

VIA CRUCIS

PRAYING AND MEDITATING
WITH JESUS ON THE
WAY OF THE CROSS

INCLUDES TEXTS BY
SAN OSCAR ROMERO
FOR EACH STATION

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VIA CRUCIS

For many Catholics, the **Via Crucis** (Latin: The Way of the Cross) is one of the most cherished and practiced Christian devotions, especially during Lent.

This **Via Crucis** is a resource aimed to help ecclesial communities to biblically meditate on the path of Jesus' last hours and at the same time to reflect and to raise awareness about some of the most pressing social problems in our world that demand a truly Christian answer.

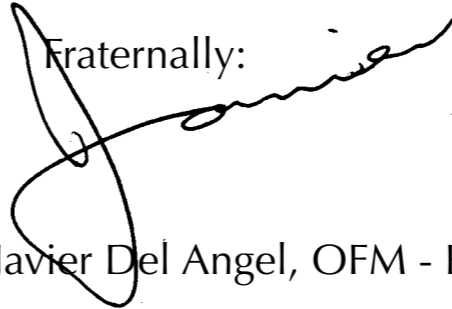
We do the latter by pondering the texts of Saint Oscar Romero, bishop, prophet and martyr of El Salvador. His writings are very powerful and pertinent because they prophetically challenge the way we are living our faith while at the same time encourage personal and community commitment.

The **Via Crucis** is designed to follow the next order:

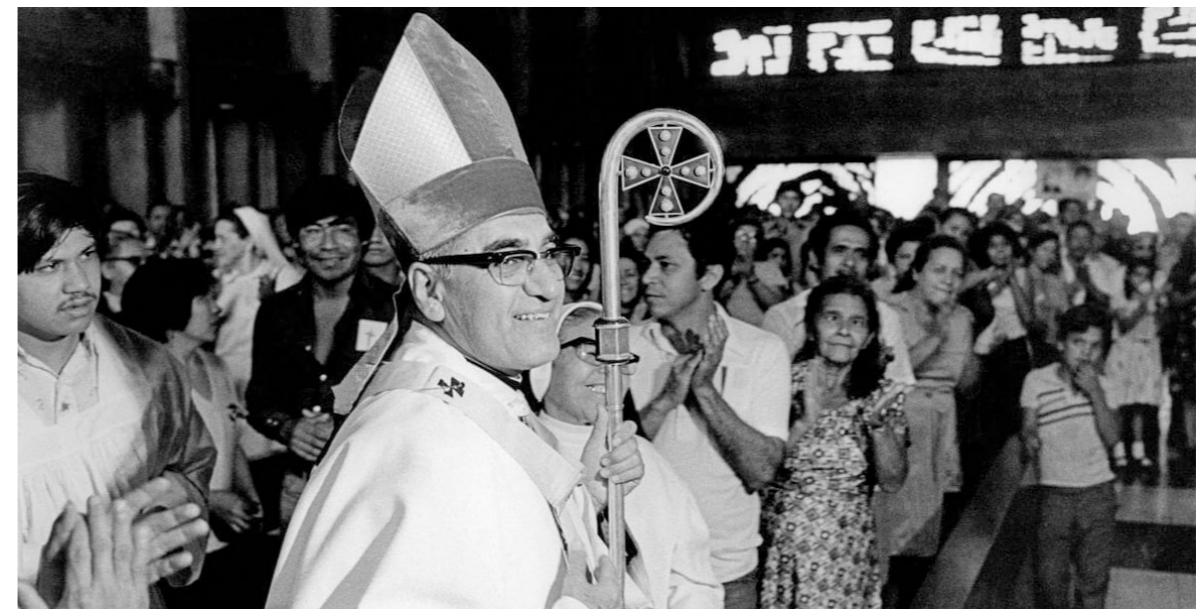
1. State the station and social problems
2. Jaculatory: "Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God..."
3. Proclamation of the biblical text
4. Brief reflection
5. Text of Saint Oscar Romero
6. Prayer
7. Our Father

Of course each person or community can adapt the **Via Crucis** to their own personal or pastoral needs, for example by adding some appropriate songs.

I sincerely hope that this modest resource helps us to live a holy Lenten season, which leads us into the Paschal Mystery that we will celebrate in a special way during Holy Week. May God always grant everyone his Peace and Good.

Fraternally:


Fr Javier Del Angel, OFM - Rome, Lent 2024.



St. Oscar Romero (15 aug 1917 - 24 mar 1980)

1ST STATION

JESUS IS
CONDEMNED
TO DEATH

Political and
juridical corruption



Lector: From the Gospel according to Mark (15, 12-15)

Pilate again said to them in reply, "Then what [do you want] me to do with [the man you call] the king of the Jews?"

They shouted again, "Crucify him."

Pilate said to them, "Why? What evil has he done?"

They only shouted the louder, "Crucify him."

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Por su pasión y su compromiso en actuar conforme a los valores del Reino de Dios, Jesús se volvió un indeseable para la institución religiosa de su época.

Como Jesús, oprimido e indefenso ante los tribunales religioso y civil que lo condena, en estos días vemos también las vidas de tantas hermanas y hermanos, víctimas de la injusticia y la falta de solidaridad, sin vivienda ni salarios dignos, muchas veces despojados de sus derechos.

Hoy, son los condenados a muerte de nuestro mundo.

Lector: From the Second Pastoral Letter of St. Oscar Romero (August 6, 1977)

"Jesus carried out his mission, his preaching, his service to men and women, in a particular world, a particular society. That is the profound meaning of what we Christians affirm when we speak of the incarnation of the Son of God: that he took flesh in the real history of his age. Like so many other eras of human history, that era was dominated by sin. To the positive proclamation of the kingdom of God, therefore, Jesus added the denunciation of the sin of his age. The kingdom of God is what Jesus proclaims; for him, then, sin is everything that gets in the way of the coming of the kingdom, makes it impossible or even destroys it. With the courage of a free man, therefore, he denounced the distorted image of God created by the manipulation of human traditions that destroy the authentic will of God (Mark 7:8-13). [...] From the beginning of Jesus' public life, these denunciations brought in their train frequent attacks upon him (Matthew 2:1-2). They brought personal risk and even persecution. The persecution was to go on through the whole of his life until, at the end, he was accused of blasphemy (Mark 14:64) and of being an agitator among the masses. For these reasons he was condemned and executed."

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios, la condena de Jesús se perpetúa en el sufrimiento de quienes luchan por la justicia.

Te pedimos por todos nosotros, para que tengamos sed de justicia, hambre de igualdad y anhelemos la hermanad entre todos.

Te pedimos también por quienes, trabajando por los derechos de los oprimidos, son difamados, perseguidos, heridos, encarcelados, torturados, exiliados y condenados a muerte, para que sus esfuerzos y sacrificios ayuden a mejorar las condiciones de vida de los más desfavorecidos.

Todo esto te lo presentamos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

2ND STATION

JESUS
CARRIES
THE CROSS

Slavery and labor
exploitation



Lector: From the Gospel according to Matthew (27, 27-31)

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him.

They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him.

Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand.

And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head.

And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

La cruz era un horrible instrumento de condenación y muerte; un castigo reservado para criminales. La agonía era lenta y la muerte humillante. La muerte por crucifixión era la deshonra social absoluta.

El camino para instaurar el Reino de Dios, es decir, el reinado de la vida, pasa por la cruz. Por eso, una condición del seguimiento de Jesús es la aceptación de la cruz. La cruz simboliza y representa las dificultades que enfrentamos cuando vivimos construyendo el Reino de Dios.

El discípulo acepta esa cruz, esas dificultades, no con resignación y fatalismo, ni por sentimientos devocionales o masoquistas, sino con la madurez de quien se da a los demás hasta el extremo.

Nadie tiene más amor que la persona que da la vida por sus amigos.

*Lector: From the Good Friday Homily,
"The Passion of the Lord"*
(March 24th, 1978)

"We [do not] want to put people to sleep. Religion must not be the opium of the people. Religion is not conformity. Religion is not apathy. Rather, religion tells Christians, «Develop yourselves, lift yourselves up, and become better, but do so hoping in a paradise that exists beyond history». We do not promote a form of liberation that only waits for heaven and allows us to put up here with slavery on earth. By no means! As Christians we know that paradise must be reflected also on this earth. We must work for the establishment of a kingdom of heaven where we feel we are truly brothers and sisters and where our relationships are more human, more equal, less oppressive, and less miserable. That heaven must be reflected on this earth so that as earthly pilgrims we may be happy both here on earth and also in eternity."

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios, sabemos que la cruz es todo aquello que nos causa sufrimiento en nuestro esfuerzo por ser justos y por crear relaciones sociales más fraternas,

Te pedimos por trabajadores que realizan trabajos duros y reciben salarios bajos, por los trabajadores explotados, por las mujeres y los niños que son forzados a trabajar en condiciones inhumanas;

Te pedimos que nuestros legisladores aprueben leyes que garanticen sus derechos laborales y humanos para que sean tratados con dignidad y justicia.

Te pedimos todo esto en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

3RD STATION

JESUS
FALLS THE
FIRST TIME

People Discrimination
and "Waste Culture"



*Lector: From the Letter of Paul to the
Philippians (2: 5-8)*

**Have among yourselves the same
attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,
Who, though he was in the form of
God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross.**

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Para llegar a Dios, el camino que nos propone el evangelio es claro: dar la vida por los demás y con los demás, ofreciendo nuestras fuerzas y comprometiendo nuestra lucha en la lucha por la vida de todas y todos.

Jesús lo asume así y se mantiene fiel a pesar del cansancio, la humillación y la frustración.

Jesús nos pide fidelidad para seguirlo y hacer la voluntad de Dios: construir su Reino, anunciar su liberación, hacer realidad la esperanza de la justicia y la paz.

La tarea no es sencilla y los obstáculos abundan.

Pero Jesús nos enseñó que la fuerza del amor y la perseverancia del compromiso, pueden más que la debilidad de una caída.

Lector: From the Homilies of St. Oscar Romero (February 25th, 1979)

“Everything in life is evolution. The church is always renewing herself.

We can't preserve old traditions that no longer have any reason to be, and much less should we preserve those structures on which sin has become enthroned so that they produce assaults, injustices, and disorders of every kind.

We cannot call «Christian» any society, any government, or any situation in which decrepit and unjust structures make our sisters and brothers suffer bitterly.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios, te pedimos por los descartados de nuestra sociedad, los que caen en la vida bajo el peso del hambre, la sed, la fatiga, la malnutrición, la enfermedad, la desesperación de vivir sin seguridad, sin techo y sin comida; por los que caen por el peso del llanto, el miedo, la tristeza, la persecución, la calumnia, las amenazas de muerte; y también te pedimos que muevas nuestra voluntad, nuestras manos y nuestros pies para ayudarlos a aliviar su dolor.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

4TH STATION

JESUS
MEETS HIS
MOTHER

Illegal separation of
families and child
abuse



Lector: From the Gospel according to John (19: 25-27)

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother,

"Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple,

"Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home."

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

En el camino al Calvario, Jesús se encuentra con su madre.

Ella, también, abandonada, sola, silenciosa, camina con su hijo entre la gente que murmura.

María se hace presente entre su pueblo sufriente, el Cuerpo de Cristo, acompañándolo y compartiendo sus angustias como lo hizo con Jesús.

Su presencia nos puede inspirar y alentar a seguir a Cristo, a cambiar las cosas para bien, a vencer la muerte instalada entre nosotros y en nuestra sociedad.

*Lector: From the Good Friday Homily,
“The Passion of the Lord”
(March 24th, 1978)*

“The next word of Christ is a loving dialogue with his most holy Mother and his beloved disciple: «Woman, behold your son! Son, behold your mother» (John 19:26-27). Christ’s liberation, sisters and brothers, is tenderness and love; it is the presence of a kind mother, Mary, who is a model for those who collaborate with Christ in liberating earth and gaining heaven. In her hymn of thanksgiving Mary proclaims the greatness of God and declares that God will reject the pride of the powerful and will exalt the humble (Luke 1:46-55). She teaches us that the road of true liberation and Christian redemption is the road of humility, the road of love, the road of commitment like her own. We are invited to love one another and discover in her the bright road that leads us to Jesus.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios, tú que nos amas como una madre, te pedimos por las madres que sufren la muerte de sus hijos por enfermedad o hambre; por las mujeres, las niñas y los niños que sufren abuso físico, emocional o sexual; por los que son separados y confinados en jaulas como prisioneros; por los refugiados que huyen de su tierra por la guerra y la persecución; danos entrañas de madre para no permitir que ninguna mujer, niño, ni ningún otro ser humano, sufra por el egoísmo y la violencia que impera en nuestra sociedad.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

5TH STATION

SIMON OF
CYRENE
HELPS JESUS
TO CARRY
HIS CROSS

Right to Free
Association



Lector: From the Gospel according to Mark (15: 20-22)

And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him.

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

They brought him to the place of Golgotha (which is translated Place of the Skull).

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Al regresar de su trabajo, Simón de Cirene es obligado a ayudar a Jesús.

No es su voluntad, pero poco importa.

Lo importante es que alivia momentáneamente el dolor de Jesús. Lo libera del peso de la cruz y comparte con él su dolor.

Como Simón, estamos llamados a aligerar el peso del sufrimiento y el dolor de otros.

A diferencia de él, la decisión es nuestra, libre, personal.

En ella se juega el aceptar o rechazar el Reino de Dios en nuestra vida, en nuestra familia, en la Iglesia y en la sociedad.

Lector: From the homily of St. Oscar Romero (October 21st. 1979)

“Today we don’t want Christians who are timid, passive, herd-like. All Christians must be boldly and creatively active. Christians have to learn to see human beings from the perspective of Christianity. If human beings are seen that way, then there won’t be enemies preying on people; there won’t be torture; there won’t be disrespect; there won’t be inequalities. The pope’s message for this Day of Missions says something similar: «It is therefore clear that the renewal promoted by evangelizing activity, though essentially spiritual, goes straight to the heart of the serious and disturbing problem of the economic and social injustices and imbalances which afflict a very large part of humankind. And it can contribute to a solution of the problem. Evangelization and human development, though remaining clearly distinct, are linked to one another with indissoluble bonds.» For those of you who dream of a spiritualistic religion that is not concerned about politics or the things of the world, here you have the pope’s thoughts regarding the missions. Precisely because Christians are called to religious and spiritual transcendence, they are better equipped to orient society toward human justice and to decry the sins of humankind. Christians are thus more enlightened than any ideology when it comes to helping people to be creative and bold.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios, tú que te manifiestas en cada persona que sufre, haznos conscientes, solícitos y diligentes para remediar las urgentes necesidades de los que sufren; ayúdanos a ser solidarios con los pobres, los marginados, los rechazados, los discriminados;

También te pedimos que acrecientes y des fortaleza, paciencia y perseverancia a las congregaciones religiosas, los voluntarios, las cooperativas, las organizaciones sociales y no-gubernamentales que trabajan para que nuestras comunidades tengan una vida más digna, justa amorosa y humana.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

6TH STATION

VERONICA
WIPE THE
FACE OF
JESUS

Right to Free
Medical Care



*Lector: From the prophet Isaiah
(50: 6-7,10)*

**I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who tore out my
beard;**

**My face I did not hide
from insults and spitting.**

**The Lord God is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;**

**Therefore I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to
shame.**

**Who among you fears the Lord,
heeds his servant's voice?**

**Whoever walk in darkness,
without any light,**

**Yet trust in the name of the Lord
and rely upon their God!**

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Una mujer se abre paso entre la multitud y seca el rostro de Jesús.

Compadecida por el dolor se acerca y lo alivia.

Una tradición la llama "Verónica," que significa "la verdadera imagen."

Hoy, Cristo sufriente se revela en el rostro de los abandonados, de los que viven oprimidos bajo la miseria y el sufrimiento.

Desde allí espera de nosotros nuestra conversión y nos llama a vivir, como Verónica, la compasión evangélica en gestos concretos de amor a los demás.

*Lector: From the homilies of St. Oscar Romero
(March 16th, 1980)*

“So many people today are ashamed to give testimony in favor of the innocent. What terror has been sown among our people so that friends will even betray friends when they see them in trouble! If only we could see Christ in the needy, in the tortured, in the prisoner, in the murder victim; if only we could see Christ in every human form dumped so disgracefully along our highways, we would discover that it was Christ who was dumped there, and we would gather that precious treasure with tenderness; we would kiss him and never be ashamed of him. What a great need there is to awaken in people today—especially those who torture and kill and prefer capital over human beings—an awareness that all those earthly millions are worthless compared to humanity. The human person is Christ, and when we see and treat the human person with faith, we are face to face with Christ the Lord.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios, tú que viniste a buscar y sanar a los enfermos de cuerpo y alma, ayúdanos a encontrarte y servirte en las vidas y los rostros de los humillados y oprimidos.

Te pedimos por las enfermeras y médicos que atienden a los enfermos y moribundos, para que trabajen con la compasión y el compromiso solícito de Verónica; te pedimos por los familiares de los enfermos, para que les asistan con paciencia y cariño; y por todos los que con su solidaridad alivian el sufrimiento de los pobres y marginados del mundo.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

7TH STATION

JESUS FALLS
FOR THE
SECOND
TIME

Alcoholism and
Drugs addiction



Lector: From the Gospel according to Luke (9, 22-25)

Jesus said, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

Then he said to all,

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself? "

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

El camino se hace largo y pesado, las fuerzas desaparecen y Jesús cae por tierra nuevamente.

El amor es inmenso y todo lo soporta.

Jesús tambaleante sigue el camino que nos traerá la paz.

El camino del cristiano, del seguidor de Jesús, no está libre de sacrificios.

Jesús nos muestra que el amor fiel y comprometido con los demás es mayor que cualquier sufrimiento.

En las dificultades, Jesús no abandona el camino, recurre al Padre y se abandona en Él.

¿Cómo actuamos nosotros?

Lector: From the Spiritual Exercises of St. Oscar Romero (February 25, 1980)

"I have a hard time accepting a violent death, which in these circumstances is very possible.

My disposition must be to give my life for God, whatever the end of it. Unknown circumstances will be lived with the grace of God.

He assisted the martyrs and if necessary I will feel him very close as I give him my last breath.

But more valuable than the moment of dying is to give him your whole life and live for him and others."

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios sanador y liberador nuestro, te pedimos por los que están caídos sufriendo las consecuencias de los vicios, el alcohol, el tabaco y las drogas, y también por quienes ya están levantándose en recuperación, para que puedan verse totalmente libres de esos males; te pedimos para que el gobierno y los sistemas de salud proporcionen ayuda adecuada y oportuna a quienes sufren de alguna adicción y a sus familiares.

Ayúdanos a ser conscientes que las drogas y vicios destruyen tu imagen divina que pusiste en nosotros cuando nos creaste.

Todo esto te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

8TH STATION

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Racial and sexual
discrimination



Lector: From the Gospel according to Luke (23: 27-31)

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him.

Jesus turned to them and said,
“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me;
weep instead for yourselves and for your children,
for indeed, the days are coming when people will say,
‘Blessed are the barren,
the wombs that never bore
and the breasts that never nursed.’
At that time people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall upon us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’
for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?”

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Las mujeres de Jerusalén, miran a Jesús y tienen compasión de él, sangrante, débil, caminando hasta el lugar de su muerte.

Tal vez han visto la crucifixión de otras personas.
Lloran por él.

Jesús, sabiendo lo que va a pasar, tiene compasión de ellas.

Piensa en ellas, no en sus propios sufrimientos.

El sufrimiento puede abrirnos al sufrimiento a los demás, como hace Jesús.

El sufrimiento puede ayudarnos de solidarizarnos con todos los sufrimientos, especialmente los de las mujeres que sufren en nuestras familias y en nuestra sociedad.

Lector: From the homilies of St. Oscar Romero (September 25, 1977)

“As long as there are mothers weeping over the disappearance of their children, as long as there is torture in our security centers, as long as there is lavish misuse of private property, as long as there is frightful disorder, my sisters and brothers, there cannot be peace. Acts of violence and bloodshed will continue. Repression accomplishes nothing. We must be reasonable and listen to the voice of God and organize a more just society that conforms to the heart of God. Everything else is simply patchwork. Everything else is repression. The names of those murdered will keep changing, but there will always be murder victims. The instances of violence will keep changing, but there will always be violence as long as we do not change the roots which are producing such an abundance of horrible things in our midst.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Padre, tu Hijo Jesús eligió ponerse de lado de las mujeres, los seres más débiles y discriminados por el sistema social y religioso de su época; te pedimos por las mujeres que lloran por sus niños o esposos que han sido asesinados; por las mujeres que sufren discriminación sexual o de género; y por las mujeres que sufren violaciones de todo tipo; danos valor para que, como Él, podamos defenderlas, consolarlas y ayudarlas con todos los recursos legales, materiales y espirituales a nuestro alcance.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

9TH STATION

JESUS FALLS
FOR THE
THIRD TIME

Lack of access to a
good Education



Lector: From Psalm 41 (41: 8 - 12)

All those who hate me whisper
together against me;
they imagine the worst about me:
'He has had ruin poured over him;
that one lying down will never rise
again.'

Even my trusted friend,
who ate my bread,
has raised his heel against me.

"But you, Lord, take note of me to
raise me up.

By this I will know you are pleased
with me,
that my enemy no longer shouts in
triumph over me."

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y
mártir, te damos gracias,

***Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a
la vida y la libertad.***

Lector:

El peso de la cruz se acrecienta a cada paso. Jesús
cae.

Sus fuerzas van al límite de lo humano, pero su
fidelidad es mayor que el dolor. Jesús se reincorpora y
prosigue. Se mantiene fiel a sus palabras: "el buen
pastor da la vida por sus ovejas."

Jesús mantiene viva la esperanza.

Nosotros también, si queremos vivir para los
demás, vamos a encontrar incompreensión y soledad, y
a veces hasta tortura y muerte.

Vivir para los demás, hacer el bien, practicar la
justicia, exige dejar todo, darlo todo de uno, hasta la
vida, si es necesario.

*Lector: From the homilies of St. Oscar Romero
(March 8, 1980)*

“The church has much to say about the human condition, [...] especially when she views that sad parade of faces: the faces of landless campesinos, maltreated and murdered by powerful forces; the faces of workers arbitrarily dismissed, left without income to support their homes; the faces of the elderly, the faces of the marginalized, the faces of the slum dwellers, the faces of poor children who from their infancy begin to feel the cruel sting of social injustice. It seems that for all of these there is no future; for them there are no schools or colleges or universities. By what right have we catalogued people into first class and second-class human beings when the theology of the human person teaches us that there is only one class, that of the children of God?”

Presidente: Oremos...

Padre bondadoso, muchas veces la violencia y la injusticia son provocadas por la ignorancia y la falta de oportunidades laborales, te pedimos por quienes sufren las consecuencias del analfabetismo, por aquellos a quienes les es prohibido educarse, por quienes no pueden educarse por falta de dinero o alguna enfermedad, por las comunidades que carecen de centros educativos; te pedimos también por quienes han sido bendecidos con algún tipo de educación, para que ayudemos a aprender a quien no sabe; y finalmente, te pedimos por los gobernantes, para que destinen los recursos necesarios a fin de que todo ser humano pueda recibir una educación que les permita ejercer una profesión justa, provechosa, y vivir con dignidad.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro. *Todos: Amén.*

Padre Nuestro...

10TH STATION

JESUS IS
STRIPPED
OF HIS
CARMENTS

Prostitution,
Pornography,
Misogyny,
Homophobia



Lector: From the Gospel according to John (19: 23-24)

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier.

They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down.

So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,"

in order that the passage of scripture might be fulfilled [that says]:

"They divided my garments among them,

and for my vesture they cast lots."
This is what the soldiers did."

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Llegamos al Calvario. Jesús, agotado, es desnudado delante de la multitud. Ni el mínimo derecho a la intimidad es respetado.

Jesús, desnudo, herido, desolado al pie de la cruz, se asemeja y se hace solidario con tantas mujeres y hombres que no sólo son despojados de lo más elemental para vivir, sino que también son despojados de sus derechos y de su dignidad por la ambición, los prejuicios y la discriminación de unos cuantos.

Como en el tiempo de Jesús, hoy también parece que, para muchos, la persona humana no importa y que se puede pisotear su dignidad bajo cualquier pretexto.

Lector: From the homilies of St. Oscar Romero (March 9, 1980)

“Lent is urgently calling us to review our lives in order to see whether we really are bearing fruits or are simply useless fig trees taking up space in the world. There is a great need today for active, critical Christians who do not accept social conditions without analyzing them internally and profoundly. Today we don’t want masses of people who let themselves be easily controlled, as has been the case for so long. We want men and women who, like fruit-producing fig trees, can say yes to justice and no to injustice. We want men and women who know how to make good use of the precious gift of life. Whatever your situation may be, dear sisters and brothers—no matter how lowly you feel, no matter how tiny and insignificant you think you are—God looks upon your lives with love!”

Presidente: Oremos...

Padre amoroso, te pedimos por las mujeres y hombres, niñas y niños que son tratados como productos de consumo y de ganancia ilegítima; por las víctimas de la prostitución y de la trata de personas; por quienes han caído en la pornografía; por quienes ejercen violencia mediante el machismo, la misoginia, la homofobia; por quienes discriminan u odian a personas de género u orientación sexual diverso al suyo; concédenos que aprendamos a reconocer la igualdad, dignidad y valor de todos los seres humanos, y a tratarlos con respeto, caridad y justicia.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

11TH STATION

JESUS IS
CRUCIFIED

Torture, War, Terrorism



Lector: From the Gospel according to Matthew (27: 33-40)

And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of the Skull), they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall.

But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink.

After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.

And they placed over his head the written charge against him:

This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left.

Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,

“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, [and] come down from the cross!”

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Clavado en la cruz, Jesús espera pacientemente el momento de su muerte.

Su comprensión y compasión no tienen límites.

Abandonado y humillado, pide perdón por quienes lo están matando.

El perdón es la demostración más grande del amor.

Desinteresado, despreocupado y descentrado de sí mismo, el pensamiento de Jesús se enfoca compasivamente en quienes lo rodean: “Padre, perdónales.”

*Lector: From the homilies of St. Oscar Romero
(September 23 1979)*

“The teaching about human nature and our reflection on Christ run parallel. I believe that today [...] we need more than ever to know Christ. Today there is a great need for Christians, Christians who by their faith become true liberators of humankind. Without them, we will have only aggressive, violent political movements of the extreme right or the extreme left. What we won't have is true humanity. The true liberators that our country needs will come from Christianity, dear sisters and brothers. That means from you and your communities as you reflect on God's word in order to understand the mystery of Christ, as we are doing today. Let us be present-day Christians! Let us not be frightened by the boldness of today's church. Let us cast Christ's light on humanity, making it reach even the most horrible caverns of torture, prison, plunder, marginalization, and chronic illness. The oppressed must be saved, but not with a revolutionary salvation that is merely human. They must be saved with the holy revolution of the Son of man who dies on the cross precisely to cleanse the soiled image of God in today's enslaved, egoistic, sinful humanity: the revolution of Love.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Padre de paz y de justicia, te pedimos por quienes son víctimas del rencor y del odio; por quienes torturan a sus hermanos; por quienes atemorizan y matan mediante el terrorismo; por quienes enseñan a matar a otros; por quienes fabrican y trafican armas, para que se conviertan y eliminen esas formas de sembrar, reproducir y perpetuar la violencia; por las víctimas de toda forma de violencia; y finalmente, te pedimos por nosotros, para que vencamos nuestra violencia interna, para que nunca violentemos a nadie y para que busquemos soluciones pacíficas a nuestros conflictos.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

12TH STATION

JESUS DIES
ON THE
CROSS

Religious
Fundamentalism



*Lector: From the Gospel according to Mark
(15: 33-39)*

“At noon darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Some of the bystanders who heard it said,

“Look, he is calling Elijah.”

One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

“Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

En el escándalo de la cruz comprendemos en profundidad a Jesús, a su evangelio y a su pasión por el Reino de Dios. En la cruz, Jesús nos enseña que el amor de Dios es universal y no conoce las fronteras de la nacionalidad, la ideología o la religión. La vida de Jesús es servicio para todos, judíos y gentiles, creyentes y no creyentes.

Jesús sigue muriendo en nuestros días en los rostros de los niños que sufren, los ancianos olvidados, los desempleados, los obreros mal pagados, los indígenas, los marginados, los jóvenes sin futuro. Nuestro compromiso con Cristo debe llevarnos a entregar, como él, nuestras vidas por amor a todos, sin excepción, empezando por los más pobres y marginados, para construir su Reino de justicia, gozo, amor y paz.

Lector: From the homilies of St. Oscar Romero (March 9, 1980)

“A pastor must talk about politics not because he’s a politician but because the dynamism of God makes politics fall under the dominion of God. By revealing his name as he did, God has taught us that he is a God who wants to be with humanity. He is a God who feels the pain of those who are tortured and die in agony. He is a God who, with the church, denounces torture, repression, and all such crimes. The God we adore is not a dead God; he is a living God who feels, acts, labors, and leads this history forward. In him we hope, in him we trust. God walks with us, as he walked with Israel.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios amoroso y compasivo, te pedimos que nos libres de la tentación de abusar de tu nombre y la religión para discriminar, destruir, atemorizar, y matar; que aprendamos que tú sólo eres Dios de amor y de vida, y que el verdadero culto a ti consiste en respetar y promover la vida y la dignidad humana y de la creación.

Te pedimos para que nos libres de la tentación del exclusivismo y del fundamentalismo religioso, y que demos testimonio de tu amor universal con nuestras buenas obras.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

13TH STATION

JESUS IS
TAKEN
DOWN FROM
THE CROSS

Drugs traffic and
Organized Crime



*Lector: From the Gospel according to John
(19: 31-34.38)*

“Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.”

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body.

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Junto a la cruz, en silencio, traspasada por el dolor, está María, la madre de Jesús, María Magdalena, otras mujeres, y el discípulo amado.

Todos los demás discípulos de Jesús han huido. Incluso Pedro, que juró morir por él.

María, presente en la cruz, está también presente junto a cada una y uno de nosotros. Ella se solidariza con nuestro dolor.

José de Arimatea y Nicodemo les ayudan a bajar el cadáver de Jesús de la cruz.

¡Qué dolor! Ver y recibir a su hijo único, torturado, asesinado, como sucede a muchas madres hoy.

Lector: From the homilies of St. Oscar Romero (December 1, 1977)

“Like Mary at the foot of the cross, every mother who sees her child maltreated is a denunciation. Mary is the sorrowful mother standing against the power of Pontius Pilate who has unjustly killed her son. She is the voice of justice, love, and peace; she is the voice of what God desires standing against what God does not want, against abuse and all that should not exist. It is the voice of justice; it is the voice of love. This is the cry of the church as she embraces so many forlorn wives and mothers and homes. And so we declare: This must not be! This is a cry against sin. And this is what the church is doing, crying out against the sin that has been enthroned in the history and life of our nation. We do not want the devil to reign. We do not want hatred to reign. We do not want violence or terrorism to reign. We want love to reign. We want peace to reign in our homes. We want the causes of turmoil to be peacefully resolved. But when the church speaks with a tone of denunciation, she does so not with resentment but rather from the perspective of the Gospel, which calls for the conversion of sinners.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Dios de la paz, te pedimos por los narcotraficantes y miembros del crimen organizado que provocan tanto sufrimiento y muerte; por los involucrados en estas redes criminales, desde los altos mandos del gobierno hasta por los sicarios y pandilleros que roban, torturan, asesinan y atemorizan a otros; por todos ellos te pedimos para que tengan la valentía de convertirse, de resarcir el mal provocado, y de vivir en paz.

Danos la sabiduría y fortaleza para nunca ceder a la tentación de la corrupción y el lucro ilegal que destruyen la vida humana.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...

14TH STATION

JESUS IS
BURIED

Personal and ecological
suicide



*Lector: From the Gospel according to Luke
(23: 50-56)*

Now there was a virtuous and righteous man named Joseph who, though he was a member of the council, had not consented to their plan of action.

He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea and was awaiting the kingdom of God.

He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. After he had taken the body down, he wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb in which no one had yet been buried.

It was the day of preparation, and the sabbath was about to begin.

The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind, and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils.

Then they rested on the sabbath according to the commandment.

- Jesús de Nazaret, hijo de Dios, profeta y mártir, te damos gracias,

Todos: porque con tu Evangelio nos guías a la vida y la libertad.

Lector:

Jesús ha muerto. Es sepultado. Todo parece un fracaso.

Sólo unos cuantos amigos solícitos le procuran los cuidados debidos a los difuntos: descolgarlo de la cruz, cubrirlo y enterrarlo en un sepulcro ajeno.

Pero el plan de salvación triunfará: Cristo resucitará el tercer día.

De la muerte nace la vida, del sufrimiento y dolor surge la esperanza.

Donde el mundo ve frustración y sin sentido, Dios hace estallar la vida.

Donde los poderes del mundo ven su victoria, podemos esperar la victoria del Dios de la vida.

Lector: From the homilies of St. Oscar Romero (March 26, 1978)

“The resurrection is also a message of liberation for the things of the world. That is why the Church cannot be deaf or mute, sisters and brothers, before the entreaty of millions of persons who are oppressed by a thousand slaveries and are crying out for liberation. But the church tells them what the true freedom is that they must seek: it is the freedom that Christ introduced to earth when he rose and burst the chains of sin and death and hell. To be like Christ, free of sin, is to be really free with true liberation. Those who put their faith in the risen One and work for a more just world; those who protest against the injustices of the present system, against the abuses of unjust authorities, against the wrongfulness of humans exploiting humans; those who base all these struggles on the resurrection of the great Liberator—these alone are authentic Christians. That is why the resurrection must give people courage and integrity.”

Presidente: Oremos...

Oh Dios, esperanza de los que en ti confían, te pedimos por quienes no experimentan un sentido de vida y están tentados a suicidarse, por los que viven sin esperanza, sin consuelo, sin amor; por los que explotan y destruyen indiscriminadamente tu creación; por nosotros, que creemos en el poder de la vida sobre la muerte manifestado en la resurrección de Jesús; ayúdanos a manifestar cada día, con obras concretas, el amor que resucita, cuidando la vida humana y la creación que nos sustenta.

Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo, hijo tuyo y hermano nuestro.

Todos: Amén.

Padre Nuestro...



Fray Javier Del Ángel De los Santos, OFM.

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Su ministerio bíblico lo realiza mediante conferencias, retiros, talleres, y dirección espiritual. Español, inglés e italiano.

Canal de Youtube: “Verbum Dei OFM” - www.youtube.com/verbumdeiofm
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Textos de San Oscar Romero. Todos los textos de las homilías, mensajes, diario, planes pastorales, en español, y muchos de ellos en inglés, junto con muchos audios, se encuentran en: <http://www.romerotrust.org.uk/homilies-and-writings>

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