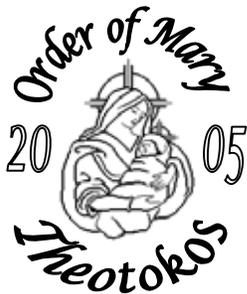


# The Theotokan

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*Order of Mary Theotokos*

[www.ecc-usa.org/OMT.html](http://www.ecc-usa.org/OMT.html)



## Mary, Mother of Sorrows

As we begin Holy Week today, let us resolve to spend the week with Mary as she follows Jesus in his death and Resurrection. It had to be a terrible experience for Mary to see her son rejected and put to death on a cross. Yet, she was there at his side with love and support. Mary, Mother of Sorrows guide us this week to share your sorrow and with faith look forward to the Resurrection.

-Mark your Calendar-  
**Important dates to put on your calendar:**

**Your Profession dates** because you need to remember to request **First and Final Profession documents** from the Abbot.

**ECC+USA 2007 Synod** Will be held at Mercy Center in St. Louis, Missouri on October 12-14, 2007. All OMT members are invited to attend. Additional details later.

## "Magnificat" Prayer Book

The "Magnificat" is more than a prayer book. It is a source of inspiration and learning. It is also the link that ties all OMT members together. At approximately the same time of day, each member prays morning prayers, evening prayers, and night prayers and so joins with all other members in a spiritual community of love and devotion to Our Lord Jesus Christ through Mary, his mother and our mother. Even though our members are geographically separated we are happily united in our prayer life three times a day offering the same prayers together across time and space.

## Seven Sorrows of Mary, the Theotokos

Our understanding of Mary's role in salvation history is enhanced by reading and meditating on what has come down to us as her Seven Sorrows. Each sorrowful event is followed by its reference in Sacred Scripture. These make a particularly wonderful meditation during Holy Week.

1. The Prophecy of Simeon. *Luke 2: 25-35.*
2. The Flight into Egypt. *Matthew 2: 13-15.*
3. The Child Jesus Lost in the Temple. *Luke 2: 41-50.*
4. Mary meets Jesus carrying the cross. *Luke 23: 27-29.*
5. Mary at the foot of the cross. *John 19: 25-30.*
6. Mary receives the body of Jesus. *Psalms 130.*
7. Mary witnesses the burial of Jesus. *Luke 23: 50-56.*

## Stabat Mater Dolorosa



John and Mary

The "Stabat Mater Dolorosa" is a 13th-century hymn that is based upon the prophecy of Simeon that a sword was to pierce the heart of Our Lord's mother, Mary (Lk 2:35): *"Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'"*

It is often included in the Stations of the Cross during Lent and at other services outside of Mass which honor the Mother of Sorrows.

This hymn may be used as a sequence after the first reading at the Mass of the Seven Sorrows on September 15.

You can find more details on the history of this piece of Gregorian Chant on the Internet by doing a search on the title.

At the cross her station keeping  
stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,  
all His bitter anguish bearing  
now at length the sword had passed.

Oh, how sad and sore distressed  
was that Mother highly blessed,  
of the sole-begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs,  
she beneath beholds the pangs  
of her dying, glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,  
'whelmed in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain  
from partaking in her pain,  
in that Mother's pain untold?

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
she beheld her tender Child  
All with scourges rent.

For the sins of His own nation,  
saw Him hang in desolation,  
Till His spirit forth He sent.

O sweet Mother! fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
make my heart with thine accord.

The Order of Mary the Theotokos is a ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA. Professed membership is open to all men and women of faith, married or single, regardless of their denominational affiliation.

Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
make my soul to glow and melt  
with the love of Christ, my Lord.

Holy Mother! pierce me through,  
in my heart each wound renew  
of my Savior crucified.

Let me share with thee His pain,  
who for all our sins was slain,  
who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with thee,  
mourning Him who mourned for me,  
all the days that I may live.

By the Cross with thee to stay,  
there with thee to weep and pray,  
is all I ask of thee to give.

Virgin of all virgins blest!  
Listen to my fond request:  
let me share thy grief divine;

Let me, to my latest breath,  
in my body bear the death  
of that dying Son of thine.

Wounded with His every wound,  
steep my soul till it hath swooned,  
in His very Blood away;

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,  
lest in flames I burn and die,  
in His awful Judgment Day.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,  
by Thy Mother my defense,  
by Thy Cross my victory;

While my body here decays,  
may my soul Thy goodness praise,  
safe in paradise with Thee. Amen.