



NEUMANN CENTER

Retreats and Spiritual Growth

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Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

The Stations of the Cross Garden at the St. John Neumann Center was the inspiration for the creation of this guide to pray the Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation.

The guide was developed at a retreat held at the Neumann Center April 25 - 27, 2025. The Gift of Creation: The Gift of God's Love in Our Common Home provided the opportunity for a deeper connection with the natural world. Led by Brother Louis Canter, OEF, participants explored the Canticle of the Creatures by St. Francis, the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address Greetings to the Natural World, and Laudato Si' On Care for Our Common Home, the Encyclical letter from Pope Francis.

Bringing the words of St. Francis and Pope Francis to us through the selected scriptures, reflections and prayers, is the gift from the participants on the weekend. We hope that you will use this guide and find your place in the call to take action for our common home, God's gift of creation to us.

Br. Louis Canter, OEF
Rosemary Prince

Bill Bibby
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Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

First Station – Jesus is Condemned to Death

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

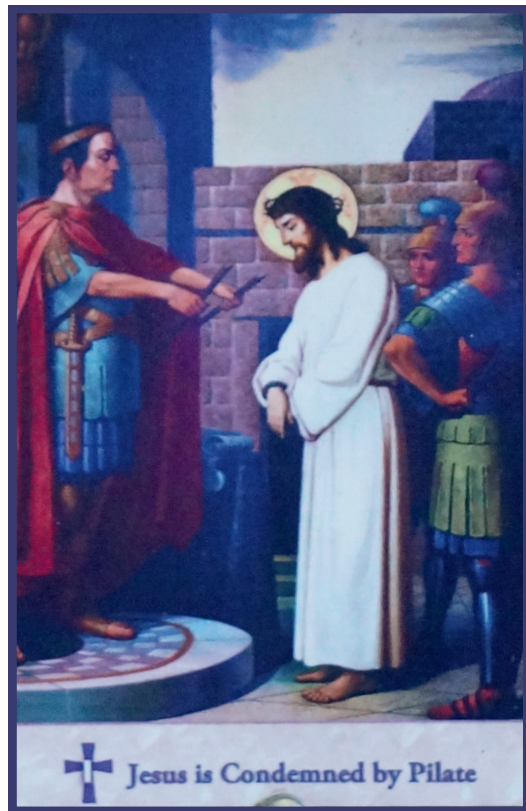
Reading: Genesis 1:11 “Then God said, ‘Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds’ And it was so.”

Reflection: As Jesus faces condemnation, let us reflect on our responsibilities towards our planet. In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis gently reminds us of our duty to care for our Common Home. Are we attentive to the environmental challenges, ensuring a healthy planet for future generations?

Prayer: Lord, as we reflect on Jesus being condemned to death, we pray for justice in our world. Help us to recognize the injustices inflicted upon your creation and give us the courage to speak out against them. May your righteousness flow like an ever-flowing stream, bringing healing to the earth.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father



Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

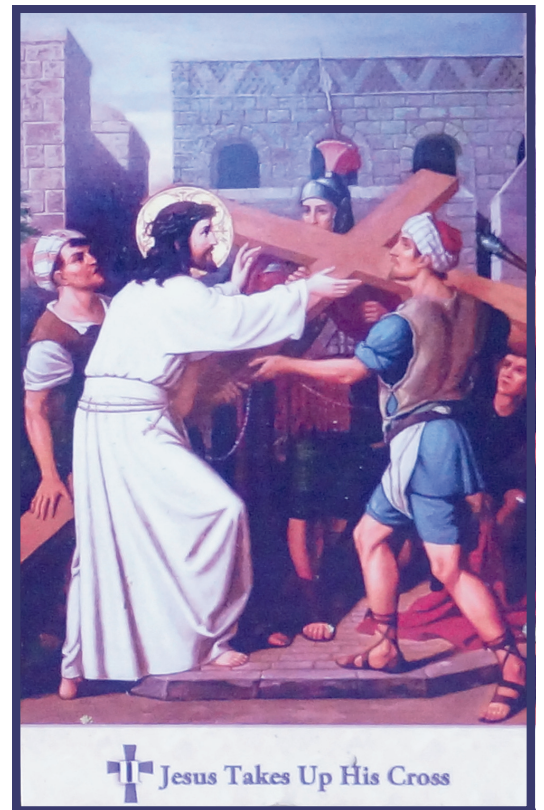
Second Station – Jesus Takes Up His Cross

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Genesis 2:15 "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

Reflection: Jesus carries his cross, bearing the weight of humanity's burdens. We, too, carry the responsibility for our environment. The impact we have through our actions calls for thoughtful and caring stewardship. Let us embrace this duty with kindness and dedication.



Prayer: Lord, as Jesus takes up His cross, we are reminded of the weight of our responsibilities. Grant us the strength to bear the burdens of environmental stewardship. Teach us to live gently and humbly, finding rest in your guidance. Help us to make choices that honor your creation.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Third Station – Jesus Falls the First Time

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Galatians 6:9 “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up.”

Reflection: When Jesus falls, we are reminded of our own shortcomings in caring for creation. Despite occasional setbacks, *Laudato Si'* encourages us to rise and continue our efforts to protect the environment. Each fall is a gentle reminder to renew our commitment to ecological conversion.



Prayer: Lord, as Jesus falls the first time, we acknowledge the difficulties we face in caring for the environment. Strengthen our resolve to persevere in our efforts to protect your creation. May we not grow weary in doing what is right, trusting in the promise of a fruitful harvest.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Fourth Station – Jesus Meets His Mother

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Galatians 6:2 “Bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Reflection: Jesus' mother offers comfort and support. Similarly, creation provides solace and sustenance to humanity. Laudato Si' calls us to appreciate the interconnectedness of all life and to honor the earth as our nurturing mother, deserving of gentle care and protection.

Prayer: Lord, as Jesus meets His mother, we are reminded of the sorrow felt by those affected by environmental disasters.

Fill our hearts with compassion and solidarity. Help us to bear one another's burdens and fulfill the law of Christ through acts of kindness and support.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father



Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Fifth Station – Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9 “Two are better than one: They get a good wage for their toil.”

Reflection: Simon assists Jesus in his struggle. We are invited to be helpers for our planet, contributing to the preservation and restoration of creation. Laudato Si' emphasizes the importance of communal action and solidarity. Together, we can gently lift the burdens on our earth.



Prayer: Lord, as Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross, we are inspired to work together in caring for the environment. Bless our collaborative efforts and strengthen our community bonds. May our joint labor yield positive and lasting results for your creation.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

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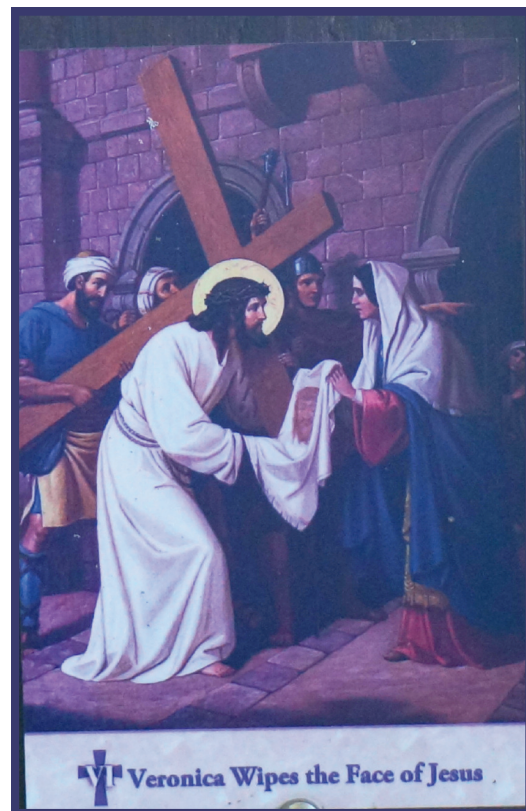
Sixth Station – Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Matthew 25:40 "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Reflection: Veronica's act of compassion reflects our call to be gentle stewards of creation. Laudato Si' urges us to adopt lifestyles of simplicity and care, mindful of our ecological footprint. By making thoughtful and compassionate choices, we can heal the scars of environmental harm.



Prayer: Lord, as Veronica wipes the face of Jesus, we are moved by her compassion. Instill in us a spirit of mercy and care for your creation. May our small acts of kindness, like planting trees and conserving water, reflect your love and bring healing to the earth.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Seventh Station – Jesus Falls the Second Time

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Psalm 34:18 “The righteous cry out, the LORD hears and he rescues them from all their afflictions.”

Reflection: Jesus' second fall symbolizes the ongoing struggle in our environmental efforts. Laudato Si' teaches us that persistence is key, even when faced with challenges. Each fall is an opportunity to deepen our resolve and to strengthen our gentle commitment to protecting our planet.

Prayer: Lord, as Jesus falls the second time, we are reminded of the resilience required in our environmental journey. Be near to us in our moments of struggle and heartache. Strengthen our spirits and renew our commitment to advancing ecological justice.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father



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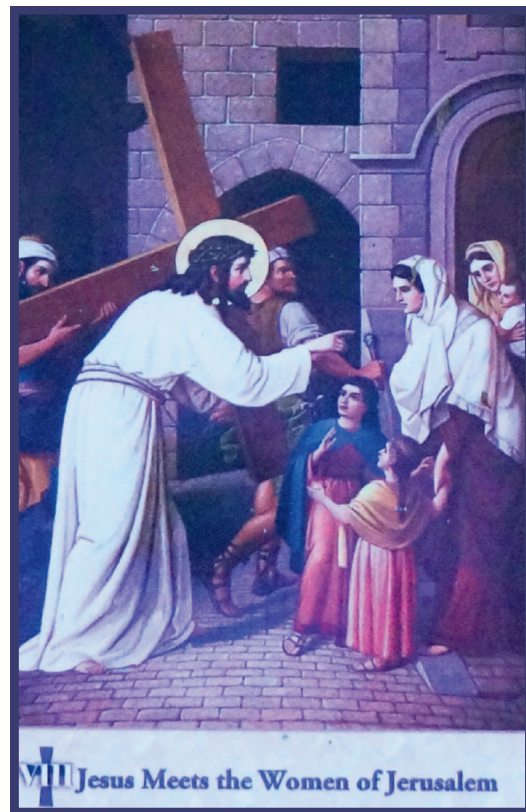
Eight Station – Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Proverbs 31:8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute."

Reflection: The women of Jerusalem show empathy and concern for Jesus. In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls us to hear the cries of the earth and the poor, who are most affected by environmental degradation. Let our hearts be moved to gentle action, responding to the needs of creation.



Prayer: Lord, as Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem, we are reminded of our shared concerns for the planet's future. Open our mouths to speak for those who cannot and advocate for the rights of those affected by environmental harm. Help us to raise awareness and inspire action for the care of your creation.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Ninth Station – Jesus Falls the Third Time

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Genesis 1:11 "Then God said, 'Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so."

Reflection: Jesus' third fall represents the cumulative impact of our environmental neglect. Laudato Si' inspires us to confront the gravity of our actions and to rise with renewed gentleness. Let us acknowledge the severity of our ecological sins and strive for a profound and gentle ecological conversion.

Prayer: Lord, as Jesus falls the third time, we confront the persistent obstacles in our journey toward environmental sustainability. Grant us determination and strength through our faith in You. Help us to continue striving for a healthier planet despite the challenges we face.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father



Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Tenth Station – Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

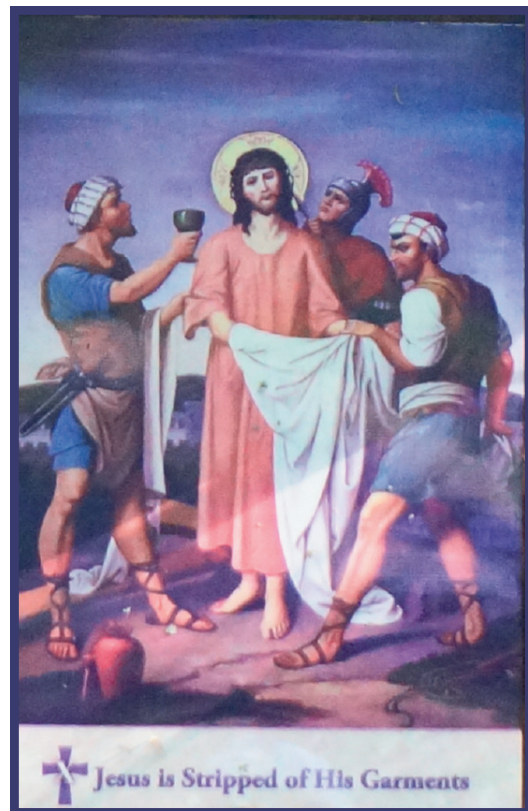
R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Psalm 24:1 “The earth is the LORD’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it.”

Reflection: Jesus is stripped of his dignity, akin to the stripping of our planet's resources. Laudato Si’ calls us to respect the intrinsic value of creation, beyond its utility to humans. Let us advocate for sustainable practices that honor the earth's worth with gentle care.

Prayer: Lord, as Jesus is stripped of His garments, we reflect on the exploitation of natural resources. Teach us to adopt ethical consumption practices that honor the earth and respect its limits. May we remember that the earth is yours and all that is in it. **Amen.**

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father



Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Eleventh Station – Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Jeremiah 30:17 “For I will restore your health; I will heal your injuries—oracle of the LORD. “The outcast” they have called you, “whom no one looks for.”

Reflection: As Jesus is nailed to the cross, we reflect on the irreversible damages inflicted on creation. Laudato Si’ reminds us that our actions can have lasting effects. Let us commit to reducing our impact and to healing the wounds of our environment through thoughtful and gentle living.



Prayer: Lord, as Jesus is nailed to the cross and endured great suffering, we are reminded of the irreversible damage caused by environmental neglect. Help us to commit to actions that prevent further harm and seek restoration for your creation. May your knowledge fill the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Twelfth Station – Jesus Dies on the Cross

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Reflection: Jesus' death represents the ultimate sacrifice. Laudato Si' challenges us to consider the sacrifices needed to protect our planet. Are we willing to change our lifestyles, to make sacrifices for the greater good of creation, and to honor this sacred duty with gentleness?



Prayer: Lord, as Jesus dies on the cross, we mourn the loss of ecosystems and species due to human activity. Help us to pledge ourselves to the conservation of life in all its forms. May we take to heart the urgency of protecting your creation.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Thirteenth Station – Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Genesis 1:28 “God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have stewardship over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth.”

Reflection: Jesus is carefully taken down from the cross, symbolizing the care required to restore creation. Laudato Si' calls us to be active participants in the renewal of the earth. Let us take deliberate and gentle actions to rehabilitate and rejuvenate our environment.



Prayer: Lord, as Jesus is taken down from the cross, we recognize the need for healing and renewal in your creation. Help us to participate in restoration projects and support initiatives that rejuvenate the environment. Heal our broken hearts and bind up our wounds.

Amen.

V. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father

Stations of the Cross for the Gift of God's Creation

Fourteenth Station – Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

V. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

R. Because, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Psalm 104:30 “Send forth your spirit, they are created and you renew the face of the earth.”

Reflection: Jesus is laid to rest, with a promise of resurrection. Laudato Si' offers hope for the future, encouraging us to believe in the possibility of ecological regeneration. Let us pray and take action towards a world where creation can rise anew, flourishing in gentle harmony.



Prayer: Lord, as Jesus is laid in the tomb, we are reminded of the importance of preserving natural habitats and protecting endangered species. Help us to honor the earth's sanctity and promote sustainable practices. May we till and keep the garden you have entrusted to us.

Amen.

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Conclusion

Through these prayers, we seek to deepen our commitment to caring for creation, inspired by the profound teachings of Laudato Si. May we walk this journey with Jesus, embracing our responsibility to protect and preserve the Earth, our common home.

The resurrection brings new life and hope. Laudato Si envisions a future where humanity lives in greater harmony with creation. Let us embrace this vision, fostering a relationship with the earth that reflects respect, care, and gratitude for the gift of life.



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