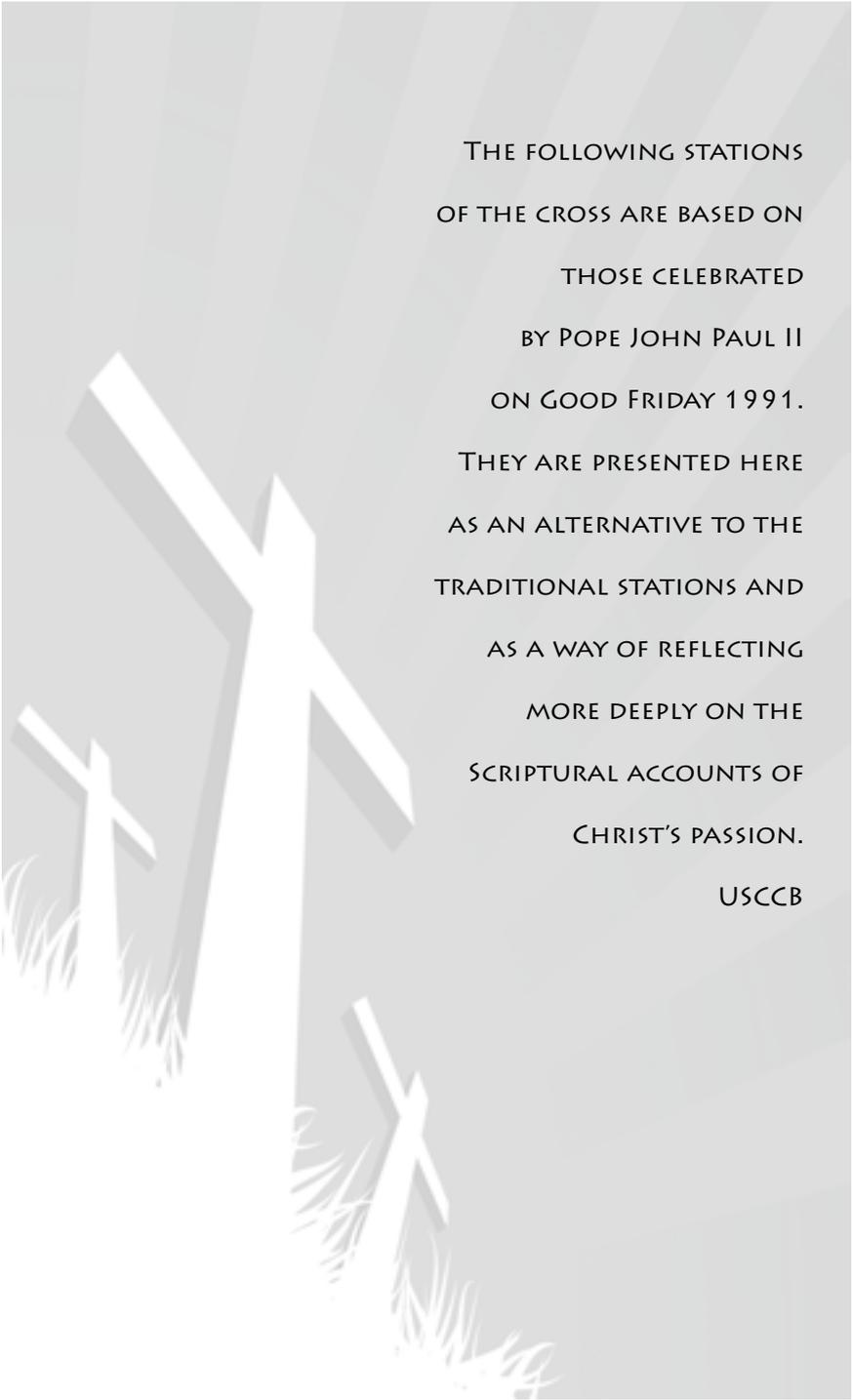


REFLECTIONS ON THE  
SCRIPTURAL STATIONS  
OF THE CROSS

BY FRANCISCORPS  
VOLUNTEERS





THE FOLLOWING STATIONS  
OF THE CROSS ARE BASED ON  
THOSE CELEBRATED  
BY POPE JOHN PAUL II  
ON GOOD FRIDAY 1991.  
THEY ARE PRESENTED HERE  
AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE  
TRADITIONAL STATIONS AND  
AS A WAY OF REFLECTING  
MORE DEEPLY ON THE  
SCRIPTURAL ACCOUNTS OF  
CHRIST'S PASSION.

USCCB

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## ***First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane***

*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." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:36-41)*

### ***A reflection by Sam Kareff***

During our orientation with FrancisCorp in Costa Rica, we visited all six worksites as a community. I remember that Casie's and my worksite, La Fundación Hogar Manos Abiertas (a home for abandoned disabled persons), was the last stop of that long and hot day. On top of that, it seemed that a Costa Rican at almost every other worksite we had previously visited seemed to be shocked that we were given such a "difficult" placement. I tried hiding this preoccupation in the back of my mind as we entered.

After a brief introduction and welcome session, the head of the organization, Hermana Marlene, led us through a tour of the foundation. We walked down the hallways of the "hospital," the building where the majority of the foundation's terminal residents lived; we saw the network of houses where the foundation's more independent residents stayed; and we even met some of the foundation's most integral members, such as those from the maintenance, therapy, and kitchen teams.

Despite this warm welcome, however, I remember feeling quite nervous from what I had seen that day. I had never worked with physical disability before, so the prospect of serving so many with special needs was quite daunting. Fortunately, within a few weeks, I became accustomed to the diversity of the residents of the foundation and was able to overcome my unfounded fears of my placement.

What happened next is hard to describe in words. As I continued getting to know and starting to love those whom I served, I began to stop viewing their special needs as disabilities and instead saw them as blessings. More specifically, the residents consistently amazed me by how much they were able to convey with few (if any) words and by their desires to live "normal" lives and be treated like the dignified human beings they are. They would laugh at me whenever I made a mistake during meal times, smile at me



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whenever I made a joke, and become annoyed with me if I did not give them the time or space to express themselves fully.

While it is true that the majority of the residents require significant amounts of daily care and assistance in order to function, it would be quite erroneous to claim that they suffer from weak flesh. Moreover, in the short amount of time I have been blessed to share with these children, women, and men, their contagious, bright attitudes and humors have positively influenced my own to a degree I could never have imagined. While I was able to overcome the initial shock on my own, the residents' willing spirits have been key during my continuous transition as a FrancisCorps volunteer. Without them, I would not be able to overcome my own weak flesh—no matter how willing my young volunteer spirit might be.

***Jesus, give me the insight to recognize your presence and the courage to face whatever challenges may come into my life.***



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## ***Second Station: Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested***

*Then, while [Jesus] was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "the man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. (Mark 14: 43-46)*

### ***A reflection by Friar Rick Riccioli***

The doorbell rings. "Hello friar! I wonder if you can help me. You see I was on my way to visit my sick mother when my car broke down. I need money for a bus ticket. Could you please help me?" So what do I do? Is the story true? Probably not? Do I feel betrayed if the person goes on to use the money to buy beer or cigarettes? Well, possibly... But like Jesus, I am called to love unconditionally and to forgive .... even those who betray us.

But how come it is the "beggar" who first comes to mind when I think of betrayal? Is the fact that our society has chosen to push those with mental health problems out of hospitals and into the local community without adequate services not a form of betrayal? Does an economy that fails to promote adequate job growth in areas of great unemployment or who offers only feeble jobs below a living wage not also a form of betrayal?

What about me? When I choose to use harsh chemicals to clean my bathroom or when I pour old paint down the sewer or throw expired medications in the toilet bowl or used batteries in the garbage am I not betraying the earth, which was given to me by God as my sister, my mother... is that not a betrayal?

It seems to me that betrayal comes down to being unfaithful to the relationship that's supposed to exist between me and the others in my life. God calls me to a relationships of mutuality and interdependence. I'm really, actually supposed to be my sister's, my brother's keeper. When I fail to remember that, I betray them and I betray my God. The Good News is that just as he did for Judas; Jesus is always ready to forgive me.

***Jesus, help me to know the beauty and truth of my relationship  
with my neighbors, with creation and ultimately with you.***



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### ***Third Station: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin.***

*When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." They all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth." (Luke 22: 66-71)*

### ***A reflection by Lauren Melaugh***

"Why are you here?" It is a simple question that many people have asked me over the past seven months in Costa Rica, but there is no answer that fully explains why I feel so blessed to be here. In Costa Rica, it is extremely uncommon to willingly spend a year living without a paycheck, the comforts of home, and your family in order to speak a language that is not my own and to work alongside the poor and the marginalized. St. Francis inspired Christians to "preach the gospel, if necessary, use words" and I believe I show my faith and the reasons why I feel called to be here can best be expressed through my actions with the children and mothers of La Posada de Belén (a home for teen moms and their children). The smiles on the 4 year olds' faces when they correctly sing a song in English for the first time or when the mothers hug me after receiving a good grade on a test can best answer their question. When the council of Sanhedrin interrogated Jesus if He was the Son of God, He did not need to explain Himself and humbly responds with "you say that I am." Jesus could not explain what was illogical to the council and I cannot articulate how many moments of love, patience, and humility I have been blessed with this year. I have grown closer to God by experiencing the challenges and triumphs of others and I have understood my life more clearly by examining many different points of view. These unique gifts from God are more apparent and important than any of the challenges or sacrifices I have had to make, and to me, this year makes complete sense.

***Jesus, save me from my doubts. Help me to know that wherever I am and whatever I face, I can make a difference if I am true to my relationship with you.***



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## ***Forth Station Jesus is denied by Peter:***

*Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly. (Matthew 26: 69-75)*

## ***A reflection by Michael Hyde***

How could Peter possibly deny Jesus? This is the question that comes to my mind when I think about this station. But when I try and put myself in Peter's shoes my perspective changes. I think about the situation surrounding the arrest of Jesus. The fear that Peter and all of the Apostles must have been overwhelming. Peter is confronted after he saw Jesus dragged away in chains. This must have been shocking to Peter. During this year I have seen many shocking things but nothing compares to the shock that Peter must have felt. This year as I work on bringing more fresh produce to the poor I have been faced with many shocking situations. Such as parents who do not have access to basic produce to feed to their children. They are forced to feed their children food that contains only sugar and fat. There are times where I feel like giving up and taking on an easier task. But I am as we all are called to help those in need even when it is most difficult. The Lenten season is one of repentance and a time of embracing the love of Christ. This lent can we say to ourselves that we truly embraced Christ more deeply? Lent is a time of looking at our own lives more deeply. As we transition out of Lent it is important to ask ourselves everyday if we are truly bringing Christ to those who are most in need of his redeeming Grace.

***Jesus, with your love in my heart, I will be able to stand by those in my life who suffer and I will not abandon them.***



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## ***Fifth Station: Jesus is Judged by Pilate.***

*The chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He said to him in reply, “You say so.” The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.” Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. .... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barrabas.... [and] banded [Jesus] over to be crucified. (Mark 15: 1-5, 15)*

## ***A reflection by Grace Koleczek***

More often than not, at work I am constantly moving: always busy getting snack ready, taking someone to physical therapy, or helping someone in the bathroom. Unfortunately many times I get caught up in those tasks and forget to attend to the less tangible, pressing needs of the ladies whom I serve. One señora named Dora is known by many of my coworkers for her almost never-ending need for attention, which frustrates them (for being interrupted all day) and frustrates her (for being ignored or asked to wait). I specifically remember one time when Dora was asking me to go for a walk, but I was running behind schedule and was trying to tell her I'd hopefully be able to take her later. A coworker told Dora to stop bothering me because I was busy. I was shocked, but I also realized that the general attitude of annoyance towards her had rubbed off on me, at least partially. I, too, had begun to perceive Dora as overly clingy and needy based off of how my coworkers talked about her, and because of that, I forgot that Dora has a story, has a personality, and has feelings—she can't just be written off and condemned as “the bothersome señora.” While I can't always fulfill Dora's needs right away or even at all, going into our interactions without judgment and without preconceptions has proved more rewarding in developing a relationship with her. Jesus was condemned to death when Pilate was more attentive to the desires of the angry, jealous, and judgmental crowd. For me, Jesus' condemnation is a call to open-heartedly embrace others for who they are, where they are—to not treat them as less than fully human merely because it is easier to pass judgment first.

***Jesus, your unconditional love for me, a sinner,  
helps me to live the words of Pope Francis: “Who am I to judge?”***



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## ***Sixth Station: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns***

*Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. (John 19: 1-3)*

### ***A reflection by Casie James***

Francisco should not be at Manos Abiertas (a home for abandoned disabled persons). Our lives should never have crossed. He was not handicapped from birth, and he could have lived his whole life without ever becoming disabled. But his father was abusive. In a fit of rage one night, Francisco's father failed to recognize his son as a human being worthy of life. Francisco nearly did not survive the attack. If you were to see him now, you would have no idea that the smile full of joy and love was once covered in bruises and blood. Much like Francisco, Jesus was singled out for being Himself. He was mocked and beaten, and left to complete His journey more broken than before.

***Jesus, when I encounter situations of people's dignity being violated by violence, by bullying or discrimination, I will always think of you. Help me to do what I can to stand up for my brothers and sisters as I would for you.***



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## ***Seventh Station: Jesus Bears the Cross***

*When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him.” .... They cried out, “Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your king?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. (John 19: 6, 15-17)*

### ***A reflection by Josselin Garibo***

The station that I chose was “Jesus bears the cross”. When I read the excerpt I thought about the kids I work with and their families . . . and their refugee families who have come to Syracuse. They have left their homeland because it’s too dangerous to live there but yet they would rather be there because they say the people here are mean. A lot of the teens and elementary refugee children do not like going to school because of the bullies. Some of them have been hit, called names and even chased. I try to tell them not to use violence against those people harassing them but it’s hard to change the mind of a kid who says they are beaten up for not doing anything, just not being from here. They are being bullied because they are refugees and don’t speak English and are told to go back to their country. All of the families I’ve spoken to say they would rather be in their own country if it was not bad there. This is not something they have chosen but have had to do in order to survive. One of the crosses I have this year is working with a population who sometimes I will not be able to help.

***Jesus, as I carry my own cross, give me the peace not to hold on to grudges or to be jealous of others whose lives seem easier than mine. Help me to trust in you.***



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## ***Eighth Station: Jesus is Helped by Simon the Cyrenian to Carry the Cross***

*They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. (Mark 15: 21)*

### ***A reflection by Reagan Mills***

I love this image—Simon, unaware of what is about to be asked of him, is on his way home. He is an ordinary man: a father of two boys, coming in from the country—in no way is he exemplary, except in the fact that he say “Yes” to carry Jesus’ cross. What is even more remarkable is that it seems to indicate that at first he was unwilling; “They pressed in to service. . .” this implies a begging, a pushing, a strong urging of action, an indication that Simon was hesitant to carry the burden that was presented to him, but he did it anyway.

I chose this station because I, too, was caught unaware and suddenly found myself carrying someone else’s burden. In the beginning of the year there was a young girl named Maria who would often come to the Soup Kitchen. We began talking and I learned more about her life; I got the sense that she was hungry for attention and love. I suggested that we have coffee together but that idea was denied by my boss. He insisted that there be structure should more girls would want to join as well as giving order to the ministry. I developed a mentoring program designed to empower young women and to let them know they are capable of great dreams and achievements. Things went smoothly for a little while—Maria and I would go over homework, discuss goals, hopes for the future, and any troubles that she had at home. I found myself shifting from simply being a listening ear to suddenly bearing the burden of her mentally ill mother, and absent father, along with worrying about her lagging attendance and bullying at school. Our meetings eventually ended because her home situation became too unstable, and there was talk of moving. Like Simon the Cyrenian, I was a passer-by in Maria’s life but I said “Yes” to help her carry her cross a little ways in her journey.

***Jesus, help me remember that, with your help, I do have what it takes to soothe my neighbor’s pain and to help shoulder the burden.***



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## ***Ninth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem***

*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, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?" (Luke 23: 27-31)*

### ***A reflection By Cassie Schemmel***

It was one of those days - Hot, tiring and stressful. As I sat down in the chapel . . . in the chapel of this home for teen mothers, I was feeling defeated . . . feeling defeated by the project in front of me, one of the mothers sat down next to me. As we talked, she began to share her story. It was the first of too many heart-breaking stories and as I watched this young girl tell me a story of rape and suffering and betrayal, I wept. As I cried, she put her hands on my back and told me that though it was a hard journey, she loved her daughter so much. Just like the women, I wept for the suffering that was in front of me, but she pushed me to look at the joy and gift that was born through her pain. On his walk to Calvary, Jesus does not take the pity of the women, but instead points them forward. He calls them to look to their sin and the salvation and hope that only His death can bring.

***Jesus, don't leave me weeping and afraid in the midst of my problems and those of my family and friends. Give me hope to face the future with you at my side.***



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## ***Tenth Station: Jesus is Crucified***

*When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] (Luke 23: 33-34)*

### ***A reflection by Taylor Shorten***

The first time I was handed the lice shampoo and fine-toothed comb, I gave a confused look to my boss, Doña Miritos. I had never had lice and I certainly didn't know how to clean them from another person's scalp. As Doña Miritos walked me through the process with one of the infected girls, goose bumps rose on my skin as dozens of small bugs emerged out of her hair and into the sink. I couldn't believe a child had been neglected long enough to accumulate this kind of infestation. Six months later, I don't give a second thought to cleaning lice at Al Niño con Cariño. It is as consistent as my twelve o'clock lunchtime. While going home to their families on the weekends is a beautiful and unique part of the project, it also means the girls return to lice-infested homes and mothers who don't have the ability or desire to give treatment. It was explained to me that many of the girls come from families with eight or nine children where one child could be easily overlooked, and that some girls had mothers who just didn't care to participate in the undesirable job of cleaning lice. My first reaction to this information was anger and frustration at the mothers, and it surprised me how quickly I was able to make snap judgments of them. However, taking a step back I asked to be able to see these women as God sees them. As God in flesh form was crucified on the cross, He calls out for His father to forgive the thieves to his right and left. In His most painful moment, He has a heart only for love and reconciliation. God calls us to have merciful hearts as well, to forgive all as He has forgiven us. Like the crucifixion of Jesus, a painful and unpleasant situation can be transformed into an act of love and mercy when we choose to obey this call.

***Jesus, I'm not sure I can forgive the way you do. But I know I must.  
Save me from my fear of letting go. Heal my heart so that I can  
forgive those who have hurt me.***



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## ***Eleventh Station: Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief***

*Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23: 39-43)*

### ***A reflection by Simon Pearson***

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"The passage from Luke describing Jesus' promise of his kingdom to the good thief inspires me to allow myself to be transformed through service this year with FrancisCorps. Picture it this way: if there are two thieves, one good and one bad, there are two possible outcomes present—good or bad. If Christ is in the middle of all of it, then the choice is ours to turn our faces to Him, to serve him with our thoughts, words, and deeds, or to "revile" him, as the scripture terms it. For surely Christ is in the middle of all things, and to entertain the thought that we may separate ourselves from an encounter with Him would deny our reality. In service to those who have less—the marginalized, scorned, and even forgotten—I turn my face toward Christ. In His perfect sacrifice, I see a promise of kingdom. In this kingdom, He calls us to service, to sincere effort towards those for whom He came to die. Accepting that there is a debt to be paid on account of my transgression lifts my face toward the solution, toward Christ. In knowing this sacrifice, I open myself to the promise of His kingdom, and in service I find the steps to take toward Him."

***Every time I give food to a stranger, or care for my family or help my co-worker or friend I am also turning my face towards you and saying yes to your promise. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.***



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## ***Twelfth Station: Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple***

*Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. John 19: 25-27*

### ***A reflection by Mairead Rauch***

When a person dies, their family puts their affairs in order: the bills are paid, the house is sold, the inheritance divided, and the odds and ends are kept as keepsakes or donated. These things are all necessary and help the family to accept the loss of a loved one. And yet, too often, we leave the fate of our spiritual and social inheritance to chance.

At Francis House, families have time to gather around the dying man or woman and really think. Often enough, the one lying in the bed has held the family together. Maybe she acted as mediator when old rivalries surfaced, or gathered everyone together for the holidays. Maybe he eased the tension or enlivened get-togethers. With her impending death, these things come into focus. This can be a time to affirm the dying person. It can also be a time to prepare for the day when he has passed on. At the bedside, the family can rebuild burnt bridges and let her know that the love she has given them will continue when she's gone. In return, he has the opportunity to give the counsel and words of comfort that will help them heal.

Jesus did a bit of this before He died. While nailed to the cross, He gave His mother a wonderful gift to help her heal after His passing. He did not tell the disciple to take her in, or to make sure she was doing okay. He told him to adopt her as his mother, with all of the responsibilities and, more importantly, love that entails. Jesus made sure that the fruit of his relationship with Mary would not be wasted. The disciple would not be a caretaker who ensured that her bills were paid; he was a son who would listen to her counsel and share in her joys and sorrows.

***Thank You Jesus, for the people you have placed in my life who have been like a mother or father to me. Thanks for those who have been as faithful as a good son or daughter.***



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## ***Thirteenth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross.***

*It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last. (Luke 23: 44-46)*

### ***A reflection by Sister Caryn Crook***

Good Friday. I never liked this day. For me it is a day of guilt, of that sick feeling in the pit of my stomach. Contemplating the torture, defilement, and death of Jesus with his family and friends standing around powerless to change anything fills me with sorrow and foreboding. What is good about it? I am on my way to New York City to participate in the United Nations gatherings on Mining and Human Trafficking.

It feels like Good Friday. I have that same feeling in my stomach and I am filled with dread. How can I be open to the stories of torture, dehumanization, and death of innocence without closing down? I want to put a wall around me to protect my innermost self from having to enter into their stories of torture. It seems too much to handle. Then it hits me. It is their Good Friday. The victims of human trafficking, either forced labor or the sex trade, are on the cross.

Just as St. Clare tells us to gaze at the cross, consider the cross, contemplate the cross so that we can imitate our Savior we are called to acknowledge that Human trafficking is occurring, a 32 billion dollar a year industry with over 21 million victims.

***Jesus, when I meet someone who has been used and abused, enlighten me to consider their pain by listening to their stories, to contemplate ways to stop it and see how I contribute to it.***

***Empower me to imitate you in liberating them, healing them and loving them. May I help give them the ability to re-enter our communities with their heads held high.***



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## ***Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb.***

*When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it [in] clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. (Matthew 27: 57-60)*

### ***A reflection by Taylor Martin***

The story of putting Jesus in the tomb and closing it demonstrates to me our human inability to understand God's plans. Joseph did not understand the resurrection as he prepared the body and the tomb. I think this story reminds us how we cannot always understand God's plans, but to know that through faith, we can trust that what should be revealed to us will be in time.

This story brings to mind an experience I have had working at Rostro de María, the community center for "at-risk" families. I spend my afternoons tutoring middle school and high school students in a variety of subjects. One of my students, Juan, started coming at the end of last year. He was one of my most difficult students, constantly creating problems and making it impossible for me to work with anyone else. I found myself very frustrated and just trying to find ways to occupy him so I could focus on the others. Due to my increasing frustration, I began channeling it into prayer, asking God to help me better understand him and our relationship.

Over the course of two months, I did not realize that my prayers have truly changed my relationship with him. God has been allowing me to look past my frustrations and see him as a little boy with more love than I ever knew. He has become the face I see in my prayers before I go to bed and my motivation as I get out of bed each morning. He has become the biggest reason I fear the end of the year here at FrancisCorps. Juan's presence in my life was initially misunderstood, but as I prayed and waited, God has revealed him as a source energy and love every day.

***Jesus, as I come to the end of this meditation on your Passion, give me the patience to wait for your Resurrection at Easter and also in the moments of pain in my own life.***





"WE ADORE YOU, LORD  
JESUS CHRIST, HERE AND  
IN ALL YOUR CHURCHES  
THROUGHOUT THE  
WHOLE WORLD,  
AND WE BLESS YOU,  
BECAUSE BY YOUR  
HOLY CROSS YOU  
HAVE REDEEMED  
THE WORLD."  
AMEN.  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



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Reflections on Pope John Paul II's Scriptural Stations of the Cross  
by young-adults participating in a year of service with FrancisCorps.  
FrancisCorps volunteers are recent college graduates who have chosen  
to live a year of Gospel service; caring for the poor and living a lay  
Franciscan community life. There are volunteers in Syracuse, NY  
and in Alajuela, Costa Rica.

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