

The Stations of the Cross

in Atonement for Abuse and for the Healing of All

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Preface

These Stations of the Cross accompany members of the church in our time of atonement for the sins associated with the sexual abuse of our children, and with our yearning for healing.

The titles of the fourteen stations are the Scripture-based Stations of the Cross from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*. Pope St. John Paul II led something similar on several occasions as an alternative to the traditional stations. Missing are nonscriptural events such as the three falls of Jesus and the appearance of Veronica. The Scripture-based stations fill out the meditation on the passion with more details from the gospel accounts. When prayed communally, these stations envision four leadership roles:

1. The leader may be a layperson, preferably one who can sing two simple chants drawn from *The Roman Missal*, one associated with Good Friday, the other with the penitential act of the Mass. These may be sung without accompaniment. However, if the leader cannot sing, these parts may be recited.
2. The reader proclaims the pertinent passages from the Bible.
3. The abuse victim/survivor's voice reads actual quotes from those who have suffered abuse.
4. It is suggested that the person reading the "Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy" be an ordained cleric. It is recommended that this person allow generous silence after each "Let us pray" to help the community meditate on the biblical passage and the abuse victim/survivor's voice.

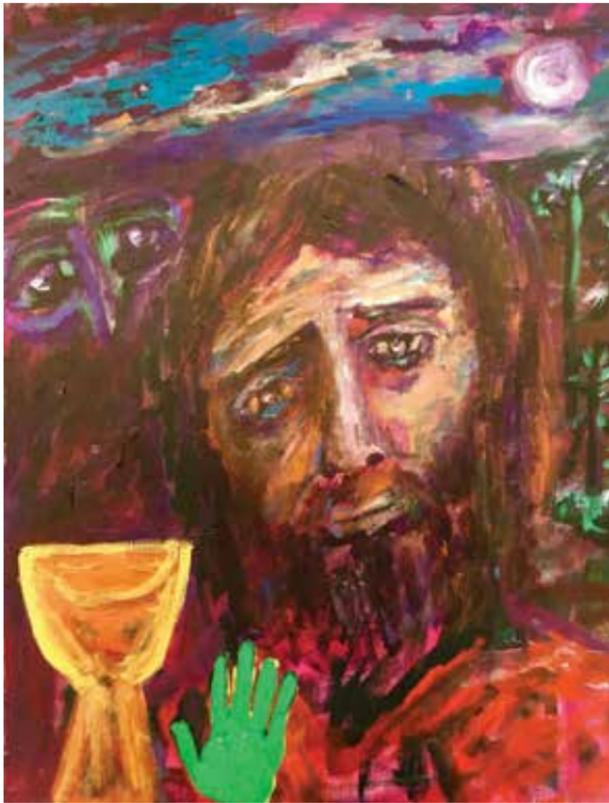
The four leaders may process to all fourteen stations led by cross and candles, though this is not required. Any who are able may accompany them in procession.

Opening Prayer

Leader: [T]hough [Jesus Christ] was in the form of God,

All: [he] did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross.

(Philippians 2:6-8)



The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Leader: The First Station: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Be - hold___ the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation
of the world. Come, let us___ a - dore.___

Reader: 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*)

Abuse Victim/Survivor’s Voice: When I came to you, I was vulnerable and abused, but you turned me away.

Confessional Prayer of the Hierarchy: Let us pray. (*Pause for silent prayer.*) O God, in your Son’s time of trial, he trusted in his apostles, his chosen religious leaders, but they turned away. We confess the times we have not heard the voice of Jesus your Son in the cry of those who suffer.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, abused and abandoned, hear the cries of your wounded church, and strengthen us in our trial. We sometimes feel alone in the garden of life, even when shepherds accompany us there. When the weaknesses of our leaders uncover their disloyalty, let your will be done. Save us from disillusion and despair.

Leader:



V. Ký - ri - e,___ e - lé - i - son. R. Ký - ri - e,___ e - lé - i - son.