

## Mission Stations of the Cross

# MCA

**Reader:** Today we ask you, God our Father, to help us follow the Way of the Cross with Jesus so we may better share, through prayer, in the lives of children around the world who also suffer. Help us to think about each station and its meaning for our world, so that we may follow His Way to share our love with children hungry for Jesus.

**All:** Amen.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Station:

Jesus is Condemned to Death

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Today, millions of children are condemned to death by malnutrition and starvation. Lord, help us to see You, condemned once again, in these children – our brothers and sisters.

**All:** God our Father, help us to be grateful for the gift of food. May we use the energy our food gives us to serve others. Help us during this Lenten season to give up some food or treat so that others may be less hungry.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Station:

Jesus is Made to Carry His Cross

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Jesus told us that to follow Him we must take up our cross.

**All:** God, our Father, we want to follow Jesus. Help us to think of others instead of ourselves: to forgive those who hurt us, to reach out to



those who cannot thank us, to learn to love Jesus by loving our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Help us to carry our cross with Jesus.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Station:

Jesus Falls for the First Time

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Jesus falls when children suffer – children who wait for us to help them up.

**All:** God our Father, we ask You to join our efforts as young missionaries to those of all missionaries of the Church. Their work in helping children to rise above their poverty must be our work, too.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus Meets His Mother

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Many children today, especially refugees, have no parents or adults to care for them.

**All:** God our Father, help us to be the family - the people who care - for those children who have no family, no home. Thank You for our parents, our family, and our Missionary Childhood brothers and sisters.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Station:

Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.



**Reader:** When Jesus was so tired that He could go no further, Simon lifted up the cross and helped Jesus on His way.

**All:** God our Father, we all need to be helped at times. Give us the grace to reach out to others as Simon did to Jesus.

### 6<sup>th</sup> Station:

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** When Jesus was in pain, Veronica reached out to wipe His face. Her reward was the grace of His presence with her forever.

**All:** God our Father, help us to remember to reach out to care for children in the missions who are tired and sick. Like Veronica, we are also doing this for Jesus and will be given His everlasting grace.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus falls for the Second Time

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** We are reminded of Jesus falling when we see children who are not physically able to care for themselves.

**All:** God our Father, many children in the missions have physical burdens that keep them from becoming who you want them to be. Help us to remember that when we lighten their burden, we lighten Yours.



### 8<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem



**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Jesus stops to tell the women not to worry about Him, but rather about their children and the future of their society.

**All:** God our Father, help us to show those who love suffering children in the missions that their hope is in You. Through our sharing and caring, give all children a future of new life in Jesus.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus Falls for the Third Time



**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Jesus falls again. How many children fall in places in the missions plagued by violence and war?

**All:** God our Father, help us to remember that when we pray and sacrifice for children affected by war - and learn more about how they live daily - we give a voice to children in the missions who have none.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments



**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Everything human is taken away from Jesus, even His clothes. Today, there are many

children who have nothing – no clothes, no school, no hope.

**All:** God our Father, help us to share what we have with others bringing ourselves and others closer to You at the same time.

### 11<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** As we reflect on Jesus being nailed to the cross, think of all the children who suffer because they believe in Jesus but can't worship Him openly in their country.

**All:** God our Father, thank You for the gift of faith. Thank You for the gift of freedom to worship You publicly. We pray for all those who must hide their love for You. Help us to never be ashamed to be called Your sons and daughters and to show our faith to the world.

### 12<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus Dies on the Cross



**(ALL KNEEL)**

**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Jesus dies for us. He loves us so much that he comes as a child, lives with us, and dies. Right now, think for a few minutes about the Cross as the sign of Jesus' love for us. (Pause)

**Reader:** Now, silently in your own heart, tell Jesus about your love for Him and thank Him for showing His great love for you. (Pause)

### 13<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross



**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** Jesus has been lovingly taken down, but the Cross still stands as a special sign of our faith.

**All:** God our Father, thank you for the Cross of Jesus, the sign of Your great love for us. Help us to carry the cross with Jesus by praying and sacrificing for other children so they too will know of Your great love for them.

### 14<sup>th</sup> Station:

Jesus is placed in the Tomb



**Leader:** We adore You, O Christ and we bless You.

**All:** Because by Your Holy Cross, You have redeemed the world.

**Reader:** It seems so final as Jesus is laid to rest in the tomb. We do not want the rock placed in front. We feel like crying. Yet every day, children cry out for our help, our prayers. We cannot let that rock stop us from following Jesus and His way of love for all.

**All:** God our Father, we will never forget our love for Jesus. Forgive us when we put Him, or others who make us think of Him, in tombs in our mind – sealed off from our lives. Move away those stones and help us to see Jesus alive in our brothers and sisters both here and in the missions. In Jesus' name, Amen.

