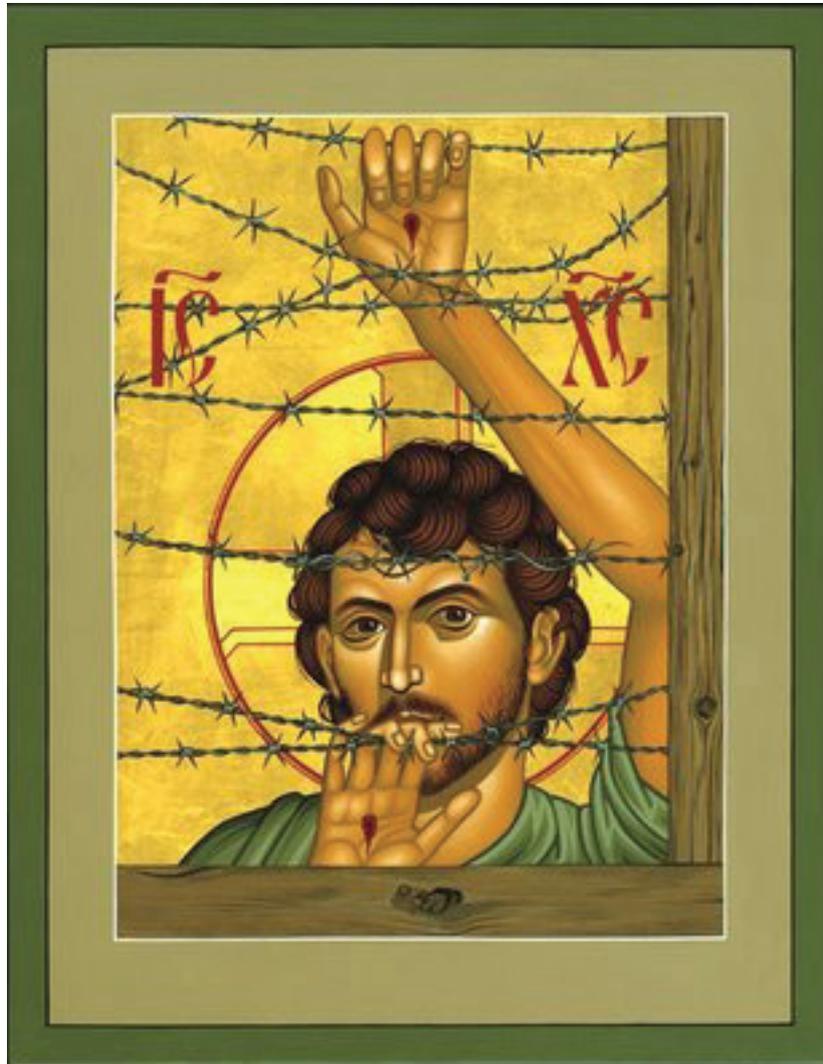


STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 24, 2018

4:00pm



“Migrants and refugees, men and women in search of peace.”—
Pope Francis, 2018 World Day of Peace

4:00PM from **Castel Sant’Angelo**, we will march the sidewalks of Tiber River to **Ponte Cestio** at Tiber Island. At the end of the prayer, a **Eucharistic celebration** memorial honoring **Bl. Oscar Romero** will be held in **Santa Maria della Luce Church** in Trastevere at **6:30PM**.



CASTEL SANT'ANGELO
Gathering place at 3:30PM

INTRODUCTION



Palace of Justice

The Stations of the Cross is one of our most dramatic and significant religious traditions. The entire Christian community symbolically reenacts Jesus' passion and his sorrowful journey towards the cross, walking with him during the decisive moments at the end of his life. In the mystery of his pain and suffering we encounter our God who invites us to journey with him in favor of life, promoting the rights and dignity of all human beings and building with him the reign of peace, love, justice and freedom.

This year we want to journey in prayer, in a special way, with our sisters and brothers who are migrants and refugees. We will reflect on their life stories in the spirit of the message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace. Pope Francis invites us to welcome, to protect, to promote and integrate them in our communities because they are our brothers and sisters in search of peace. It is in this Way of the Cross, that Jesus himself is walking the sorrowful journey of the migrants and refugees and guid-

ing us with his own peace. For that reason, we want to commemorate this journey in solidarity with those people who leave their homes in search of the promised land, the land of milk and honey (Ex 3:8) which is the reign of God that Jesus Himself announces.

This Way of the Cross is intended for all those communities and people who are living in the difficult experience of migration, and for those who work with migrants and refugees. We hold in prayer all those who are trying to build a better world, a world without borders, without walls and those women and men who have opened their eyes and hearts to the harsh reality of this phenomenon and want to be challenged by it.

We have chosen our route for the Way of the Cross along the Tiber River, the third longest river in Italy, rising in the Apennine mountains in Emilia Romagna and flowing 406 kilometers / 252 miles through Tuscany, Umbria and Lazio to meet the sea at Ostia. As we walk the Stations of the Cross, looking at the flowing water, we want to remember those for whom water has made it possible for us to be in solidarity with one another. At the same time, we also want to keep in mind those for whom water has been a barrier to establishing those relationships and has instead become their cemetery. All these people must not be forgotten because we are all co-responsible for making this world a better place for everyone.

STATION 1: PILATE CONDEMNS JESUS TO DIE

Palace of Justice.



V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world

Biblical reading: Mark 15: 6-15 “Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them. “Crucify him!” they

shouted. “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.”

Reflection: In these times in which human mobility is a daily phenomenon of massive migrations, how many judgments and sentences are heard every day against so many people who, like Jesus, have done no evil, and only desire a better future, better living conditions. However, laws establish that migrants cannot stay; if they want to have a “residence authorization”, they have to meet so many requirements that kill their dreams and hopes.

This sentence of death is repeated each time authorities implement policies that condemn migrant workers to starve and freeze to death, to die exhausted and dehydrated in mountains and deserts, or drowning in channels and border rivers. This sentence of death is repeated in migration laws that deny fundamental rights and human dignity of migrants and refugees, condemned to live as clandestines, “illegals” and publicly discredited. In front of the Palace of Justice we call for justice for migrants and refugees, so that “freedom for some people doesn’t become death for others.”

Let us pray: Lord, we do not want your death sentence to be repeated in the person of our brothers and sisters who seek solidarity to protect their lives. For all of us we want the same rights to live with dignity in any place of the world, our common house. Help us to defend and protect life.

STATION 2: JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

Chains symbol of migrants victims of slavery.



V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical reading: John 19: 16-17 Finally, Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha)

Reflection: In this station we see a symbol of slavery that all cultures can understand: the chains remind us the new and various forms of slavery in the world. We know how refugees and migrants are exposed to this new global evil, which Pope Francis reminds us: [Protecting] has to do

with our duty to recognize and defend the inviolable dignity of those who flee real dangers in search of asylum and security, and to prevent their being exploited. I think in particular of women and children who find themselves in situations that expose them to risks and abuses that can even amount to enslavement. God does not discriminate: “The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the orphan and the widow.”

Let us pray: We wish to live in your Spirit, O Lord, and to protect life so that it will never fall slave of anything or anybody. We want to love and welcome every person, especially migrants and refugees, supporting the requirement of extending their possibilities of legal entrance into the countries of destination so that they will not be sent back to places where they risk persecution, violence and the cross of slavery.

STATION 3: JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

The capsized boat commemorate migrants who have died trying to reach safe places.



V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: Isaiah 53, 4, 7a “Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.”

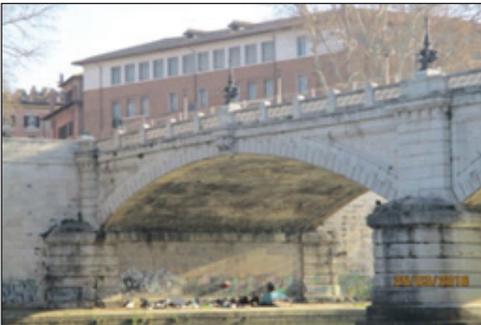
Reflection: “In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands’ Jesus stumbles

and falls to the ground not only under the weight of the cross, but also from the cruel jeers of the spectators and the taunts of the Romans. And where are his disciples? His followers? Those he healed? The guards, the chief priests and the people are important. They will not allow Jesus to rest, even for a moment. They kick, punch and drag him back up to his feet. The Prince of Peace, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, is forced to walk to his death along a hostile way strewn with hatred, contempt, jealousy and lies.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, good and honest people are still suffering today for trying to do what is right. They courageously speak out against injustice. Some will lose their jobs, others their reputations, and others their freedom and even their lives. Whether dangerous working conditions, polluted air, contaminated water or inequality in how we treat one another, these are all crimes that cry out to heaven. By your Passion give us the will to stand with the lost, the loneliest, and the least of our brothers and sisters.

STATION 4: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Migrants under the bridge, to commemorate homeless migrants.



V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture: (John (19: 25) “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.”

Reflection: On the way to Calvary, Jesus sees his mother. Their eyes meet. They understand one another. Mary knows who her son is. She sees him suffer for all men and women, those of the past, present and future. And she too suffers with them. The meeting of Jesus and his mother on the

way to Calvary is a powerful and ever timely event. Jesus gave up his mother so that each of us—especially the migrants and refugees whom we especially remember and pray today, might have a mother who will be always there for us.

Mary went through the same sufferings as the migrants. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to register. It was a long and hilly journey for Mary who was heavy with a child. Reaching Bethlehem at the middle of the night, no one offered their place for her to give birth to Jesus. The only place available was an open space, in the manger where animals slept.

Then again was the “flight to Egypt” when the Holy Family had to hurriedly leave Bethlehem to escape Herod’s order to kill all the new born babies. They travelled in great fear not knowing where to go, yet they have no choice but to flee for their safety and especially for Jesus to escape from the massacre of the innocent.

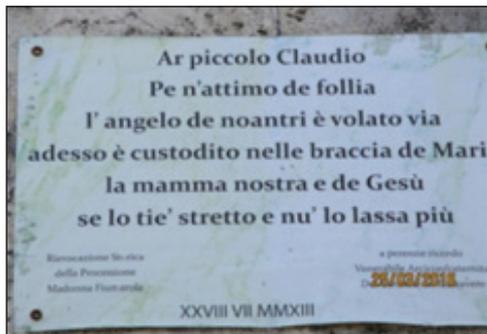
We see the same fear and persecution happening in the lives of migrants and refugees, now at this moment. Families leaving hurriedly to flee from persecution, death and suffering from their own country to a place where they do not even know will accept them and provide them with the needed safety and protection.

Let us approach Mary our Mother as we offer our prayers for the migrants, refugees and human trafficking victims.

Prayer: God, our Father, no one is a stranger to you. You watch over each of us with your loving gaze. May those people fleeing from their homes in search of refuge be reminded that your own Son, and Mary our Mother, also experienced life as refugees and be renewed in their faith and hope. Guide political leaders to act generously and work towards lasting and meaningful peace in those areas affected by violence and conflict. May we, through Christ's example, open our arms and hearts in welcome to those most in need of safety, shelter and compassion. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Cardinal Vincent Nichols*)

STATION 5: JESUS IS HELPED TO CARRY HIS CROSS BY SIMON OF CYRENE

Commemorate unaccompanied minors and teenage migrants.



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

R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: (Mt. 26, 36-39) "Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, 'My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.' He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.'"

Reflection: Migrants and refugees feel alone, abandoned, betrayed, frustrated and despairing because they know nobody and their family is far away, they do not have idea what the future holds... Just like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

They feel the need for support and company but so often they do not find it among the people surrounding them, because the people mistrust them, the people marginalize them and discriminate against them. Many times they are abused and not treat as persons, just objects...

They find strength and hope in their faith, this helps them to sincerely express their loneliness and frustration, like Jesus, and the courage to move forward in spite of all the difficulties and problems.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for being always near us, for keeping our hope and faith strong. Help us to imitate Jesus, our brother so that we never surrender to the problems we encounter in life and give us his eyes to discover the loneliness of our migrants and refugees brothers and sisters. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

STATION 6: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Liberty and freedom to move/to travel.



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

R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical reading: Isaiah 53: 2b-3 "He had no form or charm to attract us, no beauty to win our hearts; he was despised, the lowest of men, a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering, one from whom we averted our gaze; he was despised and we had no regard for him".

Testimony: I am Jazmine, from Nigeria. When I was five years old, Paul took me from my mother's house and took me to Italy. He told me that he had bought me. I didn't understand anything! At nine, I started to receive clients. When I was fifteen years old, he brought me to London, where everything was the same: I was locked up, I saw only white men and I did the same thing. The 'guests' were not nice to me: they beat me, insulted me or worse. One day I had the courage to run away. I walked far, far away, until I was exhausted, and I went to sleep in a corner. Some people gave me hot coffee. They asked my name and my age. I said I was seventeen years old. One of them accompanied me and took me to his organization. I was scared, but the social worker was very kind and helped me a lot.

I just wanted to have a chance, to be someone in society. The road has been long and difficult, but now I am a woman! I am proud to be Jazmine.

Prayer: Jesus, a woman comes to meet you to wipe your face with a cloth. She can't do much, but she does the little she can—and you thank her by printing your face on the linen, but even more, in her heart. Give us the courage to relieve the suffering and to comfort the victims of trafficking, of migrants and persons deprived of their liberty, by doing what we can, even if are very little. Enable us to look at the other with respect and not avert our gaze from suffering and poverty. Help us meet them as you would..

STATION 7: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

At this station we can see the shape of an overload boat.

During our prayer we are invited to form a semicircle looking toward the boat on the wall.



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

R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: (Job 6:8-13) “Oh, that I might have my request and that God would grant what I long for: Even that God would decide to crush me, that he would put forth his hand and cut me off! Then I should still have consolation and could exult through unremitting pain, because I have not transgressed the commands of the Holy One. What strength have I that I should endure, and what is my limit that I should be patient? Have I the

strength of stones, or is my flesh of bronze? Have I no helper, and has my good sense deserted me?”

Reflection: We live in a Society which is overloaded by egoism, individualism and structural violence promoted by the wild capitalism. Everyday many overload boats make sink the dreams of thousands of migrants in search of a better life. Pope Francis in his message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees proclaims the sacredness of each person: ”each of us has been created a unique and unrepeatable being, each different from the others and each with a singular role in the history of the world. Mirko, an Italian coast guard, after rescuing many people at risk trying to jump desperately from overload boats said: “On the open sea we are all equal, no matter the color of your skin, the flag of your country, there’s no space for political ideology. We are all human beings”. Let us pray for both the victims of the overload boats and for those offering their lives to keep the dream of migrants and refugees alive.

Our Father

Prayer: Jesus, you continue to fall when migrants and refugees are deprived of their dignity because of the political economic and social structures that prevent them from dreaming of a dignified life. Through the intersection of Blessed Oscar Romero, help us “to remove the violence that lies at the root of all violence: structural violence, social injustice, exclusion of citizens from the management of the country, repression. All this is what constitutes the primal cause, from which the rest flows naturally”. Amen.

STATION 8: JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Pray for women migrant victims of abuse and trafficking.



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

R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: *Luke (23: 27-31)* 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?”

Reflection: Showing concern for others' sufferings, even as he was about to be crucified, demonstrates our Jesus' heart of selfless compassion for others. Bruised from flagellation and carrying a heavy cross, Jesus stops when He noticed this group of pious women weeping, and has words for them saying, "do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children." They were words to comfort them. Jesus knew that terrible sufferings awaited them, so he both warned them and expressed compassion for their impending fate. Reflecting on the current situation of the women migrants and refugees today indeed the women of Jerusalem should rather weep for these women of today rather than for Jesus in pain and carrying the heavy cross.

Today, around the world, people are on the move. They are migrating to escape poverty, improve their livelihood and opportunities, or escaping conflict and devastation in their own countries. Women represent almost half of the 244 million migrants and half of the 19.6 million refugees worldwide. (UN Women) Women are often the first responders in a crisis, and whether en route or in camps, in home countries or destination countries, they play a crucial role in caring for, sustaining and rebuilding their communities. Yet, refugee and migrant women's needs, priorities and voices are often missing from policies designed to protect and assist them.

Prayer: God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care. In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost and those who have been exiled from their homes. Help us to see one another through eyes enlightened by understanding and compassion. Help us to listen to the voices of all of our sisters throughout the world with respect and attention. Open our ears to the cries of women who have been denied their rights and their dignity. Empower us to be instruments of justice for all, for in the wholeness of Christ, all mothers are our own mothers, and we are one. Amen.

STATION 9: JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

Commemorate Migrants dead during the route in the desert or elsewhere.



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

R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: (Lk. 23, 27-28, 32) "A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children. Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed."

Reflection: Jesus, unjustly condemned has to carry His heavy cross, the instrument of His death alone. The road to Calvary is long and terrible. Jesus cannot bear the pain, He falls. The International Organization for Migration has called the Mediterranean "by far the world's deadliest border," as more than 33,000 migrants have died at sea trying to enter Europe since 2000. How often do the migrants and refugees fall on their road! How many sacrifices have they had to endure! How often have they put their own lives in danger to attain their goals! Too often the road to the Promised Land is transformed into the way of the cross, a way full of dangers and obstacles. Only faith in God, living and present, gives the strength to endure the falls on the road in order to continue our journey. Let us take a moment of silence looking at the figure painted in the wall and remember images of different people dead during their route in the desert or elsewhere.

Our Father

Prayer: God of life, from our encounter with Jesus present in the poor, the rejected, the refugee, the asylum seeker, flows our prayer of today. Please, transform it into a reciprocal prayer: migrants and refugees praying for local communities, and local communities praying for the newly arrived and for migrants who have been here longer. To the maternal intercession of Mary Most Holy we entrust the hopes of all the world's migrants and refugees and the aspirations of the communities which welcome them. Responding to the supreme commandment of charity and love of neighbor, may we all learn to love the other, the stranger, as ourselves" (*Adaptation. Pope Francis' message*).

STATION 10: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

The ship symbol of humanitarian assistance of migrants.



V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: Jn. 19:23-24 “When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarments remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ‘Let’s not tear it,’ they said to one another. ‘Let’s decide by lot who will get it.’ This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, ‘They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my

clothes.’ So this is what the soldiers did.

Reflection: Jesus arrives at Golgotha, the hill of public execution outside the walls of Jerusalem. To add to his humiliation, soldiers strip away his outer garments, leaving him almost naked against the world. Being condemned to death, Jesus must forfeit everything he owns to compensate the soldiers for their troubles. They pass their time by casting lots to see who will get the robe of his homespun cloth, woven in one piece. Jesus’ crucifixion, like that of thousands before him and countless others after him, serves as a warning to any who would dare challenge the authority of Rome.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, grant us a spirit of detachment and stewardship with our material goods. Everything we have will one day go to someone else. Let us give freely now, not just of our possessions, but also of our time, in order to make life more bearable for all those who ‘labor and find life burdensome.’ In this way we pay you the greatest worship: following your example. “Offering asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking an opportunity to find the peace they seek requires a strategy combining four actions: welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating” (*Message for 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees*).

STATION 11: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Under the bridge, a symbol of welcome.



V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Readings: (1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-25) The language of the cross may be illogical to those who are not on the way to salvation, but those of us who are on the way see it as God’s power to save.... And so, while the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether

they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the wisdom and power of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. (2 Corinthians 5:19)... in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people’s trespasses against them, and he has given us the message of reconciliation.

Reflection: The Gospels record Jesus’ relentless path towards Jerusalem and the inevitability of the cross, as he held true to his vision and purpose... Jesus’ real danger to the establishment is his conviction that all the people had power within to heal, to love, to overcome prejudice, inequality, hatred and apathy. Pope Francis, like Jesus, reminds us that all of us are called to address the evils and pain of our world... and to do it together!

“Let us draw inspiration from the words of Saint John Paul II: ‘If the ‘dream’ of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees’ and migrants’ contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true ‘common home.’ Throughout history, many have believed in this “dream”, and their achievements are a testament to the fact that it is no mere utopia” (*Message of Pope Francis for the celebration of the 51st world day of peace, 1 January 2018*).

Prayer: Lord God, as we contemplate your crucifixion we keep silence...

We keep silence with those crucified today.

We keep silence with those who live in darkness and despair

We keep silence with those living in places of conflict

We keep silence with those fleeing from war, hunger, persecution and poverty...

and in the silence you speak your word of love.

STATION 12: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Synagogue: to remember the dark history of racism and persecution.



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

R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: They placed over his head the written charge* against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries* were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, [and] come down from the cross! He trusted in God; let him deliver

him now if he wants him."

From noon onward darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lemasabachthani?"* which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27)

Reflection: As Christians we see the cross as a symbol of salvation, of grace, and something to cherish. But Jesus's crucifixion was meant as a symbol of humiliation and public shame.

We stand here in view of the Synagogue and remember the shame and humiliation imposed on the Jewish community at other times in history. We think of the crosses of shame and humiliation borne today by those who are unwanted and derided:

We remember the many who died at sea.

We remember those who die in desert wastes

We remember those who do not survive the abuses along the journey

We think of those who die anonymously and remember their families who have no word from them.

We remember those who are feared and derided as illegal as if any human being can be illegal.

Prayer: O God, we ask pardon for all the times we have dehumanized our refugee and migrant brothers and sisters by our indifference or by our fear. We pray for governments and communities struggling to accept the tragic migration of humanity in these days. May the graces that flow from Jesus' cross turn all minds and hearts today to compassion and welcome.

STATION 13: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

*St. Bartholomew Church and memory of contemporary martyrs;
Fate Bene Fratelli Hospital, symbol of protection and care.*



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

R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: (Luke 23:53-56) "Then Joseph of Arimathea took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments."

Reflection: The women heard Mary repeat the words of the Psalmist which emboldened Jesus: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. (Ps 16:9-10) She saw his death coming but nothing prepares for the reality. Were it not for Joseph of Arimathea working together with the women—Mary, Joanna, Susanna—who had come up with him from Galilee, the blow would have been insufferable. While Joseph did with Pilate what he had to do to get the body, the women prepared spices and ointments. In looking at Joseph and the women around her, Mary knew her son’s message had gotten through. Her mind went back to the Psalm: In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:11)

Prayer: Dear Lord, you make us witnesses by making us curious, getting us involved, tempting us to go beyond ourselves. The story of your love is told from the side of those who go beyond. They were many who did something. In looking at the plight of Mary and the women giving care, Joseph of Arimathea found faith in you. The gift of collaboration is yours to share. You choose to need all of us, O Lord, even in the most difficult moments, the lonely moments ...of picking up the bodies of those who die at sea ... Mary said yes to working with you. She hoped in your fidelity. This is what her cousin said about her. You never call us alone. You call us to work together to carry the lamentation. In all the works of mercy, your providential care is at work within us. Were it not for the hope in your Holy Word, O God, who could go on in this valley of tears? Let us go on! Amen.

STATION 14: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Water as cemetery of many deceased migrants.



V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: Mark 1:9 “It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John.”

Reflection: Water, Sustainer of physical Life

Water, Sign of our Baptism and Inclusion in Community

“Pilate. . . granted the corpse to Joseph, who bought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock.” Mark15: 46

Reflection: Water, Terrifying Capsizer of Boats

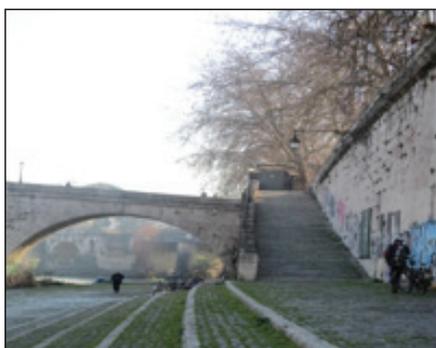
Water, Separator of Parents and Children

Water, Robber of Life and Instant Tomb

Prayer: God of life, take into your arms those migrant men, women and children “who are searching for somewhere to live in peace and safety”, and who have died at sea. May we have the courage to continue to work to change the unjust structures and to end the wars which compel people to leave their homes and to lose their lives while searching for peace and safety. We ask this through Jesus, our brother and our God. Amen.

STATION 15: JESUS IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Steps, symbol of Resurrection.



V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
R. Because by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Biblical Reading: Acts 3:11-15 “While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had

decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.”

Reflection: Everyone thought Jesus has failed miserably. He had given life for others, but they had abandoned him to insult, disgrace and death. But the power of his love, the infinite love of God made flesh in him, was so great that it could not be contained in the tomb “You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead.” The lives of the Migrants who died on the journey are not in vain, for in God’s mysterious ways their sacrifices are the very seeds that will bring new life into the world. Their sacrificed lives are the mustard seeds that will grow and blossom in ways unexpected by society.

Prayer: God of our journey, we thank you for allowing us to accompany you in this way of the cross. In this celebration we have meditated on the painful journey of the migrants and refugees, as reflected in your Son’s painful journey to the cross. Inspire us now so that we can lovingly and generously accompany migrants and refugees on their journey. We know that death is not the end; rather, life triumphs in you and because of you. Help us to recognize your resurrected Son in our brother and sisters who are migrants and refugees. Renew our desire and commitment to being more loving in all our relationships. Renew in us the love you have taught us, the love that knows no borders or limits because of cultural, national or racial differences. Guide our steps towards your Kingdom where no one is a stranger because we are all members of the human family with you as our only Father and Mother. We ask you this thought Christ our Lord. Amen.



**EUCHARIST CELEBRATION
MEMORIAL OF BL. OSCAR ARNUFO ROMERO
at 6:30PM**

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