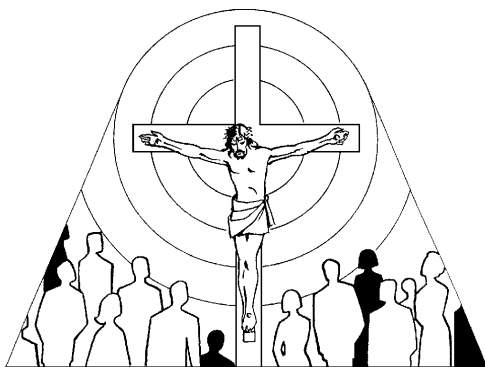


# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

IN THE COMMUNITY



### **Opening Prayer – Inside the Chapel**

**Leader** – we adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** On that day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem... Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them, but somehow they did not recognize him. (*Lk 24:13, 15b-16*)

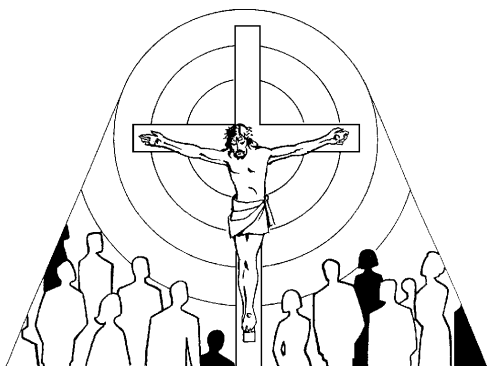
**Leader:** Almighty and eternal God, accept our prayers of Thanksgiving for your beloved and eternal Son, our Savior and Our Lord. As we recall his Sacred Passion, and following His example, we go to bring His word and teaching into our world. Send the Spirit of Christ into our hearts, so that in all we do, we might ever be in union with Him, Christ Our Lord.

**All:** Lord Jesus, you came into our world to save us from our sins. Be with us this day, as we go forth into our community, to use your example of suffering for us as we pray for and remember our brothers in the sisters in the world who are still suffering.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **First Station – At the Chapel**

We pray for those who are beginning their journey of faith, in whatever form.

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers who were fishermen... Jesus said to them, “Come with me and I will teach you to catch men.” At once they left their nets and went with him. (Mt. 4:18-20)

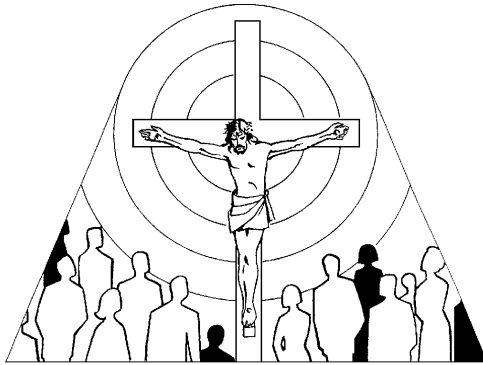
When Jesus calls, we have to leave whatever we are doing and follow Him, wherever He leads us.

**All:** Lord, we pray today for all those you are calling. Help them, and us, to follow your call wherever it leads. Give them the gift of faith, that we may all be your disciples wherever we are.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



**Second Station – at the airport, bus station or a border crossing**

We pray for those without the freedom to travel, because of poverty, oppression, lack of resources

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** He called the twelve disciples together and sent them out two by two. (Mk 6: 7)

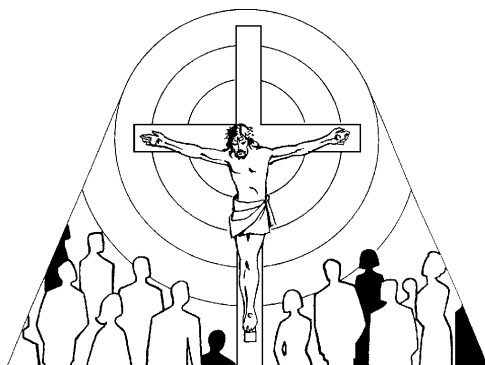
When Our Lord was on earth, he traveled constantly, from place to place. The freedom to travel lets us be closer to one another, to share our gifts, to help one another. To stop people from freely moving is to limit one of God's basic gifts to His creation.

**All:** Almighty and merciful God, you led the children of Israel on dry land, parting the waters of the sea; you guided the Magi to your Son by a star. Help our brothers and sisters who travel, and who want to travel and help give them freedom, a safe journey, and let them safely reach their destination here on earth and when they finally come to you in heaven.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Third Station – at the King Hussein Cultural Centre**

We pray for greater understanding of other cultures and other people

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** So the LORD scattered them all over the earth and they stopped building the city. The city was called Babel, because there the LORD mixed up the language of all the people and from there he scattered them all over the earth. (Genesis 11: 8-9)

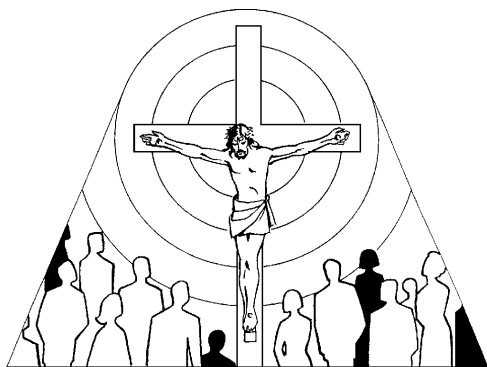
Over the years, science has confirmed what Genesis had taught, that human beings are all descended from the same parents. We are all members of one family – and like any family, our strength lies in our diversity.

**All:** God Our Father, Creator of all peoples, help us to grow closer to one another. Teach us to cherish the special gifts of each nation and culture, and open our hearts and minds that we may learn from one another and find your love in our brothers and sisters.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Fourth Station - at the athletic field or health club**

We pray for those who are disabled, for those who lack the freedom to run and play sports

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** A large crowd of sick people were lying by the pool – the blind, the lame, and the paralyzed. A man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. (John 5: 3-5)

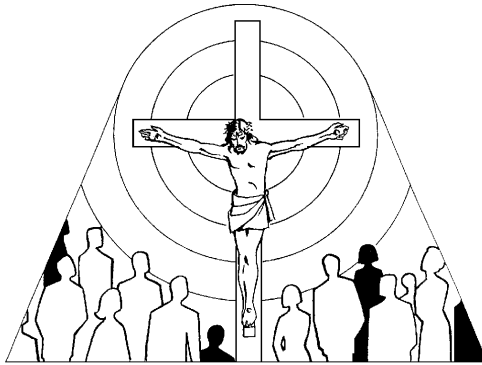
We take our ability to move and to take part in physical activity for granted. Yet for many, this freedom is denied to them. Illness, disability, poverty and oppression all can limit the freedom to enjoy physical activity.

**All:** Lord our God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our infirmities and to endure our sufferings. We pray today for those whose freedom to take part in physical activity is limited. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit and patience with their limitations.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



**Fifth Station – at the newspaper office or tv station**

We pray for those who lack freedom of expression

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** These people who are talking like this are Galileans. How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? (Acts 2: 7-8)

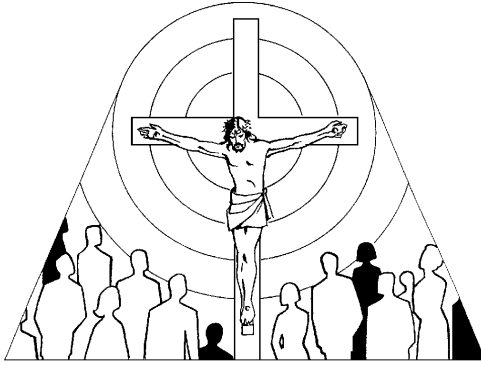
As we stand before these instruments of communication, we remember those who do not have access to them, who cannot receive freely, who cannot speak freely, who cannot write in freedom.

**All:** In the beginning was the Word. Almighty God, let those who use and control the means of communication be open to sharing those means with all, that together we may communicate truth, foster love, uphold justice and right, and promote and support peace between peoples.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Sixth Station – at the police station**

We pray for those who are imprisoned – in jails, in ignorance, in hatred

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** They arrested Jesus and took him away to the house of the high priest. (Lk 22:54)

Prisons can be made with steel and concrete, but just as often, can be made with hatred, prejudice and fear. We pray today that hearts may be open so that all people around the world can be released from their bonds.

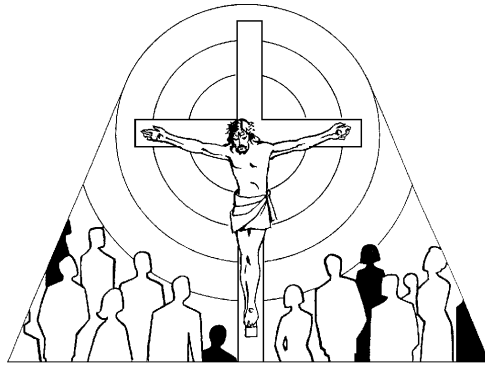
**All:** Lord and Creator of all, you made us all that we might be free. Help those today who are not free, for whatever reason, and move the hearts of all your creatures that we may celebrate the freedoms that we have and work so that all our brothers and sisters may enjoy the full freedoms you have designed for them.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.





### **Seventh Station – at the library or the university**

We pray for those who are denied education – because of gender, religion, lack of money

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus answered, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to the rest it comes by means of parables, so that they may look but not see, and listen but not understand.” (Lk 8:10)

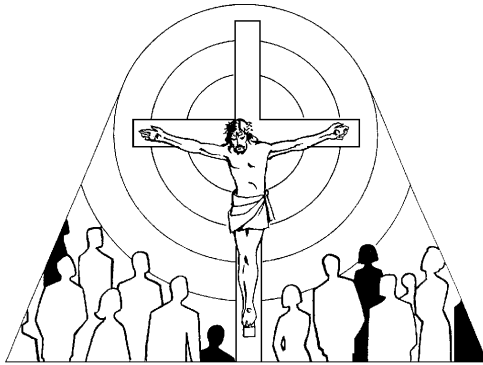
“A mind is a terrible thing to waste.” Yet throughout the world, children and adults are denied access to learning – because they are the wrong tribe, the wrong gender, the wrong religion.

**All:** Almighty God, your knowledge is infinite and you have given human beings a wonderful capacity to learn. Bless all those who are dedicated to true knowledge, a love of learning, and the capacity to continue learning until we arrive at a knowledge of You.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Eighth Station – at any restaurant**

We pray for those who lack sufficient food

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus took the five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, thanked God for them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and had enough, and the disciples took up twelve baskets of what was left over. (Lk 9:16-17)

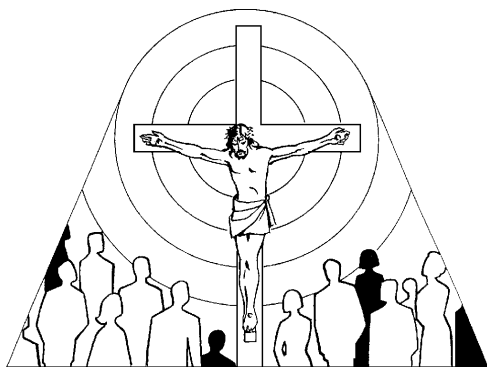
In our world today, many people lack adequate food and access to clean water. Poor nutrition is a leading cause in infant mortality and childhood death, and at the same time in other countries, obesity and high cholesterol are becoming major problems.

**All:** God our Father, the world you have given us was made for us. Help us to open our hearts, so that we may share the goodness you have given us, that no one may be without the food and water necessary for survival and growth.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Ninth Station – with people who live in camps or with strangers**

We pray for those who are alone

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus answered them, “Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest.” (Mt 8:20)

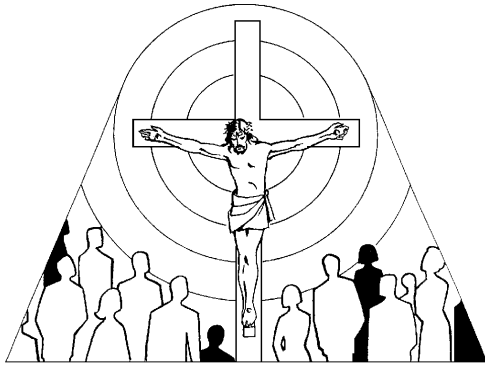
When God first created Adam, and set him in the garden, he said that it was not good for him to be alone, and so he made Eve. Man was not complete by himself. Today we pray for those who are alone, and searching for companionship and love.

**All:** God Almighty, teach us to find you in one another. Let us be more open to give and receive love, for it is loving one another that we find your love – and in your love, we find one another. Let us extend the hand of friendship and welcome in your name, for in welcoming others, we welcome you.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Tenth Station – at the hospital**

We pray for those who are sick, and for those denied access to medical care

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

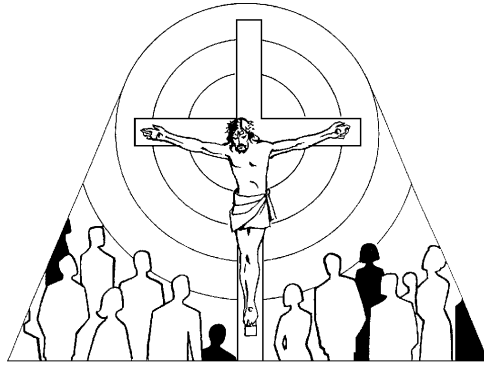
**Leader:** Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a bed, and they tried to carry him into the house and put him before Jesus. Because of the crowd, however, they could find no way to take him in. So they carried him up on the roof, made an opening in the tiles, and let him down on his bed into the middle of the group in front of Jesus. (Lk 5:18-19)

**All:** Father, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness or disease realize that they are chosen to be saints, and know that they are joined to Christ, in His sufferings for the salvation of the world, for he lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Eleventh Station – at the bank**

We pray for the victims of economic oppression around the world

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's. (Mk 12:7)

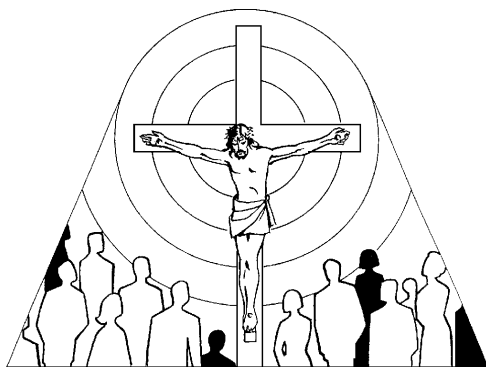
Jesus told his followers to store up riches in heaven, and that we have a responsibility to share the goodness that God has given to us. Pope John Paul II has said that justice cannot be achieved as long as there are people with excess at the same time there are people in need.

**All:** Heavenly Father, we pray today for justice, for the just sharing of your gifts to all people, for the fair distribution of world resources and for economic freedom and opportunity for all. We ask you to remember those who work two or more jobs to support their families, those who are financially disabled or without jobs. We pray for those who have to find it in their hearts to share with those who have not.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Twelfth Station – along the road in the country**

We pray for those who suffer because of the forces of nature

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus got up and gave an order to the wind and to the stormy water; they quieted down, and there was a great calm. (Mt 8:24b)

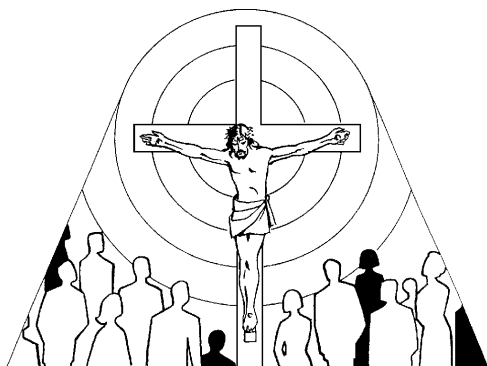
Today we remember all those who have died because of natural disasters – earthquakes, famine, flood, blizzards, tornado, hurricanes, plague, disease.

**All:** We come together to celebrate Your creation, Almighty God. Help us to learn respect for the world you have created, and to find better ways to live in union with its forces. Teach us how to love and help one another in overcoming disaster, and to find you in all the acts of nature.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Thirteenth Station – at the cemetery**

We pray for those who have died

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; Jesus drank the wine and said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (Jn 19:28a,30)

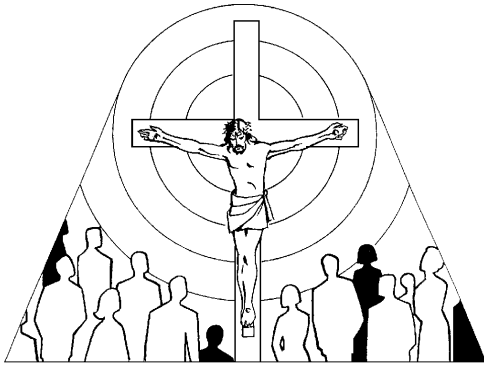
Each year, men and women and children around the world finish their life and die. We cannot have resurrection unless first we die. But in their passing, we feel the loss of their presence and their gifts, and we remember that we too will one day move to a new life with God, and with our friends and family who have gone on before. Let us pause for a moment to remember all those who have died this past year. (*Pause in silence to remember those who have died.*)

**All:** O Lord, Creator and Redeemer of all, grant to the souls of the faithful departed the remission of their sins. By the supplication of your Church may they obtain the pardon which they have always desired from your mercy, you who live forever and ever. Amen.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.



### **Fourteenth Station – at the Chapel**

We pray for those who cannot worship as they choose

**Leader** – We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

**All** – Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

**Leader:** “ .. they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, who had already agreed that anyone who said he believed that Jesus was the Messiah would be expelled from the synagogue.” (Jn 9:22)

The United States was first peopled by many who were fleeing religious oppression, and who came to a new land where they could worship in freedom. Today we remember those around the world who still pursue the same dream, and who face the same oppression.

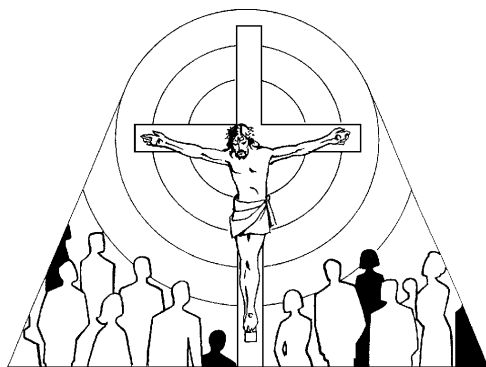
**All:** Infinite and loving God, whose invitation to love and salvation is extended to all people in many different ways, help us to work for the freedom of those who are unable to respond to your call.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**Leader:** Have mercy on us, O Lord

**All:** Have mercy on us.





### **Closing Prayer – Inside the Chapel**

**Leader:** We are all members of the Body of Christ. Today we have walked with Christ and looked all too briefly at suffering in our world. As we move through the remaining days of Lent and the great days of the Easter Triduum, let us include in our thoughts and our prayers the people we have prayed for today. We are united in the bond of love with our brothers and sisters around the world; let us not leave them alone.

**All:** All powerful God, you always show mercy toward those who love you and you are never far away for those who seek you. As we complete this pilgrimage of love for you and for your children who are suffering around the world, remain with us and guide us as we leave this place to go back into your world. Shelter us with your protection, give us the light of your grace and be our companion in all that we do.

We ask this through Christ, your Son and our Lord and companion.

**All:** Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be to the Father

**FINAL BLESSING**