



ST. THOMAS MORE  
*University Parish & Student Center*

# WAY OF THE CROSS

AS LED BY HIS HOLINESS, POPE FRANCIS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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WAY OF THE CROSS AT THE COLOSSEUM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
LED BY THE HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS  
GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
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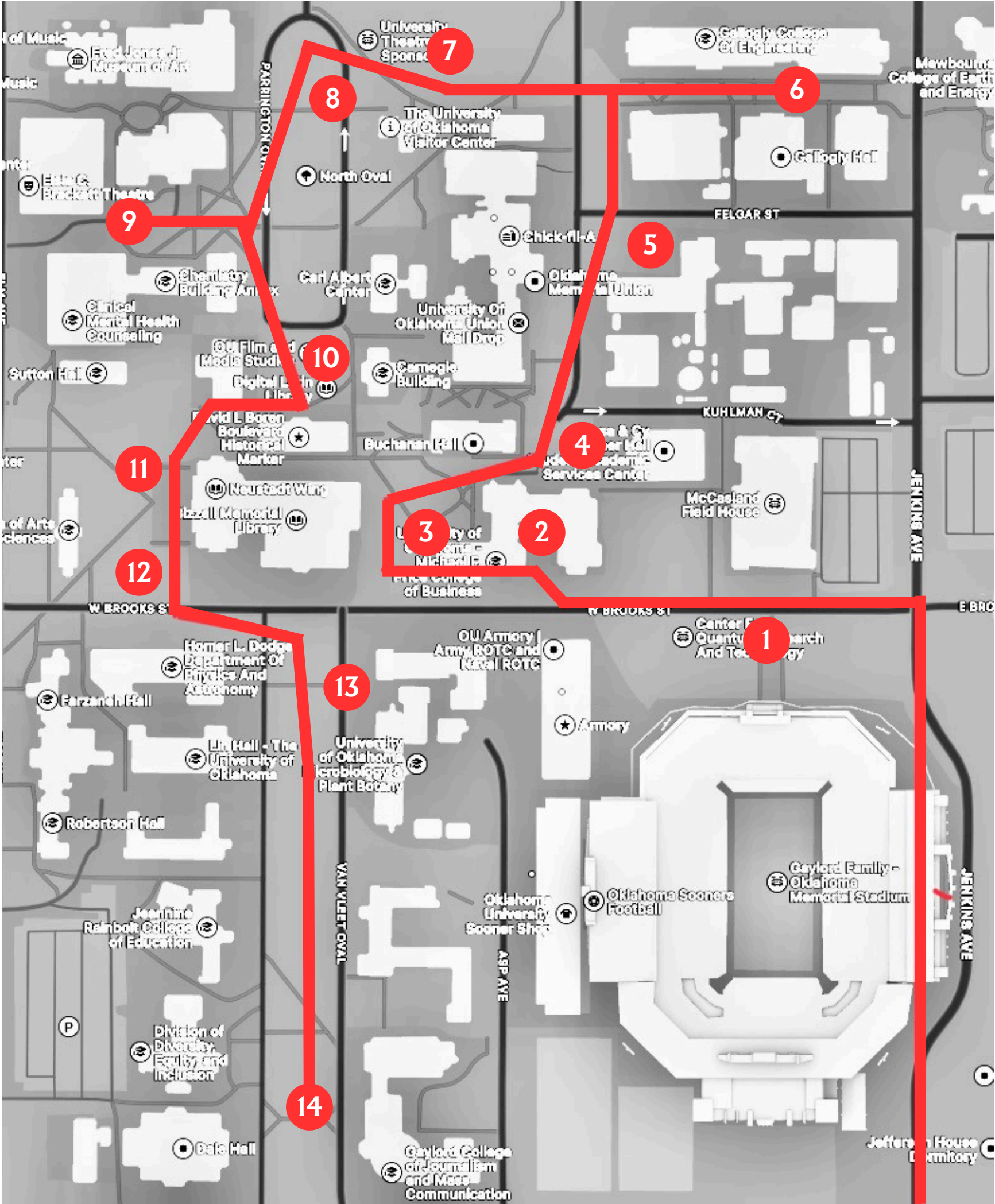
MEDITATIONS BY LEBANESE YOUNG PEOPLE  
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF HIS EMINENT  
BEATITUDE CARDINAL BÉCHARA BOUTROS RAÏ

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VATICANA

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT FOR  
THE STABAT MATER



# ROUTE OF THE STATIONS



# INTRODUCTION

*Leader:*

V: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*R: Amen.*

*Lector:*

“A man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, ‘Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’” (*Mk. 10:17*)

Jesus answered this burning question, which arises in the innermost core of our being, by walking the way of the Cross.

We contemplate you, Lord, along this path which you were the first to tread, and after which “you built a bridge to death with your Cross, so that men might pass from the land of death to the land of Life” (Saint Ephraim the Syrian, *Homily*).

The call to follow you is addressed to all, especially to the young and to those who are tried by division, war or injustice and who fight to be signs of hope and builders of peace in the midst of their brethren. We therefore place ourselves before you with love, we present our sufferings to you, we turn our gaze to you and our heart to your Holy Cross, and strengthened by your promise, we pray: “Blessed be our Redeemer, who had given us life by his death. O Redeemer, realize in us the mystery of your redemption, through your passion, death and resurrection” (*Maronite Liturgy*).



# STATION I

## JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?” And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.*

*Lector:*

From Pilate, the man with power, Jesus ought to have obtained justice. Pilate did indeed have the power to recognize Jesus’ innocence and free him. But the Roman Governor preferred to serve the logic of his personal interests and yielded to political and social pressures. He condemned an innocent man in order to please the crowd, without satisfying the truth. He handed Jesus over to the torment of the Cross, knowing that he was innocent... and then he washed his hands.

In today’s world, there are many “Pilates” who keep their hands on the levers of power and make use of them in order to serve the strongest. There are many who are weak and cowardly before the

specter of power, and mortgage their authority to the service of injustice, trampling upon man's dignity and his right to life.

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
do not allow us to be among those who act unjustly.  
Do not allow the strong to take pleasure in evil,  
injustice and tyranny.  
Do not allow injustice to condemn the innocent to despair and death.  
Confirm in them hope and illumine the consciences of those with authority in this world, that they may govern with justice.

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

*At the cross her station keeping,  
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus at the last.*

# STATION II

## JESUS TAKES UP THE CROSS

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

*When they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.*

*Lector:*

Jesus Christ stands before the soldiers who think they have complete power over him, while he is the One through whom “all things were made... and without him was not anything made that was made” (*Jn 1:3*).

In every age, man has thought he could take the place of God and determine for himself what is good and what is evil (*cf. Gen 3:5*) without reference to his Creator and Savior. He has thought himself omnipotent, capable of excluding God from his own life and from that of his peers, in the name of reason, power or money.

Today too, the world bows to realities that seek to expel God from human life, such as the blind secularism that suffocates the values of faith and morals in the name of an alleged defense of man; or

the violent fundamentalism that claims to be defending religious values (*cf. Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*, 29).

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
who accepted humiliation and stood alongside the weak, we entrust to you all who are humiliated and suffering, especially those from the tormented East. Grant that they may find in you the strength to be able to carry their Cross of hope with you. We place into your hands all who are lost, so that, thanks to you, they may find truth in love.

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

*Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,  
All His bitter anguish bearing,  
Now at length the sword had pass'd.*



# STATION III

## JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

*He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.*

*Lector:*

He who holds the lights of heaven in his divine hand and before whom the powers of heaven tremble: see him falling to the ground, without protecting himself, under the heavy yoke of the Cross.

He who brought peace to the world, wounded by our sins, falls under the burden of our guilt.

“O ye faithful, behold our Savior as he moves forward along the path to Calvary. Oppressed by bitter sufferings, his strength abandons him. Let us go to see this incredible event that surpasses our understanding and defies description. The foundations of the earth were shaken and a dreadful fear took hold of those who were present when their Creator and God was crushed under the

weight of the cross and let himself be led to death, for the love of all humanity” (*Chaldean Liturgy*).

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
raise us from our own falls, lead our wandering spirit back to your Truth. Do not allow human reason, which you created yourself, to be satisfied with the partial truths of science and technology without seeking to pose the fundamental questions of the meaning of our existence (*cf. Porta Fidei*, 12). Grant, Lord, that we may open ourselves to the action of your Holy Spirit, so that he may lead us to the fullness of truth.

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

*Oh, how sad and sore distress'd  
Was the Mother highly blest  
Of the sole-begotten One!*

# STATION IV

## JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.” His mother kept all these things in her heart.*

*Lector:*

Wounded and suffering, carrying mankind’s Cross, Jesus meets his mother and, in her face, all mankind.

Mary the Mother of God was the first disciple of the Master. In accepting the Angel’s message, she encountered the Incarnate Word for the first time and became the Temple of the living God. She met him without understanding how the Creator of heaven and earth could have wanted to choose a young girl, a fragile creature, in order to become incarnate in this world. She met him in a constant search for his face, meditating on the word in silence of her heart. She thought she was seeking

him, but in reality, it was he who was seeking her.

Now he encounters her as he carries the Cross. Jesus suffers on seeing his mother suffer, as does Mary on seeing her Son suffer. But from this shared suffering a new humility is born. “*Salam* to you! We implore you, holy and glorious ever-Virgin, Mother of God, Mother of Christ. Let our prayer rise up before your beloved Son, that he may forgive our sins” (*Theotikon from the the Horologion, Al-Aghbia*, 37).

**Leader:**

Lord Jesus,  
raise us from our own falls, lead our wandering spirit back to your Truth.

Do not allow human reason which you created for yourself, to be satisfied with the partial truths of science and technology without seeking to pose the fundamental questions of the meaning of our existence (*cf. Porta Fidei*, 12).

Grant, Lord, that we may open ourselves to the action of your Holy Spirit, so that he may lead us to the fullness of truth.

**R: Amen**

**All:**

Our Father...

*Christ above in torment hangs;  
She beneath beholds the pangs  
Of her dying glorious Son.*

# STATION V

## SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

*As they led him away, they seized one, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid him on the Cross, to carry it behind Jesus.*

*Lector:*

Jesus' meeting with Simon of Cyrene took place in silence, providing us a lesson for our lives: God does not want suffering and he does not accept evil. The same is true of the human being. But suffering, accepted in faith, is transformed into a path of salvation. Then we accept it as Jesus did, and we help to carry it as Simon of Cyrene did.

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
You have involved man in the carrying of your Cross. You have invited us to share in your sufferings. Simon of Cyrene is like us and he teaches us to accept the Cross that we encounter on the paths of life.

Following your example, Lord, we too carry the



Cross of suffering and illness today, but we accept it because you are with us.

It can nail us to our chair, but it cannot prevent us from dreaming; it can obscure our vision, but it cannot touch our conscience; it can deafen our ears, but it cannot prevent us from listening; it can bind our tongue, but it cannot suppress our thirst for truth; it can weigh down our spirit, but it cannot rob us of our freedom.

Lord,

we want to be your disciples so as to carry your Cross every day; we will carry it with hope because you are carrying it with us, because you have triumphed over death for us.

We give you thanks, Lord,  
for every sick or ailing person who knows how to bear witness to your love, and for every “Simon of Cyrene” whom you place on our journey.

**R: Amen.**

*All:*

Our Father...

*Is there one who would not weep,  
Whelm'd in miseries so deep  
Christ's dear Mother to behold?*

# STATION VI

## VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Book of Psalms.

*Of you my heart has spoken: "Seek his face." It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my help.*

*Lector:*

Veronica sought you in the midst of the crowd. She sought you and finally found you. While your anguish was at its height, she wanted to ease it by wiping your face with a towel. A small gesture, but it expressed all her love for you and all her faith in you; it has remained impressed on the memory of our Christian tradition.

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
it is your face that we seek.

Veronica reminds us that you are present in every person who suffers and goes forward along his or her path to Golgotha. Lord, grant that we may find you in the poor, in the least of your brethren, in order to wipe away the tears of those who weep,

to take care of those who suffer and to support those who are weak.

Lord,

you teach us that a wounded and forgotten person loses neither worth nor dignity and remains a sign of your hidden presence in the world.

Help us to wipe away from his or her face the marks of poverty and injustice, so that your image in him or her may be revealed and may shine forth.

We pray for those who are seeking your Face and who find it in those of the homeless, the poor and children exposed to violence and exploitation.

**R: Amen.**

*All:*

Our Father...

*Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain,  
In that Mother's pain untold.*

# STATION VII

## JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Book of Psalms.

*All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. Do not leave me alone in my distress; come close there is none else to help.*

*Lector:*

Jesus is alone under the interior and exterior weight of the Cross. In this fall, the weight of evil becomes too great and there seems no longer to be any limit to injustice and violence.

But he rises once more, strong in the infinite trust that he places in his Father. Before the men who abandon him to his lot, the power of the Spirit raises him up; it unites him fully to the Father's will, that love of which can do all things.

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
in your second fall, we recognize so many of our situations from which there seems to be no way of escape. Among them are those that derive from prejudice and hatred, which harden our hearts and lead to religious conflicts.

Enlighten our minds so that they recognize, despite “human and religious differences” that “a ray of truth shines on all men and women,” called to walk together - with respect for religious freedom - towards the truth that is in God alone.

Thus, the different religions can “join one in another in service to the common good and contribute to the development of each person and the building of society.” (*Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*, 27-28).

Come, Holy Spirit,  
to console and strengthen Christians,  
especially those from the Middle East,  
so that, united in Christ,  
they may be witnesses of your universal love  
in an area torn apart by injustice and conflicts.

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father...

*Bruis'd, derided, curs'd, defil'd,  
She beheld her tender child  
All with bloody scourges rent.*



# STATION VIII

## JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM WHO WEEP FOR HIM

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

*There followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him.*

*But Jesus, turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.”*

*Lector:*

On the path to Calvary, the Lord meets the women of Jerusalem. These women are weeping at the Lord's sufferings as if it were suffering without hope. All they can see in the Cross is the wood, sign of a curse (*cf. Dt 21:23*), whereas the Lord chose it as a means of Redemption and Salvation.

In the Passion and Crucifixion, Jesus gives his life as a ransom for many. Thus he gave relief to those who were oppressed under the yoke and he consoled the afflicted. He wiped away the tears of the women of Jerusalem and opened their eyes to Paschal truth.

Our world is full of afflicted mothers, of women

whose dignity has been wounded, abused by discrimination, injustice and suffering (*cf. Ecclesia in Medio Oriente, 60*). O Suffering Christ, be their peace and be a balm to their wounds.

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
by your incarnation from Mary, “Blessed among women” (*Lk 1:42*), you raised the dignity of every woman. With the incarnation you unified the human race (*cf. Gal 3:26-28*).

Lord,  
may the encounter with you be the desire of our hearts. Let our path, filled with sufferings, always be a path of hope, with you and towards you who are the refuge of our life and our Salvation.

**R: Amen.**

*All:*

Our Father...

*For the sins of His own nation,  
Saw Him hang in desolation,  
Till His spirit forth He sent.*

# STATION IX

## JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

*The love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for us all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, that those who live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*

*Lector:*

For the third time, Jesus falls under the Cross, burdened with our sins, and for the third time he seeks to get up again, summoning up the strength that remains to him, so as to continue his journey towards Golgotha, refusing to let himself be crushed and to succumb to temptation.

From the moment of his Incarnation, Jesus carries the Cross of human suffering and sin.

He has fully and eternally assumed human nature, showing men that victory is possible and that the path towards divine sonship is open.

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
the Church, born from your open side, is oppressed  
under the Cross of the divisions that distance  
Christians from one another and from the unity  
that you willed for them; they turn away from your  
desire (that they may all be one” (*Jn 17:21*) as the  
Father is with you.

This cross bears down with all its weight on their  
lives and on their common testimony. Grant us,  
Lord, the wisdom and humility to rise once more  
and to move forward along the path of unity in  
truth and love, without succumbing to the  
temptation to have recourse merely to the criteria  
of personal or sectarian interests, in the face of our  
divisions (*cf. Ecclesia in Medio Oriente, 11*).

Grant that we may renounce the mentality of  
division, “lest the Cross of Christ be emptied of its  
power” (*1 Cor 1:17*).

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father...

*O thou Mother! fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above;  
Make my heart with thine accord.*

# STATION X

## JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Book of Psalms.

*They divided my clothing among them, they cast lots for my robe.*

*Lector:*

In the fullness of time, Lord Jesus, you clothed yourself in our humanity, you whose “train filled the temple” (*Is 6:1*); already, you are walking in our midst, and those who wish to touch the hem of your garments are healed. But you have been stripped even of this garment, Lord! They have stolen your cloak and you have also given us your tunic (*cf. Mt 5:40*). You have allowed the veil of your flesh to be torn so that we might once more be admitted into the Father’s presence (*cf. Heb 10:19-20*).

We thought we could find fulfillment by ourselves, independently of you, (*cf Gen 3:4-7*). We found ourselves naked, but in your infinite love you reclothed us with the dignity of sons and daughters of God and of his sanctifying grace.

Bestow, Lord, upon the children of the Eastern



Churches – stripped by various difficulties, sometimes to the point of persecution, and weakened by emigration – the courage to remain in their countries to proclaim the Good News.

*Leader:*

O Jesus, Son of Man,  
who were stripped so as to reveal to us the new creation raised from the dead, tears in us the veil that separates us from God and weave in us your divine presence.

Grant us to conquer fear before the events of life that strip us and leave us naked, and to put on the new man of our Baptism, in order that we may announce the Good News, proclaiming that you are the only true God who guides history.

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father...

*Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
Make my soul to glow and melt  
With the love of Christ our Lord.*

# STATION XI

## JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

*Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross, it read: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."*

*Lector:*

Behold, the long-awaited Messiah, hanging on the wood of the Cross between two thieves. The two hands which blessed humanity were pierced. The two feet which trod our earth to proclaim the Good News are now suspended between earth and heaven. The eyes full of love whose gaze healed the sick and forgave our sins, now gaze only heavenward.

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,

you were crucified for our sins.

You pray to God the Father and you intercede for humanity. Each hammer blow echoes like a beat of your immolated heart. How beautiful upon the mount of Calvary are the feet of the One who proclaims the Good News of salvation.

Your love, Jesus, has filled the universe.

Your pierced hands are our refuge in distress.  
They embrace us whenever the abyss of sin  
threatens us, and in your wounds we find healing  
and forgiveness.

O Jesus,  
we pray to you for all those people who are  
overcome by homelessness, for young people who  
are the victims of drugs, sects and of perversions.

Free them from their enslavement.  
May they lift up their gaze and accept Love.  
May they find happiness in you; save them, our  
Savior.

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father...

*Holy Mother, pierce me through;  
In my heart each wound renew  
of my Savior crucified.*

# STATION XII

## JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” And having said this, he breathed his last.*

*Lector:*

From the height of the Cross a cry is heard: a cry of abandonment at the moment of death, a cry of trust amid suffering, a cry accompanying the birth of a new life. Behold, hanging on the tree of life, you deliver your spirit into your Father’s hand, causing life to spring up in abundance and forming the new creation. Today we too face the challenges of this world: we sense the surge of fears which overwhelm us and shake our trust. Grant us, Lord, the strength to know deep within our heart that no death will conquer us, until we rest in the hands which have shaped us and accompany us.

*Leader:*

May every one of us be able to cry out:

“Yesterday I was crucified with Christ, today I am glorified with him.

Yesterday I died with him, today I live with him.

Today I have risen with him.” (*Gregory Nazianzen*).

In the darkness of our nights, we contemplate you.  
Teach us to turn towards the Most High, your  
heavenly Father.

Today, let us pray that all those who promote  
abortion may become aware that love can only be a  
source of life.

Let us think also of those who defend euthanasia  
and those who encourage techniques and  
procedures which endanger human life.

Open their hearts to know you in truth and to work  
for the building of the civilization of life and love.

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father...

*Let me share with thee his pain,  
who for all my sins was slain,  
who for me in torment died.*

*Jesus, remember me, when you come into your  
Kingdom, Jesus, remember me, when you come  
into your Kingdom.*



# STATION XIII

## JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND GIVEN TO HIS MOTHER

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

*When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother:*

*“Woman, behold your son!” Then he said to the disciple: “Behold, your mother!”*

*Lector:*

Lord Jesus, those who love you remain at your side and keep faith. In the hour of your agony and death, when the world believes that evil triumphs and that the voice of truth, love, justice and peace is silent, their faith does not fail.

O Mary, into your hands we place our earth. “How sad it is to see this blessed land suffer in its children, who relentlessly tear one another to pieces and die!” (*Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*, 8). It seems that nothing can overcome evil, terrorism, murder and hatred. “Before the cross on which your Son stretched out his sinless hands for our salvation, O Virgin, we fall prostrate this day: grant us peace” (*Byzantine liturgy*).

*Leader:*

Let us pray  
for the victims of the wars and of the violence  
which in our days devastate various countries in  
the Middle East, as well as other parts of the world.  
Let us pray that the displaced and the forced  
migrants may soon return to their homes and  
lands. Grant, Lord, that the blood of the innocent  
victims may be the seed of a new East, ever more  
fraternal, peaceful, and just and that this East may  
recover its splendor of its vocation as the cradle of  
civilization and of spiritual and human values.  
Star of the East, show us the coming of the Dawn!

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father...

*Let me mourn with thee,  
mourning Him who mourn'd for me,  
all the days that I may live.*

# STATION XIV

## JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

V: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

**R: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*Leader:*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

*Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds of weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.*

*Lector:*

Nicodemus receives the body of Christ, he looks after it and puts it in a tomb in the middle of a garden which evokes the garden of Creation. Jesus lets himself be buried, even as he let himself be crucified, in the same abandonment, entirely “delivered” into the hands of men and “perfectly united” to them, “even to sleeping beneath the tombstone.” (*Saint Gregory of Narek*).

To accept difficulties, painful events, death, demands steadfast hope, living faith.

The stone placed before the entrance of the tomb will be overturned and a new life will arise. For “we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory

of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”  
(Rom 6:4).

We have received the freedom of the children of God, so that we will not return to slavery; life has been given to us in abundance, so that we will no longer be satisfied with a life lacking beauty and meaning.

*Leader:*

Lord Jesus,  
make us children of the light who do not fear the darkness. We pray to you today for all those who search for meaning in life and for all those who have lost hope, that they may have faith in your victory over sin and death.

**R: Amen**

*All:*

Our Father...

*While my body here decays,  
may my soul Thy goodness praise,  
safe in Paradise with Thee.*

***Cantor then All:***

In the grave they laid \_\_\_\_\_ you, O my Life \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ Christ! And all the ar - mies of  
an - - gels wept \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ sight.

Byzantine, arr. Clint Davis







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