

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Pandemic of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

By Maribeth Hopps



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Lord Jesus we offer our prayers to you today for our world,
our country, our state, and our local community.*

*As we meditate on your sacred Passion,
may we take the pain and needs of all humanity
and pray through your suffering for your creation:
your people whom you love.*

In your precious name, we pray.

Amen

THE FIRST STATION JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Silence

Lord, you were held captive and given a death sentence.

This was truly undeserved but nonetheless it was still carried out - even though you were innocent.

There are thousands upon thousands in our world today who have been held captive not knowing what their fate will be: people on cruise ships, hotels, cities, neighborhoods, those moved to military containment, people confined to their own homes and those in isolation.

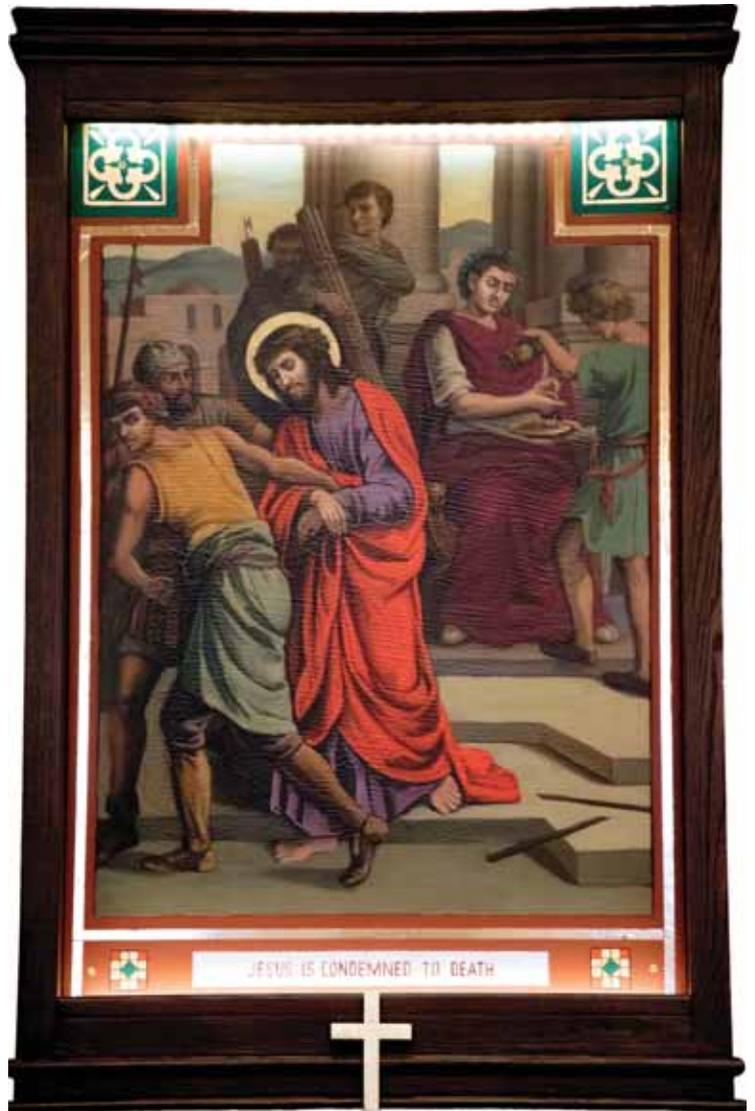
They also are innocent victims: victims of a disease that cannot be seen, tasted or felt.

We also pray for those in jails and prisons, immigration holding areas, and those who work there so that everyone's health is protected.

We pray for them.
Allow them to feel your presence.
Watch over them.
Holy Spirit give them peace.

Silence

Glory Be



THE SECOND STATION JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord, you were given a cross,
a heavy load filled with the pain,
death, and suffering of all humanity.

The separation of our lives from yours
through sin must have been a pain almost
too heavy to bear.

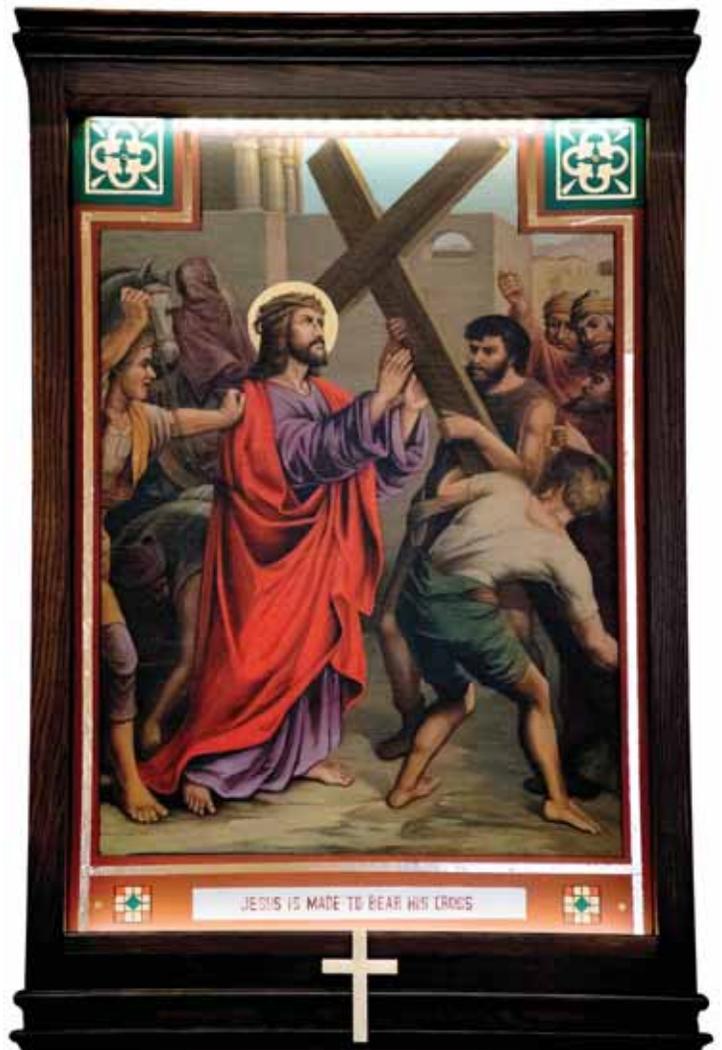
Was the separation, death and sickness
the world feels now from this virus,
a part of the cross you carried?

May we depend on your love and your
carrying of the cross to carry us through
these times of the unknown.

Watch over us.
Holy Spirit show us how to accept the cross
of this pandemic and move forward.

Silence

Glory Be



THE THIRD STATION JESUS FALL THE FIRST TIME

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord, you fell underneath the burden of the cross and the pain of your wounds.

The road was not an easy path, and all of that brought you unexpectedly to your knees.

This coronavirus was unexpected and has brought our world, our nation, our community to its knees in trying to fight the invisible, the disease that is not always the same from person to person.

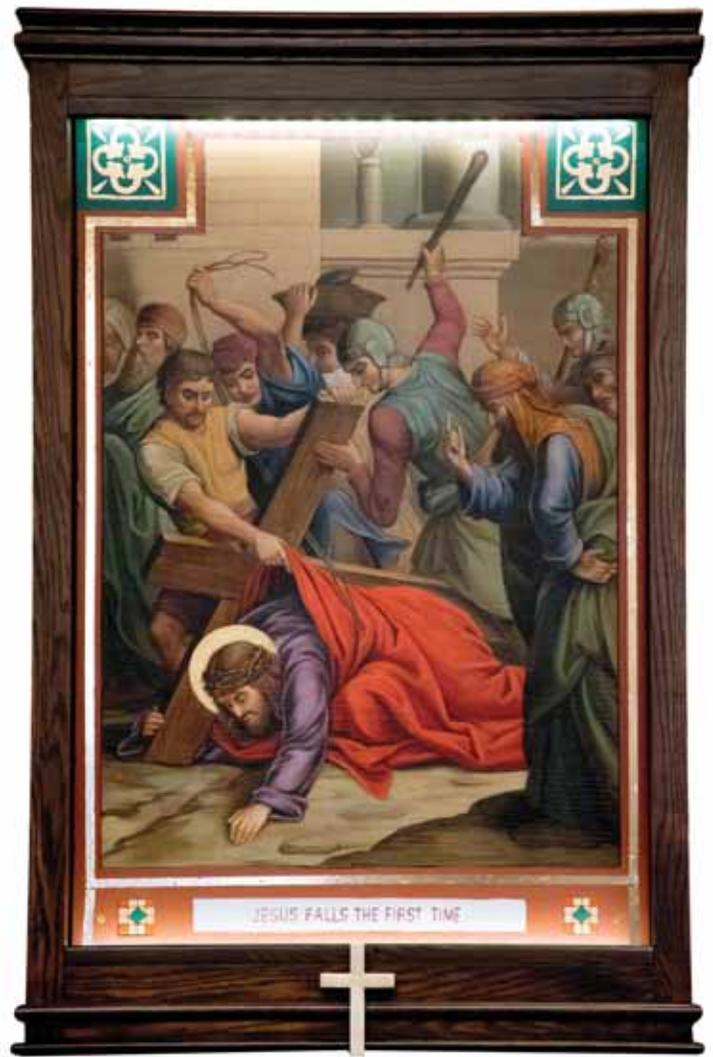
Country after country is falling...
but just as you did not give up,
neither does humanity that you created.

Watch over us.

Holy Spirit, with your help,
may the world be given the wisdom to
stand strong against this disease.

Silence

Glory Be



THE FOURTH STATION JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord,
your mother loved you and you loved her.

Meeting her when you were so fragile
and so worn had to be difficult.

May all families in our world, in our nation,
in our community come together and bond
and help each other in this time of trial.

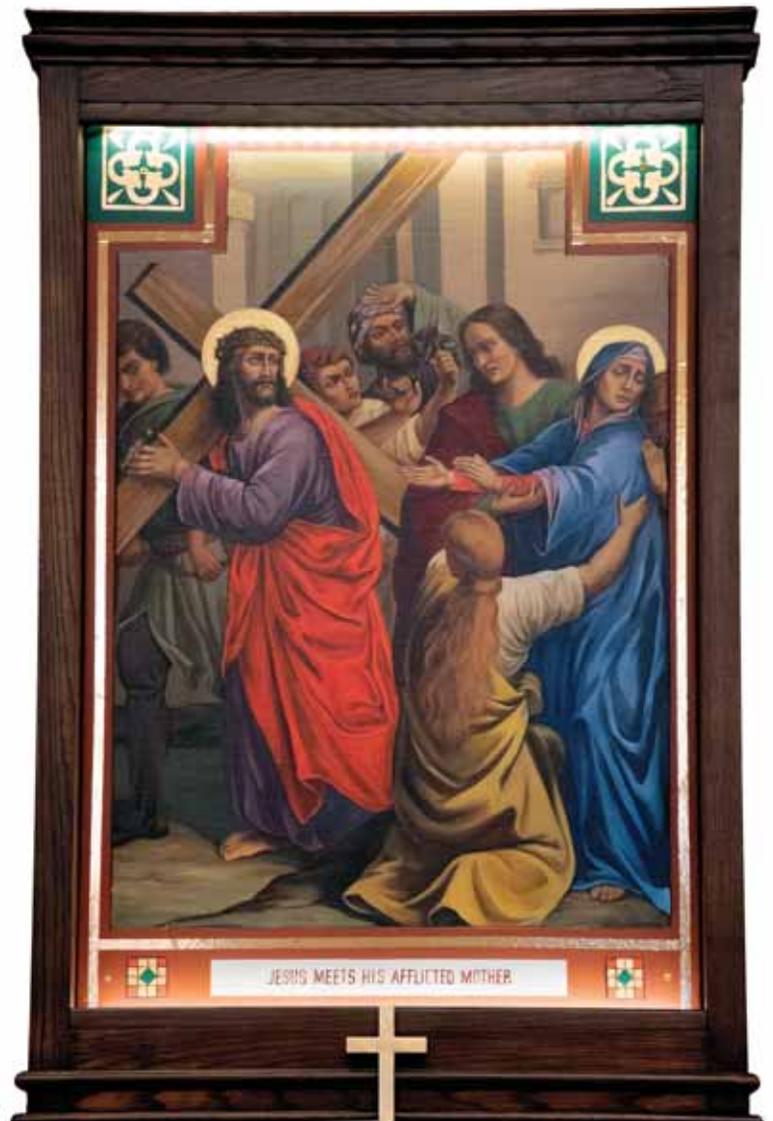
May the time we are together in our homes
be considered a blessing so that we can get
to know each other and care for each other
in a more complete and loving way.

Watch over us.

Holy Spirit,
bind us tighter and help us to
feel comfortable with each other again.

Silence

Glory Be



THE FIFTH STATION

SIMON HELPS CARRY THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord the cross was heavy
and you were slowing down.

Simon was told to help you.

And you humbly accepted his help.

We know in this time of pandemic each
country is testing and working hard to fight
the virus, to heal its citizens and to find a
vaccine or medication that will help.

We pray for those in the World Health
Organization, Centers for Disease Control,
our President and all elected officials to make
wise decisions to benefit all.

May the government leaders and medical
teams of all the world's nations be willing and
able to share information with each other so
that together, with the guidance of your
Holy Spirit, we come to know what works
and how to safely handle this cross of illness.

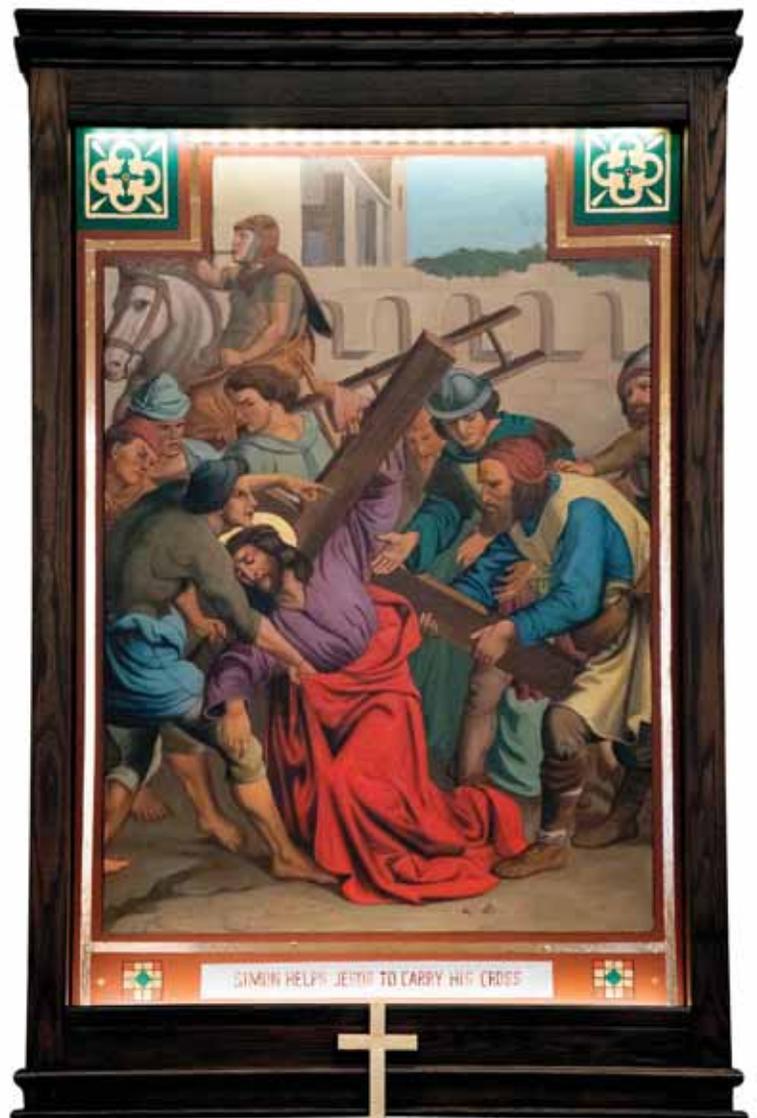
Watch over them.

Through their service may they bring
healing.

Holy Spirit, guide them.

Silence

Glory Be



THE SIXTH STATION

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord, blood, sweat and dirt covered your face and eyes and it was becoming difficult to see where you were going.

When your face was wiped with gentleness and out of love and care, you had a small moment of relief.

We look for ways to relieve anxiety and fear in all people, and for ways to protect and send information without panic and anger.

We hold in prayer all of our clergy who meet the sick daily and pray and anoint them. Keep them safe.

We pray for the medical community that cares for the sick and puts in endless and often thankless hours of vigilance.

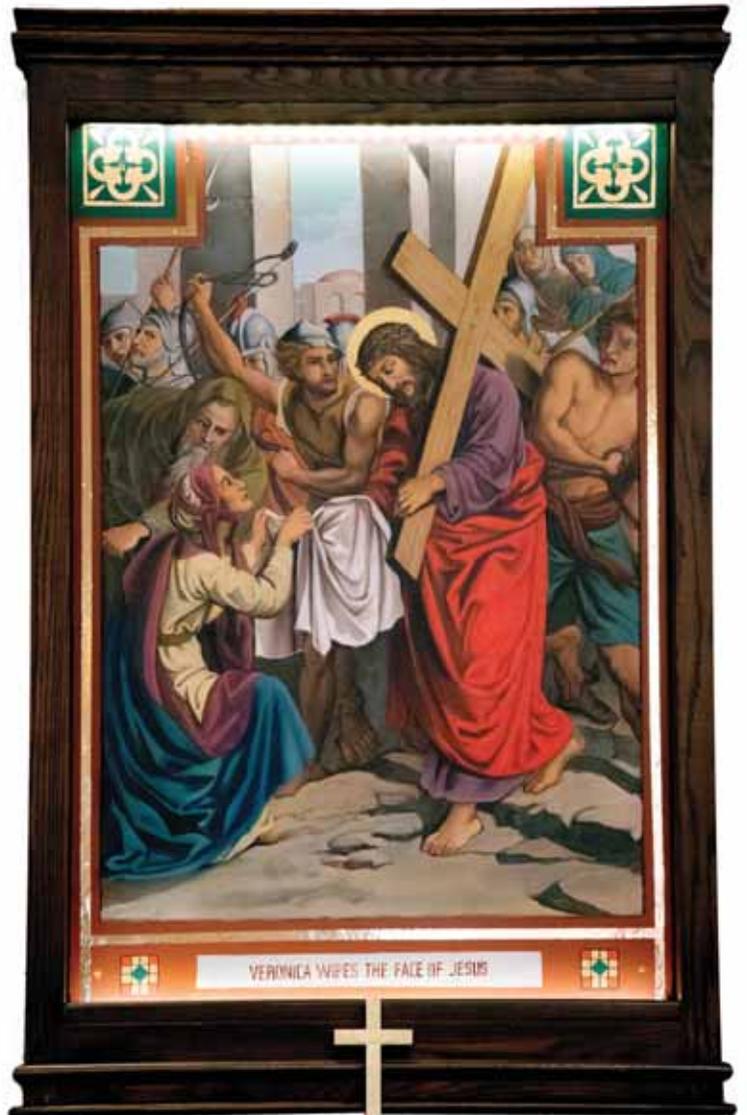
Keep them safe, and give them wisdom.

May each country's attempt to curb the growth of the virus be lessons for the world community.

Watch over us.
Holy Spirit, help us to trust and not be filled with fear.

Silence

Glory Be



THE SEVENTH STATION JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord,
weakness again overcomes you and you
fall under the weight of a cross that you
bore on our behalf.

We pray in respect to the weakness of
our health care and governmental systems
in the ability to fight this unknown entity
of coronavirus.

We have never experienced something like
this and we need your help in combating it.

We are stronger when we are unified
rather than fighting from within over
policies and procedures.

Help us to identify our weaknesses and
repair them and work together for the
good of all humanity.

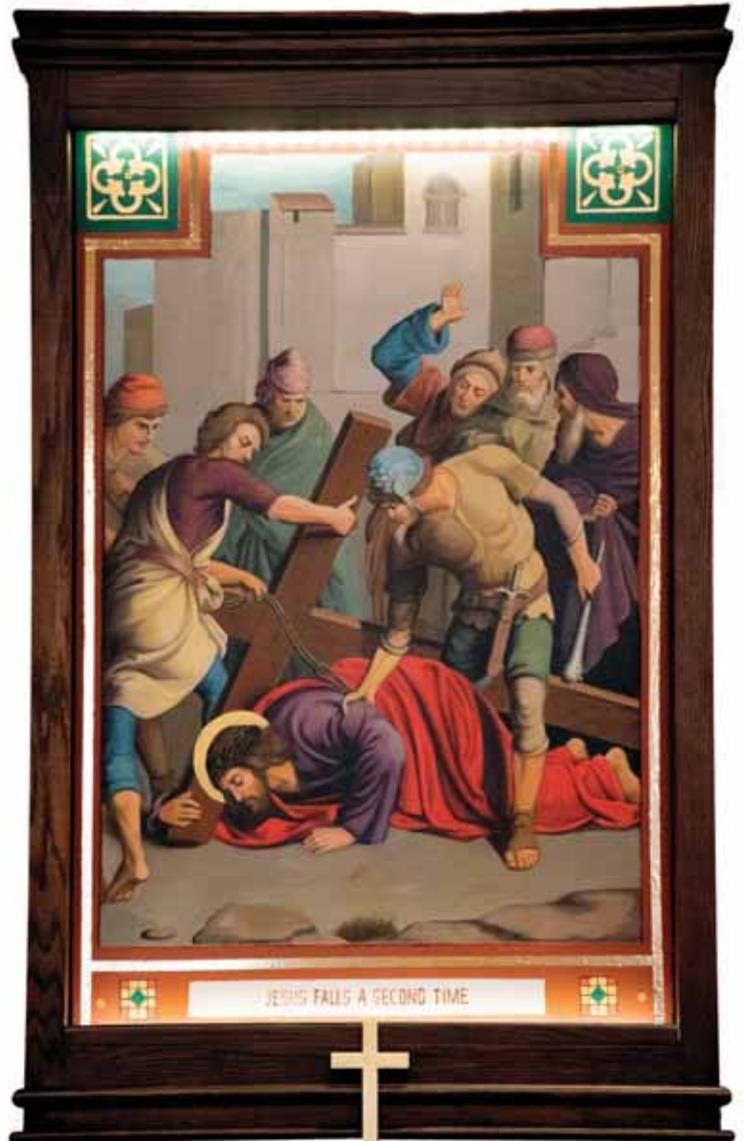
Watch over us.

Unite us.

Holy Spirit,
inspire us to set aside differences,
and help us rise to the occasion, to do your work here on earth.

Silence

Glory Be



THE EIGHTH STATION

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord,
some of your friends were reaching out
to you in your greatest time of need.

In these challenging times we see instances
of family and friends helping one another.

We see friends and strangers alike taking it
upon themselves to feed children who will
not eat due to school closures, by providing
lunches for them.

We see medical professionals putting
themselves on the line every day taking care
of the sick, often not knowing if the illness
that is being presented is serious or the
common cold.

We hold in prayer all those in our town who
are concerned for their loved ones and do
everything they can to protect them.

Watch over them.

Encourage them.

Holy Spirit, give them an understanding of hope.

Silence

Glory Be



THE NINTH STATION JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord, your pain from your head to
your feet was burning and overwhelming.

It took immense concentration to put one
foot in front of the other, and your
pain was so intense that you fell again.

No one can imagine what you
were going through.

We have a hard time understanding
that we are living in this day and age
where a virus is making the world
stand still.

We pray for those in our world who are
trying to take advantage of others by
hoarding items or trying to sell needed
medical items at outrageous prices.

This instills panic and frustration and anger.

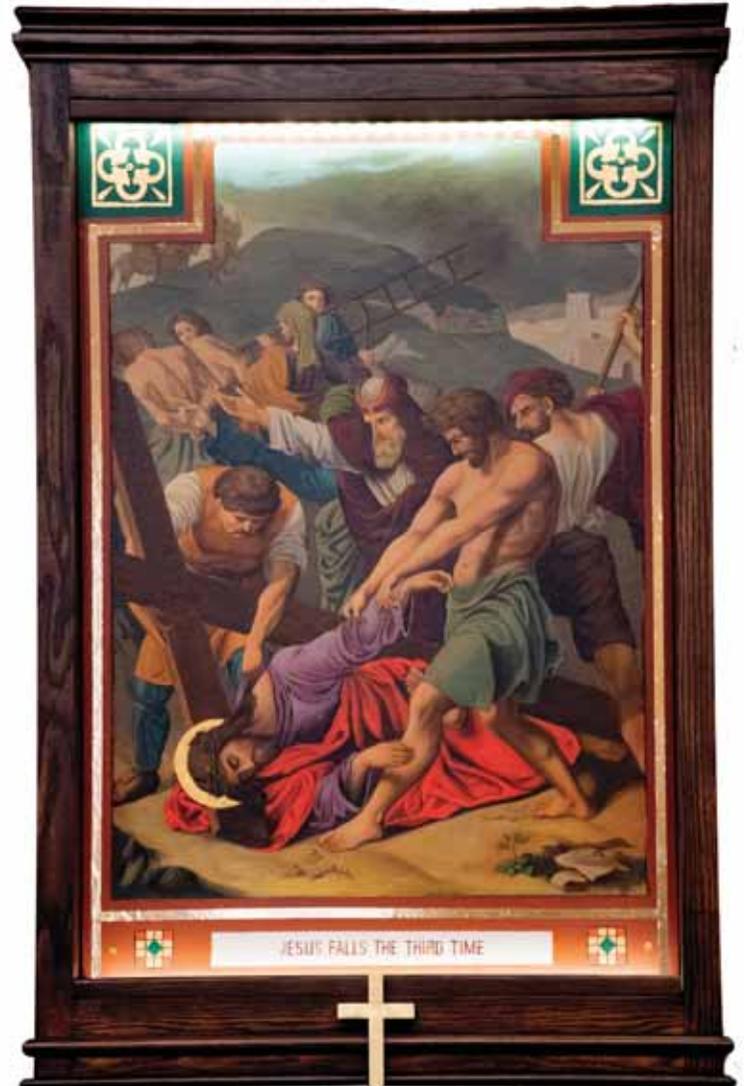
Watch over us.

Change hearts.

Holy Spirit, convict their hearts so they stop unfair practices.

Silence

Glory Be



THE TENTH STATION JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord, when you were stripped of your clothing, you were mocked and debased.

We have seen instances of those who are being mocked in profiling for this virus.

We ask forgiveness for times we have been afraid of someone because of their culture, their ethnicity, their age or their income level.

We are all your children and we must treat one another with dignity and care.

We pray for those in our world, country and town who are some of the most vulnerable to this virus:

those who have underlying health concerns, the aged, and those with disabilities.

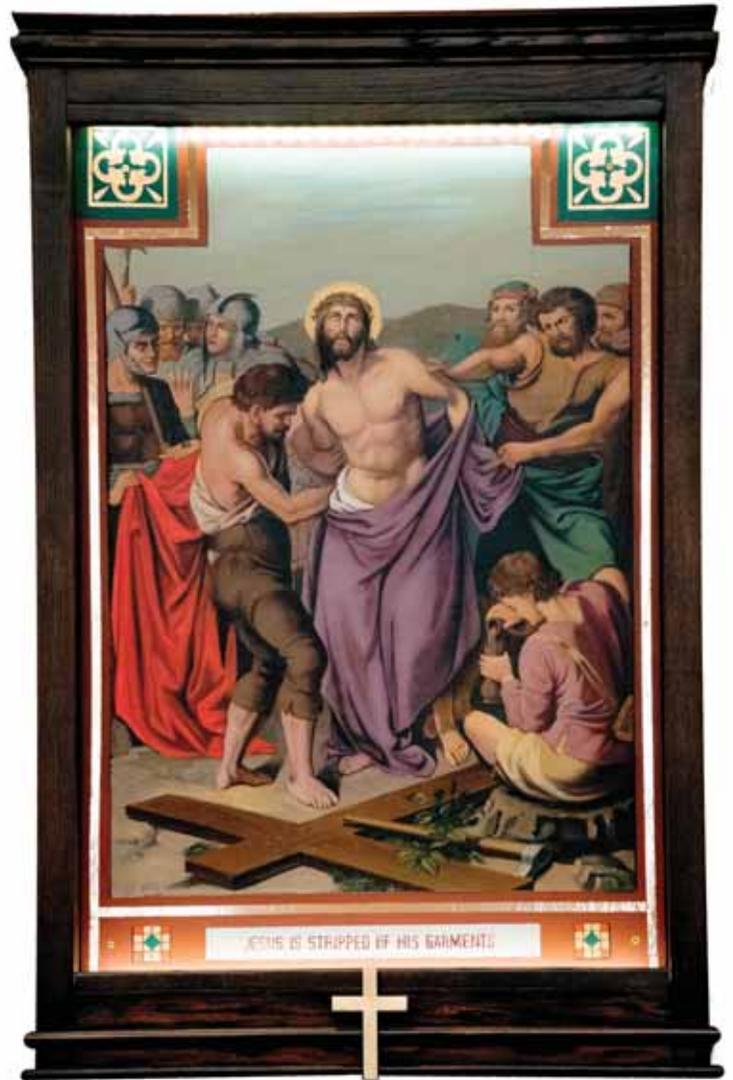
Watch over them.

Build them up.

Holy Spirit,
open our eyes to any treatment that is unfair and prejudicial,
and give us courage to stand up for those in need.

Silence

Glory Be



THE ELEVENTH STATION JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord,
you were nailed to the cross and
raised high for all to see and condemn.

Your suffering and dying tore through
your body with every breath you took.

Your mother never left you, and a few of
your friends stood by and held vigil for you.

Even in your pain you reached out to the thief
next to you and assured him of salvation.

We also seek assurance in this time.

Some may feel afraid of a
death of their comfort.

Jobs are being affected.

Life as we knew it weeks ago
has changed all over the world.

Help us to find assurance in you.

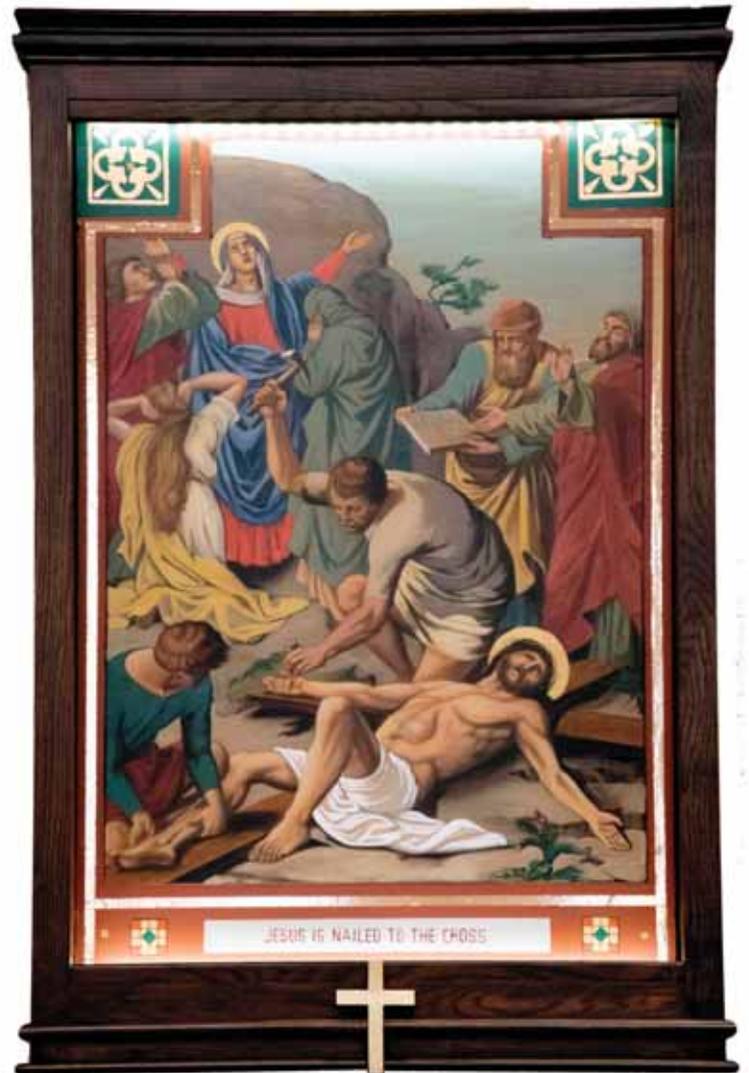
You have promised that we are not alone.

May all understand this and recognize your presence.

Watch over all of them. Unite them.
Holy Spirit, may they see Christ in each other.

Silence

Glory Be



THE TWELFTH STATION JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

(Kneel if you are able)

Lord,
your death was a pain-filled sacrifice.

You died for each one of us.

Unselfish, humble, perfect and complete
was your surrender.

Your death freed us from the pain
of eternal separation from you.

We pray for those in our world, nation,
state and community who have died from
or will succumb to the coronavirus.

We pray that all the souls of the
faithful departed, through your mercy
and goodness, be united with you.

Holy Spirit,
may they be at rest in the
knowledge of their worth.

Silence

Glory Be

(Stand)



THE THIRTEENTH STATION JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord,
your body was removed from the cross
and your mother was there to accept
your broken and lifeless body.

Her grief, sorrow and confusion may
have been coupled with fear and anger.

Yet she had hope.

She knew you and she loved you
and was filled with hope.

She did not understand what that hope consisted
of, but knew that you would not leave those you
loved abandoned and alone.

As people become sick with this
unknown virus, we grieve for those who die.

We, too, live in a time of sadness
and confusion, a time of fear and anger.

We look to your mother,
Our Blessed Mother,
as a model of hope in the face of the unknown.

Watch over us.

Mary, our Mother, please pray for us.

Holy Spirit, help us to find hope in the darkest of times,
because we know we are never abandoned, especially during these times of great need.

Silence

Glory Be



THE FOURTEENTH STATION JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord,
your body was put to rest in a new tomb given
to your mother for your burial.

This was the moment of complete
separation for you and her.

We pray for those in our world, nation,
state and local community who feel or will feel
complete separation because of this virus.

We must separate ourselves in social
distancing.

We separate ourselves from those who are sick.

We stay in our homes afraid to move out of our
safe zones and are being told to "hunker
down." Separation may be frightening and
lonely, but it is also a blessed time for healing.

We pray for those who have no place where
they may be kept safe and cared for...those
who are homeless.

We pray for those who reside and work in shelters.

And we pray for all those who feel complete separation in this world because of death.
Holy Spirit, please make your presence known to us in a special way when we feel alone.

Silence

Glory Be



THE FIFTEENTH STATION THE RESURRECTION

*We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because, by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.*

Silence

Lord,
humanity could not imagine the joy and the wonder you were going to give us in your resurrection from the dead.

You are a God of the unexpected!

We could never even begin to foresee or imagine what you had in store for all people across the world and across all time.

Your resurrection is the ultimate hope, the ultimate healing, the ultimate salvation for all.

May we turn to you not only in this time of the needs of the present, but also in the joy of the coming future when the cloud before us has been cleared... Help us then to have a better understanding of not only each other but how you guided, loved, healed and journeyed with us in constant companionship, never leaving us and always hearing our prayers and cries.

Your resurrection speaks of hope and of what is yet to come.

We pray for Pope Francis, Bishop Gruss [all bishops], our clergy, all in ministry, for our parishes and all who walk this journey of the unknown with us.

May we unite in the near future to share in the wonder of your glory, shining through it all and bringing us to the other side.

Watch over us.

Holy Spirit, enliven our faith and help us not give up.

Silence

Glory Be
Our Father

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen





Maribeth Hopps is a lifelong Catholic and a member of All Saints Parish in Bay City, Michigan. She is a Lay Minister of the Diocese of Saginaw. Maribeth is currently the Campus Minister at All Saints Catholic Central. She is passionate about ministry to people with disabilities and coordinator of Praying Our Faith Ministry in the Bay City area. She is also the mother of one of our youngest priests, Fr. Marc Hopps.

The images of the Stations of the Cross are located inside the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in Saginaw. They are original to the Church and were restored during the Cathedral restoration in 2017.



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