

THEME: MARY, HER PATH TO HOLINESS

Eight Day Mary at the Foot of the Cross

Grace and Intention:

Let us beg God for the **spirit of sacrifice** and the grace to **love**.

Let us pray that we may have the kind of love that empowers people and the love that encompasses other people even if it will mean trials, sacrifices and sufferings on our part.

Reading **John 19:25b-27**

Reflection:

Mary stood at the foot of the Cross, valiant and ready for sacrifice. Her love for Jesus caused her to be there, suffering but faithful. When Jesus tells her, "Woman behold your son," it is for Mary the peak of her suffering. For, at that very moment she gave up the fruit of her womb, Jesus, to become mother to us all. Mary did not hold on to her son, but gave him to us. Her "yes" at the Annunciation now finds its fulfillment at the foot of the Cross ~ she unites her passion with that of her Son for the redemption of humankind.

(moment of silence)

Prayer:

Mary, Mother of Christ, teach us to stand firm in times of trial. Teach us to hope in times of darkness and journey with us, a pilgrim people towards the realization of God's Kingdom.

Glory Be. . . .