

# 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.



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April 6, 2020, Holy Week