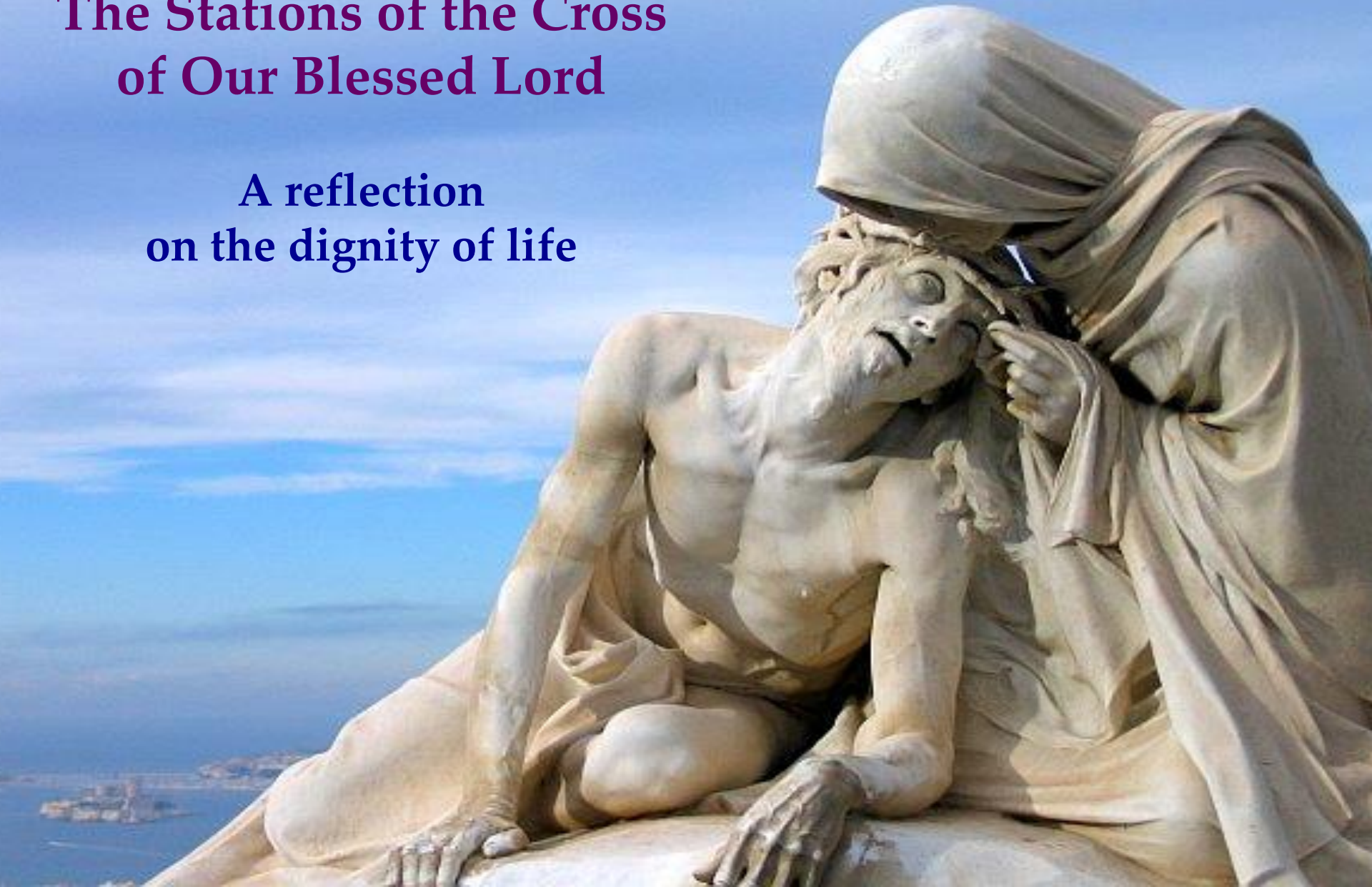


The Stations of the Cross of Our Blessed Lord

A reflection
on the dignity of life



Opening Prayer

Reader: Jesus came with his disciples to a country place called Gethsemani, and he said to them, “Sit down here, while I go over yonder and pray.” Then he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and he began to be saddened and exceedingly troubled. He said to them,





“My soul is sad, even unto death. Wait here and watch with me.” He went forward a little, and falling prostrate he prayed, saying, “Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me; yet not as I will but as you will.” (Matthew 26: 36-29)

(KNEEL)

All: In your agony, Lord, you must have felt alone and afraid. Even your most beloved could not keep watch with you.

Each day, Lord Jesus, thousands of babies are killed, participants in your passion. Each day, Lord Jesus, those who have grown very old, alone and abandoned, participate in your passion. Keep us awake, O Lord, that we might watch with you and accept the cup God gives to us in every moment of our lives. Amen.

(STAND)

Sing:

Jesus, Lord, condemned, defiled,
May we too be meek and mild
As we tread your holy Way.

May we feel no bitter hatred,
When we too are persecuted,
Left alone to walk with You.

First Station

Jesus is Condemned to Death



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have
redeemed the world.

Reader: Again the high priest
began to ask him, and said to
him, “Are you the Christ, the
Son of the Blessed One?” And
Jesus said to him, “I am. And
you shall see the Son of Man
sitting at the right hand of the
Power and coming with the
clouds of heaven.”



But the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” And they all condemned him as liable to death. (Mark 14: 61-64)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Though innocent, Jesus is condemned by the power of the State. In like manner, our innocent brothers and sisters in the womb have been condemned. Their rights and dignity are not recognized. In this, they bear a special likeness to Jesus.



Reader: Hear our prayer, O merciful Lord, for every child betrayed by those who should be first to love them. Grant eternal peace to the innocent victims of abortion, and gently soften the hearts of the parents who took their lives. Grant them repentance, healing and peace. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

All: Amen (STAND)

Sing:

**Now the Cross as Jesus bore it,
Has become for us who share it,
The jeweled Cross of Victory.**

Second Station

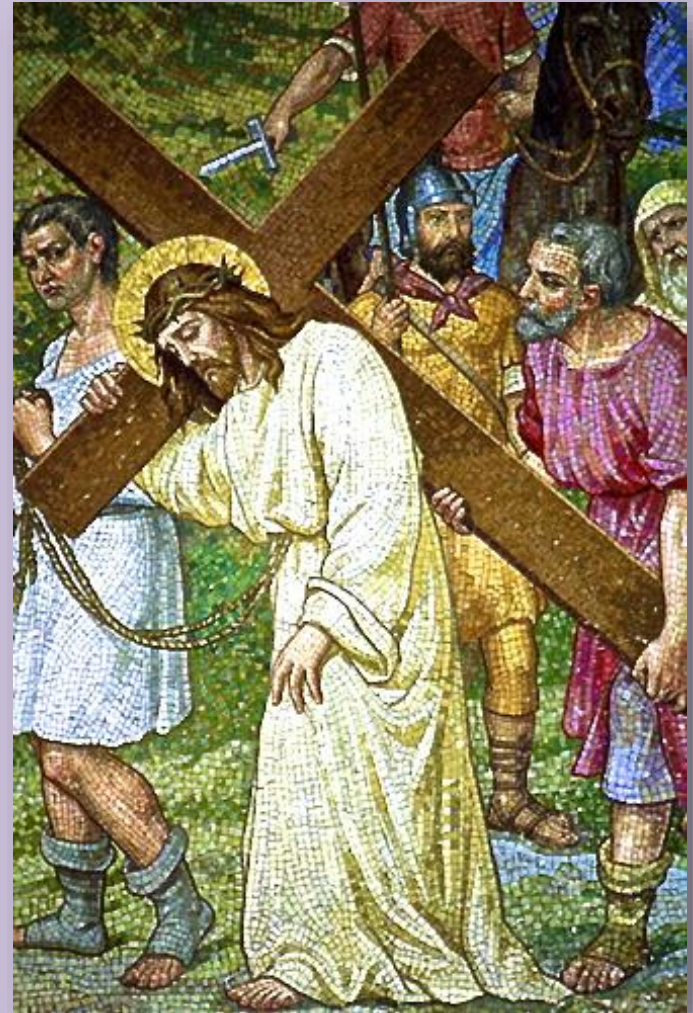
Jesus Carries His Cross

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: And Pilate said to the Jews, “Behold, your king!” But they cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?”



The chief priests answered,
“We have no king but
Caesar.”

Then he handed him over
to them to be crucified.
And so they took Jesus and
led him away, bearing the
cross for himself. (John 19:
14-17)



(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: The salvation of the world carried a heavy price for our Lord, the agony of the cross. As He accepts His cross, let us also resolve to endure suffering that others may live. Make us feel the needs of all persons so that we might as readily help them as we would help Jesus himself.

Reader: Hear our prayer for all who bear the weight of fatal diseases. May their love for life give them hope, and their confidence in the creator of life bring them joy. For you are Lord, forever and ever.



All: Amen

(STAND)

Sing:

**Weakened, prodded, cursed, and fallen,
His whole Body bruised and swollen,
Jesus tripped and lay in pain.**

Third Station

Jesus Falls the First Time



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love what is its own.



Because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I have spoken to you: No servant is greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

(John 15: 18-20)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Almighty God was weak because He chose to be like us.

He had power and glory from all eternity, yet He chose to be immersed in the world of suffering.

We pray that we are strong witnesses to the sanctity of all life from the moment of conception to a natural death in a world that does not recognize everyone as a child of God.

Reader:

Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for all who cooperate in the evil of abortion. For nurses, clerks, doctors, and aides, for relatives, friends, spouses, and parents: give them clear vision, Lord, to see the evil before them. Give them the grace of repentance and true contrition, that they may turn from their sin and vow to never cooperate with this evil again.

All: Amen (STAND)



Sing:

**Jesus met his grieving Mother,
She who made the Lord our Brother;
Now the sword her heart has pierced.**

Fourth Station

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

*Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)*

*All: Because by your holy Cross You have
redeemed the world.*

Reader: Now there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother and his mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus, therefore, saw his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son."

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)



Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.”
And from that hour the disciple took her into his
home. (John 19: 25-27)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: There is no deeper relationship than that of
mother and child. They belong together. When
one suffers, the other suffers. To love and
defend one means to love and defend the other.

To be pro-life means to serve both the child and the mother. It means to ask our society, “Why can’t we love them both?”



Reader: O Lord, you entrusted the youngest apostle to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Entrust all unborn children to the Blessed Mother, Lord. Entrust the prisoner who sits on death row to her care. Entrust the work of the scientist who seeks a cure to her, and the life of the old man in a hospital bed, as well.



May we live under the
protection of Mary, our
mother, from our conception
to natural death. For you are
Lord, forever and ever.

All: Amen (Stand)

Sing:

**Simon stopped in hesitation,
Not foreseeing his proud station,
Called to bear the Cross of
Christ.**



Fifth Station

Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross



*Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)*

*All: Because by your holy Cross You have
redeemed the world.*

Reader: And when they had mocked Jesus, they took the purple cloak off and put his own clothes on him, and they led him out to be crucified. Then they forced a certain passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, coming from the country, to take up his cross.

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, a name meaning ‘the place of the skull’.

(Mark 15: 20-22)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Many watched the Lord suffer. Simon the Cyrenian helped alleviate that suffering. Many lament the evils against life. We pray that all people may take their active place in the pro-life movement.



Reader: We share in your way of sorrows, Lord,
whenever we are ridiculed for our defense of
those vulnerable ones whom everyone else has
forgotten. Be with those who seek to carry your
cross wherever life is threatened, and when they
are tempted by despair,
send an angel to
assist them with
their burden.
For you are Lord,
forever and ever.

All: Amen
(STAND)



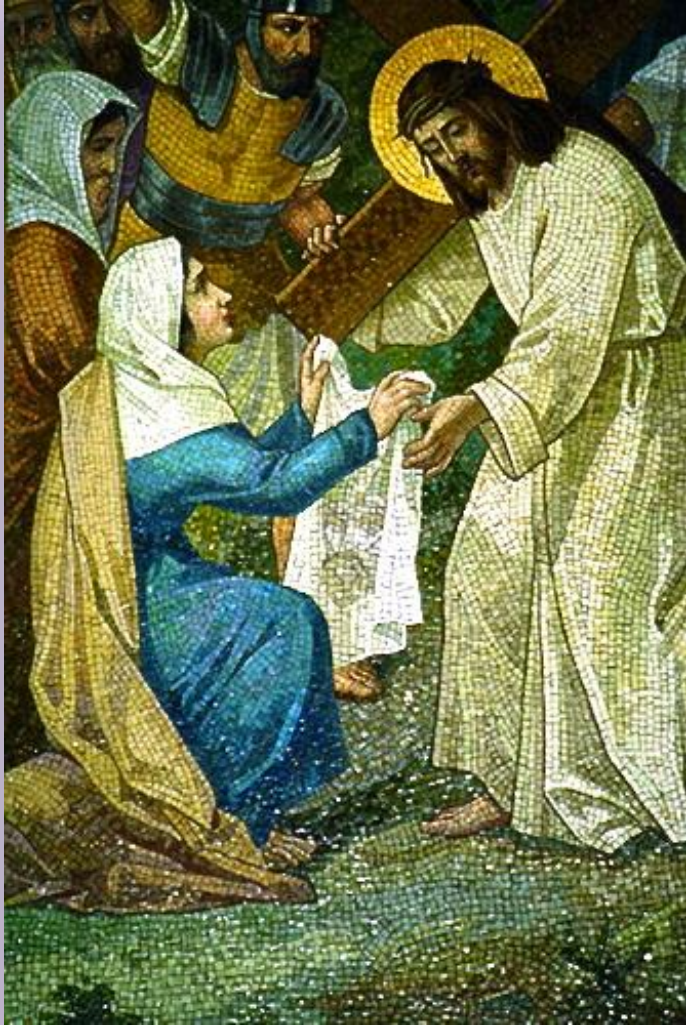


Sing:

**Brave but trembling came the woman,
None but she would flaunt the Roman,
Moved by love beyond her fear.**

Sixth Station

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus



*Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)*

*All: Because by your holy Cross You have
redeemed the world.*

Reader: “Lord, when did we see
you hungry, and feed you; or
thirsty, and give you drink? And
when did we see you a stranger,
and take you in; or naked, and
clothe you?”



Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?” And answering the king will say to them, “Amen, I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.” (Matthew 25:37-40)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)



All: The compassion Veronica shows reflects the compassion of so many medical doctors and nurses, who treat their patients with dignity. We pray for repentance and renewal in the medical profession. May the tools and skills meant for healing nevermore be used for killing.

Reader: Hear our prayers for all who need our compassion, O Lord: especially for the elderly, whom we scourge with our neglect. Fill our hearts with a love for them. In their weakness, may we see your suffering, in their pain may we find your cross. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

All: Amen (STAND)

Sing: **Prostrate on the dust He crumbled,**
 Flogged in Body He resembled
 All our brothers poor and scorned.

Seventh Station

Jesus Falls the Second Time



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: It was our weaknesses that he carried, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one struck by God and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the punishment that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. (Isaiah 53: 4-6)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: In working to defend life, there are many setbacks and obstacles. Yet we know the meaning of the cross. In weakness, power reaches perfection. We do not look to our own strengths and talents alone, but to Christ. His own strength will sustain us.

Reader: Grant repentance, O Lord, to all who have sinned against the Gospel of Life: to doctors who abort, mothers who abandon their children, those who would execute prisoners, or euthanize the old.



To researchers who refuse to follow your will,
or those who would profit on the sufferings of
others: give a full portion of your grace and
your mercy, that they too might turn from
their sin and find you, who are Lord, forever
and ever.

Sing:

**May our sympathy for Jesus
Turn to those who here now need us,
May we see Christ bruised in them.**

Eighth Station

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: There was following Jesus a great crowd of people, and among them were some women who were bewailing and lamenting him. Jesus turning to them said,

“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.” (Luke 23: 27-28)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Christ told these women to weep for themselves and for their children. He does not want false worship, but repentance. He does not want followers who cry out to Him but then ignore injustice and bloodshed. May all who believe in Christ likewise stand up for all the defenseless.

Reader: You loved the women of Jerusalem, Lord, as you loved their children. Yet you warned them of the dire evil which threatened to destroy their lives and their very souls. Open the ears of all women to your plea for life, Lord.



Grant them grace to turn away from the sin of abortion and to walk with you this way of the cross. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

All: Amen (STAND)

Sing:

**Jesus fell again in weakness,
Stumbling as we do, to lead us
Through our sorrow and our pain**

Ninth Station

Jesus Falls a Third Time



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: I lie prostrate in the dust; give me life according to your word. I declared my ways, and you answered me; teach me your commands. Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous deeds. My soul weeps for sorrow; strengthen me with your words. (Psalm 118: 25-28)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Despite the falls,
nothing can stop our Lord,
because He is on a mission
of love. If the pro-life
movement is not a
movement of love, it is
nothing at all, but if it is a
movement of love, then
nothing will stop it. Love is
stronger than death, more
powerful than hell.



Reader: Banish from our hearts the hate that wishes to kill, and all desire to be seduced by violent revenge. To the killer give the grace of repentance, and to the victim the desire for justice and mercy. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

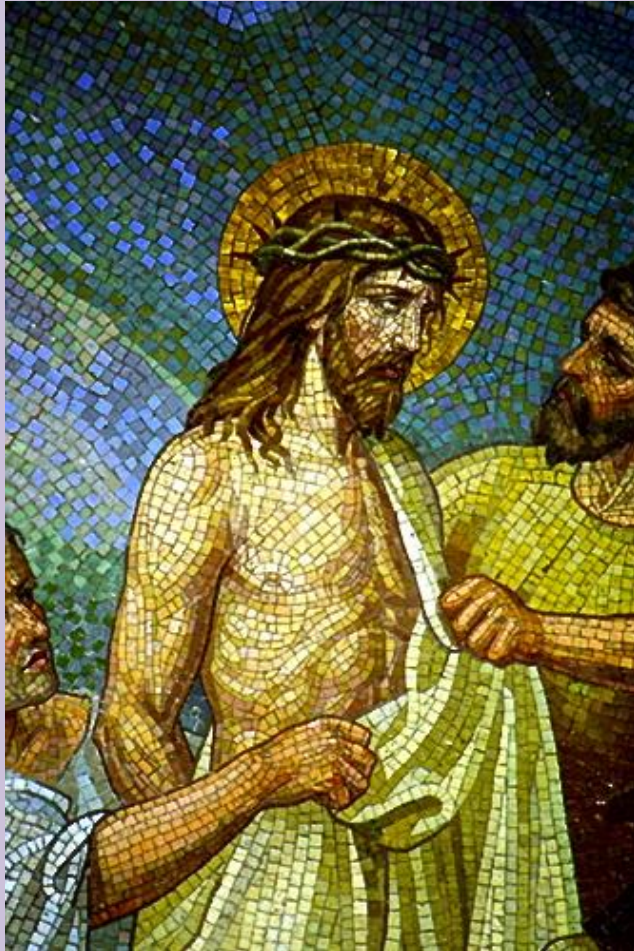
All: Amen (STAND)



Sing:
Stripped and jeered by his own nation,
Jesus stood in desolation,
Giving all He had to give.

Tenth Station

Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: They gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall; but when he had tasted it, he would not drink. Then after they had crucified him, they divided his clothes, casting lots, to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet, “They divided my clothes among them, and upon my garments they cast lots.”
(Matthew 27: 34-35)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: When our society falls and is on a path towards death, help us not to despair Lord. Grant us an inner peace that no situation can strip from us. Let us instead trust in God's Divine Providence and seek out encounters with Christ who can transform all.



Reader: Hear our prayer for all judges, Lord, and especially for those who sit upon the highest court in our land.

May they see whom their decisions may kill and how they are stripping people of their fundamental right to life. May they put aside all earthly pride, embracing only the wisdom that comes from you. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

All: Amen (STAND)

Sing:

**Pierced the hands that blessed and cured us,
Pierced the feet that walked to free us,
Walked the hill of Calvary.**

Eleventh Station

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: When they came to Golgotha, the place called the Skull, they crucified Jesus and the robbers, one on his right and other on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

(Luke 23: 33-34; John 19: 18)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: The powers of this world crucified the God who made this world. All power and authority come from God. All who exercise power have to account for it before the throne of God.

We pray that those in government may use their powers to protect the innocent babies in the womb.



Reader: Could there be any greater sin, O Lord, than nailing the innocent Son of God to the cross? Yet still today, we slaughter innocent children in their mother's wombs. Deliver us from this madness,



Lord, and teach us how we might preach
the Gospel of Life through the merits of
your Passion and Glorious Cross. For you
are Lord, forever and ever.

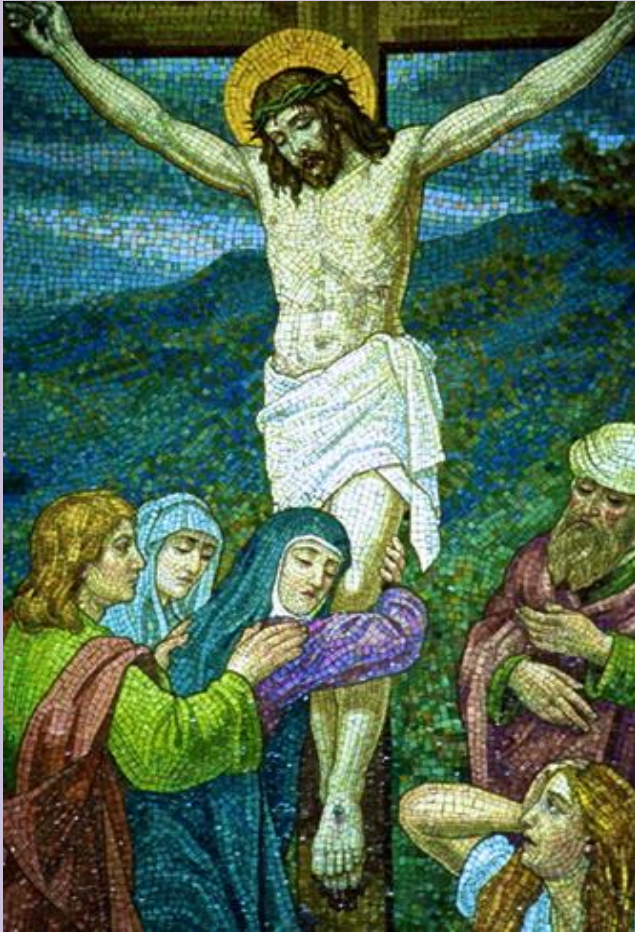
All: Amen (STAND)

Sing:

**Life eternal, death defiant,
Bowed his head – the world was silent,
Through his death came life anew.**

Twelfth Station

Jesus Dies on the Cross



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.
(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the curtain of the temple was torn in the middle. Jesus cried out with a loud voice and said, “It is finished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Then, bowing his head, he died.

(Luke 23: 44-46; John 19: 30b)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Our Lord died. So many of His children have died with Him. His passion is re-lived with every abortion, one every twenty seconds in our country. We only know a fraction of the horror of this act in the sight of God. We only know a fraction of the horror of Christ's crucifixion. May all our brothers and sisters killed by abortion rest in Christ's peace and be saved by His cross.



Reader: Be with all who die today Lord, and bring the merits of your Passion to their aid. To those who die alone, send an angel of peace. To those who die of violence, cradle them in your arms. To all who die, grant the mercy and peace of the Gospel of Life that they may rest in you, through whom they were born, and with whom, we pray, they might live forever.

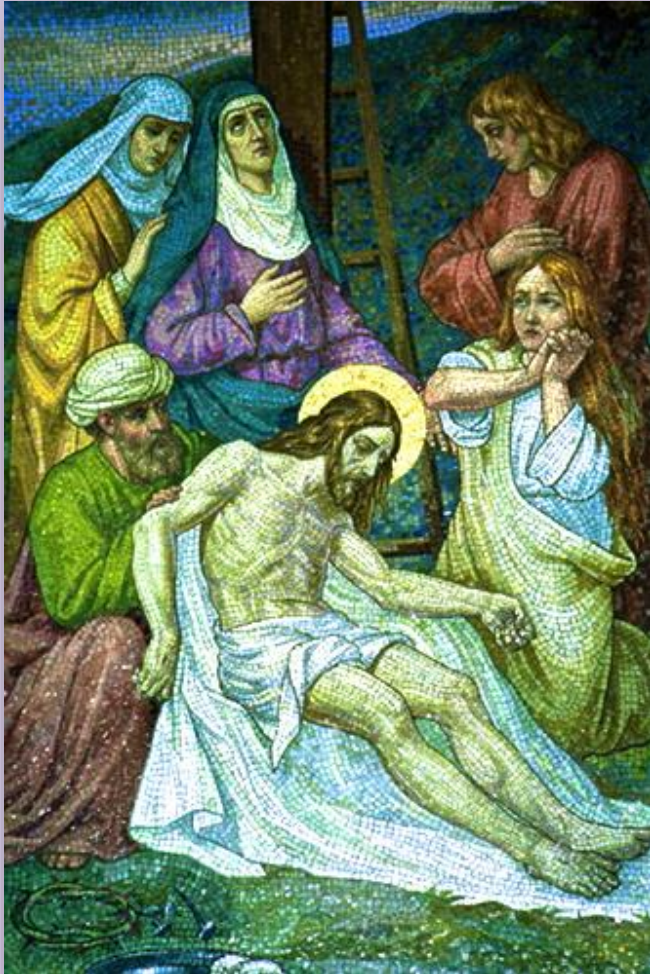
All: Amen (STAND)

Sing:

**Stunned and stricken, Mary, Mother
In your arms was placed our Brother,
“Full of grace” now filled with grief.**

Thirteenth Station

The Body of Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead so that they did not break his legs, but one of them opened his side with a lance, and immediately there came out blood and water. Joseph of Arimathea, because he was a disciple of Jesus (although a secret one for fear of the Jews), besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate gave permission.
(John 19: 33-34, 38a)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: Mary experienced the pain of holding her dead Son. So many mothers grieve after their abortions.

We ask that Mary may comfort them, help them face the truth about abortion, and lead them to forgiveness and healing.



Reader: O Lord, help us all who see the devastation of the culture of death and mourn for the loss of life. Help us remember that Christ has died for us all and wants us to be free from the chains of sin.

All: Amen

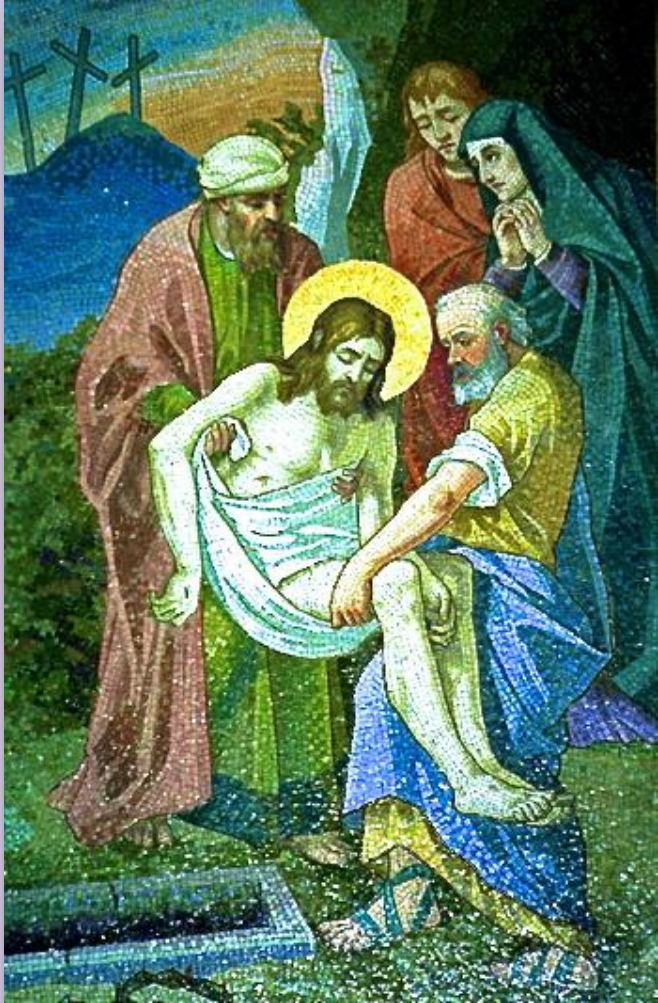
(STAND)

Sing:

**Jesus, Lord, your gift accepted,
In three days You resurrected,
You did first what we shall do.**

Fourteenth Station

Jesus is Laid in the Tomb



Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

(GENUFLECT)

All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Reader: Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus, and wrapping it in a clean linen cloth he laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn out of rock. Then he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and departed.

(Matthew 27: 59-60)

(KNEEL AND PAUSE)

All: A tomb is a memorial. It helps us remember the one who can no longer speak. May we remember Our Lord's Resurrection, and His promise of eternal life.

He has conquered abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, and all forms of murder because He has conquered death. May we bring His victory to every part of our world!



Reader: Your tomb, Lord Jesus, was not an end. In the glory of the paschal morning your empty tomb stood testament to your glorious destruction of sin and death. Destroy the culture of death, O Lord: Obliterate it in the light of your risen glory, that all who live and breathe might give you glory and celebrate the miracle of the life they have received from you. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

All: Amen (STAND)

Sing:

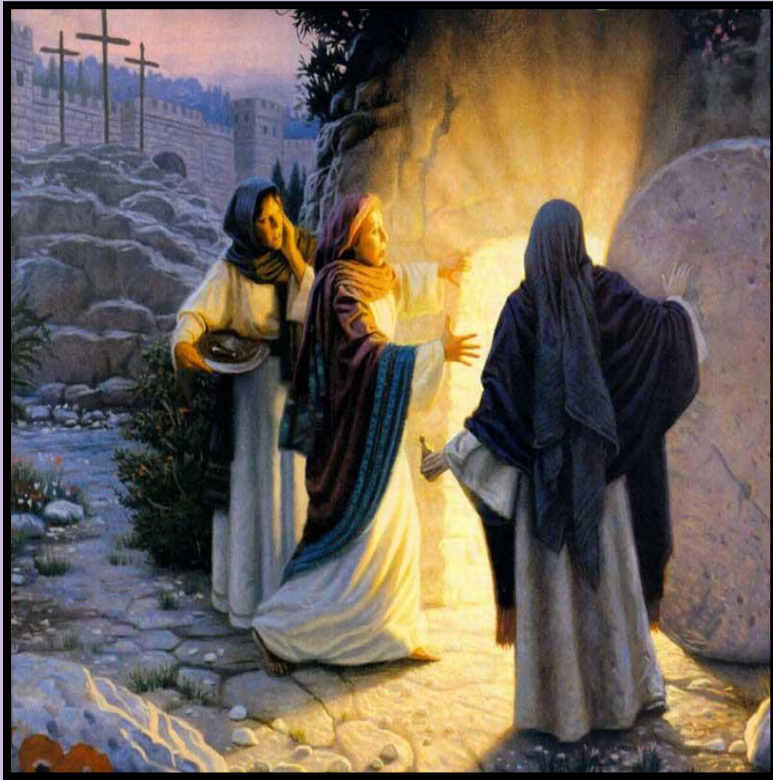
**Jesus, Risen, be our lover
In your Food and in our brother.
Lead us home to heaven with You.**

Closing Prayer

Pr.: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

(GENUFLECT)

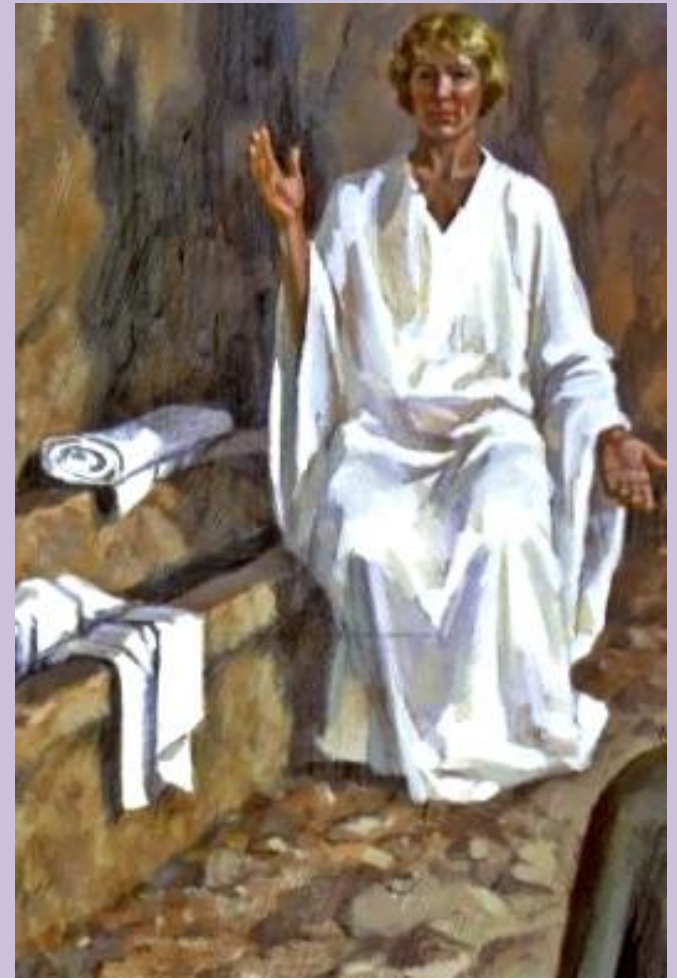
All: Because by your holy Cross You have redeemed the world.



Reader: When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices that they might go and anoint Jesus. Very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had just risen, they came to the tomb.

They were saying to one another, “Who will roll the stone back from the entrance of the tomb for us?”, for it was very large. But looking up they saw that the stone had been rolled back, and upon entering the tomb they were amazed to see a young man sitting at the right side and clothed in a white robe. He said to them, “Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him.”

(Mark 16: 1-6)



(REMAIN STANDING)

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Closing Song – Jesus, Remember Me

Pro-Life Examination of Conscience

- Do I treat all human life from conception to natural death as having the same value as my life, my parents' lives, and children's lives?
- Do I speak up in defense of life?
- Do I pray for those condemned to death?
- Do I write letters to the paper, legislators, or doctors?
- Am I developing all the talents God gave me so that I can use them to advance the Culture of Life?
- Do I have faith that God is the Lord of Life?

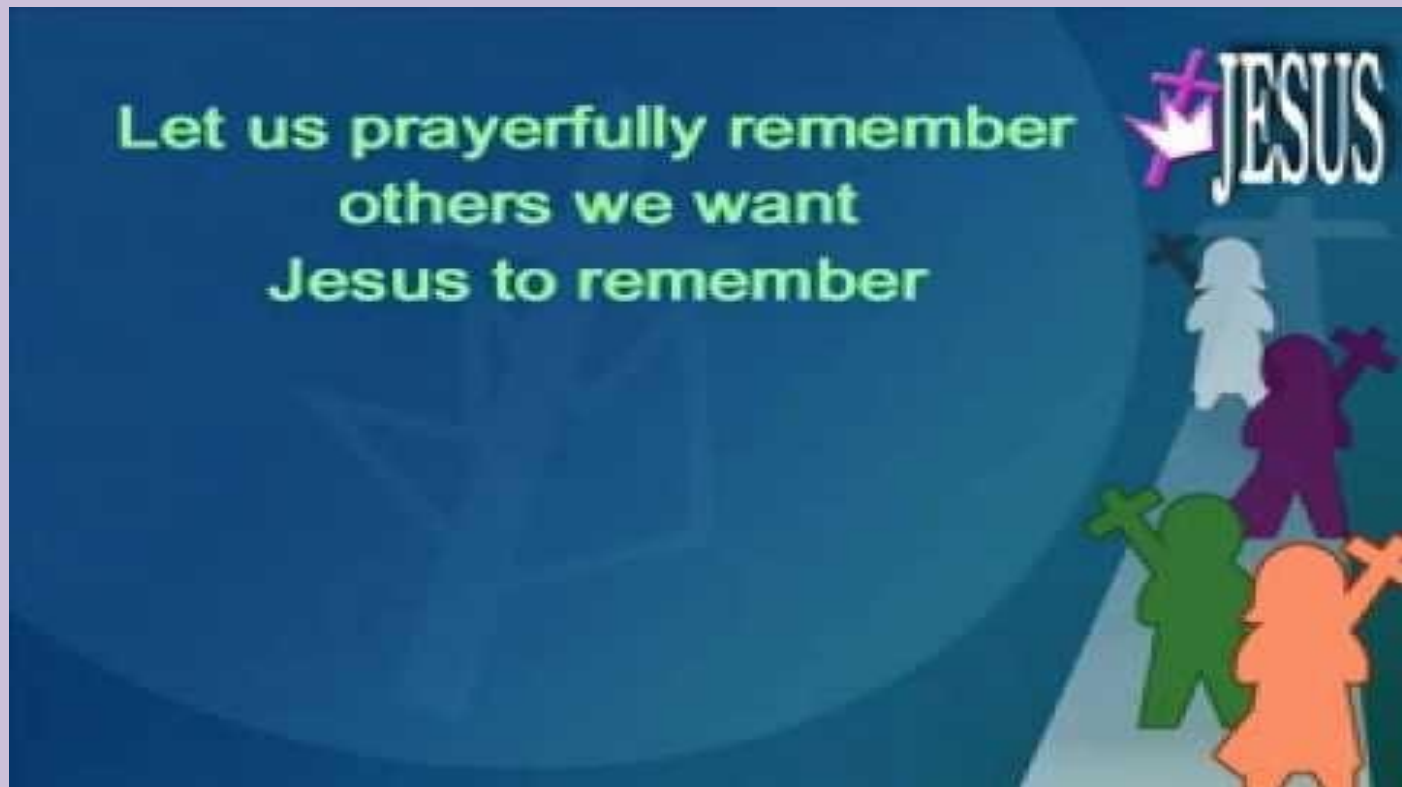
- **Do I believe the whole struggle is in His hands, and that He has already conquered evil, falsehood, and death?**
- **Do I keep my eyes on God, or do I allow discouragement by focusing only on the problem and myself?**
- **Am I learning more about pro-life issues and keeping informed of legislation that impacts life issues?**

- **Do I try to grow in compassion for women who are tempted to have abortions or who have had them in the past?**
- **Do I foster charity in thought, word, and deed toward those who disagree with me, or who perform or promote abortion?**
- **Do I help post-abortive parents find forgiveness and healing?**





Jesus, Remember Me



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGB2E0NzO2A#t=80>