



THE ROSARY IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MARK-MARY AMES, CFR

PHASE 3: MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERIES

The Sorrowful Mysteries

CROWNING WITH THORNS:

A Heart Willing
to Accept



The Crowning with Thorns by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio

The release of Barabbas confirms that Jesus will be crucified. Next, the Roman governor's soldiers hauled Our Lord into the praetorium, the common hall, which symbolizes the intersection of Roman authority and Jewish culture. Nothing of any cultural nature but only hate and abuse awaited Jesus there.

As if the beatings at the pillar were not enough, the soldiers berated Jesus further. They spat on him, hit him on the head with a reed, and mocked him with a crown of thorns that pierced his skin and must have been horribly painful. They also draped him with a scarlet robe to make him look like a king and undoubtedly laughed derisively at their joke. With the time for the execution approaching, they reclothed Jesus with his raggedy garments and began the journey to Golgotha and the ultimate sacrifice.

But the Crucifixion itself is not the only sacrifice Our Lord endured. When we recall his pain on the Cross,

let's also remember the lashings and more at the pillar and the abuse in the praetorium. He suffered so much on that Good Friday on our behalf. Are we willing to accept far less grueling sacrifices with discipline on *his* behalf?

Fruit of this mystery: We pray for a detached heart.

Scripture: Matthew 27:27–31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on his head, and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

