

ECO STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Opening Prayer by Presider

Lord Jesus, in the humanity of your life, death and resurrection, you lived in creation as we live in creation today. Your sandals traversed the land, you drank water from flowing springs, you breathed the air, you served bread and fish harvested from the earth and the sea, you rode animals, you carried and died upon a cross hewn from a tree and were laid in a tomb carved from the earth. Your parables connect creation and faith from the small mustard seed to weaving our journey into the vine and branches. You rose to be with the disciples for breakfast at the water's edge and offered hopeful assurance. Today, we know your Father asks us to continue that journey, for in giving us human dignity we do not just exist but participate in care for creation. Focus our lens of justice as we reflect upon these mysteries. Let us never be trapped in a tomb of self-centeredness, but work together in solidarity for the common good, of all our brothers and sisters, in the choices we make to care for the earth. Your Paschal Mystery gives us hope. We know, like the disciples in Emmaus, you journey with us today to offer strength to console us in challenges and inspire us to share with others the importance to care for the gift of creation.

1ST STATION: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

EARTH CONDEMNED BY HUMAN ACTIONS

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation, as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Matthew 27:22

Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus called Messiah?" They all said, "Let him be crucified."

Crowds demanded Jesus be crucified. Condemned not for transgressions, but challenging the status quo, Jesus was condemned to die. A human response rooted in fear. Today, creation is condemned by human actions exploiting earth's resources in the fear of greed, fouling the air and injecting toxins into agricultural lands to satisfy the excessive wants of consumers. All this occurs while others lack the basic needs for survival as sea levels rise to wash away ancestral homes, crops wither from lack of water to dispel even a subsistence way of life to deny basic nutritional needs and toxins from recycled consumer electronics pollute the earth thousands of miles from the eyes of those that revealed in consumerism. Fixation on self-satisfying wants and denying the interrelationship of all creation condemns God's gift to an unsustainable assault on resources and spiritual death of human dignity.

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church paragraph 463

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

2ND STATION: JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

WATER ISSUES

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation, as we carry our cross of stewardship of the earth.

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."

Today, 1.1 billion people's cross is the lack of clean drinking water. Diarrhea and other diseases fostered by unclean water and poor sanitation contribute to 1.8 million childhood deaths annually. As people search for clean water, they might travel several miles on foot carrying vessels weighing forty pounds to bring the precious commodity back to their home. This daily chore takes several hours each day, keeping adults away from work. Children might not be able to attend school, as the immediate need for water negates their opportunity for education and a future. So the daily cross to seek water contributes to poverty by limiting people's economic and educational choices. Might the money you spend on a daily latte become a contribution to support the drilling of water wells by groups like Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in countries such as the newly formed nation of Southern Sudan. Jesus, from the life-giving waters of our baptism, we have the strength to carry this cross.

All: Lord Jesus I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

3RD STATION: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME**AIR POLLUTION, ESPECIALLY THE IMPACT ON CHILDREN**

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation, as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Isaiah 53: 5 and 7

He was... crushed for our sins...he was harshly treated

In falling, Jesus began to show the physical toil from carrying the cross. Today, air pollution contributes to asthma in children denying them the ability to play. School days are missed and parents may need to care for them, so lost work may diminish the family's paycheck. In urban areas, many times marginalize neighborhoods carry the cross of having toxic pollution sources in their midst. For example, in Southern California, the transportation corridors distributing goods from the ports by diesel trucks and trains traverses through low income neighborhoods. This contributes to 1.1 million school days lost by children, 980,000 lost work days by adults and minor lose 5 million days when their activities are restricted due to the effects of air pollution. By the age of 18, children living adjacent to pollution sources have a five-time greater risk of lung abnormalities that will be a lifelong cross of needing medical care and limiting their ability to work. Forty four percent of the nation's imported merchandise enters the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, yet 70 percent of these goods continue their journey to consumers outside the region. This leaves a disproportionate share of the pollution from the ships on neighborhoods adjacent to the port, since the pollution from sixteen ships equals the pollution from one million cars. Industries contributing to air pollution many times are in marginalized neighborhoods. In Los Angeles County, 1.2 million people carry this cross, with 91 percent being minorities. Jesus, may we learn to consume what we need and not what we want to support those felled by the cross of air pollution.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

4TH STATION: JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

SAYING YES IN CHALLENGES

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us god's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation, as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Luke 8:21

My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.

Jesus meets his mother on the way, in the humanity of the city's streets. On our path of daily journeys, do we meet Jesus in the people we meet that struggles with the consequences of environmental degradation? Do we take the time to observe and listen to them explain their challenges, instead of viewing the situation from the context of our perspective? Or in self centeredness, do we blindly ignore their presence, so the issue remains absent from our moral radar? Jesus help us to carry the cross of remembering the inter connectedness of all humanity and creation. We acknowledge we do not live in a vacuum, but in solidarity. As your mother said yes to your Father's will, help us always to say yes to respect creation.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

5TH STATION: SIMON OF CYRENE CARRIES JESUS' CROSS

SUSTAINABLE FARMING

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation, as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Luke 23:26

...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.

Simon came in from the country to help Jesus carry the cross. With about ninety percent of Americans living in urban areas, we have loose connection with creation. Food becomes items on store shelves or frozen in a microwavable meal, instead of nourishment grown from the earth. Can we pause from prepackaged, processed meals to visit a farmers market to buy fresh organic foods, meet the farmers and listen to their stories of growing the produce you hold in your hand. Also, take time, pause from your hectic schedule and cook a meal with fresh ingredients to reverently honor the gifts of creation that grace your table. In our consumer choices, may we support agriculture that respects the animals of creation by not warehousing chickens but let them live cage free to lay eggs. May we buy grains from companies utilizing sustainable farming methods. Jesus, as you welcomed Simon of Cyrene on your journey, help us always acknowledge food is a gift from creation and the farmers that participate in providing this bountiful harvest. For our cross is not to perceive food as an assumed commodity but appreciate it as a gift and those that work to provide it as God's co-creators.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

6TH STATION: VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

HUMAN FACTOR OF ECO ISSUES - REACH OUT WITH JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation, as we carry our cross o stewardship for the earth.

Psalm 27:8-9

Come, says my heart, seek God's face, do not hide your face from me.

Jesus' face was not hid from Veronica as the blood and sweat she wiped from his brow imprinted an indelible image on the cloth. Do we see the sweat on the face of those impacted with parched land, due to climate change, as they watch crops wither before maturity, especially in sub Saharan Africa? Do we see the anguish on the face of people displaced by category 4 or 5 hurricanes that have increased 100 percent over the past thirty years? Do we see people's livelihood vanish as warm sea currents render aquatic habitats uninhabitable for species once harvested by fisherman? In seeing the faces of those impacted by climate change, Jesus helps us to offer compassion, but also helps us carry the cross of justice. Justice rooted in working for systemic change that will alleviate the harsh effect of climate change by encouraging more public transportation options. For use of public transportation in the United States prevents 7.4 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. Supporting alternative power generation sources, to decrease the carbon footprint of fossil fuels, could be encouraged for states such as California still

rely on 58 percent of their electricity from carbon based fuels. Jesus help us to carry our cross balanced with compassion and the courage to act for justice.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

7TH STATION: JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME

TOXIC PESTICIDES IMPACTING FARM WORKERS AND CONSUMERS

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Psalm 27:2

...evil doers come at me...these my enemies and foes.

Jesus falls a second time on his journey with the cross. Today, many marginalized workers fall victim to the immediate and long-term risks of pesticides. Harvesting food crops, toxic pesticide residue may linger or drift from nearby fields to give farm workers skin irritations, nausea or neurological abnormalities. Long term exposure can render cancer risks. Many churches decorate with flowers to beautify the worship environment. But the beauty is superficial if they were grown with pesticides that were toxic to the farm workers and the earth. And the cotton jeans and t-shirts most Americans own contribute to about one-quarter of all agricultural chemicals used, as cotton plants are treated intensively with pesticides and defoliants before harvesting. Consumers' insensitivity to farm workers daily toxic environment leads them to become a faceless factor of production that denies

their human dignity. So Jesus, they carry that cross as you carried your cross. Help us to make choices Lord that promotes organic farming to respect those that harvest commodities and prevent poisoning the earth.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

8TH STATION: JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

CLIMATE CHANGE'S IMPACT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Luke 23:27

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him.

The women of Jerusalem mourned and lamented the injustice inflicted on Jesus. Do we weep for the 27 million people that face the dawn of each new day in forced slavery of human trafficking? They may be a housekeeper, harvest your chocolate, a child soldier or work in a sweat shop sewing clothes. They could live in your community or half way around the globe. Lack of education, especially for women, presents a future rooted in poverty, so they become snared into human trafficking for their existence. The impact of climate change will make more people vulnerable to the possibility of trafficking. Eighty four developing countries are susceptible to raising sea levels. For example in Viet Nam, with almost 2000 miles of coast line, 70 percent of the population lives in low lands or deltas. In the southern Mekong

Delta, now home to 18 million people, 14.2 million people are subject to displacement from rising sea levels. Current climate changes of a longer dry season allows more salt water to migrate into fresh water sources. This increases salinity of the soil to kill crops and diminish supplies of fresh drinking water. Families must buy drinking water, further decreasing their disposable income. Overall, Viet Nam's GDP could decrease 10 percent from the effects of climate change. As people slip deeper into poverty, the false lures of trafficking snares more people that are struggling for survival. Jesus, the cross of poverty forces many to be drawn into trafficking. The carbon footprint of the world's consumption imprints the globe with receding land mass as sea levels rise. Help us to make sustainable decisions, so brothers and sisters will not flee the rising waters only to be enslaved by human trafficking.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

9TH STATION: JESUS FALLS A THIRD TIME

COURAGE TO KEEP ADDRESSING ISSUES

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation, as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Daniel 3:37 and 39

For we are reduced O Lord...brought low everywhere in the world...because of our sins...but with contrite heart and humble spirit let us be received

Jesus, under the weight of the cross, you fell a third time. The burden and mental anguish as the crowds pressed in and sun glared down upon the dusty

path. As we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth, we too feel burden and anguish. Environmental exploitation of the air, water and land seem so vast, complex and daunting. We contend with people mired, in self serving consumerism, insensitive to the ecological implications of their actions. Others deny climate change is a reality amidst rising levels of physical evidence. And the harshest anguish is to hear people speak of their brother or sister as them, those other people or derogatory racial slurs, for the earth is all our home. We reside in the gift of creation not as individuals, but needing to share the resources and offer prudent care in solidarity with all inhabitants. May we have a prayerful heart of gratitude for the opportunity to be entrusted as our Father's co-creators, seek guidance of the Holy Spirit to enlighten our decisions and the courage to boldly acknowledge creation is not for exploitation but reverent stewardship.

For Jesus, your strength to rise and fulfill your Father's will gives us the resolve to care for creation even though the challenges seem daunting.

All: Lord Jesus I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

10TH STATION: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

STRIP MINING

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Matthew 27:31

And when they mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak...

As Jesus was crucified on Calvary, he was stripped of his garments and mocked as an assault to his dignity. Today, the earth is stripped of nutrient rich top soil and vegetation. Animals' native habitat is lost, soil runoff clogs waterways, siltation extinguishes aquatic life and minimizes fresh drinking sources all for cheaply extracting coal to fuel the wants of consumerism. Many times, Appalachia's rural, economically challenged communities suffer the visual, ecological and physical health effects of the earth's exploitation. Two-thirds of America's coal is mined this way. Especially devastating is mountain top removal, as trees are clear cut to make way for heavy machinery to assault the natural ridge lines of creation. Between 1992 to 2012 it is estimated that seven percent of 12 million acres in West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee will be subject to mountain top removal causing 1200 miles of streams to be degraded and 729 miles of streams buried by rock and dirt from the extraction process. This process leaves neighboring communities subject to dust laden with toxins like lead and flooding as the mountains without vegetation cannot absorb water and natural stream drainage has vanished under mountain top debris. Sludge ponds of coal waste may contain a billion gallons of residue leaving neighbors subject to toxic quagmires and potential devastation if the containment ponds rupture. With an insatiate demand for energy, the consequences on the earth intensifies. Where it used to be ten cubic yards of earth would be moved to get one ton of coal, today twenty cubic yards of creation must be disturbed. Coal strip mining is a cross carried by the people of Appalachia. Lord help us to seek renewable energy resources and restrain our consumption, so creation will not be stripped of mountain top vistas and streams flowing with life giving water.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

11TH STATION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

LIVING WITH A CROSS

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation, as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Luke 23:39

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us."

Jesus suffered the anguish of nail pierced hands amidst calls to be the Messiah and deny his humanity upon the cross. All the while, his mother and beloved disciple absorbed the scene of injustice and mockery. The cross was no more borne in his hands and on his back. It was to be borne in being anchored to the cross and bearing the reality of not denying the consequences of such a choice. Exalted on the cross meant no place to hide from insult and questioning. As we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth, can we make the commitment to move beyond carrying the cross to be anchored to the beams of justice and conservation. For as disciples carrying for creation, it cannot be a commitment of convenience, but a lived reality in our purchasing decisions and causes of justice we support. For our hands must prudently use resources to foster conservation and our feet must embrace the pavement to work for justice unceasingly.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me bear my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

12TH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

THE REFUGEE DIE IN MIGRATION DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Luke 23:46

Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father into your hands I commend my Spirit"... and when he had said this he breathed his last.

Jesus dies after an earthly life that begun as a refugee. Today, 300,00 people die annually of climate change causes. Twenty-four million are refugees from climate change induced floods and famine. Twenty-five million are internally displaced within their own country. Ten to 25 percent of all migration is climate related. By 2020, the numbers are expected to double. Thirty of the world's 50 largest cities will be subject to flooding if sea levels rise one meter. The reality of climate change refugees presents a political, economic and social nexus. How will governments manage the vast number of hungry displaced people without means of a livelihood or those knocking on their door from other countries seeking the basic necessities of life? What will be the economic challenges as agricultural markets are disrupted by intense floods in some regions and drought in others? Will increasing basic commodity prices limit people's disposable income? Socially, will we recognize climate change refugees with the same status as those fleeing political or religious persecution? Will countries responsible for inflicting climate change step up to take responsibility for these refugees? A microcosm of this scenario remains vivid in our minds from the Southeast Asian tsunami. Around 200,000 people perished, thousands more displaced, regions' economies and

tourism disrupted. The tsunami's impact was intensified due to deforestation for development with diminished flood zones due to rising sea levels -- so the raging waters inundated more land mass. Jesus, you died on the cross surrendering your will into the Father's hands. As we deal with the consequences of climate change, may we surrender the moral, economic and social decisions our world must make to the Father's guidance. For only in faith, can we move beyond self interest to see the interdependence of the Father's creation.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

13TH STATION: JESUS IS TAKEN FROM THE CROSS

DOUBTERS' ACTION

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Romans 6:8

...we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross to the care of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. One a beloved disciple, the other a Pharisee. People that once doubted or were afraid to act due to potential persecution and exclusion from the religious and economic mainstream. But the message and signs of Jesus' ministry became too profound for them to ignore. They experienced a conversion of heart that gave them the courage to ask Pilate for Jesus' body and gave him a respectful burial. An action, they unknowingly weren't aware of, would lead to the chronology of the resurrection and the profound effect on

the destiny of humanity. When we see the effects of climate change, pollution of the air and water and toxins entering the food chain, do we follow the mainstream procession of business as usual or maybe say silently to ourselves, "That's terrible!" Or can we have conviction, courage and resolve to let the divine essence of creation not to be victimized by humanity's insensitivity to their self-gratifying actions? For we must step forward to accept the unjustly crucified earth and acknowledge our responsibility to be co-creators with God in the goodness of creation. We may not see the breadth of our actions' impact. It might be just a spark we provide to enliven the actions of another or planting a seed of hope to blossom in another generation. But by acting, we say we believe that our faith calls us to care for creation and sustainable choices in our lifestyle.

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

14TH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

RESURRECTION OF CONVICTION TO SUPPORT INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL OF CREATION

Presider: We adore you O Christ and seek your grace and guidance on our journey to respect creation and satisfy the basic human needs of all.

All: As you carried your cross, manifest to us God's creative, providential and redemptive spirit of creation as we carry our cross of stewardship for the earth.

Galatians 2: 19-20

...I have been crucified with Christ, yet I live no longer I, but Christ lives in me.

Jesus was laid in the tomb, but it was only an interlude to the resurrection. At the dawn of each new day, may we experience a resurrection of conviction to care for the gift of creation. The beauty of creation reflects the infinite beauty

of the Creator and ought to inspire our actions. As God wills the interdependence of all creatures and human beings may we respect the diversities and realize no one is self-sufficient. We need to strive towards complementing and serving one another in the decision we make to respect the earth and see that the basic needs of all are met is a principle of wisdom and a foundation for morality. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* paragraphs 337-349 and 354 In experiencing the resurrection, we must learn to trust God to provide for our needs and not anguish over our wants. And we must trust one another to be responsible stewards of the earth, so no one consumes beyond their needs. Resurrection is an awakening of compassion to see the face of Christ in brothers and sister carrying crosses inflicted by degradation of the earth. To alleviate human suffering, we need a resurrection of perseverance to not despair when obstacles for change seem monumental, for we know Jesus rolled away the stone. When we hear calls of division, isolation along ethnic or economic divides, the resurrection gives us courage in our convictions to live faith respecting human dignity and stand in solidarity as one human family. O Jesus, your resurrection helps us to experience each new dawn as a resurrection of hope, for the words you left with us most were "Be not afraid."

All: Lord Jesus, I trust you to help me carry my cross in respecting creation by affirming human dignity and responsible use of resources in the choices I make.

Closing Prayer: Presider or All

We thank you Lord for helping us carry our crosses in being stewards of creation and allowing us to stand in solidarity with those carrying crosses from the afflictions of climate change. As you died on the cross, a symbol of justice, help us to see today the justice issues in carrying for creation. May we act in mercy, serve in gratitude and live with a hopeful spirit. You are our Father, that gives us our daily bread to sustain our needs, so we are not lead into the temptation of indifference and we can say...Our Father, who art in heaven...