

## Stations of the Cross: Ecological Way of the Cross



Our Lady of Humility & Saint Patrick Parish  
Wadsworth, Illinois

*Season of Creation 2022*

During the **Stations of the Cross**, we retrace Christ's steps by enacting the biblical record of his Passion, with each station commemorating a stage in Christ's journey to crucifixion. The **Ecological Way of the Cross** puts the suffering of Christ's Passion in our time by relating it to the suffering of the earth and the poor.

# The First Station

Jesus is condemned to death.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

God of life, many of our sisters and brothers  
risked and lost their lives working to protect  
this beautiful world You created. We believe  
they have fallen asleep in You, Lord. May  
their sacrifice be remembered and honored  
by those they served.  
Amen.



# The Second Station

Jesus carries his cross.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, just as You embraced the burden of our sins, we pray for those who will be forced to carry the burden of environmental disasters caused by our rampant development. We also pray for those who risk their lives to embrace the call of social and climate justice.  
Amen.

# The Third Station

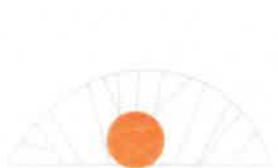
Jesus falls for the first time.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

We pray for our sisters and brothers  
hidden in the darkness of modern slavery,  
in factories and homes across the world,  
forced to work in inhumane conditions and  
deprived of their freedom. Help us to re-  
member those who suffer for our unsustain-  
able lifestyles and give us a change of heart  
so that this evil may be rooted from our  
world.

Amen.



# The Fourth Station

Jesus meets his mother.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Lord, by the sorrow You felt in meeting Your  
mother, we pray that we can meet with  
compassion our sister mother earth who  
sustains all life with air, food, and water.  
Amen.



# The Fifth Station

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry  
his cross.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Lord, help us to recognize that we are our  
sisters' and brothers' keepers, and like  
Simon of Cyrene, help us to alleviate the  
suffering of those crushed by injustice,  
poverty, and violence.

Amen.

# The Sixth Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

We pray that we may see the face of Jesus in  
the faces of all those suffering from illness,  
particularly those suffering from the corona-  
virus and conditions exacerbated by climate  
change such as asthma and heat strokes.  
Like Veronica, help us to be a source of  
compassion and comfort.  
Amen.



# The Seventh Station

Jesus falls a second time.

We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Lord, as You have fallen a second time, so  
do we fall to our indifferent consumerism.  
Help us, we pray, to be conscious of our  
purchasing decisions, to choose what is  
ethically and sustainably made, and to stand  
up for those who carry the heavy burden of  
unjust economic policies.  
Amen.



# The Eighth Station

Jesus meets the women of  
Jerusalem.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Like the women of Jerusalem, we weep for our children who will bear the brunt of our environmental destruction. God of life, help us to resist the culture of death that seeks only its own gain and to the detriment of all other living beings, including those that are yet to live.

Amen.

# The Ninth Station

Jesus falls a third time.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Lord, the weight of the cross caused You to  
fall a third time. We, too, daunted by  
unbridled exploitation, fall to anguish and  
frustration. Give us the strength to rise again  
and again in our fight for social and climate  
justice.

Amen.

# The Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of his clothes.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Jesus, You were stripped of Your clothing  
and dignity. So, too, the earth is stripped of  
its minerals and nutrient rich topsoil. Help  
us to seek and develop a just transition to  
renewable forms of energy and to restrain  
our consumption so that the earth may be  
restored to its glorious bounty.  
Amen.



# The Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, our misguided models of  
progress have blinded us to the wonder and  
sacred destiny of Your creation. Conflict  
over natural resources are the nails with  
which we crucify You over and over again.  
Forgive us our greed and awaken Your  
abiding presence in us.  
Amen.



# The Twelfth Station

Jesus dies on the cross.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## Prayer

Jesus, by dying on the cross You surrender  
Your will to the Father so that we may have  
life. Help us, we pray, to surrender our  
indifference to the plight of people displaced  
from their homes by climate-induced floods,  
famine, and war.

Amen.



# The Thirteenth Station

Jesus is taken down from the cross.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## **Prayer**

Lord, even as we witness the extinction of  
entire species, help us to hold on to our faith,  
hope, and love. Just as Joseph of Arimathea  
and Nicodemus stepped up to care for Your  
lifeless body, give us the courage to be a  
voice for the unheard. Use us as instruments  
of peace for all creation.  
Amen.



# The Fourteenth Station

Jesus is laid in the tomb.

**We adore You, oh Christ, and we bless You!**  
Because by Your holy cross, You have  
redeemed the world.

## **Prayer**

Creator of all things, to You nothing is  
impossible; to You all are beautiful and  
precious. Help us to see creation as You do.  
Help us to lay aside our differences and  
embrace each other as sisters and  
brothers.

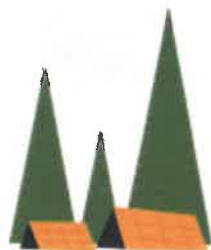
Amen.

# Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus, open our eyes and hearts to Your passion and death still going on around us. Help us to see that You are condemned to death again in the extinction of species, that the weight of the cross You still carry is our consumerism and throwaway culture; that You are still dying with the victims of extreme weather, war, conflict, and our indifference.

As Your passion continues throughout history and the world, give us the confidence and courage to be like those who comforted You on Your way to the cross – Veronica, Simon of Cyrene, Joseph of Arimathea, and Your most Blessed Mother.  
Amen.

## Copyright Acknowledgements:



**Laudato Si' Movement Prayer Book.**

<https://laudatosimovement.org>

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