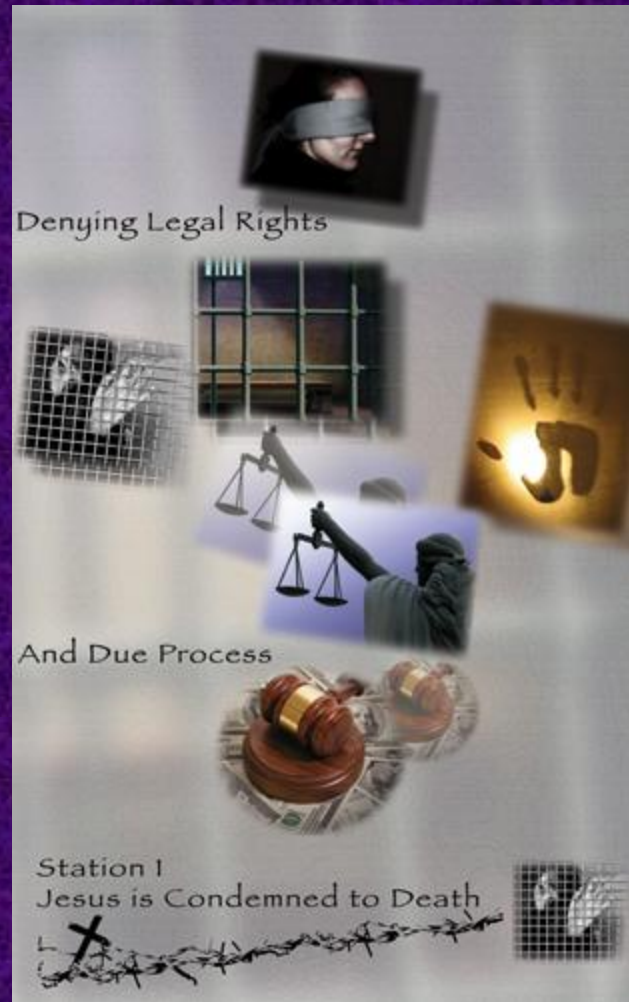


Stations of the Cross

Jesus is condemned to Death



Station #1: *Jesus is Condemned to Death:* Lack of legal rights, lack of due process

Lord Jesus, you were tried quickly and condemned to death by a group eager to silence you and your good news. Stand now with those whose voices are lost, who are unfairly condemned, and who look to the legal system for justice but find only loss.

We pray for the active pursuit of truth whose clarity of speech pierces through the recklessness of a group mentality that preys on the vulnerable.

For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

Jesus Carries His Cross

Station #2: *Jesus Carries His Cross:* Lack of religious freedoms

Made to carry a heavy cross, the instrument of your death, Lord Jesus you chose to pay the ultimate price for love. Many have struggled and died hoping to protect their faith and their hope in the midst of hatred and discrimination. Throughout the world, we worship in many ways, though hold precious a love that sacrifices for another.

We pray for the willingness to pray with the rhythm of the world through our many cultures and expressions of God's image. For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.



Jesus Falls the First Time



Station #3: Jesus Falls the First Time: Hunger

In your journey, Lord Jesus, you fall three times under the weight of your load, your pain, and your struggle. The burden of hunger, a reality for too many, can keep a person low and without strength for the struggle and without hope for the future. Help us to know that we can be nourishment and strength for one another and to act upon this knowledge to meet this most basic need of the world.

We pray for the humility to overcome our embarrassment and shame in order to remain focused on our life with You. For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

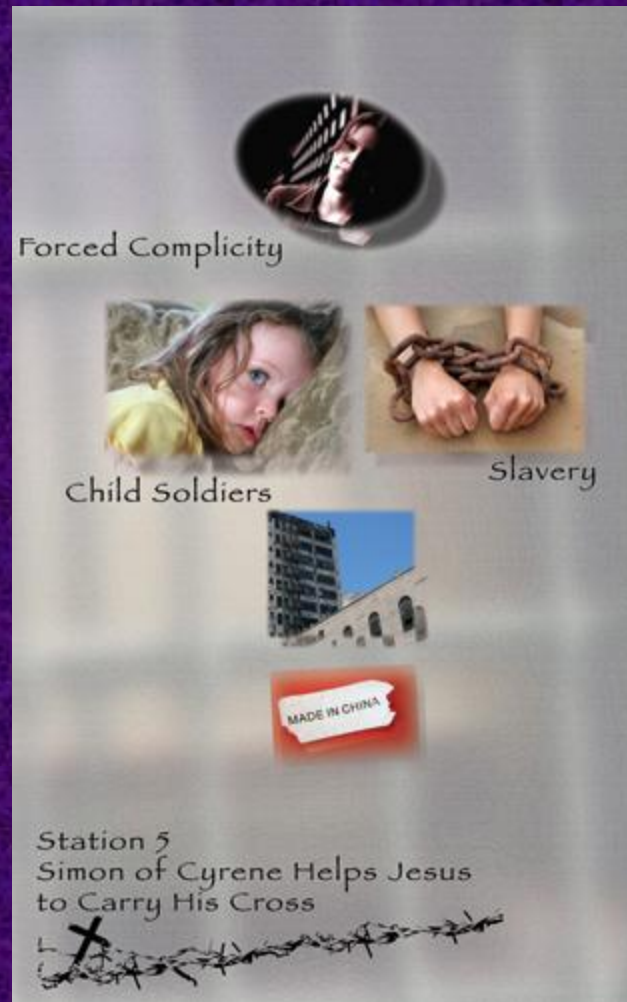
Station #4: Jesus Meets his Blessed Mother:

Impact of these issues on others, on the community. Lord Jesus, your blessed mother Mary endured your pain and suffering with a heavy heart. Upon meeting on the road to Calvary, you both hoped to find a way to ease the other's burden and pain. In our world today, we are all affected by violations of humanity—children are orphaned, families care for their loved ones, we pray for others, and like Mary, many mothers grieve for their missing, injured, or dead children.

We pray for the vision to imagine a world filled with families of love and forgiveness. For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.



Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross



Station #5: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross;

Forced complicity, slavery, child soldiers
Pulled from the crowd and forced to help you, Lord Jesus, Simon of Cyrene shared your burden upon fear of losing his own life or livelihood. Throughout our world, many are forced into work, forced into committing violence, forced into circumstances beyond imagination—sex slavery, forced labor, child made to be soldiers. Many have no choice in their life's work, and many lose any hope for their own ambitions and future. Help us to recognize their needs, ease their burdens, in order to rekindle their hopes and dreams.

We pray for the freedom to see one another as fuller human beings despite social status, profession, life situations, and affiliations. For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

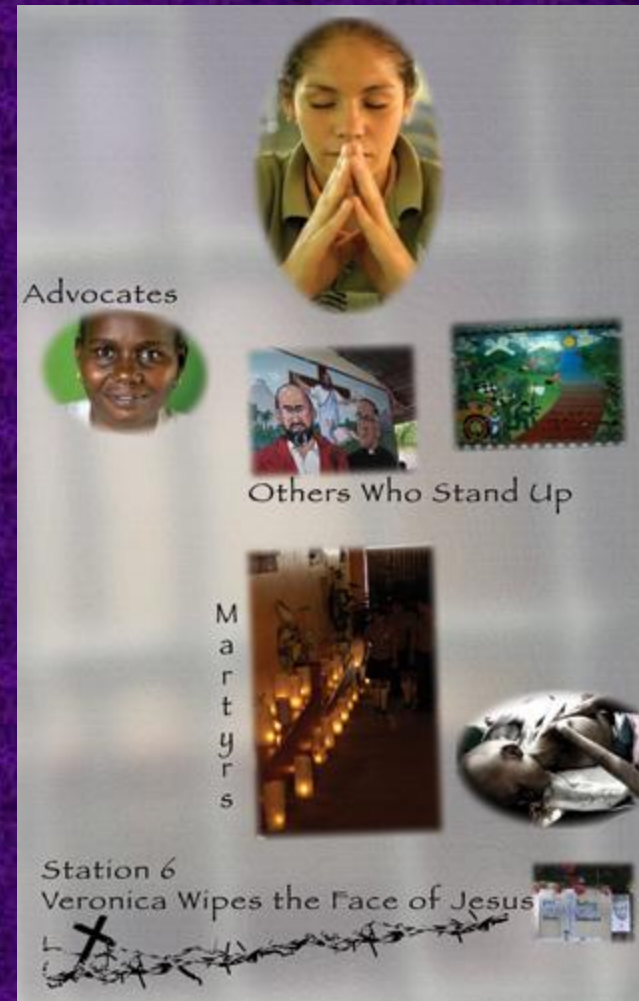
Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Station #6: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus: Others who stand up, sometimes martyred.

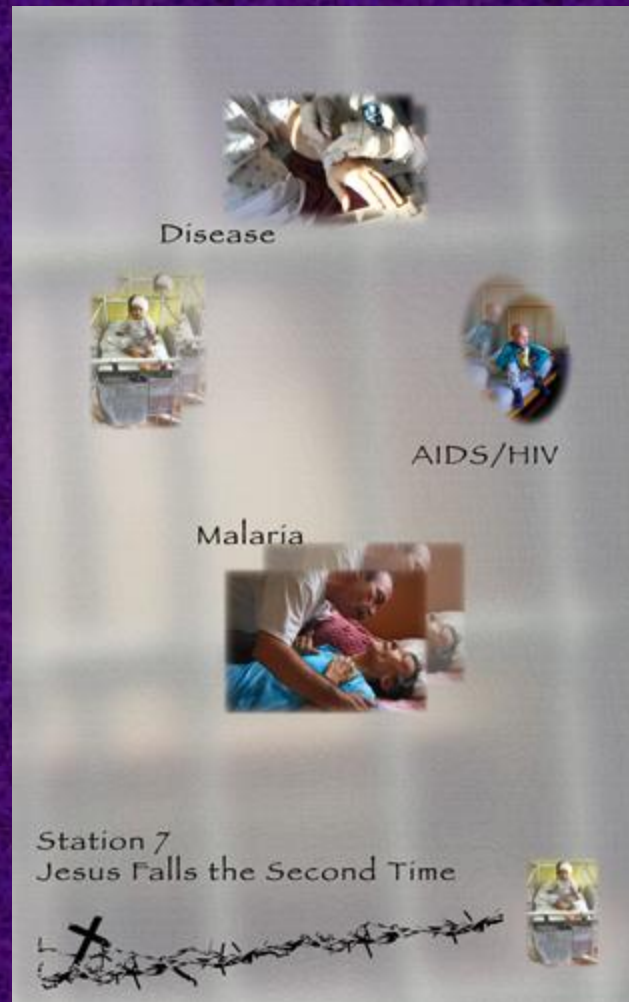
Lord Jesus, along the hot, dusty road of your journey, a young woman named Veronica comes to wipe your eyes and to cool your face—risking severe punishment from the Roman guards escorting you. Throughout our world, many men and woman have taken the chance to speak up, assist another, do what must be done to ease suffering, often to fatal consequences. These advocates and martyrs seem to have endless courage and boundless faith. Help us to have courage to do what we must do and to know that this courage comes from you.

We pray for the grace to swiftly do what is good, what is proper, and what is right for those whose lives touch ours.

For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.



Jesus Falls the Second Time



Station #7: Jesus Falls the Second Time: Disease, such as AIDS/HIV, malaria, cancer

A second painful fall on your journey to death, Lord Jesus. In our lives, sickness and disease can be heavy burdens, pushing us to our knees. Pandemics are abundant in many communities and the fear of disease is rampant in others. Medicines can be scarce, expensive, or completely unavailable. A healthy life is not a privilege only for the wealthy but a right for all of humanity. Help us to support those who battle daily the enduring pressures of disease so they may rise and feel the beauty of this world.

We pray for the strength to see God's face in the broken lives of the many people around us.

For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

Station #8: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem: Indifference: “For we who do nothing”

You met the woman of Jerusalem, weeping for you, as you carry your cross to Calvary, Lord Jesus. You demand that they weep not

for you, but turn their sorrows to the suffering of the world. Open our eyes to the state of our modern world. How often do I choose to see the suffering apparent in the world, in my community, in those close to me? How often do I act upon what I see?

How often do I say “I’m just one person, there is nothing I can do?” How often do I say “that’s not my problem!”?

If you are to do nothing, then who will?

” ...Christ has no body on Earth now but ours; no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes to see the needs of the world. Ours are the hands to with which to bless everyone now. Ours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good” --

Dorothy Stewart

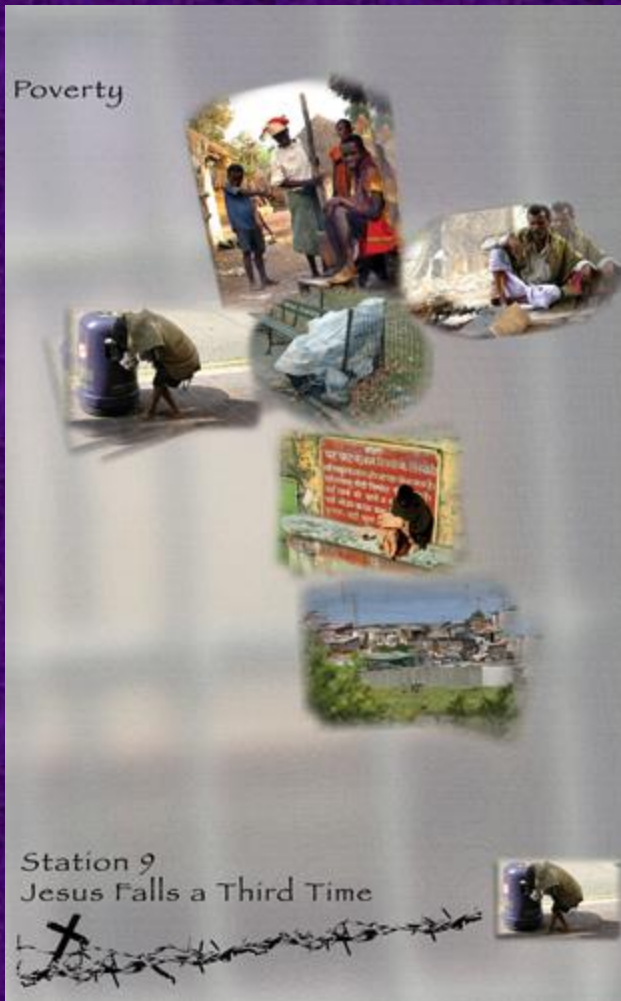
We pray for the impulse to act on our convictions with a fervor so contagious we are all lifted.

For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



Jesus Falls a Third Time



Station #9: Jesus Falls a Third Time: Poverty

Exhausted, bleeding, in agony, Lord Jesus you fall a third time. In our world, many are faced with the lack of resources to lift themselves and their families from the depths of struggle. There is great wealth given to only a few and great poverty left to so very many.

We pray for the strength to see God's face in the broken lives of the many people around us.

For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes

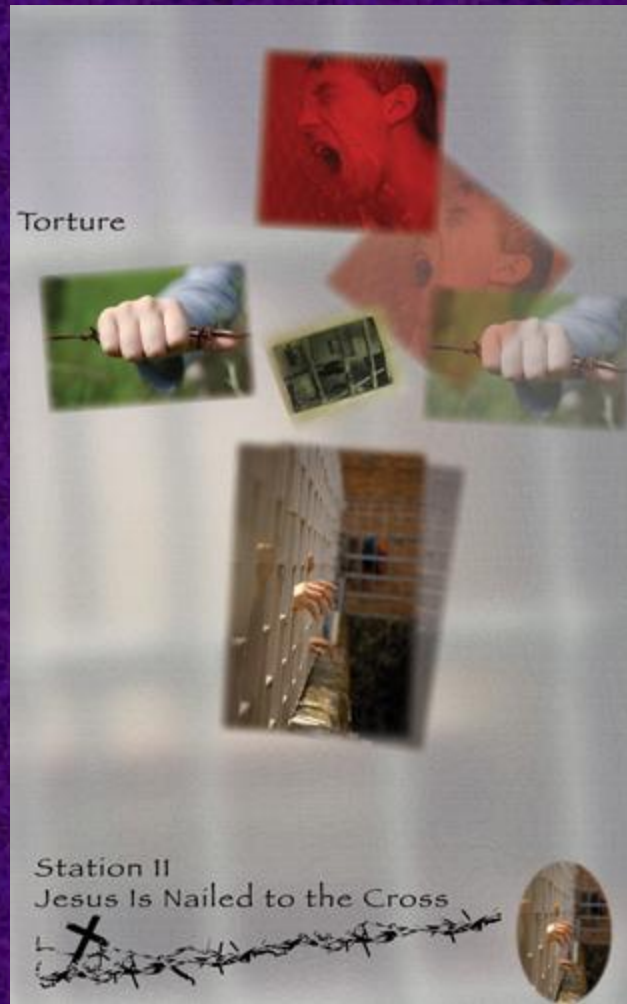
Station #10: Jesus is Stripped of his Clothing: Rape, Human Trafficking, Intimate Violence

At the end of your road, Lord Jesus, the Roman guards strip you of your clothing and human dignity. They make you an object for insult and your clothing becomes the prize in a game. So many in our world are stripped of their dignity and humanity in the process of being made an object for an abuse of power, for sexual gratification, for a release of anger.

We pray for the audacity to befriend others the way Jesus did, with loving eyes, a gentle touch, and profound generosity.
For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.



Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



Station #11: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross: Torture

Nails pierce your wrists. Nails pierce your feet. Lord Jesus, your execution is a torturous process, meant to humble you, to lower you, to make you less than human. Too many cases of torture are apparent in our modern world. Help us to learn from your experience that no person is deserving of torture, of undignified, humiliating, or painful treatment.

We pray for the perseverance to listen to one another's stories of pain and doubt so to become more compassionate and understanding.

For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

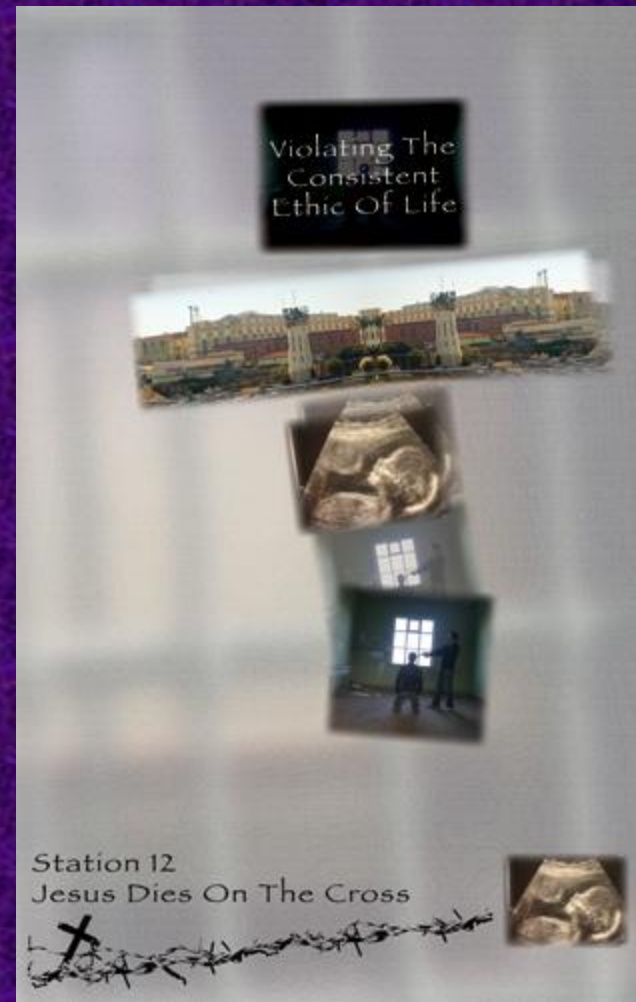
Jesus Dies on the Cross

Station #12: *Jesus Dies on the Cross:* Death Penalty and other violations of life (euthanasia, abortion, war)

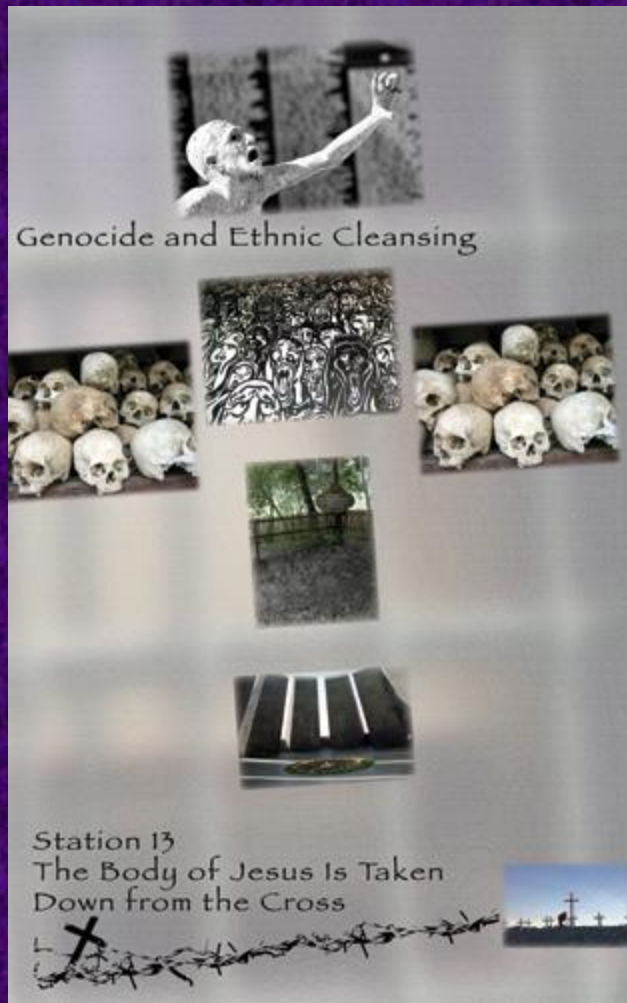
After many hours, you pronounce the end and commend your spirit to your father in heaven. Death on a cross—a life extinguished. Lives are extinguished in many forms in our world. Life is a gift, from you, Lord Jesus. Let us remember that being alive and living a life are not mutually exclusive, that protection of human rights affords all a life well-lived.

We pray for the diligence to recognize that choosing life ALWAYS begins with us but does not end with us.

For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.



The Body of Jesus is taken down from the Cross



Station #13: The Body of Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross: Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing

Lord Jesus, your body removed from the cross and placed in the care of your loved ones, is prepared and laid in a donated tomb. The bodies of those killed in events of genocide or ethnic cleansing are often placed in mass graves, without reverence or preparation. Men and women, boys and girls killed simply for being who they are.

We pray for sorrow as we grieve the loss of life due to ignorance, hatred, and fear. For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

Station #14: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb: Grief and Despair

As the stone is rolled over your tomb, Lord Jesus, your loved ones leave to prepare for the Sabbath. They grieve the loss of their most precious friend and beloved Son and brother. Despair and grief are ever-present today. Lost of life, love, home, family, identity, community and hope can break us. We need to share in the mourning, divide the despair, and conquer fear together.

We pray for strength to be present to one another especially in times of doubt, confusion, and despair.

For this we pray: God among us, hear our prayer.

