

HCA Mission Stations of the Cross

Leader: Together we will walk along the way of the cross with Jesus. We will think about Jesus' suffering and about how that suffering ended in joy and new life.

All: Jesus, with your heavy wooden cross—Unite our Lenten sacrifices with your sacrifices along the way of the cross. Be present to us as we think about the meaning of each Station of the Cross for us and for children everywhere.

First Station

Leader: **JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH.**

Many children live in war torn areas and are condemned to live with violence and death all around them. These children are innocent, just as Jesus was innocent.

All: Jesus, innocent yet condemned to death—Help the children who try to hide from war each day; let them know peace through your love. Help those of us who live in peaceful lands to spread love and peace among our family and friends.

Second Station

Leader: **JESUS IS MADE TO CARRY HIS CROSS.**

Children may suffer from many things, in our country and in countries far from us. Jesus loves all children, and wants all children to love each other. He wants us to learn about other children so that we can love them and help them when they are suffering.

All: Jesus, suffering—Make us always aware of the suffering in the world around us. Help us to be generous [members of HCA] so we can help change suffering to joy.

Third Station

Leader: **JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME.**

Sometimes children in mission countries cannot bear their suffering; they cry because they are hungry or cold or lonely. Many children do not have medicine to heal them when they fall ill.

All: Jesus, burdened with your cross—We are stronger and have fewer burdens than many children in the world. Through your love, we can share our strength and lift the cross of hunger and sickness from suffering children.

Fourth Station

Leader: **JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER.**

Some children have lost their mothers. No one shows them how to live according to the teachings of Jesus. The mother of Jesus is our teacher, our example of what it means to be Christian.

All: Jesus, Son of God—We thank you for sharing your mother with us. She is a true Christian and a model for all of us to follow.

Fifth Station

Leader: **SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS.**

When children are tired, hungry, sick, or confused, they need friends to help them. Jesus was grateful when his friends tried to help Him.

All: Jesus, weakened under the heavy cross—Teach us to be grateful when friends help us, and open our hearts to make us generous and helpful when we see others who are in need.

Sixth Station

Leader: **VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS.**

Sometimes we are frightened when we see a person who is suffering. Jesus must have looked frightening to Veronica, his face covered with blood and dirt. But Veronica was not afraid. She understood that in His pain, Jesus needed to know that someone loved and cared about Him.

All: Jesus, gentle and kind—Help us to be more like Veronica. Make us strong and unafraid to help suffering people.

Seventh Station

Leader: **JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME.**

Millions of children are cold and hungry; many cannot run or even walk; many cannot play or learn.



All: Jesus, our loving brother—Feed our spirits with your love. Teach us to be generous in our HCA Lenten sacrifices so that we can help to feed and clothe hungry and cold children in other countries.

Eighth Station

Leader: **JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM.**

Jesus stopped to tell the women of Jerusalem not to worry about Him, but about their children. Many mothers in the world today are worried about their children's futures—will there be enough food? Can they go to school? Will there be a war that destroys their futures?

All: Jesus, who loves all children—Help us to show the mothers of suffering children that there is hope. Through our sharing and caring [as HCA members], give all children a future of new life in Jesus.

Ninth Station

Leader: **JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME.**

There are many homeless children in this world of ours. Many have no place to sleep at night. Sometimes when Jesus taught the people about God, he was far from shelter and had no place to sleep.

All: Jesus, let your comforting love be a shelter for the homeless. Let them know your love through our generosity.

Tenth Station

Leader: **JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS.**

When Jesus was stripped of his clothes, He must have felt a little bit like children in warring countries who are stripped of everything they need: family, home, food, clothing.

All: Jesus, who sacrificed all for us—Help us not to want more than we need. Open our eyes so that we appreciate what we have, and help us to sacrifice and share with others.



Eleventh Station

Leader: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS.

On the Cross, Jesus had no freedom; he could not move. Many children today live in countries where they are not free to learn about Jesus and his love for them.

All: Jesus, prisoner of men—When we join in the celebration of Mass we will remember those who are not free. We are happy to be free and we pray that all children will know freedom some day.

Twelfth Station

Leader: JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS.

Jesus was obedient to God, His Father, even when it meant that He must die on the Cross. When we obey God's commandments, we show God that we want to be like His beloved son, Jesus Christ.

All: Jesus, Crucified for us—Help us to be obedient to our loving Father in heaven.

Thirteenth Station

Leader: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS.

*All: In the name of the Father (who sent Jesus to us),
And of the Son (who died for us),
And of the Holy Spirit (who fills us with love),
Let us say a special prayer of thanksgiving for all the love that God has given us to share with others.*

Fourteenth Station

Leader: JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB.

Many children suffer silently; sometimes we do not see their suffering. Jesus was silent in the tomb; His friends could not see Him.

All: Jesus, silent and hidden in the tomb—We want to help children who are suffering silently; your love will make us generous during Lent so suffering children will know we hear their silent cries.

Fifteenth Station

All: Our journey does not end with the tomb. It ends in victory and glory as we look forward to the new life of Easter.

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