

Pro-Life Stations of the Cross

Dignity for all, Born and Unborn



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This presentation of the Stations of the Cross is offered in memory of Sir Knight Peter Riccardo who joyfully and relentlessly defended the lives of the unborn



FIRST STATION
Jesus Is Condemned To Death

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

LEAD: See our innocent Savior standing before
His worldly judge. Pilate knows that Jesus is inno-
cent. He even knows that Jesus stands accused
before him only because of the envy of the hypo-
critical religious leaders. Pilate tries to act as
though it were not so! He tries to compromise
with the truth. He seeks peace at the price of
injustice. He finds only enduring wretchedness and anguish of the soul.

Though innocent, Jesus is condemned by the power of the State. In a like
manner, our innocent brothers and sisters in the womb have been con-
demned. Their rights and dignity are not recognized. In this, they bear a spe-
cial likeness to Jesus.

ALL (Kneel): My innocent Jesus / often, rather than offend men, I have
forsaken You. / And yet, You have taken upon Yourself the sentence
of death / that You might restore life. / My God and my Savior / as
long as I try to please men I am in danger of forsaking You. / Give me
the grace and the courage to displease the world -- rather than to of-
fend You.

LEAD: Have mercy on the thousands of babies who today stand sentenced
to crucifixion in the womb, by verdict of their own mothers.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



SECOND STATION
Jesus Receives His Cross

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

LEAD: When Jesus sees the Holy Cross, willingly,
eagerly, He embraces it. For those who give it to
Him, the Cross is an instrument of torture, but for
Him it is an instrument of my salvation. By endur-
ing the Cross He is able, once and for all, to atone
to His Heavenly Father for the sins of the centu-
ries – for my sins. Therefore, He embraces it eagerly.

The salvation of the world carried a heavy price for our Lord, the agony of the
cross. As He accepts His cross, let us also resolve to endure suffering that
others may live. Let us pay the price for standing up for our preborn brothers
and sisters.

ALL (Kneel): O Jesus, by bearing Your Cross / You atoned for my sins /
and gained the graces necessary for my salvation. / And by bearing
my cross / I can make sure that the sacrifices You made for me were
not in vain. / Whatever little worry, or trouble, or trial, or responsibility
You will send me, / I shall bear each generously for You / Who bore
Your Cross so generously and lovingly for me.

LEAD: Have mercy on the little ones who this very day must receive the cross
of rejection and pain in the secrecy of their own mother's womb.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



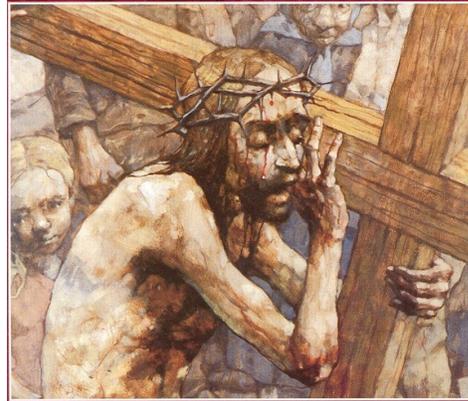
THIRD STATION
Jesus falls the first time

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless
You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have
redeemed the world



LEAD: Although weakened by the loss of blood and broken hearted because of my infidelities, Jesus strains to bear the heavy weight of my sins. But they are too much for Him! With His unaided human strength He is simply unable to bear the oppressive burden. He stumbles and falls. But, impelled by love for me, He strains to rise again and carry on. However much I deserve to be forsaken, He will not forsake me.

Almighty God was weak because He chose to be like us. He had power and glory from all eternity, yet He chose to be immersed in the world of suffering. We pray that the benefits and advantages we have in life may not cause us to forget our preborn brothers and sisters.

ALL (Kneel): My Jesus, when I have the misfortune of falling into sin again, / I shall take courage from Your example. / I promise, with the help of Your grace / to rise again and to follow faithfully Your footsteps / even if they do lead to Calvary.

LEAD: Have mercy on the mothers who, overcome with confusion and anxiety, have caved into the temptation to try to solve their problems by secretly destroying their own baby – that they may have the grace of conversion and repentance, and reverse their decision.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



FOURTH STATION
Jesus meets his Blessed Mother

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

LEAD: Imagine Mary, meeting her beloved Son carrying the Cross. Think of the deep sorrow that fills her heart. She wished to die either for Jesus or together with Him. But her cross was to live! It was by sharing so intimately in the Passion of her Divine Son that she brought me forth into supernatural life and merited to be called my mother. I must strive to share in her great and intense sorrow that I might not only console her, but also by suffering with her, learn to hate sin which caused her such great anguish.

There is no deeper relationship than that of mother and child. They belong together. When one suffers, the other suffers. To love and defend one means to love and defend the other. To be pro-life means to serve both the child and the mother. It means to ask our society, "Why can't we love them both?"

ALL (Kneel): O Mary, my Mother, / by the merits of your intense grief / obtain for me the grace of realizing that God chastises those He loves. / Following your graceful example, / let me be reconciled with understanding / that suffering and sorrow and the Cross, must be my lot in this valley of tears. / In your motherly ways, strengthen me that I might bear my cross well.

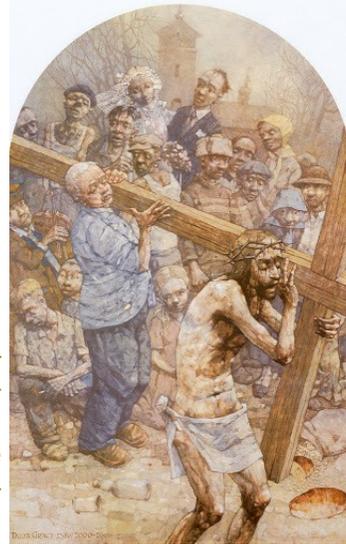
LEAD: And have mercy on all pregnant mothers who are overwhelmed by anxieties over their pregnancy; may they, through the example and prayers of our Blessed Mother, have the grace and courage to accept their baby rather than try to escape worldly crosses by aborting their baby.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



FIFTH STATION
Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry
His cross



LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

LEAD: Simon of Cyrene is compelled to help Jesus carry the cross. How he recoiled at the embarrassment of helping a condemned criminal! How he preferred, as I often prefer, to carry the cross of his own choice instead of the cross Jesus would have him bear. Let me be ashamed, like Simon, that I so frequently carry the cross only on compulsion – that I so reluctantly help Jesus bear the heavy burden of atonement for sins.

Many watched the Lord suffer. Simon helped alleviate that suffering. Many lament abortion. Some actually get involved to help stop it. We pray that all people may take their active place in the pro-life movement.

ALL (Kneel): My Jesus, whoever does not carry the Cross and follow You is not worthy of You. / I will help You carry the cross; / I will be Your companion. / Help me realize the great privilege of being your eyes, your voice and your hands / that I am able to share in Your work of saving souls.

LEAD: And have mercy on all Pro-Life workers trying to help pregnant women avoid the false solution to their problems by seeking to abort their baby. May God grant them the grace of prudence, wisdom and perseverance in their work.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



SIXTH STATION
Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

LEAD: Veronica, out of devotion and compassion for Jesus, approaches Him and wipes His blood-stained face with a cloth. Brave woman! Long ago she had learned the vanity of human praise and emptiness of human contempt. Scorning the jeering multitude, she befriends the friendless Jesus and offers Him her comfort and sympathy. Jesus imprints on her veil the image of His Holy Face. A little service brings a great reward.

Veronica's compassion reflects the compassion of so many medical doctors and nurses, who treat their patients with dignity. We pray for repentance and renewal in the medical profession. May the tools and skills meant for the healing nevermore be used for killing.

ALL (Kneel): O Jesus, grant me the courage to befriend You in the company of the scornful. / Let me learn from those who ridiculed and condemned You. / Give me the courage to stand alone, if need be, / in witness to what is true / and in defense of what is right. / Let me fear only Your adverse judgment. / Behold I offer you my heart, / Imprint upon it the image of Your love, / and may that image never be removed.

LEAD: Have mercy on the women who, believing the loss of reputation their pregnancy brings, are tempted to avoid the embarrassment by aborting their babies. May they valiantly resist the temptation and refuse to mar the image of God they bear in their womb.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



SEVENTH STATION

Jesus falls the second time

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

LEAD: Again, weakened by suffering and overcome by fatigue, Jesus falls. Though utterly exhausted, He will not give up. He will not surrender to death until atonement is made and my salvation is accomplished.

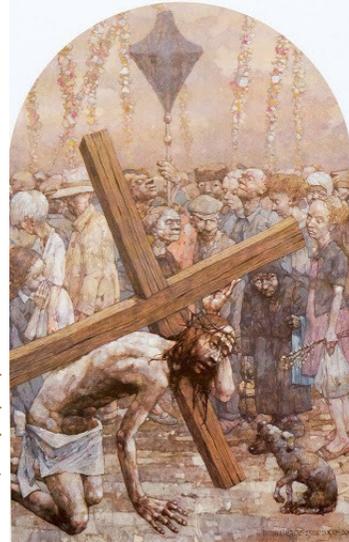
In working to defend life, there are many setbacks and obstacles. Yet we know the meaning of the cross. In weakness, power reaches perfection. We do not look to our own strengths and talents alone, but to Christ. His own strength will sustain us.

ALL (Kneel): O Jesus, help me bear with perseverance / and ever greater generosity / the cross of fidelity to Your commandments and inspirations. / But if I ever again have the misfortune of sinning, / let me, encouraged by the example of Your zeal to atone / have the honesty to acknowledge my guilt, / the humility to confess my failure, / the courage to atone for my sin, / and the strength to rise again.

LEAD: And have mercy on all those guilty of a second abortion, that they might not only come to an acute realization of the awfulness of their sin but also to a firm conviction of the infinite mercy of God and of His love for the repentant sinner.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



EIGHTH STATION
Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

LEAD: The pious women of Jerusalem weep for our suffering Savior. He turns to them and says, "Weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." Compassion is good and we should be compassionate but our Lord wishes us to understand that it is better to be sorry for our sins. He also wants us to realize that we, too, might be asked to bear such sufferings as His. We must be prepared for it.

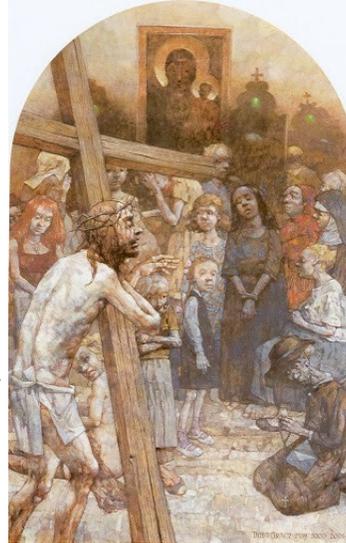
Christ told these women to weep for themselves and for their children. He does not want false worship, but repentance. He does not want followers who cry out to Him but then ignore injustice and bloodshed. May all who believe in Christ likewise stand up for the defenseless children.

ALL (Kneel): O Jesus, grant me, like the women of Jerusalem, a compassionate heart, / a heart ever sensitive to the sufferings of others / and ever eager to help them in their trials. / Grant me a heart acutely sensitive to the malice of sin. / But also, dear Lord, help me to realize that I, / like You, may be required to bear my cross down the gauntlet of ridicule and scorn. / Please strengthen me for any trials You have in store for me.

LEAD: And have mercy on all the lonely mothers who having been deceived into aborting their baby are now abandoned to bear alone the burden of a tortured conscience – may they realize that in spite of their sin they are still objects of God's overwhelming and merciful love. With tears of repentance may they quickly return to their Father's loving embrace.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



NINTH STATION
Jesus falls the third time

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed
the world.

LEAD: As Jesus approaches Calvary, He falls again, the third time. I must realize how very real the suffering is, the heartache, the fatigue of my beloved Savior; and therefore, how great and how genuine was His love for me in bearing the cross. From this third fall I must realize especially that, regardless of how many times I fall, I must acknowledge my failure, repent my fault, and rise again.

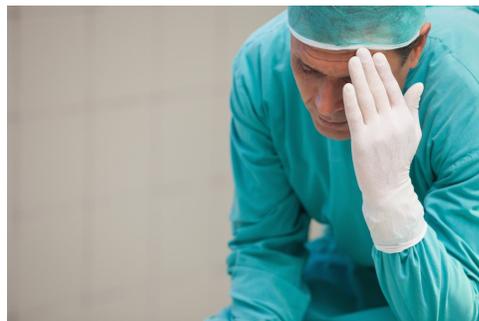
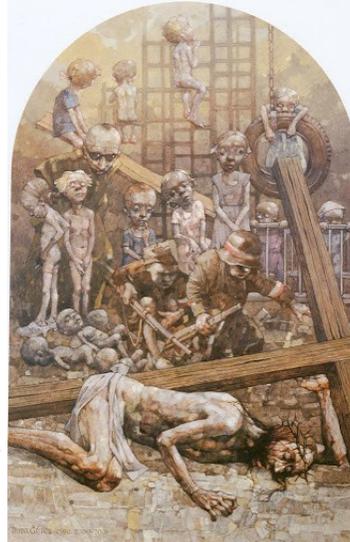
Despite the falls, nothing can stop our Lord, because He is on a mission of love. If the pro-life movement is not a movement of love, it is nothing at all; but if it is a movement of love, then nothing will stop it. Love is stronger than death, more powerful than hell.

ALL (Kneel): O Jesus, grant me the grace of immunity from despair. / Imprint on my soul the realization of Your great love for me / and of Your infinite patience and forgiveness. / Instill in me a firm determination never to allow unrepented sins to keep me from You. / Make me firm in my resolve to be honest in admitting my guilt; / make me ready to endure any embarrassment, / to tolerate any consequences, / rather than fail to confess my sins.

LEAD: Have mercy on the professional abortionists and their assistants. With a keen realization of the awfulness of their sin, may they, with sincere repentance, strive to atone for their sin by helping others avoid the trap they fall into.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



TENTH STATION
Jesus is stripped of His garments

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

LEAD: Behold our Blessed Savior as He is stripped of His garments. Even in His Sacred Passion He teaches me detachment from things of this world. He divests Himself of the last vestiges of the things of this world, His own garments. He reminds me that in my final agony, I must relinquish all, that nothing on earth can serve as my support. Riches, honors and reputation are of no avail. Even friends must pass me by, helpless to come to my aid. I must, therefore, seek above all, the kingdom of God and His friendship. With these I am rich and secure; with anything else I am poor and wretched.

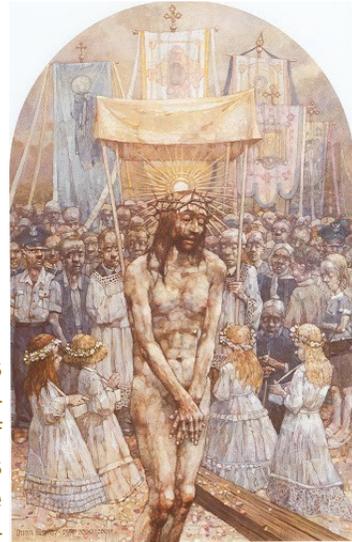
Nobody can stop us from loving our preborn brothers and sisters. Those who are stronger than we are may strip us of popularity, possessions, or power, but they cannot strip us of love. We love others with the same love that Christ showed for us.

ALL (Kneel): O Jesus, let me, like You, / be detached from the things of this world. / Help me to realize that things of this earth can never bring me final happiness, / nor ever support me in my trials. / Grant me the grace to see that things cannot bring happiness. / Grant me the grace of being poor in spirit; / that I might have one consuming ambition: / to amass merit in Heaven; / and that I might have one consuming passion: / to do always Your Holy Will.

LEAD: And have mercy on those who are at this hour being prepared for an abortion. With a keen awareness of the sin they are about to commit, may they, even at this last moment, have the grace and courage to reverse their decision, and spare their child

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



ELEVENTH STATION
Jesus is nailed to the cross

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

LEAD : Contemplate our Divine Savior as He suffers the pain of being nailed to the cross. By His anguish He atones for our sins. Hear the dull thud of the hammer. Feel the piercing pain as each blow strikes. How intolerable is the aching agony that follows as each hand and each foot is fastened to the cross. Reflect on the fact that this is my Savior; and that He endures all this for my sins. By His anguish He atones for my repeated folly of seeking happiness where it cannot be found.

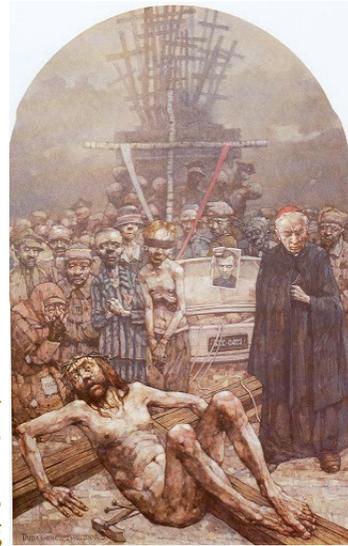
The powers of this world crucified the God who made this world. All power and authority come from God. All who exercise power have to account for it before the throne of God. We pray that those in government may use their powers to protect the innocent babies in the womb.

ALL (Kneel): O Jesus, my Savior, / by the merits You gained for me by Your Sacred Passion, / grant me a realization that genuine happiness / does not consist in pleasures of senses. / Make me vigilant in guarding against the approaches of sin, / whether its attraction springs from the lure of passion or a deceit of Satan. / Make me prompt and generous in my determination to resist all temptations.

LEAD: And have mercy on the precious preborns that will be aborted today, as they encounter the piercing pain of the instruments of abortion.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



TWELTH STATION
Jesus dies on the cross

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have re-deemed the world.



LEAD: Contemplate our divine Savior as He hangs for three agonizing hours upon the cross. This is He in whom the Father is well pleased. And yet how abandoned, how forsaken His human nature must feel. He is paying the price of sin – rejection by God. His whole body is racked with pain. His sacred features are distorted with anguish. He is overwhelmed with weakness. His Sacred Heart is utterly broken with grief. With His own unaided human powers, He forces Himself to bear the agony of approaching death – with nothing but loneliness as His companion. Finally, obedient unto death, when His Heavenly Father would have Him do so, He dismisses His weary Soul. He dies that I might have life.

Our Lord died. So many of His children have died with Him. His passion is relived with every abortion, one every twenty seconds in our country. We only know a fraction of the horror of this act in the sight of God. We only know a fraction of the horror of Christ's crucifixion. May all our brothers and sisters killed by abortion rest in Christ's peace and be saved by His cross.

ALL (Kneel): O most Sacred Heart of Jesus, / wounded that I might be healed, / even today You still make of Yourself a victim of Love upon our altars. / Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary / and in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, / accept my sacrifices in atonement for sin / and for the salvation of souls.

LEAD: And have mercy on all those mothers, fathers, abortionists and staff who have committed abortions. May they all have the honesty and the integrity to admit the awfulness of their sin, the grace to repent, and the determination to atone by helping others avoid the fatal folly they have been guilty of.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



THIRTEENTH STATION
Jesus is taken down from the cross

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

LEAD: Only after He is dead does our Divine Savior come down from the cross. Although desolation still envelops the land, although failure seems to fill the air, His life has been a tremendous success. Things are not what they seem. With God failures are often successes; and successes, failures. The folly of fidelity to God is the highest wisdom. His Passion is over; mine is yet to be endured. He wants me to realize that although God may at times appear to abandon me, He does not. Although my cross may at times seem unbearable, it is not. Although all may at times seem to be lost, the victory is really already won. He won it. My only possible failure is to fail to persevere in bearing my cross as He would have me bear it.

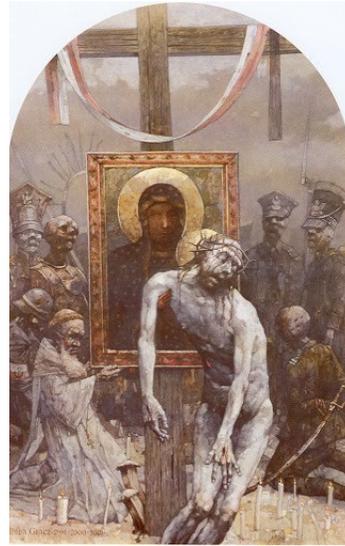
Mary experienced the pain of holding her dead Son. So many mothers grieve after their abortions. We ask that Mary may comfort them, help them face the truth about abortion, and lead them to forgiveness and healing.

ALL (Kneel): O Holy Mary, Mother of God and my Mother,/ teach me to follow your example of fidelity and fortitude. / As you mothered me, giving me life, / as you have cared for me throughout all the days of my life,/ do now in your motherly way continue to care for me. / Teach me to bear my cross generously / as a child of yours should; / and comfort and strengthen me in the hours of my greatest trials, / especially at the hour of my death.

LEAD: And have mercy on all those who, guilty of the sin of abortion, are tempted to despair of ever being forgiven. May they come to a keen realization that the atonement of the crucified Son of God is so great that ONLY their refusal to confess their sin and repent their fault can render them unqualified for their Savior's loving embrace.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,
Lord, Have mercy on us **(Rise)**



FOURTEETH STATION
Jesus is laid in the sepulcher

LEAD (Stand):

We adore You, O Christ, and we bless
You

ALL (Genuflect):

Because by Your Holy Cross You have
redeemed the world.



LEAD: Contemplate our Divine Savior as He is laid in the sepulcher. How proper it was that He should have so suffered and thus should have entered into His glory. And how proper it is, if I am to reign with Him, that I too should follow His bloody footsteps – that my entire life should be a life of atonement for sin and pleas for grace – that I should make up in my body for the sufferings that are wanting to His for the salvation of souls!

A tomb is a memorial. It helps us remember the one who can no longer speak. May we and our society remember the babies who cannot speak. May we also remember Our Lord's Resurrection, and His promise of eternal life. He has conquered abortion because He has conquered death. May we bring His victory to every part of our world!

ALL (Kneel): O Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You King of the Universe. / All that has been created has been made for You. / I renew my baptismal promises / renouncing Satan and all his works. / I promise to live a good Christian life / and to do all in my power to procure the rights of God and Your church.

LEAD: And have mercy on all those supporting the abortion industry – the abortionists, politicians, lawyers, journalists, and ordinary citizens – that they might have the grace to realize the awfulness of the sin they promote, repent their fault, and do what they can to stop abortion – in our country and in the whole world.

ALL:

Lord, Have mercy on the unborn,

Lord, Have mercy on us
(Rise)



CLOSING PRAYER

ALL:

Look down with favor, O Lord, we beseech You, on this, Your assembly, for which Our Lord Jesus Christ did not hesitate to be delivered to the hands of wicked men and suffer the torment of the cross; Who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.

Pro-Life Stations of the Cross *Dignity for all, Born and Unborn*

Prayers and reflections by a combination of sources (one of which we couldn't trace back, but are deeply grateful) adapted for the way of the cross.

Painting of individual stations

In the shrine at Czestochowa, upstairs from the famous icon of the Black Madonna, a 21st-century Way of the Cross reminds us that our real enemy is not the evil outside of us but the sin within us. In March 2001, the late Polish painter Jerzy Duda Gracz presented the monastery at Jasna Gora, with new Stations of the Cross. Many of the landscapes and faces he included in them are eerily recognizable to present-day viewers.

Presented by the Knights of Columbus
Council #8659 - 2010





We defend Life