

The Way of the Cross

Lent 2021

Watch the accompanying video on our website
pbrenewalcenter.org or on YouTube at bit.ly/2Y0GfOn

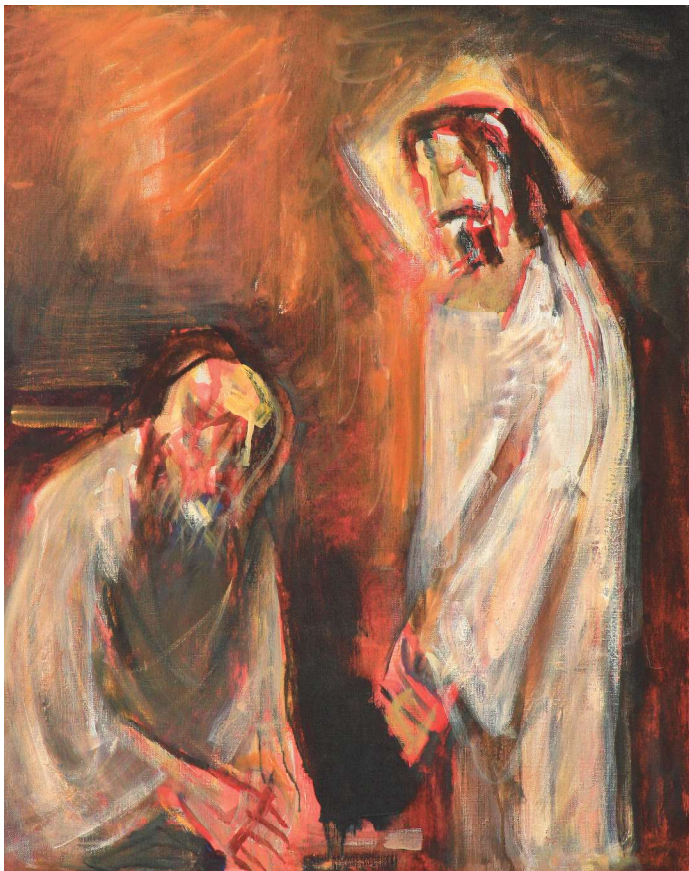
A visual meditation written by Kathy Keary and presented by the
staff of Precious Blood Renewal Center.



PRECIOUS BLOOD
Renewal Center

a ministry of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood





The 1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

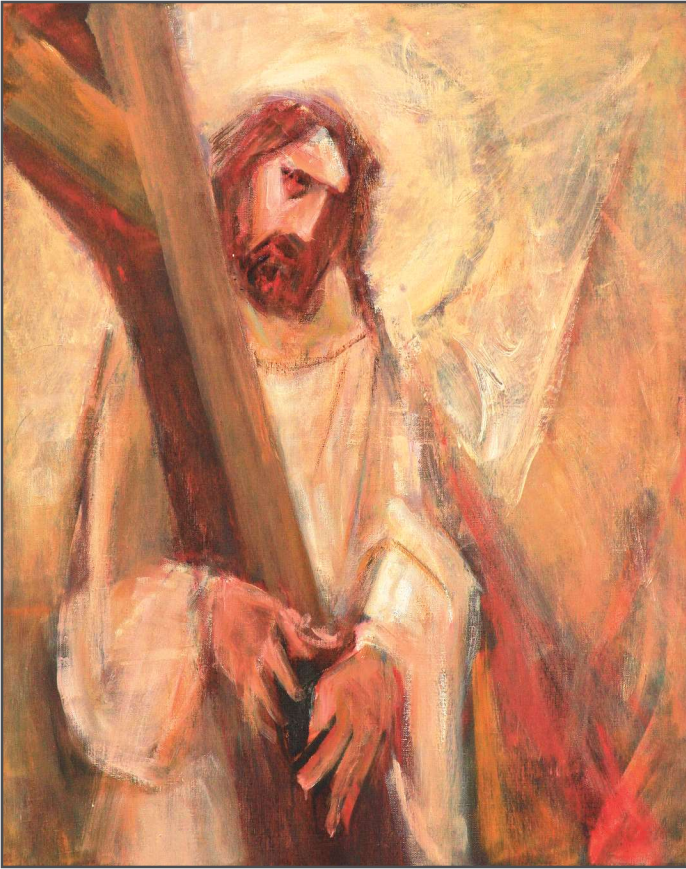
Reader 2: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." (Mt 27:24)

Reader 3: How many times have I taken the easy path rather than standing up and raising my voice in defense of the voiceless? Just as Jesus was innocent, multitudes of innocent people are victims of injustice each day. What more can I do to alleviate their plight? How is my stand consistent with Jesus mandate: "Love one another?" How do my words and actions stand as a testimony to my love? How do my choices respect the dignity of all God's children?

Reader 4: Dear sweet Jesus, you told us that whatever we do or don't do for the least of your children, we do or don't do for you (Mt 25:40, 45). Open our eyes, ears, and hearts to those in our world who are burdened. Teach us how to love as you love.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.



The 2nd Station: Jesus Bears His Cross

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewers to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

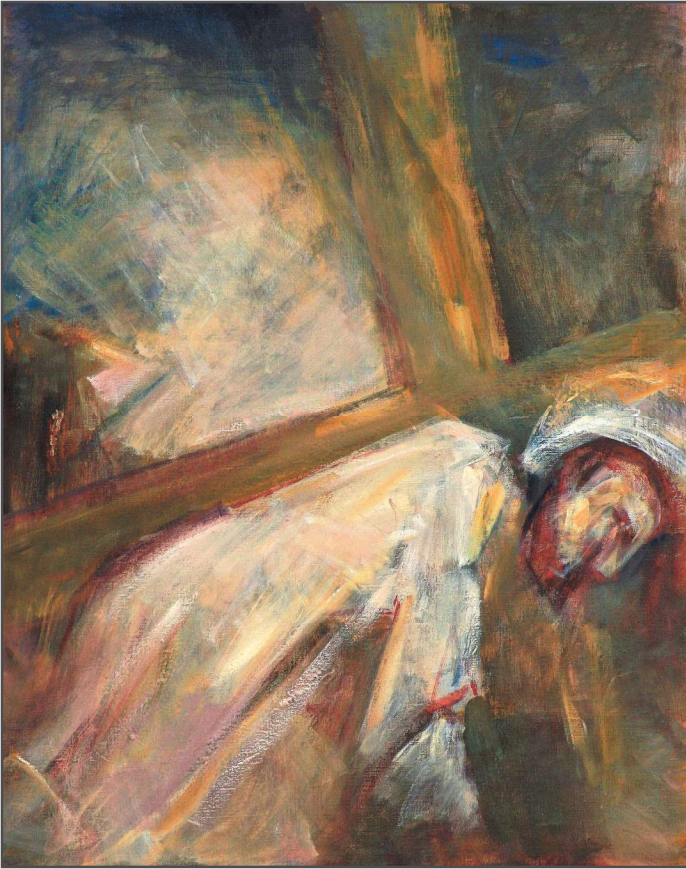
Reader 2: So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.(John 19:16b, 17)

Reader 3: As we reflect on Jesus carrying the cross by himself, consider those in the world who are carrying the cross of hardship alone. St. Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Corinthians:"If one member suffers, all suffer together" (I Cor 12:26). Who are those people in the world who are bearing adversity alone? Is there anyone in my immediate community in need of support and love? How am I being called to share in the struggle of another?

Reader 4: True Vine, help me to see the inter-connectedness of all your people united as one through you. Following your example, may our circles widen to include all in a compassionate embrace. May I lift up those in need of our concern as I welcome them into my heart.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 3rd Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

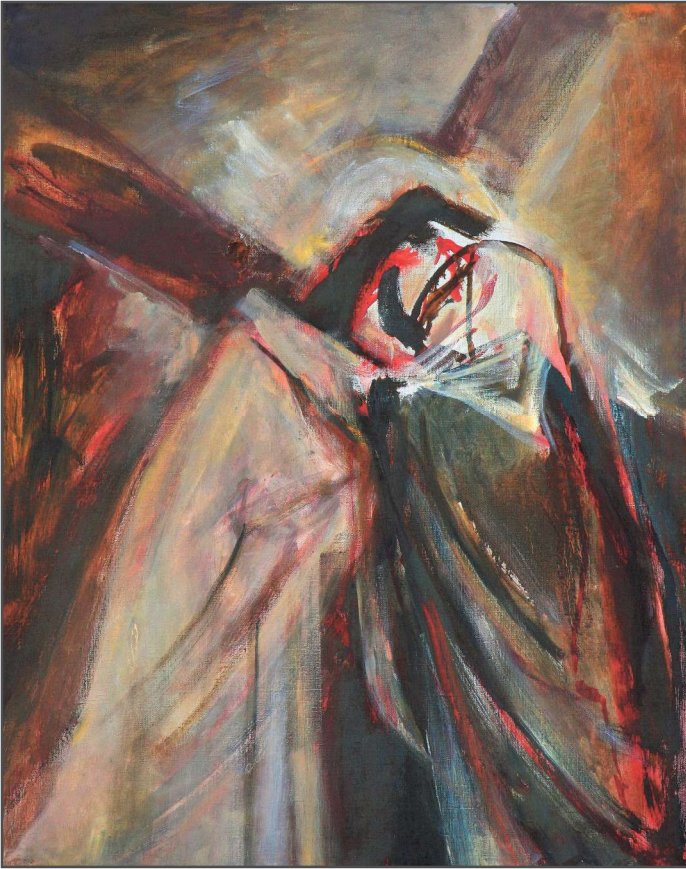
Reader 2: He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity..."(Isaiah 53:3a)

Reader 3: Jesus fell under the weight of our cross as the crowd mocked and insulted him. Many fall under the weight of the cross today: those living in poverty, those fleeing their homelands to find safe shelter or the economic means to put food on their table, those suffering with illness and disease, and victims of injustice. How are you calling me, Lord, to help a sister or brother carry their cross, so they will not fall under the weight of life's struggles?

Reader 4: Spirit of Compassion, I am the hands, feet, and heart in our world today. Open my eyes to see those that weep, open my ears to hear the cry of the blood, open my heart, so I will reach out in compassion to those who are burdened by struggle.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 4th Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

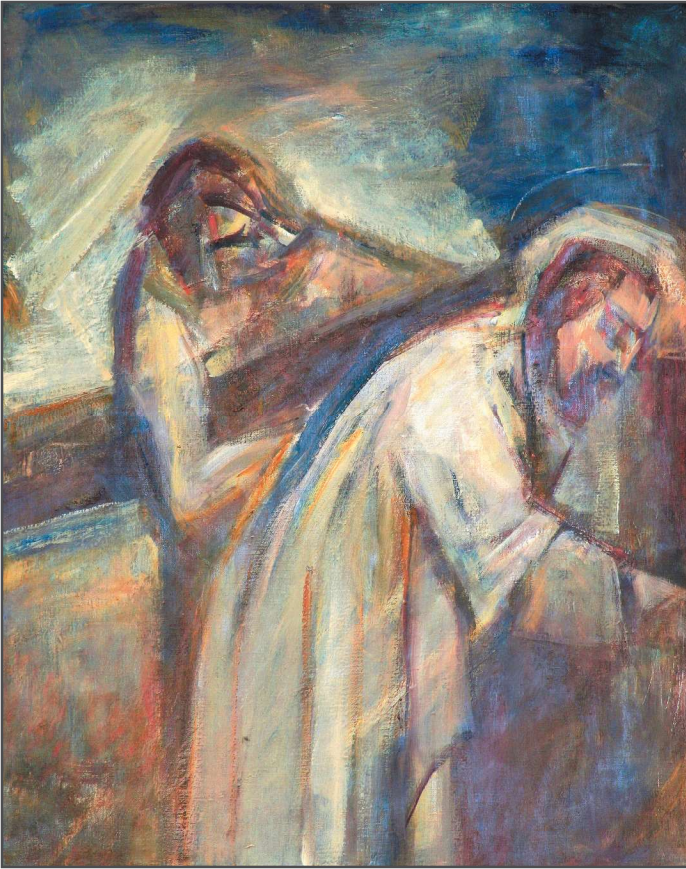
Reader 2: This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too. (Luke 2:34, 35)

Reader 3: Imagine the pain Mary must have felt as she saw her son subjected to such cruelty. Many women suffer the pain of watching their children endure the cruel reality of going to bed hungry at night, struggling with illness because of the lack of healthcare, or living under a bridge because a roof over their head is unaffordable. What is my part in easing these women's pain?

Reader 4: God of Compassion, we lift up all the children of the world who are innocent victims of injustice. Fill me with your grace so I have the strength to set aside my need for excess security and reach out to those in need. May the sanctity of all our children all over the world be honored.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 5th Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

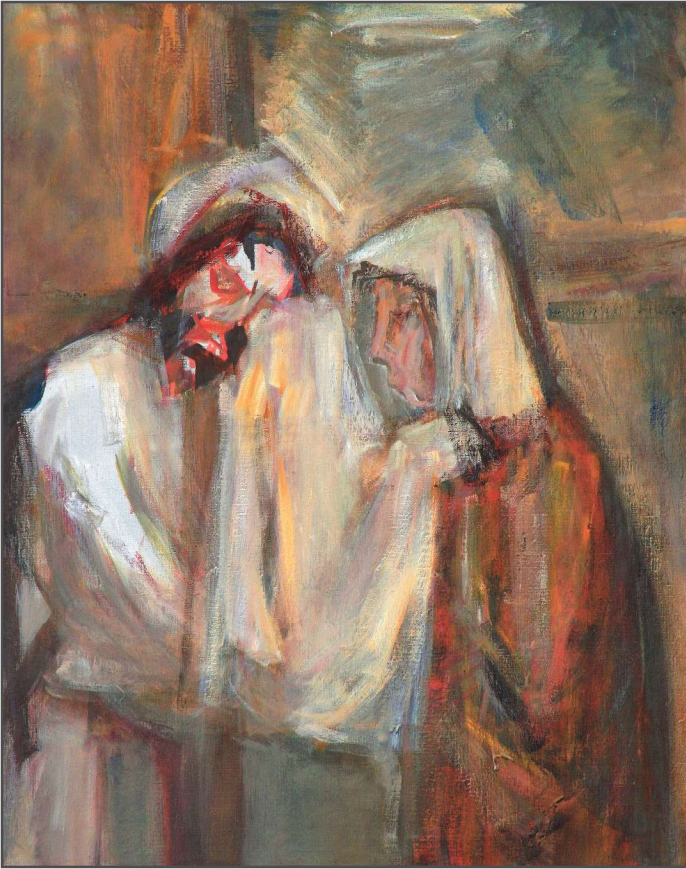
Reader 2: They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, A Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.(Mk 15:21)

Reader 3: Just like Jesus relied on Simon to help him, he relies on us to be his hands, feet, and heart in a world so much in need of disciples who truly walk in his path by reaching out to those forced to the margins. There is no shortage of ways to help Jesus in this pursuit. The important thing is that we do.

Reader 4: God bless all those who generously give of their time, talent, and resources to build up those who are struggling. May our ears be open to hear your voice. What is my part to help you carry the burden today?

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

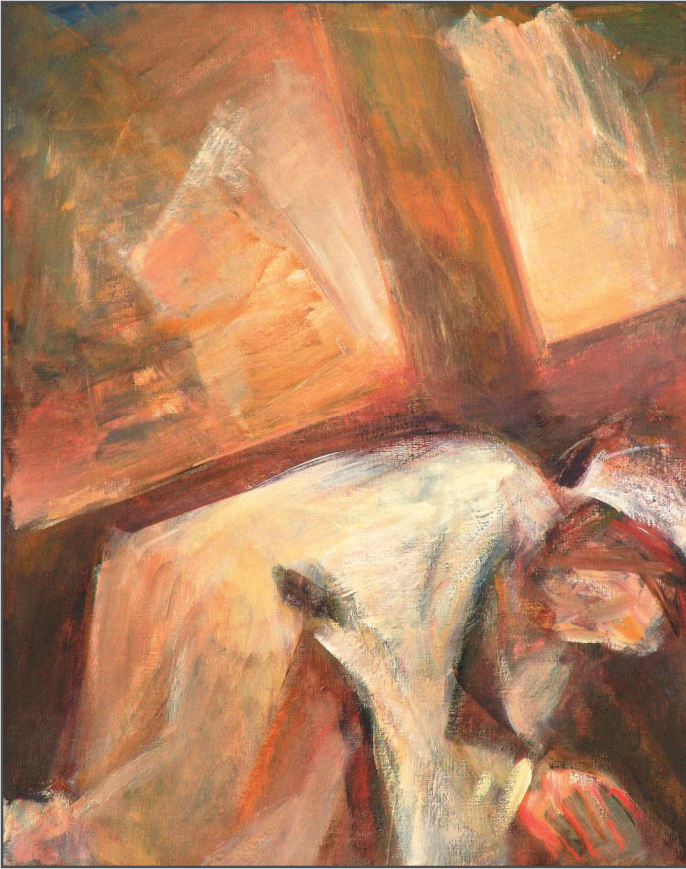
Reader 2: For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.(Ps 63:4)

Reader 3: Veronica offers kindness to Jesus in the simple act of wiping his face. Imagine how much that must have meant to him to feel her love in his time of struggle. How can I wipe the face of someone who is challenged? What acts of kindness can I do to lift up a family member, a friend, a neighbor, or a stranger?

Reader 4: Forgive me, Compassionate One, for the times when I have failed to offer love and support to those in my realm of influence - those that are right in front of me. Help me to be more willing to set aside trivial pursuits to help a sister or brother in need.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 7th Station: Jesus falls the second time

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader 2: Though he was harshly treated, he submitted, and opened not his mouth.(Is 53:7)

Reader 3: Jesus falls today in the 38.1 million people living in poverty in the United States. He falls in the 790 million people throughout the world who lack access to clean drinking water. He falls in the countless refugees

fleeing their homeland because of war, injustice, and poverty. What am I doing to offer support to those in such dire need?

Reader 4: Creator of All, through the prophet Micah you instructed that there are only three things you require of us:to act with justice, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with our God. Forgive me for the times that I did not obey your simple plea. Fill me with your grace so I can courageously walk in your ways.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 8th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

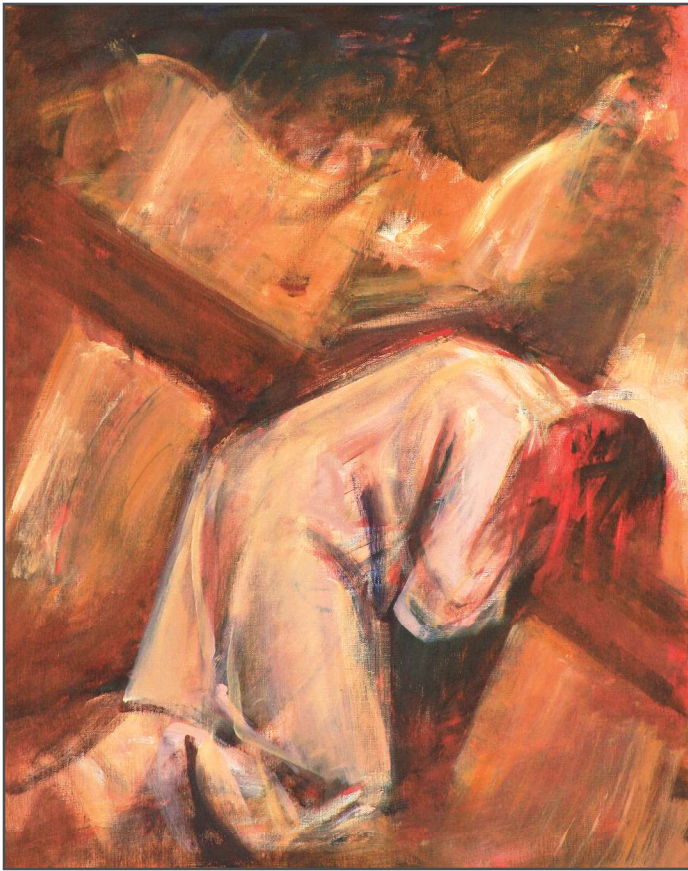
Reader 2: A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him.(Lk23:27)

Reader 3: Jesus must have been deeply touched when he saw familiar caring faces risking persecution to stand by him as he carried our cross. Sometimes just being with the one who is suffering is the only gift we have to offer, but what an important gift that is. Being the listening ear or being the hand to hold is a sacred moment filled with divine love.

Reader 4: Compassionate Creator, just like you are always there for me, may I be there for others in their times of struggle. Help me to realize that accompanying another through difficulty is allowing another to experience you through your humble servant. May I be your hands and feet in the world today.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 9th Station: Jesus falls a third time

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader 2: Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away and who would have thought any more of his destiny?(Is 53:8)

Reader 3: My heart breaks as I recall your Passion story:the betrayal, the cruelty, the torture, the humiliation, the grueling struggle to your crucifixion. Once again you fell under the weight of the cross, but the depth of your love for humanity brought you to your feet. May I be an instrument of your undying love in the world today easing the pain of those that struggle:the poor, the sick, the refugee, and all those that have lost their way.

Reader 4 :The fight to lift up the vulnerable is an arduous undertaking with many obstacles and much resistance. Merciful One, fill us with your perseverance as we work to do your will in our time and place. Proclaiming that all blood is precious, may we be your ambassadors to the edges of society.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 10th Station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader 2: Naked I came forth from my mother's womb, and naked shall I go back again. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.(Job1:21)

Reader 3: The soldiers cast lots for Jesus' tunic because it was seamless. In developing a Consistent Ethic of Life, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin spoke of the seamless garment pertaining to the sacredness of all life from conception through natural death. All life issues such as abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia, and social injustice demand a consistent application of moral principles that uphold the dignity of the human person.

Reader 4: Dear Lord, the multitudes of offenses against the dignity of the human person so prevalent in our society is beyond alarming. Forgive me for the times that I have failed in this fight. Fill me with your grace so that I may walk with strength and courage upholding that all life is sacred from the baby in the womb, to the criminal, to those living in poverty, and to those fleeing to our country for a better life.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

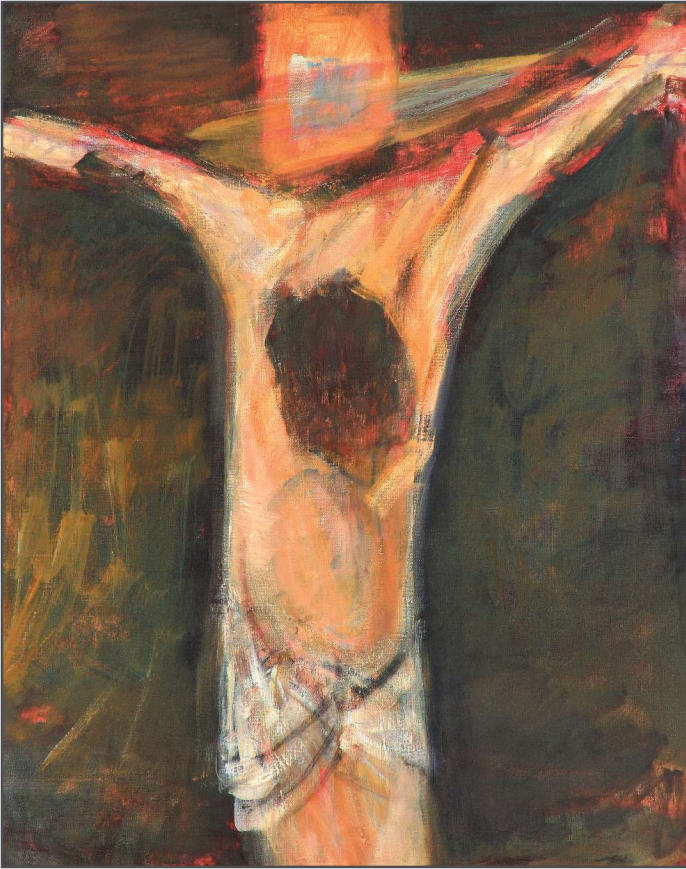
Reader 2: After they had crucified him they divided his garments by casting lots.(Mt 27:35)

Reader 3: The crowd ganged up on Jesus, the embodiment of nonviolence. Nails were hammered into his wrists and feet. The pain must have been beyond excruciating. The torture continues today in the victims of racism, domestic violence, gun violence, and war. People continue to be singled out and treated unfairly in our communities.

Reader 4: Prince of Peace, forgive us for the times we have harmed another by our thoughtless words or hurtful actions. Teach us to walk in your way of nonviolence respecting the dignity of all people as our sisters and brothers. Fill us with your grace to be bearers of love and compassion to all especially those that are left out or victimized by discrimination.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader 2: It is finished.(Jn19:30)

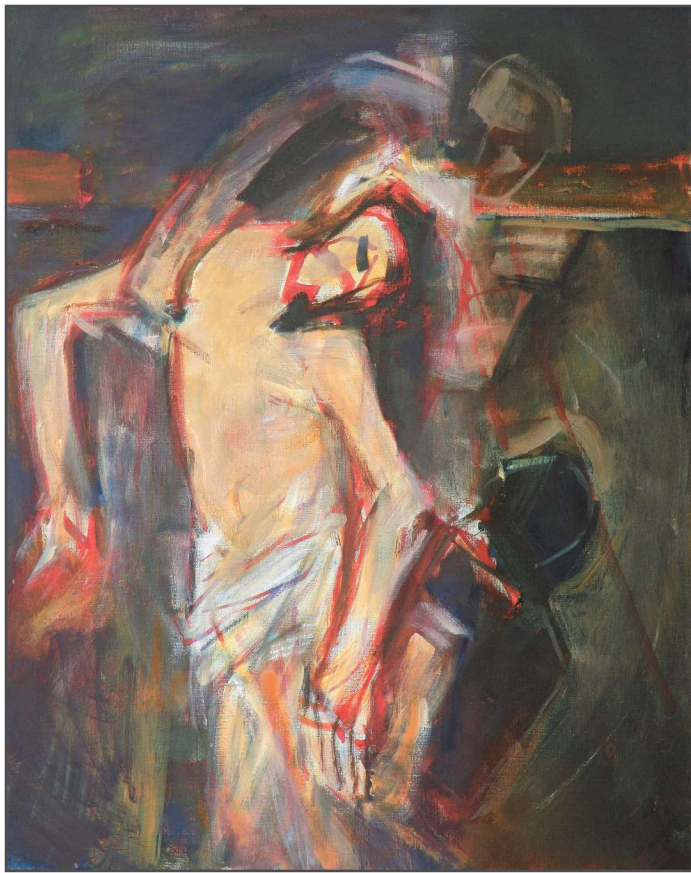
Reader 3: "Forgive them, they know not what they do." Is this not the height of mercy? Jesus loves us so much that he not only died for us in the most horrendous way but then forgave his murderers amid the cruelty and pain. Is

there anyone in my life that I am struggling to forgive? Would extending forgiveness set me free to be more the person I was created to be?

Reader 4: Thank you, Lord, for showering us with your love as you shed your blood for us and continue to walk with us as our Emmanuel, God with us. Often when I am hurt, forgiveness is slow in coming or nonexistent. Scripture tells us that you will forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Help me remove the barriers that prevent me from being a person of reconciliation.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 13th Station: Jesus' body is taken down from the cross

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

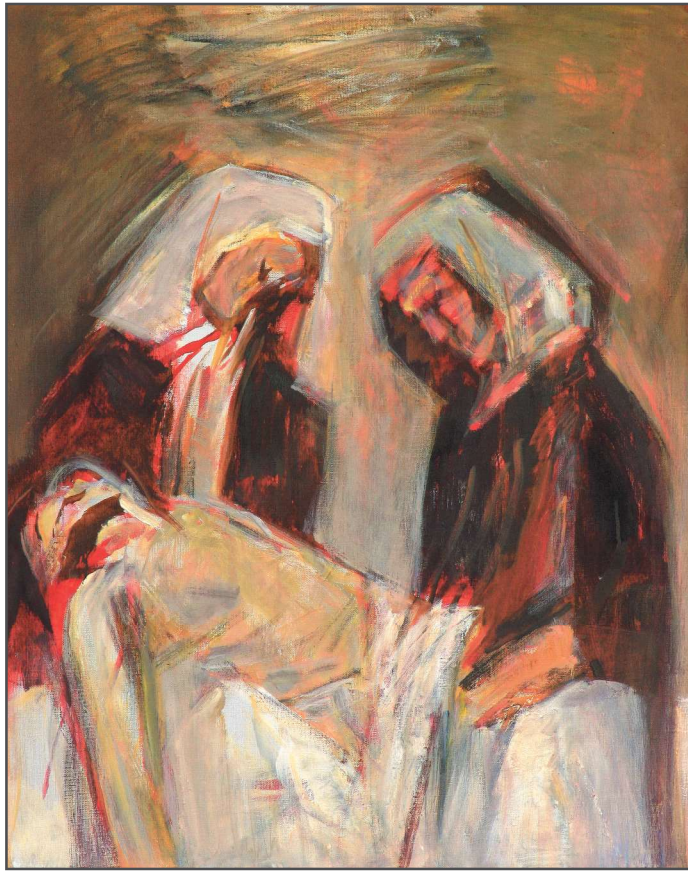
Reader 2: Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen.(Mt 27:59)

Reader 3: As we contemplate Jesus' lifeless body being held in his mother's arms, let us reflect on the life he shared with us. He emptied himself so as not to cling to his divinity but to walk with us in our humanity. He called the ordinary to be his disciples and together they served the people. He disturbed the status quo and unveiled hypocrisy. Those on the margins were touched by his healing presence. He brought mercy, compassion, and reconciliation to a world much in need of his grace. As he lay in his mother's arms, we know the task is now ours.

Reader 4: Jesus, give me the courage to empty myself of anything that prevents me from being your hands and feet in the world. Open my ears and heart as I discern the special task to which you call me. How are you inviting me to be your healing presence in our world today? Just as you graciously gave your life for me, may I give of myself in a spirit of generosity.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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The 14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

Reader 1: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You. (lift up your hand inviting viewer to join in) By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reader 2: Now in the place where he had been crucified, there was a garden and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried.(Jn19:41)

Reader 3: Just as Jesus showed tender love to those he served, Joseph of Arimathea extended that same compassion and care to Jesus as he gently wrapped his body in a linen cloth and laid him in a new tomb he had hewn in the rock. A huge stone was rolled in front of the entrance to seal the Lord's resting place.

Reader 4: Lord, I cannot say that you are no longer here, so it is impossible to extend to you the tender love that Joseph of Arimathea so freely gave. You have told us, Lord, you are now present in the weak and vulnerable. I am a bearer of tender love to you whenever I extend compassion and care to "the least among us." Open my ears to hear the cry of the blood in our world and open my heart to respond generously with tender love.

All Together: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.



The 15th Station: Jesus is Risen!

A Reading from St. Paul's letter to the
Philippians (Ph 2:6-11)

becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross.

All Together: Who, though he was in the
form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.

Rather he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus,
every knee should bend
of those in heaven and on earth and
under the earth,
and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.