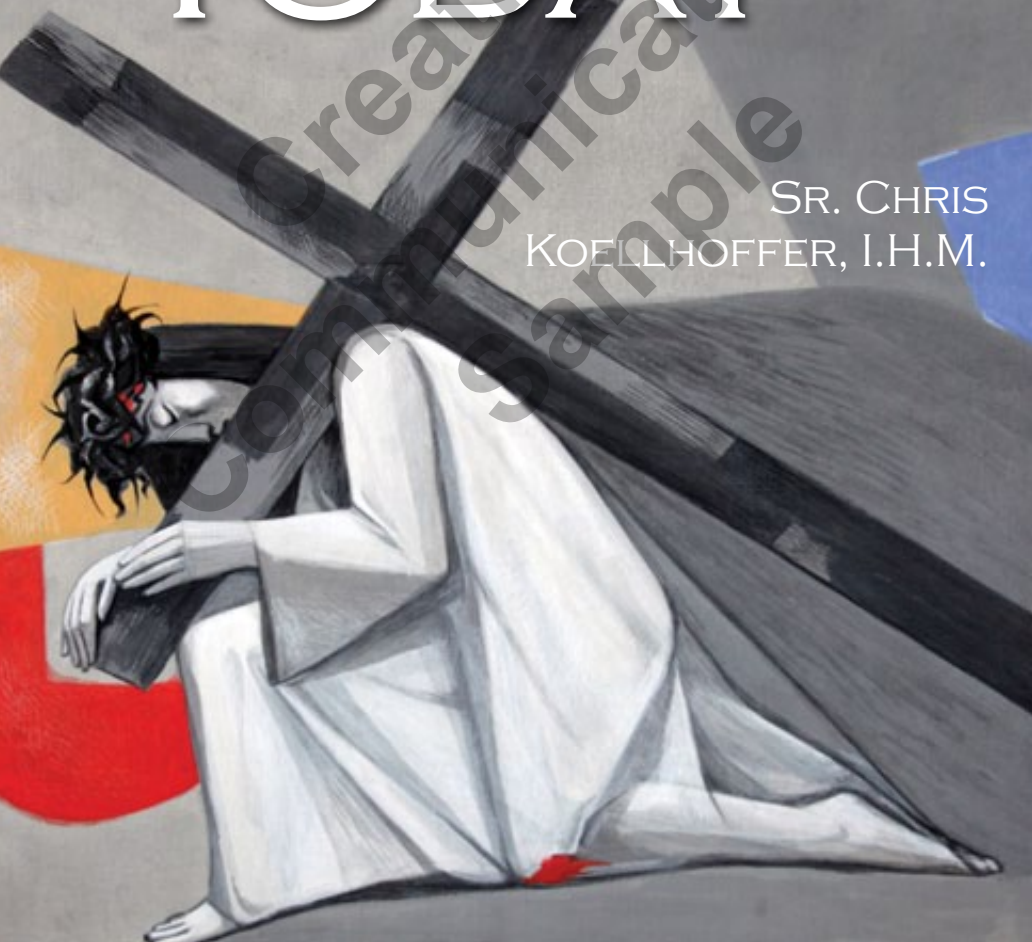


A CONTEMPORARY WAY OF THE CROSS

# WITH JESUS TODAY

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# WITH JESUS TODAY

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## *A Contemporary Way of the Cross*

The Lenten season invites us to contemplate and enter more deeply into the Paschal mystery of Jesus' suffering and death through praying the Stations of the Cross. Today, this centuries-old practice is made fresh and new as we remember not only the Jesus of history but Jesus as he lives, in lives broken and wounded in this time and place.

As we live Pope Francis' call to be a Church for and with the poor, the contemporary Way of the Cross opens our eyes to recognize those in whom Jesus continues to journey to Calvary today. How might we accompany him as he endures pain and anguish, loss and oppression in the crucified peoples of our world? How and where are we challenged to be a presence that heals, that restores right relationship and that tends to Jesus' wounds in our fragile and vulnerable neighbors?

This Lent, let us walk this Way with Jesus, inviting him to act in us to bring about God's dream for our world, right here, right now.

Communications  
Sample



## FIRST STATION

# JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

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We remember those unjustly condemned, imprisoned, executed

Jesus,  
by the power of your holy cross,  
may we walk with you as you change the world!

### **REFLECTION:**

Is there no one to defend Jesus? Not Herod, who sent Jesus back to Pilate. Not Pilate, even as he admitted he could find no reason to condemn Jesus, even as his wife warned him not to move forward with the death sentence. Not the chief priests, stirring up the frenzied crowd. Not the crowd, following the lead of the council and roaring their demand for the bloody spectacle of capital punishment. All washed their hands as Jesus stood silent and waited.

Today, Jesus continues to stand alone and without support in the many who have been convicted and silenced because of their religious beliefs or cultural practices, who have been falsely accused and imprisoned, who have been unjustly sentenced to death and brutally executed. Is there no one to stand with them and speak out for justice, no one to oppose the mob's thirst for vengeance?

### **WALKING PRAYER:**

Abandoned Jesus,  
alone and lonely in the face of death, comfort and encourage those who walk this torturous road to Calvary.  
Call us to move from being passersby to companions, from spectators to advocates.  
Abandoned Jesus, we pray that we will accompany you always.





## S E C O N D   S T A T I O N

# JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

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We remember those struggling with physical limitations,  
mental illness, terminal conditions

Jesus,  
by the power of your holy cross,  
may we walk with you as you change the world!

### **REFLECTION:**

Pilate sentences the innocent one, Jesus, frees the criminal, Barabbas, and orders Jesus to endure the bloodletting of the whip. In the space of a few minutes, Jesus feels in his flesh and his spirit the unfairness of the world. A decision born of fear and cowardice determines his future. A cross he did not choose and does not deserve is thrust upon him.

Like Jesus, so many in our world also know the diminishment of their bodies and minds and struggle each day with a cross they did not choose and do not deserve. Some also struggle with a terminal prognosis that robs them of hope and underscores the painful, uncertain path ahead of them.

### **WALKING PRAYER:**

Questioning Jesus,  
you carry the cross and witness to the reality that the circumstances of our lives are full of mystery and may often appear arbitrary or devoid of fairness.  
As you suffer now in your people whose pain, anguish, anxiety and hopelessness are their daily lot, may we follow you even when the experiences of our lives are beyond understanding.  
Questioning Jesus, we pray that we will accompany you always.

# WITH JESUS TODAY

Jesus suffered terribly on the way to his death on the cross, a suffering that has been echoed throughout history in the afflictions of the least of his brothers and sisters. These compassionate reflections on the fourteen Stations of the Cross by Sr. Chris Koellhoffer draw our attention to the connections between Christ's passion and the suffering poorest among us today.

