



First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

This is Huwe Burton. Huwe spent over 19 years in prison for a murder he did not commit. He was framed for this murder and as of Jan. 2019 has been fully cleared of his conviction. Huwe has been a victim of unbridled injustice.

Jesus was rejected, convicted and condemned falsely by his own people. Jesus, though completely innocent, was forced to suffer and endure the injustice and cruelty of the people. Today we continue to pray for the innocent victims of injustice and pray for the peace that comes through Jesus.



Second Station: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

This woman is from the Mugu District of Nepal. On top of carrying her child she is carrying over 50kg of cargo via a strap on her head. She does this at great danger to her health across severely mountainous terrain, for minimal reward or sustenance. She endures burdens and toils beyond her strength.

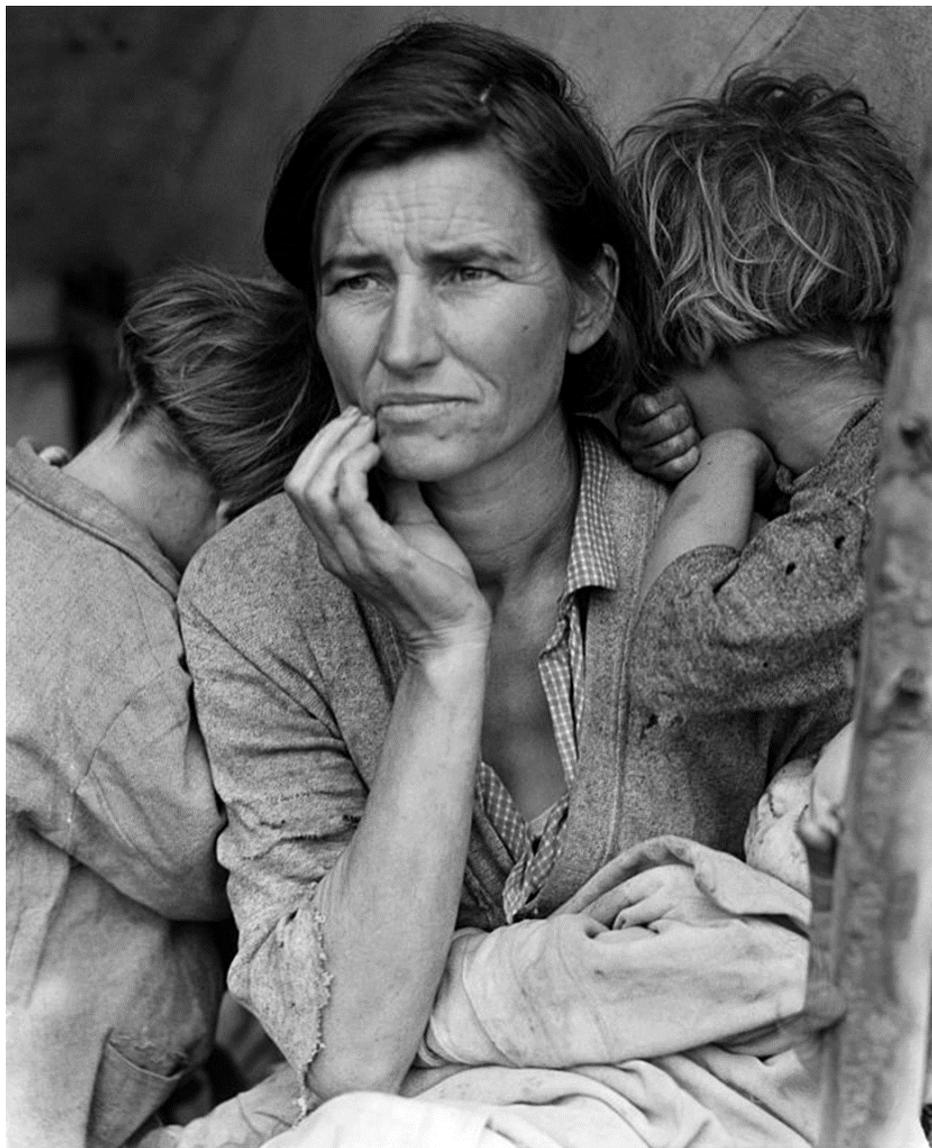
Jesus is commanded to carry his cross. It is a burden not his own, but ours. Like this woman Jesus did not complain, yet instead continued to carry our burden. We pray for those who carry too much and are yoked and bent under burdens beyond their capacity. Grant us the strength to bear our own crosses and to come to know better the love of Christ.



Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

This is a boy and his father from Myanmar. Under the crippling affects of alcoholism, this boy's father lies motionless in the street despite his son's pleas and efforts to be heard and cared for. Not only has the man fallen under the weight of drink, but so has his son.

Jesus has humbled himself, not only in accepting the burden of our sins, but when he falls he subjects himself to the mockery, abuse, and shame that it carries. We pray for those who have fallen under the burden of what they carry and endure. We pray for those who are forced to endure mockery and shame at the hands of others.



Fourth Station:
Jesus Meets His
Afflicted Mother

More familiar to us this image is of the 'Migrant Mother' whose name is Florence Owens Thompson. Photographed during The Great Depression by Dorothea Lange, we see Florence and her children as destitute pea pickers. We see in her eyes the pain and the loss and the sorrow as she struggles to provide for her seven children.

Jesus' mother Mary grieves as she suffers the sight of her son's passion: a sight that pierces her heart like a dagger. We pray to you today whose love for us is like that of a mother. Grant to us your heart of boundless compassion to give strength and support for all who suffer the loss of children.



Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

This is Chaplain Bob Ossler providing comfort to a young woman outside of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on Oct. 30th 2018. Bob was just one of many who responded and came to the aid of those in need. In response to such tragedy, Pittsburgh resident Fred Rogers reminds us to always look for the helpers; they so often share the burdens we carry.

Jesus required the help of his neighbor Simon. Weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help Simon offered what he could. We pray for those whose daily burdens drain all energy from them. Give us the strength to accept the help we need when we are under the burden of duress.



Sixth Station:
A Woman Offers
Comfort to Jesus

This is Pope Francis hugging and blessing Vincio Riva at the Vatican. He is providing comfort out of selfless compassion to a man who society viewed as despised and rejected. Pope Francis looks upon Vincio as a fellow brother in Christ.

Jesus received the care from Veronica as she wiped the blood from his face. Jesus receives comfort in the form of an act of selfless compassion, echoing his own ministry. We pray for all who are looked down upon, despised and rejected. Help us to see all of our brothers and sisters in Christ with equity and to see the beauty in all.



Seventh Station: Jesus Falls a Second Time

This is Washington, IL resident John Evans receiving help from U.S. Army National Guard Master Sergeant Katie Williams as they salvage what they can from his destroyed home in the aftermath of the Nov. 2013 EF-4 tornado. John along with his family and community suffered losses materially and personal and too great for words.

Jesus falls down again under the duress and weight of the cross, but Jesus does not go astray, as we his sheep would often do. Jesus is there for those who suffer, to grant the wisdom, and courage that only he can know. We pray for those who have suffered greatly and bless those who give of themselves in service to others.



Eighth
Station:
Jesus
Meets the
Women of
Jerusalem

This is Diego crying and playing at the funeral of his mentor and teacher, Evandro João da Silva, who was killed in an assault in October 2009 in Rio De Janeiro. Diego's teacher had helped him escape poverty and violence through his kindness and their shared love of music. Through the pain of loss, Diego is able to play for the memory of his mentor.

Jesus is followed in the streets by people crying at his plight. As we cry at the plight of Jesus may we also be moved to tears at the plight of the world. We pray that Jesus direct our tears and cares for our brothers and sisters in the world, that through you we may be consoled.



Ninth Station: Jesus Falls a Third Time

This is a Chinese woman who made an attempt to end her life on a bus in 2014. She found herself at the very end of her mental and physical strength. She however has found compassion and care in her neighbors, learning that she has not been forsaken.

Jesus falling down for a third time is found at the very limits of his physical strength. With the weight of the world upon his shoulders it is easy to feel forsaken, drained and abandoned. We pray for those who feel they are at the very limits of life and strength. Let us know that You have not forsaken us and that you take us from death to life with your love.



Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

This is a woman who is a victim of human trafficking. Her worth has been reduced and degraded by others to the point of a price and barcode tattooed upon her neck. She has been exploited and branded like cattle, but has now been set free from the life of traffic.

As Jesus' own garments are torn and bartered for as he is left to be humiliated, stripped of dignity, fully exposed to the jeers of Jerusalem. But it is through Jesus that we are claimed as God's children each created in God's image. In this image we find worth beyond any human reckoning. We pray for all who are exploited because of race, gender, or sexual orientation. Let them, and everyone know that they are a beloved and beautiful child of God.



Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

This is the Gay Forum of Ukraine Leader Svyatoslav Sereme getting beaten after an announcement that a scheduled gay pride parade had been called off. He is needlessly suffering at the hands of others yet the photographer snaps a picture and does not intervene.

Jesus is hung to die while the soldiers ignore the victims tossing dice. Despite this, Jesus is still able to display love and compassion. We pray for those who are suffering unjustly and endure torture and abuse. Grant to us your boundless ability to love; a love with no limits.



Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

This man is a hospice worker holding the hand of a dying woman experiencing her last breaths. This man cares for others who are in the darkest of places, who himself must be wracked with pain.

As Jesus breathes his last, he is surrounded by his mother and dearest friend. They have stayed with Jesus until the very end, as the very light seemed to leave the world. Yet even in that moment Jesus still ministered to them. We pray those who are in the darkest hours near death, that they are cared for just as Jesus cares for us. Be with those who feel broken and long for companionship.



Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from The Cross

These are just some of the victims who have lost their lives due to the senseless violence wrought from those who wielded guns. Sadly, their number grows day by day, and the world is darker for it. We collectively mourn their loss and pray for the light to break into the darkness of this deadly violence.

Jesus is handed over into the hands of Joseph of Arimathea. The world has seemed to have entered utter darkness. But it is for all of us that Jesus has died. We pray for all who feel the sting of loss and feel trapped by the darkness, grant your comfort and be with all who mourn.



Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

This is the image most of the world first saw of the trapped Thai soccer team, The Wild Boars, July 2 2018. How many of you? Thirteen! They're all alive! After missing for over a week, with the entire world searching, they had all been found. In the hours and days leading up to their rescue they must have felt worthless and forgotten by the world. But that was not the case. Out of their tomb they emerged alive.

Jesus is in the darkest of the dark as Joseph and Nicodemus wrap him in pieces of linen and place him in the tomb. Yet unbeknownst to us Jesus brought the brightest light of all to the darkness that brings all from death to life. We pray for all who feel worthless, and hidden from sight in their own tombs. Be with all who suffer and die in secret, and bring to all the very light of life.