

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

# Living Stations of the Cross Script St. Mary's Piscataway, 2015

## Introduction:

Welcome to the Living Stations of the Cross as produced by the youth of our parish. We hope that this beautiful prayer of the Church will draw you closer to Our Lord, just as it has enriched our faith as we prepared for this evening.

So that all may participate fully in this prayer, we ask that you take a moment to silence your cell phones.

The Stations of the Cross follows the suffering of Jesus from when He was condemned to death and ending with His burial in the tomb. One of the earliest records of this tradition of praying through Jesus' suffering was recorded in a letter by a French pilgrim, Egeria, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. The Stations help us to reflect on the suffering of Jesus for our sins and the need for Christian virtue.

## Opening Prayer:

O, Jesus, we are about to walk with You  
through the stages of Your Agony and Death.  
We are about to spend a brief time  
renewing the sacrifices that gave us the life of a Christian;  
that upholds us  
by the graces You have won;  
and brings us along the road  
to a salvation that all took place  
--and continues today--  
by Your sacrifice on the Cross.  
Help us to understand a little better  
—to love a little more--  
and to give of ourselves more generously  
by our use of these fourteen remembrances  
of Your Divine Vocation.  
AMEN

The following script is adapted from various sources and used with permission. Copyright Daughters of St. Paul, Boston, MA. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Copyright Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. Copyright Barton-Cotton, Inc.

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## First Station

LEADER:

The First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

### [Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

From the Gospel according to Matthew:

*Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.*

### [Actors Freeze]

Jesus' enemies captured him. They made fun of him all night. They really wanted to kill him, but someone else had to do it. So they brought Jesus to Pilate. You are there. You can see that Pilate is going to do what the crowd says. What do you want to say to Jesus as Pilate condemns him to death?

### [Light out]

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, many times in families, parents are misunderstood by children and children are misunderstood by parents. Husbands and wives misjudge each other; siblings falsely accuse each other. When we are falsely accused, dear Lord, give us the strength to bear the injustice with patience as our way of following You, on the way to the cross. We love you, Jesus.

STABAT MATER:

Actors in this station:  
Pilate  
Jesus  
Barabbas  
Crowd  
Guards

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Second Station

Leader:

The Second Station: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

### [Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

Reader:

From the Gospel according to Matthew:

*Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.*

### [Actors Freeze]

Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross. He did this so that we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right. And we are healed because of his wounds.

### [Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, teach me to remember that when I sin it hurts You.

STABAT MATER:

Actors in this station:  
Soldiers  
Jesus Crowd

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

### Third Station

LEADER:

The Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

[Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

Consider the first fall of Jesus. Loss of blood from the scourging and crowning with thorns had so weakened Him that He could hardly walk; and yet He had to carry that great load upon His shoulders. As the soldiers struck Him cruelly, He fell several times under the heavy cross.

[Actors Freeze]

Let us learn from Jesus, who humbled himself, to discover our true greatness by bending low before God.

[Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, You fell under the weight of the cross for me. Do not let me abandon You. Help me to cling fast to all that is good and to reject sin.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Jesus  
Guards  
Crowd?

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Fourth Station

LEADER:

The Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

### [Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

From the 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". And his mother kept all these things in her heart.*

### [Actors Freeze]

In her heart Mary had kept the words of the angel, spoken to her in the beginning: "Do not be afraid, Mary" (Lk 1:30). The disciples fled, yet she did not flee. She stayed there, with a Mother's courage, a Mother's fidelity, a Mother's goodness, and a faith which did not waver in the hour of darkness: "Blessed is she who believed" (Lk 1:45). "Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Lk 18:8). Yes, in this moment Jesus knows: he will find faith. In this hour, this is his great consolation.

### [Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, teach me to have courage. Help me to follow the example of Mother Mary, saying yes to You no matter the cost.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Jesus

Mary

Guards

Crowd?

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Fifth Station

LEADER:

The Fifth Station: Simone of Cyrene Helps Jesus

### [Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

*As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.*

### [Actors Freeze]

Whenever we show kindness to the suffering, the persecuted and defenceless, and share in their sufferings, we help to carry that same Cross of Jesus. In this way we obtain salvation, and help contribute to the salvation of the world.

### [Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, teach me to remember that I help You when I show kindness to others for Your sake.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed for this station:

Jesus  
Guards  
Simon  
Crowd

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Sixth Station

LEADER:

The Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

### [Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

Imagine: The dry sand kicked up from the street is getting in Our Savior's eyes and nose. He can even taste the dirt. But He keeps going. Up ahead, a lady pushes past the soldiers and wipes Jesus' face with a cool, wet towel.

### [Actors Freeze]

Veronica lives out the Gospel message:

“I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was alone and away from home and you invited me into your house. I was without clothes, and you gave me something to wear. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me...Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me.”

Veronica finds a way to offer soothing, gentle mercy. She steps forward, even when many in the crowd must mock her as they mock you.

### [Lights off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, help me to be like Veronica, to never be afraid to say I belong to You and am your child. Help me to bring soothing, gentle mercy to others.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Soldiers

Jesus

Crowd

Veronica

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Seventh Station

LEADER:

The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls the Second Time

[Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

Overwhelmed by the weight of the Cross, Jesus falls again to the ground. But the cruel executioners do not permit Him to rest a moment. With thrusts and blows they urge Him onward. With what cruelty Jesus is treated and trampled under foot!

[Actors Freeze]

We, too, may fall as we run our race. We are distracted by temptation and sin, and fail to keep our eye on the finish line, heaven. But Jesus gave us the Church and the Sacraments. Let us run, walk or drag ourselves to the goodness and cleansing of the Sacraments. With a clean heart, let us hear Jesus say, "Arise, go on your way: your faith has made you whole."

[Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, teach me to understand what a dreadful thing sin is because to pay for it You suffered so much.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Soldiers

Jesus

Crowd

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Eighth Station

LEADER:

The Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem Who Weep for Him

[Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

From the Gospel according to Luke.

*A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then*

*"they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"*

*For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"*

[Actors Freeze]

The people spoke, rejecting Jesus and freeing Barabbas. When Jesus tells the women to weep for themselves, He warns of what the future holds for those who reject the Son of God.

[Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, help me to live my life for You so that on the Day of Judgement I will not be dry wood, but a living branch in You, the true vine, bearing fruit for eternal life.

STABAT MATER

## Ninth Station

LEADER:

The Ninth Station: Jesus Falls the Third Time

[Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

Consider how Jesus Christ falls for the third time. He stumbles and falls to the ground. The cross crushes Him with its weight and the people around wonder if He is not dead already. But no, once more He climbs to his feet and struggles forward up the hill.

[Actors Freeze]

Who can not grieve to see Jesus so weak and helpless? Yet it is a comfort to know that Our Lord understands our sufferings from His own experience. How much God must love us that He experienced this kind of pain and offered us this example of courage.

When we cry out from the depth of our soul, "I can bear this suffering no more," can we hear God whisper, "I understand"? When we are discouraged after many falls, particularly from addictions and repeated sin, can we hear God say to our innermost being, "Keep going, I know how hard it is to rise"?

Through the humiliation of this third fall, Jesus gives us all the courage and perseverance to take up our crosses and follow Him.

[Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, teach me never to be discouraged even if I keep falling into the same sins. Help me to begin again, to run to You. If I try, You will help; and when we work together, I can be the person You want me to be.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Soldiers

Jesus

Crowd

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Tenth Station

LEADER:

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

**[Lights on]**

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

From the Gospel according to Matthew

*And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull), they offered him wine to drink, mingled with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it...they divided his garments among them by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.*

**[Actors Freeze]**

The Lord passes through all the stages and steps of man's fall from grace, yet each of these steps, for all its bitterness, becomes a step towards our redemption: this is how he carries home the lost sheep.

**[Lights off]**

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, help me to be willing to give up earthly trappings if keeping them means I am separated from you. You suffered so much for me, surely I can make sacrifices for You.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed for this station:

Jesus  
Guards  
Crowd

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Eleventh Station

LEADER:

The Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

### [Lights on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

From the Gospel according to Matthew

*And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews". Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right hand and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the Cross". So also the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the Cross and we will believe in him".*

### [Actors Freeze]

Our Lord who was completely righteous and pure gave himself over to the hideous suffering of the cross so that we might have life.

### [Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, help me to be docile in doing Your will, just as You were docile in doing the Father's will. Crucify my sin, but secure my heart and my will to Yours.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Jesus

2 criminals

Crowd

## Twelfth Station

LEADER:

The Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

[Lights on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

From the Gospel according to Matthew

*Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" That is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "This man is calling Elijah". And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him". And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"*

[Actors Freeze]

[Silence]

[Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, help me to recognize You in a world made dark by sin. Help me to look to the cross and to marvel in what You have done for me. May I always live in a way that says You are the Son of God!

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Jesus

Crowd

Centurion

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Thirteenth Station

LEADER:

The Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken from the Cross

### [Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

From the Gospel according to Luke

All his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down.

### [Actors freeze]

And now, at the end of his sufferings, it is clear that, for all the dismay which filled men's hearts, for all the power of hatred and cowardice, Jesus was never alone. There are faithful ones who remain with him. The Church of Jesus Christ, his new family, begins to take shape.

### [Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, some say, "God is dead," but I know that You triumphed over the grave. Grant that I may never lose heart. Give me the faith to withstand moments of confusion, a love ready to embrace You always, a constancy like your Mother had. Help me to believe in You and to follow You in my hour of darkness and need. Help me to share the light of hope You offer to the world.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Jesus

Joseph

Pilate

Guard

Crowd/Women

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

## Fourteenth Station

LEADER:

The Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

### [Light on]

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You. (Genuflect)

ALL:

Because by Your holy cross, You have redeemed the whole world.

READER:

From the Gospel according to Matthew

*Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock; and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the sepulchre.*

### [Actors Freeze]

Jesus, disgraced and mistreated, is honorably buried in a new tomb. Nicodemus brings a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight, which gives off a precious scent. In the Son's self-offering, as at his anointing in Bethany, we see an "excess" which evokes God's generous and superabundant love. God offers himself unstintingly. If God's measure is superabundance, then we for our part should consider nothing too much for God. This is the teaching of Jesus himself, in the Sermon on the Mount (*Mt 5:20*). But we should also remember the words of Saint Paul, who says that God "through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Christ everywhere. We are the aroma of Christ" (*2 Cor 2:14ff.*).

### [Light off]

PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, help me to walk the way of the Cross that You, my Redeemed, have traced out for me. Help me to be the fragrance of Christ in the world around me, so that I and all who are called may journey onward to our heavenly home where our rest and our joy shall be forever.

STABAT MATER:

Actors needed in this station:

Joseph of Arimathea

Helper

Mary

Mary Magdalene

March 21, 2015 DRAFT

### **Stabat Mater:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Holy Mother! pierce me through;  
In my heart each wound renew  
Of my Saviour crucified.

Let me share with thee His pain,  
Who for all my sins was slain,  
Who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with thee,  
Mourning Him who mourn'd for me,  
All the days that I may live.

By the cross with thee to stay,  
There with thee to weep and pray,  
Is all I ask of thee to give.

Virgin of all virgins best,  
Listen to my fond request  
Let me share thy grief divine.

Let me, to my latest breath,  
In my body bear the death  
Of that dying Son of thine.

Wounded with His every wound,  
Steep my soul till it hath swoon'd  
In His very blood away.

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,  
Lest in flames I burn and die,  
In His awful Judgment day.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,

Be Thy Mother my defence,  
Be Thy cross my victory.

While my body here decays,  
May my soul Thy goodness praise,  
Safe in Paradise with Thee.

#### **Latin**

Stabat Mater dolorosa  
Juxta Crucem lacrimosa,  
Dum pendebat Filius.

Cujus animam gementem,  
Contristatam et dolentem,  
Pertransiuit gladius.

O quam tristis et afflicta  
Fuit illa benedicta  
Mater Unigeniti!

Quem maerebat, et dolebat,  
Pia Mater, dum videbat  
Nati paenas inclyti.

Quis est homo, qui non fleret,  
Matrem Christi si videret  
In tanto supplicio?

Quis non posset contristari,  
Christi Matrem contemplari  
Dolentem cum Filio?

Pro peccatis suae gentis  
Vidit Jesum in tormentis,  
Et flagellis subditum.

Vidit suum dulcem natum  
Moriendo desolatum,  
Dum emisit spiritum.

Eia Mater, fons amoris,  
Me sentire vim doloris  
Fac, ut tecum lugeam.

Fac, ut ardeat cor meum  
In amando Christum Deum,  
Ut sibi complaceam.

Sancta Mater, istud agas,  
Crucifixi fige plagas  
Cordi meo valide.

Tui nati vulnerati,  
Tam dignati pro me pati,  
Paenas mecum divide.

Fac me tecum pie flere,  
Crucifixo condolere,  
Donec ego vixero.

Juxta Crucem tecum stare,  
Et me tibi sociare  
In planctu desidero.

Virgo virginum praeclara,  
Mihi jam non sis amara:  
Fac me tecum plangere.

Fac, ut portem Christi mortem  
Passionis fac consortium,  
Et plagas recolare.

Fac me plagis vulnerari  
Fac me cruce inebriari,  
Et cruore Filii.

Flammis ne urar succensus  
Per te, Virgo, sim defensus  
In die iudicii.

Christe, cum sit hinc exire,  
Da per Matrem me venire,  
Ad palmam victoriae.

Quando corpus morietur,  
Fac, ut animae donetur  
Paradisi gloria.