



## **Stations for New Creation:** *A Precious Blood* ***Way of the Cross***

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Photographs of the Stations of the Cross  
were taken at St. Joseph Church, Dayton, Ohio  
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## First Station:

### *Jesus is condemned to death*

Gracious and loving God, some know they only have so much time to live and spend that time drawing as much from the deep well of life as they can. Others are surprised by death's visit through accidents or random acts of violence. When death is instant, there is no chance to say goodbye. And so we stand at this station in solidarity with all those today who will hear the verdict that the illness is terminal or the marriage is over or the mission is dangerous or their loved one is dead. We stand in solidarity with those who sit on the death rows of our world, those who will be executed in our name, those who will die in abortion clinics and refugee camps, on highways, and in war zones. We stand in solidarity with your Son, Jesus who never wavers in his commitment to life in the face of death. *Amen.*



## Second Station:

### *Jesus takes up the cross*

Gracious and loving God, under the shadow of the cross of your son, you deliver us from death. As we walk this way of the cross this trail of tender mercy marked by his precious blood, give us the grace and strength we need to be pilgrims of promise and peace. No matter how difficult the journey may become, no matter how dangerous this way of the cross is, we know you have painted the doors of our hearts with your blood so we are safe and secure in your love. *Amen.*



## Third Station:

### *Jesus falls the first time*

Gracious and loving God, your Son fell under the weight of the wood of his cross. It didn't take long. Just a few steps along the way, He tripped and stumbled and fell. Help us to remember, O Compassionate One, when we fall out of favor or feel we have fallen from grace, we are never out of your reach or far from your loving embrace. Jesus falls the first time so that each time we fail, we fall into a place where your pardon and peace, and the favor of your forgiving love, gives us the courage to continue the walk of faith. By the wounds he endured along this way of torture, terror, and death, we find healing and hope. *Amen.*



## Fourth Station:

### *Jesus meets his mother*

Loving and Gracious God, through the intercession of Mary, mother of Jesus, bless all mothers whose hearts have been pierced. Bless mothers who have lost children to death. Comfort them in their sorrow. Bless the mothers of children who have disappeared, children who have been abused, children who have left home never to return again. Bless them with your peace. Bless all expectant mothers and those throughout the world who at this very moment are giving birth. Give us the grace to stand with them in their hope. And bless those mothers who at this very moment are learning the news: Your child is dead. Give us the grace, O Mary, Mother of Jesus, to stand with them in their loss. May we be willing to wear our pierced hearts and our sleeves as we catch each other's tears. *Amen.*



## Fifth Station:

### *Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross*

Gracious and Loving God, give us the courage to stop and help those in need we meet along the way. Though we may be shy or self-conscious, may this never stop us from reaching out to those who need our companionship and our care. Whether it is a listening ear or a helping hand, may our actions reflect our gratitude for your grace, offered to us in Jesus who delivered us from our complacency and carelessness by the immeasurable price of his precious blood. Like Simon, we are sojourners in a strange land, but we do not walk alone. May we make this sojourn sacred by our service to all we meet along the way. *Amen.*



## Sixth Station:

### *Veronica wipes the face of Jesus*

Gracious and Loving God, every picture tells a story. At this station, the picture tells a story of compassion and kindness to someone in need. Along this parade route of pain, there stood a woman named Veronica. She had followed you from a distance but now she steps out of the crowd. With tears in her eyes and a cloth in her hand, she wipes the blood from your face. With gratitude for her courage, you gift her with your image forever etched on the veil of her heart. Imprint upon our hearts, O Christ, your face found in the faces of all who suffer in sorrow this day. As we follow this path of pain, may we never forget a face—the face of the one who opens up for us the door of the sanctuary of hope. *Amen.*



## Seventh Station:

### *Jesus falls the second time*

Gracious and Loving God, You know the last thing we want to do is take the fall for something we didn't do. Though we fall into sin more times than we can count, we can always count on you to forgive us. Your son, Jesus, showed us how to take the fall by taking our sin upon his back. The weight of the world's sin caused him to fall but did not leave him down and out. He got back up until he reached the top of the hill where he would stretch out his arms on the cross, bringing all things in heaven and on earth under your loving care and concern. Continue to fashion for us a future, O God, where we are willing to carry the weight of each other's losses for a while, unafraid to fall, always ready to help. *Amen.*



## **Eighth Station:**

### ***Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem***

Gracious and Compassionate God, You weep for the children of the earth who are trapped in places of violence. You weep with the mothers and fathers who bury their children killed in the action of war or murdered on the streets of our nation. Give us the compassion to weep with those who mourn the loss of loved ones. But also give us the courage to confront systems and situations that contribute to the injustice, oppression, and violence of our day. Make our hearts tender with mercy but also tenacious in our pursuit of justice, truth and peace. *Amen.*



## Ninth Station:

### *Jesus falls the third time*

Gracious and Loving God, cleanse our consciences from all the dead works that clutter our lives. So many times we have fallen along the way and waited for someone else to come along and take our place or help another in need. Too many times have we asked, "What's in it for us?" Rather than give our all in the service of love. Make our lives a living worship so that wherever we are and whatever we do our lives may give you glory. Strengthen our weary arms; make firm our feeble knees and fragile legs. May we not grow weak under the burden of our responsibilities but serve you and others without counting the cost. *Amen.*



## Tenth Station:

### *Jesus is stripped of his garments*

Loving God, the truth is we often stand ashamed and disgraced because of our sins. But at this station we hear the echoes of the suffering Servant, embodied in the naked Truth, Jesus:

“God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.” When we stand naked before you, our Compassionate God, You will clothe us with your garment of grace. Help us to trace the threads of this baptismal robe and count us among those “who have survived the great period of trial;” those who “have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” May we never be afraid, ashamed, or disgraced to live as the naked Truth that sets the whole world free. *Amen.*



## Eleventh Station:

### *Jesus is nailed to the cross*

O Loving and Compassionate God, we are witnesses to the execution of so many in our world today. Your Son, Jesus, innocent and without sin, is nailed to a cross, a victim of capital punishment in its most heinous and horrifying forms. Give us the courage to confront our culture of death by remaining committed to protecting all human life, innocent as well as guilty, trusting that You, just Judge of all the world, whose reign falls upon the just and the unjust will sort out all of our actions and missed opportunities in the fullness of time and in the fullness of Your grace. *Amen.*



## Twelfth Station:

### *Jesus dies on the cross*

Compassionate and Loving God, as we take a long, loving look at the one who is pierced, may we come to see how through the cracks and crevices of our own broken and bruised hearts, your grace flows and your light glows. When we look at the precious blood, symbol of love, flowing from the open side of the one who gave his life, we come to know there is no greater love than this. When we look at the water, symbol of life, pouring out upon the ground, making streams that refresh souls, renew faith, wash wounds, and bathe the world in the beauty of new life, we see the redeeming grace that renews the face of the earth. Through the water and blood of his cross, O God, change our attitude to reflect the presence of Christ in our world. *Amen.*



## Thirteenth Station:

### *Jesus is taken down from the cross*

God of Life, the dead body of your Son is taken down from the cross and with him the walls of hostility and hatred. In his death, through his precious blood, he has brought us together. May we always be willing to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in solidarity with others rather than toe-to-toe in combat. The blood of your Son has washed away the fences in our unforgiving hearts. Draw us ever closer to those we find most difficult to love in our world, so that the blood of your Son might truly prepare the ground of our hearts for a new creation of reconciliation. *Amen.*



## Fourteenth Station:

### *Jesus is placed in the tomb*

Compassionate and Gracious God, your beloved Son makes holy the graves of all who have died. In the sacred soil of our souls, may we expand the boundaries of our belonging so no one is ever left “outside the camp.” Jesus, who identified himself as the Bread of Life, is the grain of wheat he once described falling to the earth and dying to produce the abundant fruit of forgiveness and peace. Here the seeds of justice and compassion, mercy and truth are planted in the fields of our faith. May these seeds break through the hard and harsh ground of unforgiving hearts to yield an abundant harvest of hope. *Amen.*

## **Fifteenth Station:**

### ***Jesus is raised from the dead***

Gracious and Loving God, the old order has passed away and you have made us new in the blood of Christ. May we who claim the promise and peace of the Precious Blood provide a safe and sacred space for all to find a place in the grace of your compassion and care. May all who pray on this holy ground, find a welcoming embrace and a place at the table. May your blessing rest upon us and upon all who walk this way of the cross, + In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*