father, penance, advice, and absolution. *Amen.*

Listen to the advice of the priest and accept the penance he gives. If you do not understand or did not hear, ask him to repeat. When the priest says, I absolve thee, make the sign of the cross † and say, Amen

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive thee thine offences: And by His authority committed unto me, I absolve thee from all thy sins, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

After the Confession is ended, the priest may address a few words of counsel to the penitent and will then assign a suitable penance. For secret sins, however grave, public penance must not be imposed, lest the Seal of the Confessional be violated thereby. Make the sign of the Cross † at the blessing, and say, Amen.

THE Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merits of his holy Mother the blessed Virgin Mary, and of all the Saints, whatsoever good thou hast done, or evil thou hast endured, be unto thee for the forgiveness of sins, the increase of grace, and the reward of eternal life: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon thee and remain with thee always. *Amen.*

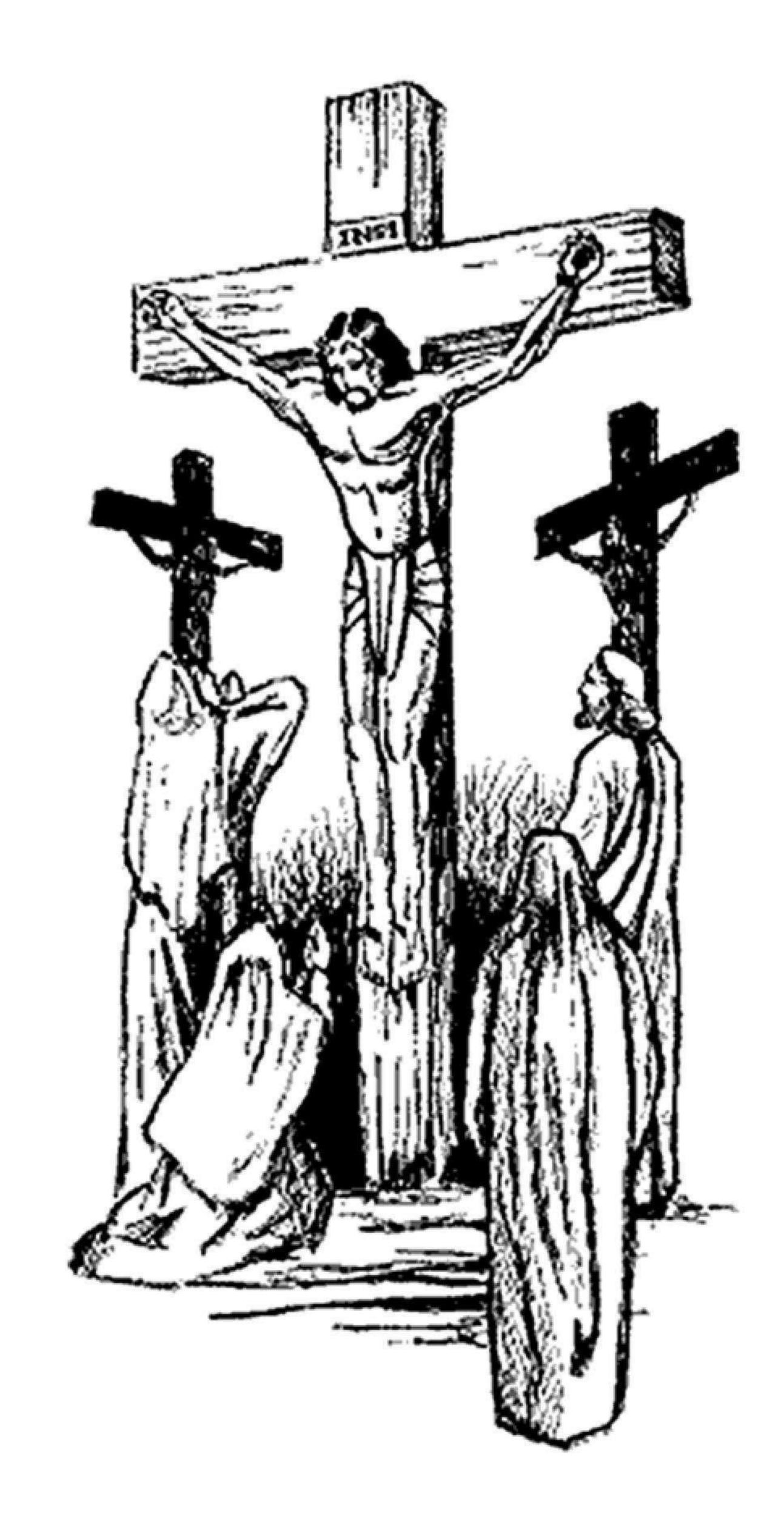
When the priest says the dismissal, return to your place, say your penance, give thanks to God for Holy Absolution and pray for your Confessor.

0 in peace, the Lord hath put away all thy sins

A PRAYER AFTER HEARING CONFESSIONS

This may be said according to the opportunity of the Priest.

OLORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, accept this my ministry and service, with that exceeding love wherewith thou didst absolve blessed Mary Magdalene, and all sinners who fled unto thee. And whatsoever I have done carelessly or unworthily in the administration of this Sacrament, do thou be pleased to supply and to make satisfaction for by thyself. I commend to thy most loving Heart all and each who have now confessed unto me, beseeching thee to keep them, to preserve them from backsliding, and after the trials of this life to lead them to everlasting gladness with thee. Amen



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY PENANCE [PENITENT]

Kneel in the appointed place and say:

Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.

The priest responds:

THE Lord be in thy heart and upon thy lips, that so thou mayest worthily confess all thy sins; In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

At the blessing, make the sign of the Cross † and say, Amen. Then confess your sins:

I confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and to you, Father, that I have sinned very much in thought, word, deed, and omission, by my own great fault, since my last confession, which was ago, when I received absolution and did my penance, I have committed the following sins:

Confess your sins, and then say:

POR these and all my other sins which I cannot remember, I am very sorry, I firmly resolve not to sin again, I humbly ask pardon of God, and of you, Father, penance, advice, and absolution. *Amen.*

Listen to the advice of the priest and accept the penance he gives. If you do not understand or did not hear, ask him to repeat. When the priest says, I absolve thee, make the sign of the cross † and say, Amen

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive thee thine offences: And by His authority committed unto me, I absolve thee from all thy sins, In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. *Amen.*

After the Confession is ended, the priest may address a few words of counsel to the penitent and will then assign a suitable penance. For secret sins, however grave, public penance must not be imposed, lest the Seal of the Confessional be violated thereby.

Make the sign of the Cross † at the blessing, and say, Amen.

THE Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merits of his holy Mother the blessed Virgin Mary, and of all the Saints, whatsoever good thou hast done, or evil thou hast endured, be unto thee for the forgiveness of sins, the increase of grace, and the reward of eternal life: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon thee and remain with thee always. *Amen.*

When the priest says the dismissal, return to your place, say your penance, give thanks to God for Holy Absolution and pray for your Confessor.

O in peace, the Lord hath put away all thy sins