

WAY OF THE CROSS *in America*



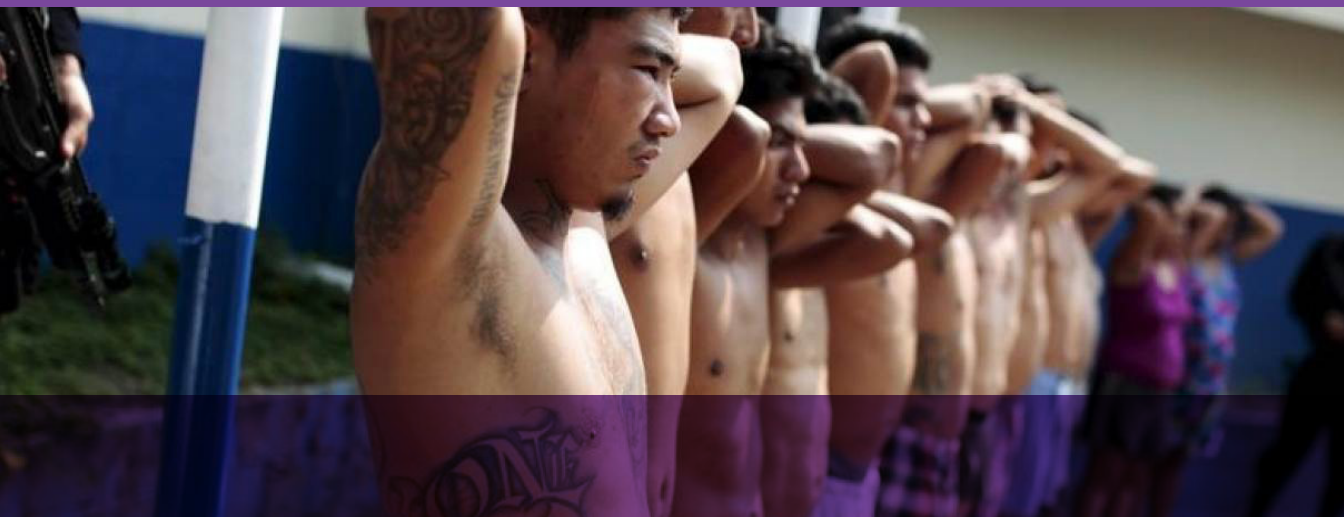
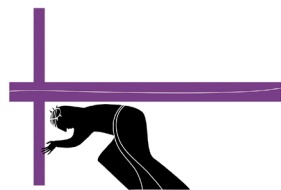
Hispanic Ministry
CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF RICHMOND

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF RICHMOND**
*Office of
Hispanic Ministry*

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FIRST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH



“When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.” (Matthew 27:24)

EL SALVADOR

COMMENTARY

In El Salvador, innocent people are sentenced to death every day as a result of its high rate of crime. Youth are tempted by the false promises of gangs who insistently recruit without mercy. As a solution, desperate parents save every penny to get their children out of danger, in the hopes that they will have a new and better life.

PRAYER

Oh Jesus, Prince of Peace! We are praying for El Salvador; whose name is The Redeemer. We place them under your protection so that your sacrifice is not in vain. May the water that flows from your side clean the innocent blood spilled on this land. Help us not wash our hands and turn our heads away from our brothers in need at this moment. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

SECOND STATION: JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS



“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16: 24)

VENEZUELA

COMMENTARY

In Venezuela, the economic situation is fragile. Due to political circumstances, Venezuelans are not getting enough food and medical supplies. The country is completely closed off to the world, creating difficulties at both domestic and international levels. In response to these actions, much violence and discord has arisen. People can no longer endure the pain of carrying a cross that is not that of Jesus, wishing each day for the hope of a new dawn where justice and peace reign for all.

PRAYER

Oh Holy Spirit, Giver of Life and Divine Inspiration! May the span of your wings reach the hearts of those in power in Venezuela! May they open the doors of their hearts to your mercy and may the world not remain indifferent to the cry of your people in pain due to the injustice and tyranny of a few. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

THIRD STATION: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME



“Yet it was our pain that he bore, our sufferings he endured. We thought of him as stricken, struck down by God and afflicted, but he was pierced for our sins crushed for our iniquity. He bore the punishment that makes us whole, by his wounds we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, all following our own way; But the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all”. (Isaiah 53: 4-6)

CUBA



COMMENTARY

Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean, has had human rights violations since the early 1960s. The dictatorship fueled by socio-communist doctrine has created feelings of fear, isolation and suffering. Thousands of people have died in search of freedom, putting their lives at risk, exposing themselves to the dangers of the sea. Limitations to the freedom of expression repress the voices of those in need. Although relations between Cuba and the United States have recently been restored, people still hope for a new world, embracing the promise of a more democratic system and the hope of living in a country full of human expression and movement.



PRAYER

Oh Lady of Charity! You who have heard the cry of those that are suffering and dying for freedom! We pray for the healing of their wounds and for the pain of those who left the land they were born in so that they may rise again in your son, Jesus Christ. We also pray for those who currently reside on the island so that they may construct a more just and dignified society where the freedom of people is respected. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

FOURTH STATION:

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER



“And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2: 34-35)

MEXICO



COMMENTARY

Mexico is in the middle of a desperate socio-economic crisis. Drug trafficking is producing violence at an unprecedented level. Poverty and corruption have become the sword that has pierced the hearts of the Mexican people accompanied by the high rates of abduction and abuse experienced daily. Children have to leave school and work at an early age for the well-being of the family. All these realities afflict a people in search of peace and tranquility.

PRAYER



Oh Lady of Guadalupe, you who said to Juan Diego “Am I, your Mother, not here?” Please help your children come out of the misery they are living in at this moment! May the stars of your mantle shine with love along with the aroma of the roses that formed your image in Juan Diego’s tilma. May they be ingrained in the hearts of those who do not collaborate in creating a country where everyone has the right to peace, harmony and good health. Keep shining hope on your children who are marginalized and suffering. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

FIFTH STATION:

SIMON OF CYRENE
HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS



“As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.” (Luke 23:26)

COLOMBIA



COMMENTARY

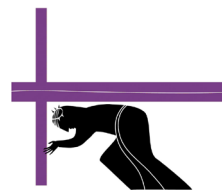
In Colombia, the most controversial social issues are centered on poverty and inequality. Women, children and groups of African and indigenous descent are the ones who suffer most from these injustices. The lack of job security, health care, education and social services, ranks Colombia as one of the countries with the most social issues in the world. These problems have penetrated the soul of the Colombian people causing much civil discord. Although the situation of the guerilla has declined considerably, there is still much violence and opposition.



PRAYER

Oh Eternal Father! You who saw your Son suffer carrying the cross on his shoulders, help us be more like Simon of Cyrene and inspire us to carry that cross for our Colombian brothers and sisters so that they may live justly. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

SIXTH STATION: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS



“One of the women, moved by the face of the Lord full of blood, dirt and spit, bravely dodged the soldiers and reached him. She removed her veil and wiped his face softly. Then, a soldier pushed her away violently, but, seeing the veil, she saw that the grieving and bloody face of Christ was imprinted on it. Jesus has sympathy for the women of Jerusalem, and Veronica’s veil has his image, which evokes the faces of many men that have been disfigured by atheist regimes that destroy the person and deprive them of their dignity.” (The Via Crucis presided by the Pope on 8-19-2011)

ARGENTINA



COMMENTARY

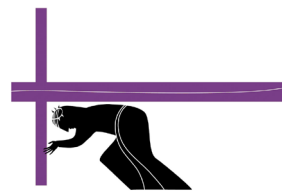
Argentina is considered to have one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world, but it is currently suffering the contamination of its natural resources. With the development of industry, lack of environmental care and a growing population, air and water have become issues of interest to the government, in particular its department of environmental protection. The lack of laws that protect natural resources along with the lack of interest in preventing a future environmental disaster will eventually have a permanent effect on the quality of life and health of its future inhabitants.



PRAYER

Oh Lady of Lujan! You who are small and simple, help us protect the face of your Son, Creator and Giver of Life, so that the works of His creation do not go extinct due to the lack and disinterest of political figures who do not protect the environment. Help us be more like Veronica, sensible and always available to clean the face of the Creator, making us co-creators of a safe and clean environment for all. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

SEVENTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME



“... but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses,* in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.” (2 Corinthians 12: 9)

GUATEMALA



COMMENTARY

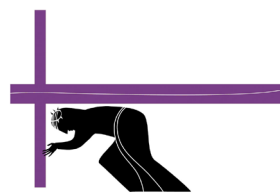
Guatemala faces many difficulties due to its infant mortality. With the lowest rate of human development in all of Latin America, malnutrition has claimed the lives of thousands of babies and children who did not receive the food they needed to live. These social issues are more prevalent in indigenous communities where the infant mortality rate reaches almost 80%. The suffering and death of the most vulnerable has left many families without lineage, voiding the hope that their families can flourish in the future.



PRAYER

Oh Lord of Esquipulas! You who are the crucified black Christ, we beseech you on behalf of the innocent souls that are full of your love and yet living the agony that you lived on the way to Calvary. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

EIGHTH STATION: JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



“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?’” (Luke 23: 27-31)

BRAZIL



COMMENTARY

The country of Brazil suffers from an abundance of poverty and crime. The neighborhoods, filled with favelas, are located near metropolitan areas where garbage accumulates regularly. In these areas, the health of the inhabitants is affected by standing water contaminating the drinking water. This leaves people vulnerable to disease and other health risks. Crime has also been a major problem for Brazil. Community programs have been successfully conducted producing great results in the eradication of some crime, but this problem still remains a very prevalent issue in these highly affected areas.



PRAYER

Oh Lady of Aparecida! You who have felt the agony of mothers who experience the suffering of their children due to poverty and crime, we pray that you comfort them as you did with the disciples of Jesus! Let us always remember all mothers and their children with this prayer. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

NINTH STATION: JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME



“It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. Let him sit alone in silence, for the LORD has laid it on him. Let him bury his face in the dust - there may yet be hope. Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace. For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.” (Lamentations 3: 27-32)

NICARAGUA

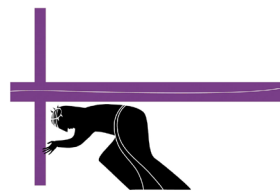
+ COMMENTARY

Nicaragua’s economy is mainly based on agricultural exports. In recent years, natural disasters and lack of harvest have contributed to the country’s financial problems. Almost half of all Nicaraguans live below the poverty line. In many homes, women suffer from family violence along with sexual harassment and wage discrimination in the work place. These are the social issues that contribute to the lack of respect and compassion for human dignity.

+ PRAYER

Oh Virgin of Cuapa! You who appeared to a humble farmer in the flash of a fleeting light, we ask that you help us to never cast off those who need us the most! Find us always in prayer so that we may rebuild order and peace in Nicaragua. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

TENTH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS



“They came to a place called Golgotha (which means ‘the place of the skull’). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there.” (Matthew 27: 33-36)

CHILE



COMMENTARY

Chile has a variety of problems, mostly civil in nature. Severe violation of human rights has manifested itself in different ways. General discrimination against indigenous people, women, minorities as well as the mistreatment of prisoners by security forces echo the issues prevalent during the Pinochet regime. Those who have died and disappeared as a result of the lack of government regulation continue to be a source of sorrow for their relatives who live with the hope of being able to see them again.



PRAYER

Oh Saint Theresa of Jesus of the Andes, the land of your birth is going through very difficult times! We ask that you intercede for your people by helping the authorities exercise the common good amidst the cries of a suffering nation. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

ELEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS



“There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, ‘Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.’” (John 19: 18-22)

PERU

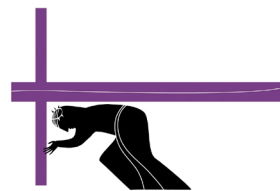
COMMENTARY

Social discrimination in Peru has been a very consistent and controversial issue. The mixed race populations (indigenous, mestizos and mulattos) are victims of discrimination in many ways. The most striking form came with President Fujimori and the forced sterilization of more than 300,000 indigenous women. This indifference to life and complete disregard of free will has produced much apathy towards these minority groups trying to survive each day.

PRAYER

Oh Saint Martin of Porres, the discrimination against these communities degrades all human dignity! You who are the saint of racial harmony, we respectfully request your help in giving us the love needed so that we do not continuously crucify the individuals who are already suffering these abuses. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

TWELFTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



“From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ (which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’)” (Matthew 27: 45-46)

ECUADOR



COMMENTARY

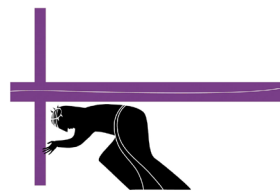
Ecuador goes through long periods of absolute necessity due to the many natural disasters that frequently occur in this area of the world. Earthquakes, in particular, have caused the deaths of thousands of people and the disappearance of many families and homes as a result of its landslides. These moments of loss produce stress on the Ecuadorian economy, propagating a poverty that continually leaves behind the hope of better times.



PRAYER

Oh Saint Mariana of Jesus, you who gave your life in order to save your people from natural disasters, we plead with you and ask you to be our bridge towards eternal protection and help us not to abandon those who need you the most at this moment! We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

THIRTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND PLACED IN THE ARMS OF MARY, HIS MOTHER



“When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, ‘Surely he was the Son of God!’ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs.” (Matthew 27: 54-55)

PUERTO RICO

COMMENTARY

Puerto Rico is experiencing a very strong socio-economic crisis due to lack of work and education. The younger generations, in search of more opportunities and better pay, leave the island and their relatives behind to seek work in other countries. As a result, the older generations have become poorer due to the absence of basic care, needed to have a decent life.

PRAYER

Oh Lady of Divine Providence, you who look over all of your Father’s children, we pray for the help and comfort of the elderly and those who are aging! May our prayers be heard by providing them with much attention and love under the shadow of your mantle. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

FOURTEENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB



“Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.” (Matthew 27: 59-61)

THE UNITED STATES



COMMENTARY

The United States, one of the most powerful countries in the world, is going through very difficult times at this moment. Issues with abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty are reaching new levels of acceptance. Discrimination is so deeply rooted in its infrastructure that it has camouflaged itself behind a very systemic brand of economic slavery that affects the most vulnerable. Although it is richer than 80% of the world's population, spiritual wealth is diminished everyday by the creation of a society that does not understand the difference between joy and pleasure. These situations and many more affect everyone in one way or another causing more problems that need to be solved.



PRAYER

Oh Immaculate Conception, this nation that has so much and is lacking so much more! Please intercede for us so that we do not bury ourselves in what is vain and material. Along with the Holy Spirit, we ask that you inspire us so that we may find the truth in the light and appreciate precious moments each and every day. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Amen!

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