Lent 2019

Way of the Cross

Share the Journey

The Way of the Cross helps us accompany Jesus on his way to death and his burial in the tomb. Yet, his death was only an apparent failure, since it had no power over him. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He is alive. He is in our midst.

In response to the call of Pope Francis and Caritas Internationalis, Development and Peace-Caritas Canada invites us this year to share the journey of the millions of children, women and men who are forced to flee their homes. It’s with courage and resilience that they overcome hardships and maintain hope of making their journey in dignity.

This Way of the Cross gives us the opportunity to walk at Jesus’ side while sharing the journey of our sisters and brothers who are forced to migrate. Together, let us go out to meet them and share their journey, as we are one in the Body of Christ.
1st station
Jesus is condemned to death

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

All
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture
Pilate [...] took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.’ (Matthew 27:24)

Meditation
Pilate unjustly condemns Jesus to death and washes his hands of the whole affair. Each year, millions of people, fearing for their security and their lives, are unjustly condemned to flee their homes. Through the media, we are all witnesses of their condemnation and their suffering. Let us not wash our hands of the fate of those children, women and men who are forced to flee. Let us rather use our voice to rally hearts onto the path of solidarity, justice and mercy.

Quote
“What I miss the most about Syria is my house, my land, my father and my mother. I have not seen them for over five years now.” (Aysha, a Syrian refugee in Lebanon)

Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together
Lord Jesus, give us the courage to denounce unjust decisions taken by civil authorities and the wisdom to call for solidarity in the face of opposition and prejudice.

2nd station
Jesus carries his cross

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

All
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture
Then [Pilate] handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull (or Calvary), which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. (John 19:16-17)

Meditation
Out of love for humanity, Jesus undertakes the journey that will lead him to Calvary. He knows that the cross he bears in order to save humanity will be heavy to carry. So too is the burden heavy for those who are forced to flee their homes, their communities, and their country. They journey into the unknown with fear and hope, reliant on the good will of strangers in a new land.

Quote
“In the case of those who are forced to migrate, solidarity is nourished by the ‘reserve’ of love that is born from...” (Aysha, Syrian refugee in Lebanon)

Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together
Lord Jesus, lighten the path of the migrants who had to flee their homes and leave dear ones behind. Give them courage on their journey and open the hearts of those in the communities that will host them.

3rd station
Jesus falls for the first time

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

All
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases. (Isaiah 53:4)

Meditation
Under the weight of the cross, Jesus weakens and falls. Where is Jesus in the refugee camps? Where is Jesus when boats full of children, women and men disintegrate in the Mediterranean Sea? Where is Jesus when a population is persecuted? He is there in their midst, carrying their sufferings and alleviating the weight of their burdens. He is a refugee among refugees, a castaway among the shipwrecked, a persecuted among the persecuted. The Love of Jesus is expressed through women and men who help their neighbour in need.

Quote
“In the case of those who are forced to migrate, solidarity is nourished by the ‘reserve’ of love that is born from...” (Aysha, Syrian refugee in Lebanon)

Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together
Lord Jesus, lighten the path of the migrants who had to flee their homes and leave dear ones behind. Give them courage on their journey and open the hearts of those in the communities that will host them.
considering ourselves a single human family: in fact we find ourselves depending on each other, all responsible for our brothers and sisters in humanity.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Message for the 97th World day of Migrants and Refugees, January 16, 2011)

**Prayer**

**Celebrant**

Let us pray in silence.

**Let us pray together**

Lord Jesus, break open our hearts so that we may welcome those migrants forced to flee as our own sisters and brothers. Sustain our efforts to help those who have trouble finding a welcoming land.

---

**4th station**

**Jesus meets his mother**

**Celebrant**

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

**All**

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Scripture**

When Jesus was presented in the temple, Simon said to Mary: ‘This child [...] will be a sign that will be opposed ... and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ (Luke 2:34-35)

**Meditation**

On the road to his death, Jesus encounters his mother. Mary’s heart must have been breaking as she saw the pain and humiliation endured by her son, yet they were united in the journey. Mary would not abandon her son, and she knew that God the Father would not abandon His son either. Conflict, war and persecution force parents to make excruciating choices in order to protect their children. It is the hope for a better life that guides them in their courageous choices.

**Quote**

“For me, the most important thing is my health and the health of my children. There is no one greater than God. No one can say that this life is not going to improve. We believe that this life is going to get better. If there is life and health, then through God’s will, life will be better.” (Rechael Musa, an internally displaced women living in the Jerusalem Camp in northern Nigeria)

**Prayer**

**Celebrant**

Let us pray in silence.

**Let us pray together**

Lord Jesus, watch over those who have been forced to flee and who do their utmost to cater to the needs of their children. Inspire people to undertake actions that seek to reunite family members who are displaced or are refugees.

---

**5th station**

**Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross**

**Celebrant**

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

**All**

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Scripture**

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. (Luke 23:26)

**Meditation**

Forced by the soldiers, Simon, a perfect stranger to Jesus, helps him to carry his cross. Thus on his road to death, Jesus has an encounter filled with hope that reminds us that we are never completely alone. Each day, 44,400 children, women and men are obliged to flee their homes. Like Simon, we are called to reduce the suffering of these unknown persons and help them carry their cross.

**Quote**

“We know that it is not enough to open our hearts to the suffering of others. Much more remains to be done before our brothers and sisters can once again live peacefully in a safe home. Welcoming others requires concrete commitment, a network of assistance and goodwill, vigilant and sympathetic attention.” (Pope Francis, Celebration of the 51st World Day of Peace, January 1, 2018)

**Prayer**

**Celebrant**

Let us pray in silence.

**Let us pray together**

Let us pray. Lord Jesus help us to become attentive to the plight of those who are forced to migrate. We know that when we help them, we carry their cross with you. Bless and strengthen those who support forced migrants in difficult times.

---

Rechael Musa
**6th station**

**Veronica wipes the face of Jesus**

**Celebrant**

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

**All**

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Scripture**

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. (Matthew 27:55)

**Meditation**

Aware of Jesus’ suffering, Veronica cannot remain indifferent. She chooses the way of compassion and opposes the soldiers in order to wipe Jesus’ face. May we also see the face of Jesus in those who suffer and answer the call for compassion.

**Quote**

“How can we not see the face of the Lord in the face of the millions of exiles, refugees, and displaced persons who are fleeing in desperation from the horror of war, persecution and dictatorship? For every one of them, each with a unique face, God reveals himself always as the one who courageously comes to our aid. Like Veronica, the woman whose face is unknown to us, who lovingly wiped Jesus’ face.” (Way of the Cross led by Pope Francis, March 25, 2016)

**Prayer**

Celebrant

Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together

Lord Jesus, give those who are displaced the courage to stand up again when, completely exhausted, they fall on the road. Enlighten our political leaders so that they may make compassionate decisions that bring peace into our world.

---

**7th station**

**Jesus falls for the second time**

**Celebrant**

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

**All**

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Scripture**

Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. (1 Peter 2:21)

**Meditation**

Crushed by the weight of the cross, Jesus falls a second time. He finds enough strength to get up again and to pursue his journey. On the road that leads them to a welcoming land, those who are forced to flee their homes experience hunger, fear, extortion and solitude. They encounter political leaders who close off their countries’ borders to them. Their resilience is greatly tested. How often are their hopes dashed? How often do they fall? How often do they get up again?

---

**8th station**

**Jesus encounters the women of Jerusalem**

**Celebrant**

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

**All**

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Scripture**

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.’ (Luke 23:27-28)

**Meditation**

Jesus shows his compassion for the women of Jerusalem and their children. Most persons forcibly displaced in the world today are women and children. Their journey makes them vulnerable to sexual violence, human trafficking, exploitation, discrimination, forced labour, etc.

---

**Quote**

“We had to walk three nights after fleeing. We left with hardly any food. We only had small rations that we gave to our children. I carried my daughter on my chest because she was sick and could not walk. The number of dead bodies that we had to cross over coming here was countless. We want to cry each time we think of it.” (Rehana and Jahid Hossein, refugees from Burma in Bangladesh)

**Prayer**

Celebrant

Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together

Lord Jesus, open our eyes and our hearts to the suffering of those you place on our path. Help us to act in solidarity, even if it means standing strong in the face of challenges.
Numerous challenges await them. Let us remember the women and children who struggle courageously to overcome the dangers of forced migration.

**Quote**

“A clash started in our village between the FARC and the army. Members of the village were caught in the crossfire from both sides. My mother was pregnant with me. She started to panic and have contractions... That’s when I was born. Women made a hammock to carry us up into the mountain... The women and the younger members of the village fled into the mountain to find refuge in another village. We stayed there until I was three years old.” (Kelly Bolano Soto, an internally displaced woman in Colombia)

**Prayer**

**Celebrant**

Let us pray in silence.

**Let us pray together**

Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your compassion. Open our arms and extend our hands to welcome the women and children who have been torn away from their homes. Give us the conviction and courage to do our part to change the unjust structures that threaten the safety of the most vulnerable.

---

**9th station**

**Jesus falls for the third time**

**Celebrant**

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

**All**

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Scripture**

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40)

**Meditation**

A few steps from the top of Mount Calvary, Jesus falls for the third time. Exhausted, he collapses, but then gets up again with dignity. He goes on to the bitter end in order to accomplish the will of His Father: to free us from all evil that overwhelms us so that we may know the fullness of life. During his whole life, Jesus sided with the poor and the excluded. Those forced to flee often face poverty, exclusion, discrimination and racism. May we hear their calls. Let us go out to meet them with compassion and solidarity. Let us also listen to their stories and learn to know them better.

**Quote**

“I invite you to work for ‘the culture of encounter,’ in a simple way, ‘as Jesus did’: not just seeing, but looking; not just hearing, but listening; not just passing people by, but stopping with them; not just saying, ‘what a shame, poor people!’ but allowing yourself to be moved with compassion”. (Pope Francis, Morning meditation in the Chapel of St. Martha, September 13, 2016)

**Prayer**

**Celebrant**

Let us pray in silence.

**Let us pray together**

Lord Jesus, give us the strength to recognize you in each person. Help us to promote a culture of encounter that will work towards eliminating racism, poverty, discrimination, and exclusion in our societies.

---

**10th station**

**Jesus is stripped of his garments**

**Celebrant**

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

**All**

Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

**Scripture**

And so they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. (Mark 15:24)

**Meditation**

Jesus’ helpless body is handed over to the soldiers. Humiliated in his dignity, Jesus watches the unemotional soldiers drawing lots for his clothes. Those forced to flee, stripped of their goods, their rights and their dignity, plead for help but are not always heard. They are our sisters and brothers. May we not be indifferent to their calls.

**Quote**

“I see you, Jesus, and I see a young migrant, his body ravaged, who arrives in a land that all too often is heartless, ready to strip off his garment, his one treasure, and to sell it. To leave him alone with his cross, like yours, alone with his disfigured skin, like yours, alone with his eyes brimming with tears of pain, like yours. Yet there is something we often forget about dignity. It is found beneath your skin; it is part of you, and it will always be with you. All the more, at this moment, in this nakedness.” (Way of the Cross led by Pope Francis, March 30, 2018)
Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together
Lord Jesus, open our ears and our hearts to the calls for help from people who are suffering and forced to migrate. Inspire us with words and concrete actions that show how much we respect their dignity.

11th station
Jesus is nailed to the cross

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

All
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture
Jesus cried out with a loud voice "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)

Meditation
The nails that pierce the hands and feet of Jesus make him a prisoner of the cross. He is no longer master of his own body. Each day, migrants seeking security are detained and put in prison. They are thus nailed to their situation, one over which they have no control. Their fate touches us. Let us not allow our hearts to be stifled by indifference.

Quote
"We 'are accustomed to this indifference,' the Pope said, whether it be ‘when we see the calamities of this world’ or when faced with the ‘little things.’ ‘We limit ourselves to saying: ‘Oh, what a shame, poor people, they suffer so much,’ and then we move on. An encounter, however, is different: ‘If I do not look, — seeing is not enough, no: look — if I do not stop, if I do not look, if I do not touch, if I do not speak, I cannot create an encounter and I cannot help to create a culture of encounter.’” (Pope Francis, Morning meditation in the Chapel of St-Martha, September 13, 2016)

Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

12th station
Jesus dies on the cross

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

All
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture
Jesus said, 'It is finished' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30)

Meditation
Jesus’ death was seen as a failure by many of his disciples who had expected him to be the awaited Messiah. God the Father will transform into victory that which they perceived as a failure. Our efforts to transform the world often appear as failures. However, let us not forget that where we see despair and havoc, God is at work in unexpected ways. Let us open wide our eyes to see and recognize God.

Quote
“Justice will never be fully attained unless people see in the poor person, who is asking for help in order to survive, not an annoyance or a burden, but an opportunity for showing kindness and a chance for greater enrichment. Only such an awareness can give the courage needed to face the risk and the change involved in every authentic attempt to come to the aid of another.” (St. Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Centesimus Annus, #58)

Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together
Lord Jesus, in your suffering and dying, you lived the sacrifice of love. Penetrate our hearts with your love to help us overcome our fears of welcoming migrants and refugees, and to make the sacrifices needed to bring unity and peace into our world.

13th station
The body of Jesus is taken down

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

All
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture
Joseph of Arimathea...went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth. (John 19:38 and Marc 15:46)

Meditation
Joseph of Arimathea takes down Jesus’ lifeless body and treats it with respect and dignity. A new life is about to start for all of humanity. When forced migrants settle in a country that welcomes them, a new life begins for them. A glimmer of hope shines on them and gives them comfort, confidence and security, even if the hardships, the pain and the grief of their flight remain etched in their memories.
Quote
“I was touched by the extraordinary welcome that we received at our arrival. Bangladesh was very welcoming […] When we arrived a year ago, we really felt that the whole world supported us and we were able to share our story with thousands of media outlets. And now, even if attention has slowly decreased, we have the impression that the world has not completely abandoned us.” (Muhammed Hussein, Mahji Community leader and a Rohingya refugee in Bangladesh)

Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together
Lord Jesus may your light offer comfort and trust for the future of those forced to flee their homes. May concrete actions of solidarity made on their behalf encourage them to move forward on their journey.

Scripture
Joseph of Arimathea […] and Nicodemus, took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. (John 19:38-42)

Meditation
After having been humiliated, Jesus receives a dignified burial, one which respects the Jewish custom for burying the dead. Each year, thousands of people die at sea, in forests and in deserts attempting to reach a place of security for themselves and their family. Thousands of others die before being able to flee, silent and sometimes anonymous victims of armed conflicts. Let us think of the suffering of their relatives who are unable to offer their dear ones a dignified burial that respects their customs.

Quote
“During the massacre of 1990, I suffered heavy personal losses. I was stopped and detained during seven months and one week. I also lost my wife and two children. Even today, I still do not know where their bodies are.” (Reverend Stanley, a survivor of the Umuechem massacre in Nigeria)

Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together
Lord Jesus, pour out your blessings on the children, the women and the men who die in an anonymous way without receiving a dignified burial. Even if they disappear before our human eyes, we know that You do not forget them and that You receive them in your peace.

15th station
The resurrection of Jesus, the Christ

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

All
Because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture
Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ (John 20:21)

Meditation
Jesus conquered death. He is risen. He is among us and in each one of us. He walks with us on the paths we follow even if we are not always aware of His presence. In the same manner, Jesus walks alongside those who are forced to migrate. May we, as Jesus does, know how to accompany them on their journey of migration.

Quote
“Migrants are human beings. Refugees are human beings. Look in their eyes. Listen to their stories. Touch their hands. Your stories are now woven into a single human history. And that is how we start to share the journey.” (Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila and president of Caritas Internationalis)

Prayer
Celebrant
Let us pray in silence.

Let us pray together
Lord Jesus, as we encounter our sisters and brothers who are forced to flee and as we collectively do our best to help You put an end to forced migration in the world; may our prayer kindle in us the necessary strength and allow us to persevere in our commitment; as we help You transform the world into one of justice and peace for all.
Launch of the *Share the Journey* global pilgrimage in Rome on October 21, 2018, in the presence of Cardinal Tagle, President of Caritas Internationalis.