

## **The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary for EnCourage Members**

by an EnCourage father

*We meditate on Christ's suffering when we pray the Sorrowful Mysteries. As EnCourage members, we can apply the five mysteries to our own lives, uniting our suffering to His, as follows:*

### **The Agony in the Garden:**

We recall the agony we felt when we first found out about our loved one.

### **The Scourging at the Pillar:**

We remember when we first spoke to our loved one and said we do not support their behavior, often resulting in the hurtful comments we received in return.

### **The Crowning with Thorns:**

This is the badge we now wear with friends, family, and others, bucking the culture and defending ourselves as faithful Catholics who do not support the behavior of our loved one, but still love them.

### **The Carrying of the Cross:**

This is the journey through life we are now on. Sometimes stumbling, sometimes receiving acts of kindness, but always feeling the weight of our cross.

### **The Crucifixion:**

Meditating about how we will feel if our loved one has not come home to the Church's teaching about sexuality by the time we reach old age or face terminal illness, we realize that we may be tempted to ask why God has forsaken our loved one despite our prayers. Instead, we pray that our reaction will be to commend our spirit into His hands, submitting to His will, accepting whatever His will may be for our loved one, and leaving this earth in the hope that our loved one may yet come home after we die, or that mercy will be granted upon their death.