

Let Us Not Grow Tired of Doing Good Lent 2022

Introduction

The Way of the Cross reminds us that love always triumphs over death. This is a good reminder for Caritas, who has been an unwavering presence in the most desperate situations around the world for the past 70 years. Caritas always responds with care and compassion. In doing so, we bring love into these places where, on the surface, many see only pain and despair. Each act of love that Caritas can accomplish in these places is a small victory of love over death. And each act, each volunteer, each staff member adds up.

'Let us not grow tired of doing good' is the message that Caritas, inspired by Pope Francis' 2022 Lenten Message, is calling on all of us to keep in our hearts this Lenten season. For many, it seems that the world is facing more crises than ever before. That's why this message is more important than ever before – if there are more crises in the world, then the world needs Caritas more than ever to bring love, care, and compassion into the world. We must never lose hope that our actions do have an impact. We must never grow tired of doing good.

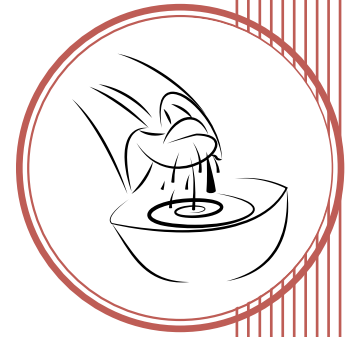
In this global Way of the Cross, we will visit projects and initiatives organized by Caritas Youth in different countries across our confederation. We hope that encountering these inspiring young people will add to your journey of spiritual renewal this Lenten season, and will motivate you to always choose to do good.

LENT 2022

1st Station:

Jesus is Condemned to Death

Call to Action: Make space for youth to drive positive change in your community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds... "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. (...) and he handed Jesus over as they wished. (Luke 23:4,22-25)

Reflection

Pilate was swayed by the crowds to hand over Jesus to be crucified, even though his initial instinct was to declare him innocent and set him free. What injustice have you seen lately? Did you help, or did you let your instincts be dissolved by the crowds of people who wash their hands saying "What could I possibly do to help?" or "This is the way things are and I cannot change them"? A pillar of Caritas' mission is to see injustices, judge them using our faith as a guide, and act to address them – even in small ways. Even better when we can encourage others to do the same!

Testimony from Caritas Mauritius

After participating in a Young Caritas event organized with the Bishop Episcopal Conference of the Indian Ocean and Madagascar in 2019, seven young volunteers from Ile Maurice decided to create a platform to connect young volunteers in their community. The group felt the need to share Caritas' Values among the youth Mauritius. The Coordinator of the platform, Nicolas Nanette, says, "Our goal is to gather all the young Volunteers of Caritas on the same platform, but also to reach out young people in their routine and to give them the opportunity to serve the poor. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35)."



2nd Station:

Jesus Carries His Cross

Call to action: Care for our Common Home by joining forces with



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

And carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. (John 19:17)

Reflection

We all have crosses that we must carry throughout our lives. For example, humanity bears the cross of a changing climate, which is becoming heavier and heavier each year. Unfortunately, we know that this cross is heaviest for those who contribute the least to the degradation of the planet. In what ways do you make this cross heavier for others? In what ways do you share the load? Is it still possible to make this cross lighter?

Testimony from Caritas Oceania

"The people of Oceania are constantly being affected by the effects of climate change. Recent extreme weather events have caused loss of life and livelihoods for the most vulnerable including the recent volcanic eruption in Tonga, the floods in Queensland and New South Wales in Australia, the floods in Auckland New Zealand, and the continuous rise of sea levels across the Pacific. The youth of Caritas Oceania are responding to the climate crises by creating a space for dialogue and discussion by hosting an Online Youth Forum during Laudato Si' week in May 2022. We will discuss ways that we can take action while also acknowledging their connections to the sacred space that we each stand on." (by Romina Martiniello, Animator at Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, bless the hands and feet
of those who have joined together in Communities of Care to care for our common home.
Help us to always remember that the changing climate is a cross that we all must bear equally.
Amen.



3rd Station:

Jesus Falls for the First Time

Call to action: Help to build a post-Covid world that is just for all



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4-6).

Reflection

When disaster strikes and people and communities are struck down, Caritas is ready to respond quickly and to help communities to get back on their feet. Sometimes we see disasters strike people and communities multiple times before they have a chance to stand again, as we saw with the Covid-19 Pandemic. How did you see people being disproportionately affected by the pandemic? Was everyone's recovery path the same? Was the dignity of each person respected?

Testimony from Caritas Bangladesh

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck the Rohingya refugee camps and adjacent host communities in Bangladesh, it was striking a community that was already undergoing traumatic hardship. Caritas Bangladesh saw this as an opportunity to create a social awareness group and volunteer positions that would give young people the chance to serve vulnerable communities. Young volunteers (including refugees themselves) have supported Caritas' pandemic response among Rohingya refugee communities and beyond by staging street drama to raise awareness about vaccination, physical distancing and following health guidelines. Many youth report that serving others during the pandemic has reduced their own stress.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, be with those who have been struck down by emergency situations.

Heal the wounded, and comfort the grieving.

Bless them with the strength and courage

To rise again and stand on their own two feet. Amen.



4th Station:

Jesus Meets His Blessed Mother

Call to action: Ensure the equal participation of women in your community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too. (Luke 2:33-35)

Reflection

How wonderful are mothers! Caritas knows that by supporting and empowering mothers, we are supporting and empowering entire communities. In what ways do you see mothers as leaders in your community? What type of extra support could make their efforts even more impactful? Be sure to tell your own mother or a mother-figure in your life that you appreciate her.

Testimony from Caritas Venezuela

Through their Nutritional Recovery Nurseries, Caritas Venezuela has provided therapeutic nutrition treatment to tens of thousands of pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and families who are experiencing malnutrition. The economic deterioration of Venezuela has thrown millions into poverty, which has resulted in an unprecedented crisis of malnutrition in Venezuelan families. Caritas Venezuela provides individualized nutrition plans and food to those who register in their Nurseries, which operate with the help of doctors and volunteers (many of whom are mothers themselves!). These nurseries not only provide food and nutrition, but also hope for mothers looking for a brighter future for their children.

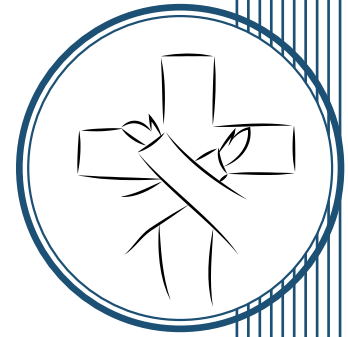
Prayer

Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for mothers
Who accompany not only their own children
but all members of their communities.
Help them to always be a force for good,
And a source of hope and comfort to us all. Amen.



5th Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

Call to action: Make space for youth to drive positive change in your community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

As they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23:26)

Reflection

Pope Francis tells us that we must encounter the poor in three ways: by serving, accompanying, and defending them. Just like Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus to carry his cross, encountering the poor in these ways helps them to carry the burdens they bear through this life. Do you feel that the poor in your community are given the space to speak for themselves? Can you commit to making an effort to always ensure that the voices of the poor are amplified?

Testimony from Development & Peace – Caritas Canada

Through the Development & Peace Schools Program, student groups in the Canadian province of Ontario earn badges for participating in social and ecological justice activities. For example, students can earn the 'Petition Magician' badge by collecting signatures on petitions addressed to the Canadian government to create laws and policies that address social and ecological issues. This year, students are collecting signatures on a petition for the government to hold Canadian mining companies accountable for the abuses that they commit abroad. Students at St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Oakville) and Notre Dame College School (Welland) have collected over 1,200 signatures so far – which will be added to thousands more from across the country!

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we ask that you help us to see the value

Of letting ourselves be evangelized by the poor.

Open our eyes to see those who need our assistance,

And bless us with the strength, courage and patience to always stop and help. Amen.



Development & Peace – Caritas Canada Club,
St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Oakville)



Jake Horton (Grade 12) presents petition signatures to Member of
Parliament Vance Badaway (Notre Dame College School, Welland)

6th Station: Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face

Call to action: Ensure the equal participation of women in your community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it to me" (Matthew 25:37-40).

Reflection

Volunteers are at the heart of Caritas' work all around the world. Their work is an inspiring balance of the extraordinary and the ordinary – initiatives that can change entire communities, and compassionate gestures that can change a single person's outlook on life. Simple gestures, such as Veronica wiping Jesus' face, may not change the world – but they may change the world for one person. Have you committed an act of kindness like this today?

Testimony from Caritas Singapore

"In the past decade since the inception of the Caritas Singapore Young Adults Committee, the previous heads of the committee have been male. I took over the chairmanship of the committee in 2021, as the first female chair of the committee. I am greatly blessed to have the honour of leading my committee of young men and women in driving social purpose and action among Catholic youth, without any impediment caused by my gender. In a world often ruled by fear and indifference, our unique gifts and experiences as women allow us to serve as strong and compassionate leaders - a much-needed counterpoint that bears witness to our Lord's love for all people." (by Celeste Wee, chair of the Caritas Singapore Young Adults Committee, second from right in photo)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to see value in even the simplest gestures

That reveal your love to others.

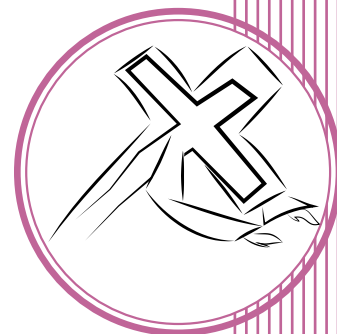
Let us never grow tired of extending our hands



7th Station:

Jesus Falls for the Second Time

Call to action: Build a world of peace, starting in your own community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

“Come to me all you who labour, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

Reflection

At this station, we see Jesus fall a second time – weary and weighed down by his journey. Around the world, we see that communities, too, are more likely to fall if they are weary and weighted by existing injustices. That’s why Caritas seeks to not only build back communities after an emergency, but to build back stronger, more resilient communities. Do you live in a vulnerable community? If so, how can you contribute to strengthening it? If not, how can you support vulnerable communities?

Testimony from Caritas Lebanon

When an explosion at the Port of Beirut rocked the city on 4 August 2020, it immediately left approximately 300,000 people homeless. Many Lebanese people were already suffering as a result of the country’s political and economic crisis. Caritas Lebanon Youth volunteers immediately sprung into action, and in addition to responding to the immediate needs of those affected by the disaster, teams of young people began renovating salvageable homes so that families could move back in. According to one beneficiary, “I wouldn’t know from where to start without the intervention of Caritas Lebanon’s team, to help us renovate the house and put a central door and new windows with its frames, as well as to equip the apartment with all the necessary electrical appliances that were stolen during the explosion.”

Prayer

Lord Jesus, bless those who live in communities that are vulnerable.

Help them to find strength in each other.

If they do fall, always bless them with the strength

To rise again.

Help them to never give up on building peace. Amen.



8th Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Call to action: Ensure the equal participation of women in your community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." (Luke 23:27-28)

Reflection

Jesus tells the women of Jerusalem not to weep for him, but for themselves and their children – looking forward to the next generation. Caritas around the world supports women, who gracefully do their work with this forward-looking eye. Who do you want to ensure a healthy, peaceful world for? Do you ever think of doing good for those who aren't even born yet?

Testimony from Caritas Mthatha (South Africa)

In March 2018 Caritas Mthatha with the Catholic Development Centre initiated a program in South Africa called the Masiphunge Women Empowerment Program. Masiphunge is a Xhosa word meaning "Come let's have a cup of tea together". The concept is based on an idea that women used to drink tea together and began to share important information or gossip amongst themselves. These were fruitful gatherings. The increase in Gender-Based Violence and Femicide coupled with the positioning of women in society made Caritas Mthatha and the Catholic Development Centre see the idea of bringing women, in particular women leaders, together over a cup of tea as a way to enhance leadership skills, provide a platform for women's participation and ensure that women have an equal space in all matters of society.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to build a healthy present in our communities
While always keeping one eye pointed at the future,
So that our efforts today may bear fruit not only now,
But also for generations to come. Amen.



9th Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time

Call to action: Care for our Common Home by joining forces with



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

For nothing will be impossible with God. Then Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:37-38)

Reflection

It is often in the most dire and desperate situations that we witness the most inspiring miracles. Jesus was able to summon the strength to rise after falling, absolutely exhausted, for a third time. How many communities have you seen rise up again and again, after experiencing hardship upon hardship? How are you inspired by the people of these communities?

Testimony from Caritas Tonga

On 15 January 2022, the eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano caused a tsunami followed by a thick layer of volcanic ash to cover the island kingdom of Tonga. For decades, Tonga has been on the frontlines of responding to the climate crisis, and this latest natural disaster not only caused severe environmental and human damage, but also cut off Tonga's communication with the rest of the world. Left completely to its own devices, Caritas Tonga partnered with the Tonga National Youth Congress to respond immediately by mobilizing youth volunteers to distribute emergency relief kits (including hygiene kits, blankets, water purification supplies), renew communities' access to clean drinking water, distribute food for vulnerable families, and provide psychosocial support for communities acutely affected by the eruption.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for the resilience
Of those determined to not let their communities fall.
Continue to bless them with the strength to rise again and again,
And sustain them with your love
and with the solidarity of the community around them. Amen.



10th Station:

Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes Call to action: Help to build a post-Covid world that is just for all



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top. So they said to one another, 'Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfill what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' (John 19:23-24)

Reflection

In stripping Jesus of his clothes, the soldiers exposed Jesus to the crowds and humiliated him. Sometimes traumatic events can strip society of the façade of orderliness and justice, and reveal its flaws. The Covid-19 Pandemic was an example of this: in many communities we saw that people had unequal access to vaccines, health care, and social and financial support mechanisms. Sanctions, too, can reveal inequalities within communities; on the surface they are aimed at putting pressure on governments, but in reality they often affect negatively the most vulnerable of society. What injustices and flaws did the pandemic reveal where you live? Have they been addressed yet in your community?

Testimony from Caritas Jordan

In Jordan, the Covid-19 pandemic revealed stark inequalities between students. The shift to online learning during Jordan's lockdown saw many students drop out of school, such as youth in lower-income families and rural youth. Girls also had a higher drop out rate than boys. Much of this had to do with unequal access to technology and the internet. Caritas Jordan's youth volunteers responded by distributing internet charging bundles to vulnerable families, so that more students could access their online classes. When the time came to return to school, these volunteers distributed 'Safe Return to Schools' kits, which included personal hygiene bags and information about the importance of following public health guidelines.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to be mindful of the flaws in our society
Not only during times of trauma, but always.

Help us to bring closer to the centre those who are pushed to the margins.

Help us to ensure that no one is ever left behind or forgotten. Amen.

LENT 2022

11th Station:

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Call to action: Care for our Common Home by joining forces with



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

When they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" ...One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong". And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power". And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23: 33-34,39-43)

Reflection

"...we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." In our world today, it is women, children, and those on the fringes of society who suffer the most during situations that they have played no part in causing. Caritas knows this, and has made safeguarding vulnerable people a priority of our work. What do you do in your community to ensure the protection of these vulnerable people? What more could you do if you joined a community of care to protect these people?

Testimony from Catholic Relief Services (USA)

Jesus, who was carrying the cross, is now being nailed to it. Today, unjust systems are nailing many of our sisters and brothers around the world to crosses of financial burdens and family hardships with the nails of hunger, homelessness, insecurity. Across the United States, members of Catholic Relief Services High School Clubs are working together in Communities of Care to lift their voices and advocate to promote human life and dignity, advance solidarity and enhance security. By pushing to achieve systemic change that eases human suffering, our global family will rise in victory.

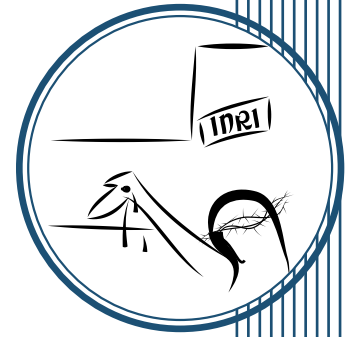
Prayer

Lord Jesus, we ask that you help us to always see
The most vulnerable members of our society.
Help us to protect and sustain them
Through the adversities that they face in their own communities. Amen.



12th Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Call to action: Build a world of peace, starting in your own community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us— and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's good and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?" (1 John 3:16-17)

Reflection

Caritas staff and volunteers around the world dedicate their lives to serving one another. In a world where it is so easy to become overwhelmed and look away, Caritas youth choose to give their time, talents and energy to those in need by caring for others and for Creation. In what ways do youth inspire you to do the same?

Testimony from Caritas Poland

Young Volunteers with Caritas Poland have been busy for weeks responding to the needs of refugees arriving at the Krościenko-Smolnica border crossing between Ukraine and Poland. Caritas was the first to respond to the growing needs at this border, by creating "Tents of Hope" where people receive food, hot tea, hot water bottles, blankets, medicine, and other necessities. Volunteers take shifts around the clock, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. According to one volunteer, "The amount of people crossing the border is so great, that we cannot collectively do breaks."

"War is when the appointments you had planned in the calendar lose their value. They become like a ghost of a peaceful past that reminds you of a quiet life. War is when Ash Wednesday arrives a week earlier than usual. War is when seven days contract into one day. War is when you create a "before" and an "after" war. War is when the words "remember you are dust" materialize." – Father Vyacheslav Grynevych, Director of Caritas Spes (Ukraine)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we give you thanks for the youth who have chosen
To serve you by serving their brothers and sisters.
Bless their hands and feet, as they do your work here on earth.
Help them to never tire of doing good.
Help them to build a world of peace. Amen.



13th Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Call to action: Build a world of peace, starting in your own community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. (Matthew 27:57-58).

Reflection

After being publicly condemned and put to death as a criminal, Joseph of Arimathea felt it was important to restore the dignity of Jesus by giving him a proper burial. In our own world, too, no one should be beyond having their human dignity respected or restored. Is there anyone in your community that you feel has had their dignity taken away from them? What can you do to restore it to them?

Testimony from Caritas El Salvador

Can football create peace? As part of Caritas El Salvador's 'Jóvenes con Propósito' (Youth with Purpose) project, young volunteers organize Noches Mágicas de Fútbol (Magical Football Nights) in the Diocese of Zacatecoluca to do just this. In this area there are high rates of violence and gang activity, and so Caritas organizes football games to gain access to youth who fear leaving their neighbourhoods because of gangs and to spread the messages of peace and reconciliation. Gaby Ventura of Caritas El Salvador reflects, 'Making these spaces more dynamic taught us that, by establishing rules, harmonious coexistence and the implementation of good practices, we can have a culture of peace building.'

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who feel as if they do not have dignity.
Help us to show them that they are loved,
And that nothing and no one can take your likeness out of them.
Bless us with the strength to see dignity in those with whom we disagree. Amen.



14th Station:

Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Call to action: Help to build a post-Covid world that is just for all



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

“So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone in front to the door of the tomb and went away.”
(Matthew 27:59-60)

Reflection

As Caritas, we model our work on the generous, never-failing love of God. No one is too far, too poor – too anything! – to receive this love. We know, even at this station where Jesus is placed in the tomb, that death will not have the final word. So too, in the most seemingly desperate and final situations, the final word for Caritas is always love. Have you experienced or witnessed this type of love in your work with Caritas?

Testimony from Caritas Ambrosiana (Italy)

When the Covid-19 Pandemic arrived in Italy, young volunteers in Milan used the lockdown period to help those most in need in their communities. In partnership with local parishes, the youth volunteers of Caritas Ambrosiana prepared packages of food and other essential supplies and delivered them to thousands of families and vulnerable people who were in need or unable to leave their homes. Other youth ran daily errands for the elderly (e.g. purchased medicine and groceries, paid their bills, delivered reports from the municipalities) and maintained regular contact with them by telephone to keep them from becoming isolated.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help us to never lose hope.

That love will always conquer death.

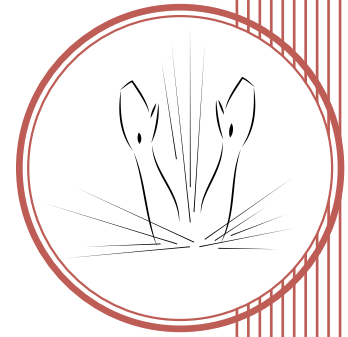
Help us to never stop seeking this love and sharing it with others,

Even in the darkest moments. Amen.



15th Station: The Resurrection of Jesus, the Christ

Call to action: Make space for youth to drive positive change in your community



Celebrant

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

All

Because by your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Scripture

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." (Luke 24:5)

Reflection

Jesus' resurrection shows us that, through God, all things are possible! Every day, Caritas Youth all over the world accomplish incredible things to serve their communities – and they do it with the joyful enthusiasm that comes with spreading the Good News and the message of God's love. It is important for us to never give up on serving others and caring for creation. What else inspires you to never give up?

Testimony from Caritas Internationalis

Caritas is committed to supporting and empowering youth across the confederation at all levels! In the past few years, we have seen youth take on high-level governance responsibilities at local, regional and global levels. Caritas Organizations around the world are also creating staff positions specifically aimed at recruiting, supporting and empowering young people. All of these initiatives are not only an investment in the future of Caritas, but also (and especially) in its present. We welcome the joyful enthusiasm, creativity and energy of youth in the mission of Caritas! We hope that you have been inspired by the testimonies that you have witnessed in this Way of the Cross journey.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for the energy, creativity, and hopefulness

Of the youth across the Caritas Confederation.

Help them to always keep their optimism and joyful enthusiasm for doing good, and help all generations to work together



LENT 2022

Conclusion

Thank you for joining us on this Way of the Cross, and observing with us Christ's journey towards his death and resurrection. On the surface, this story seems to be one of pain, sadness and despair. But a deeper look shows that it is actually one of hope and, ultimately, love.

So too is the story – past, present, and future – of Caritas. You accompany people through the most unimaginably difficult situations. On the surface, it is hard to see anything beyond grief, suffering, and injustice. But your presence on behalf of Caritas, always injects love, hope, and peace into these situations.

As we are reminded through the Way of the Cross, love will always conquer death and despair. Thanks to you, this remains true today. Caritas is present in the most dark and desperate situations – lending a helping hand in a refugee camp, with a bowl of soup at a border crossing, in the office of a member of parliament advocating for policy reform, and so many more – bringing and being love there. Thank you for all that you do.

We wish you and your loved ones a Blessed Holy Week and a Joyful Easter!

