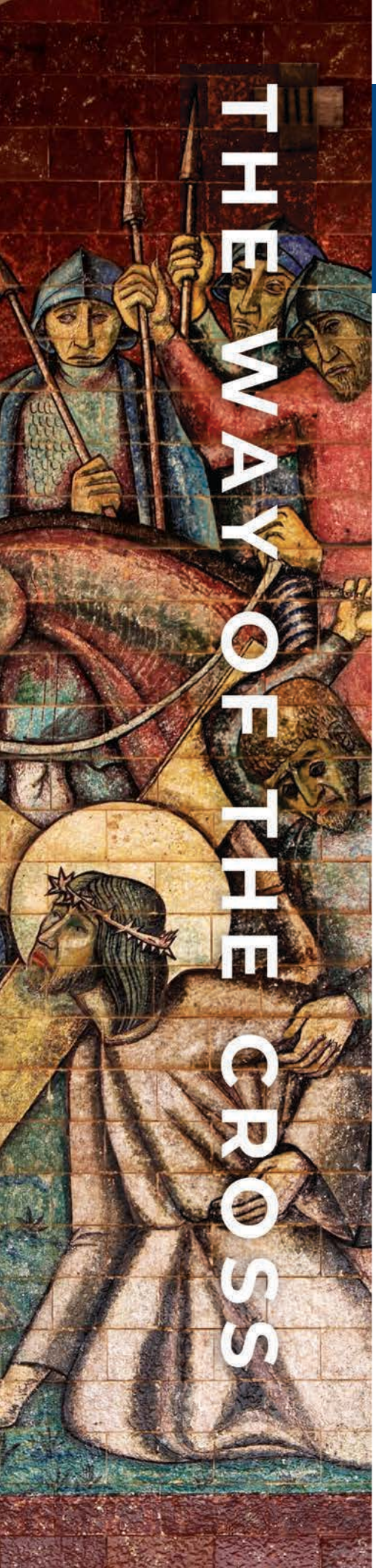


SEASON OF LENT 2021

OFFICE OF VOCATION MINISTRY
DISTRICT OF SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS

BROS of SFNO

OPENING PRAYER

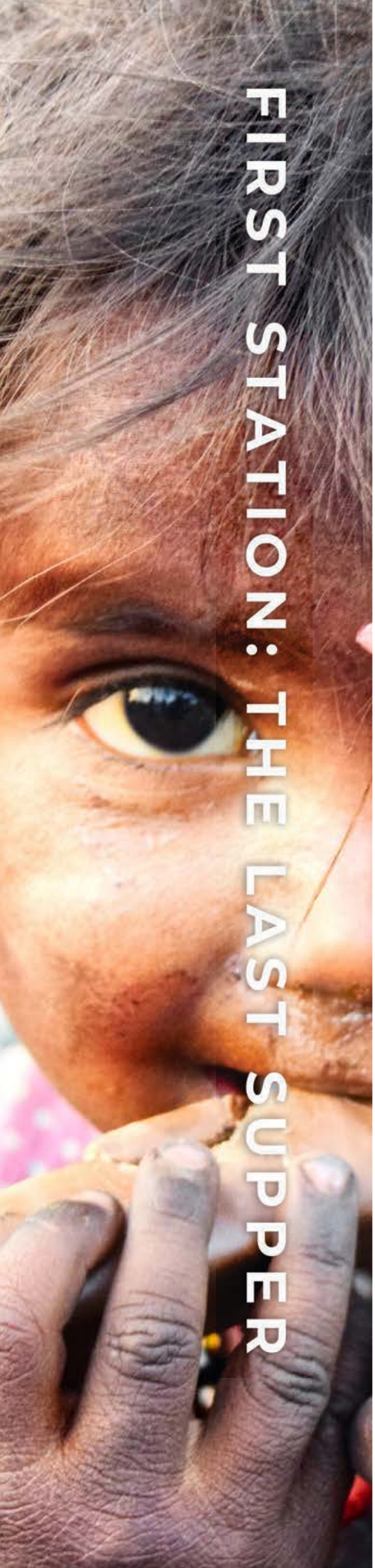
LEADER: Let us remember that we are in the most holy and loving presence of God. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ALL: Lord Jesus, today, we lovingly recall Your journey to Calvary which fulfilled Your promised redemption of our sins.

We remember Your joyful attitude in carrying Your cross. You endured physical and moral sufferings because of Your unconditional love for us. Your sacrificial and merciful love is a manifestation of Your forgiving heart.

Lord Jesus, as we begin to make the Way of the Cross, we ask You to go before us and lead us to follow Your footsteps faithfully. Fill us with sorrow and contrition for our sins.

LASALLIAN DISTRICT of SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS



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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: The Lord Jesus on the night in which he was betrayed took bread, and after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper, he took the cup saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Every time, then, you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes! (1 Cor 11:23-26)

LEADER: We pray for all the hungry and the people struggling from famine. At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and cup, blessed the bread and wine and told his disciples to “do this in memory of me.” The Eucharist is our eternal food, the food for our faith journey, and the food where we recognize Jesus and respond to the hunger of others. Today, more than ever, we are continually exposed and aware of hunger in the world, including our own country. Yet, the ability to affect the reality of those who are suffering seems like it can be far from our reach. We understand the basic human right to life and a basic standard of living, including food. We understand, and we are outraged. But is it enough? How do we meet the needs of the hungry in our ministry?

ALL: Lord Jesus, you loved us to the utmost. You loved us to the end. You remain in the Eucharist to be for us the food and drink that give eternal life. You remain with us to be the continuous sign of God’s saving presence in all circumstances of life. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have failed to appreciate your gift of self to us and your loving presence in the Eucharist.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Jesus went out and made his way, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives. His disciples accompanied him. On reaching the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not be out to the test." He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, then went down on his knees and prayed in these words: "Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." In his anguish he prayed with even greater intensity, and his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. Then he rose from prayer and came to his disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted with grief. (Lk 22:39-42,44-45)

LEADER: We pray for all the victims of war and terrorism. When Jesus felt sorrow and distress he sought out a place where he found solace and turned to God for strength and guidance.

Jesus' place of solace was the Garden of Gethsemane, in the Holy Land. Many of our brothers and sisters feel sorrow and distress because of the lack of peace in the world. They face the everyday realities of war and conflict. It can be far too easy to be like Jesus' disciples and fall asleep in the face of these realities on the other side of the world. Instead, Jesus calls us to stay awake – to stay with him and our brothers and sisters around the world and support them in their struggle for peace. He calls us to keep watch with him and pray, to be persistent in our calls and prayers for peace as a way to live in solidarity with our brothers and sisters experiencing the sorrow and devastation of war. How can our Lasallian Community keep watch and support those suffering around us?

ALL: It was a long, terrible night, Lord. And not one of your disciples found the strength to keep you company in your agony. Your only strength was your determination to do the Father's will at all costs.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

THIRD STATION: JESUS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

LEADER: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: The high priest stood up before the court and interrogated Jesus: “Are You the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” Then Jesus answered: “I am. And You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty and coming with the clouds of heaven.” At that the high priest tore his robes and said: “What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What is Your verdict?” They all concurred in the verdict “guilty,” with its sentence of death. As soon as it was daybreak the chief priests, with the elders and scribes bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. (Mk 14:60-64,15:1)

LEADER: We pray for those who are unjustly persecuted. There are times in every person’s life where we have been wrongly accused. What happens when the unjustly accused are sent to prison, or even sentenced to death? We know this happened to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. What are the ways that we are called to ensure that unjust persecution doesn’t continue to happen to people in our community?

ALL: Lord Jesus, You are the judge of all human beings, yet You accepted to be judged by biased judges. You are the all-holy, the only innocent on earth, yet You endured the condemnation of obstinate sinners… And the unfair trial goes on, duplicated in all the unjust sentences through which innocent people are condemned and rascals are acquitted. You are still the victim of these injustices perpetuated against the weak, the defenseless, the voiceless of our society, in whom you continue to live and suffer.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Pilate asked the crowd: “What am I to do with Jesus, the so-called Messiah?” They all shouted, “Crucify him!” He said, “Why, what crime has he committed?” But they shouted louder, “Crucify him!” After having Jesus scourged, Pilate delivered him to be crucified. Then the soldiers, weaving a crown out of thorns, fixed it on his head, and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock him by dropping to their knees before him, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” (Mt 27:22-24, 26, 29-30)

LEADER: We pray for environmental justice. Pilate and the soldiers demonstrate a lack of concern in the care of Jesus. The mistreatment is evident as Jesus is mocked and struck repeatedly. Lack of concern for God’s creation results in abuse of the environment and the vulnerable. As seen through the environmental justice work of the Church, those who are poor and vulnerable often live in areas with greater pollution and are disproportionately impacted by others’ choices that harm the environment. Respecting God also means respecting and protecting all of God’s creation and children. How do the choices we make protect those who are living in poverty from environmental injustice?

ALL: Instigated by your enemies, the mob wanted you dead, dear Jesus, and Pilate didn’t think it was worthwhile to uphold justice and protect your innocence. So the mad mob had its way. The Roman soldiers had their way as they reduced your body to a bleeding wound and crowned your head with thorns and mockery.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: When they had finished mocking Jesus, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him. (Mt 27:31)

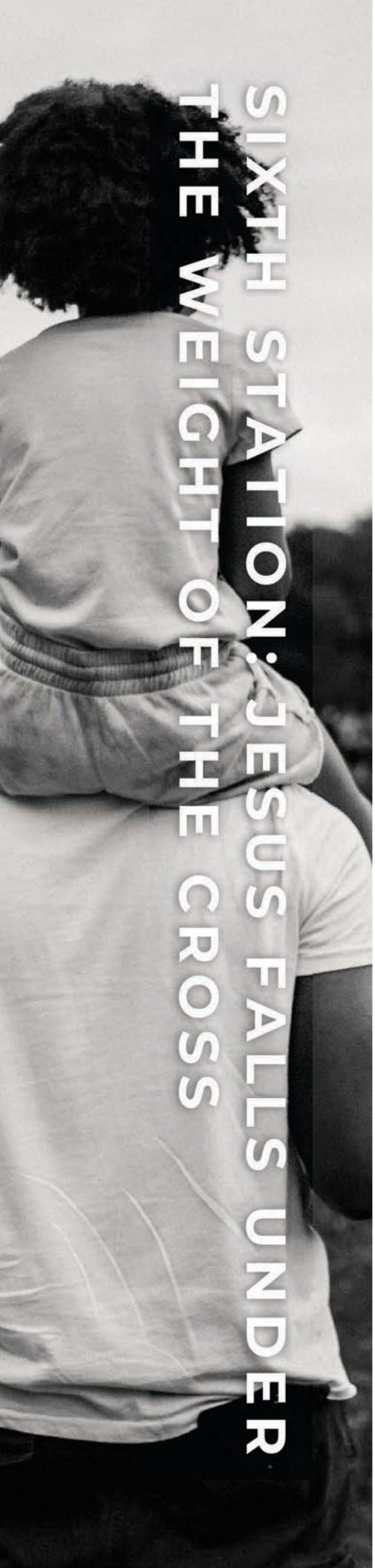
LEADER: We pray for those who are unemployed especially during this time of pandemic. The wood of the cross is heavy, for on it Jesus bears the sins of us all. He staggers under that burden, too great for one man alone (Jn.19:17). It is also the burden of all those wrongs which created the economic crisis and its grave social consequences: job insecurity, unemployment, dismissals, an economy that rules rather than serves, financial speculation, corruption, the loss of local industry. This is the cross, which weighs upon the world of labor, the injustice shouldered by workers. Jesus shoulders it himself and teaches us to reject injustice and to learn, with his help, to build bridges of solidarity and of hope, lest we be like sheep who have lost our way amid this crisis. How do we strive as a community to provide work, to overcome our fears and our isolation, to recover a respect for political life and to work to resolve the problems of unemployment?

ALL: Dear Lord, the cross was the punishment for criminals and insurgents. Who could believe that it was placed on the shoulders of the Son of God, the source of all holiness and goodness? And yet, you accepted it in all humility because you knew that such was the condition to save us.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO



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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: As he staggered along the road to Calvary, Jesus felt crushed by the cross he was carrying on his shoulders. Much more, perhaps, he felt overwhelmed by the savage jeering of the mob that kept insulting him as if he were a criminal… Exhausted by the sleepless night and the tortures he had already endured, Jesus fell to the ground under the weight of the cross and the moral tortures he had suffered.

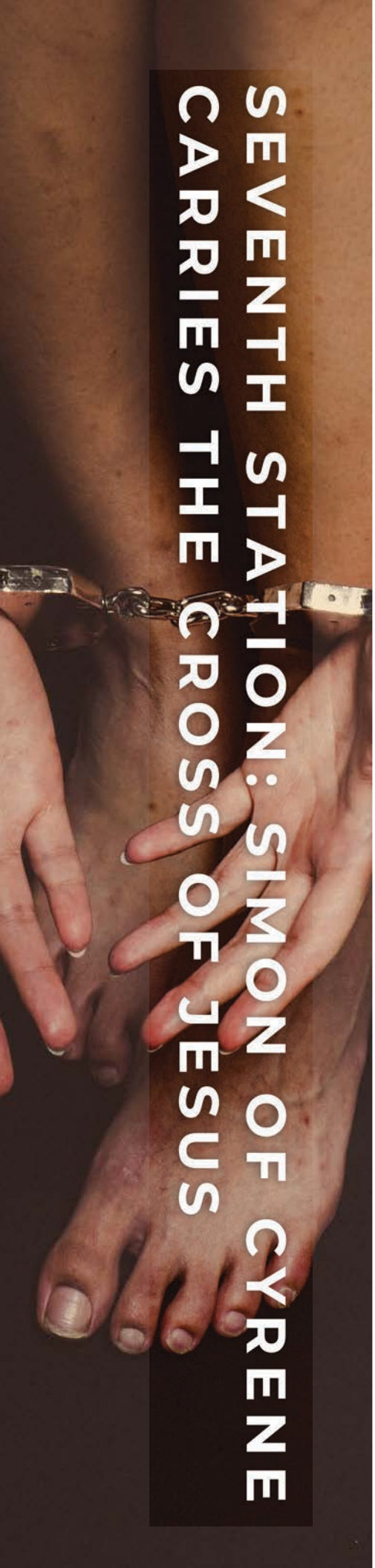
LEADER: We pray for equality and social justice. The burden that crushes Jesus is unfair, as are the social and economic inequalities – whether based on skin color, sexual orientation, age, language, ethnicity, religion, and culture. How do the choices we make protect those who are suffering from different forms of social injustice?

ALL: The distance from the Praetorium to Calvary was not long – just a few hundred meters. But it took you long, Lord, to walk that stretch, staggering painfully and groping in vain for help… Your strength had long deserted you. The road was uneven. The crowd was merciless. The cross was becoming heavier and heavier, till it weighed you down… down to the dust! Like you, Lord, so many of us stagger and fall along the hard way of the cross that life becomes when trials and failures overwhelm us and crush us to the ground. When we stumble and fall, Lord, be our support! And when our brothers and sisters seem unable to carry the burden of their trials, Lord, give us a compassionate heart.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO



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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: A man named Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was coming in from the fields. The soldiers pressed him into service to carry the cross of Jesus. (Mk 15:21)

LEADER: We pray for all the victims of human trafficking and slavery. Jesus carried our sins when he took up the cross. It was heavy and he was weakened because of the torture he endured from the soldiers. He needed help. Simon was forced from the crowd by the soldiers to help Jesus. One piece of the cross that people bear today is human trafficking or slavery. Slavery was a part of human history in Jesus' day and it continues into our world today. Twenty million people in our world today are being forced into slavery and are victims of human trafficking. How can the Lasallian mission respond to the needs of the victims of human trafficking and slavery?

ALL: Simon just happened to pass there on his way home from the fields. He was forced to make a detour – a detour that changed the course of his life. Forced to carry your cross, Lord Jesus, he himself became a victim of oppression and injustice. He experienced a share of your pain, Lord, and thus discovered what life can be if one wants to help others. Send us more Simon of Cyrene, Lord. Send us people who have the courage to shoulder the crosses of others in brotherly solidarity and patience. Make us like Simon, Lord. Grant us the strength and generosity to carry one another's burden, for our society is crowded with people crushed by crosses of all shapes and weights.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: A great crowd of people followed Jesus, including some women who beat their breasts and lamented over him. Jesus turned to them and said: “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children. The days are coming when they will say, ‘Happy are the sterile, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin saying to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ If they do these things in the green wood, what will happen in the dry?” (Lk 23:27-31)

LEADER: We pray for all the victims of all kinds of violence against women and vulnerable. The women in the crowd showed deep concern and support for Jesus in his suffering. It’s likely these women were able to empathize with Jesus’s pain because of the ways they had been mistreated by society. In today’s world, women and girls are disproportionately affected by war and conflict. Just like the women who reached out to Jesus, women who suffer because of war and conflict can also offer us a sign of hope with examples of how they’ve turned their own suffering into something life-giving. Many women who have been victims of sexual violence have proven they are more than victims. They have begun to heal, empower themselves and better their society by participating in programs of trauma healing, learning new skills to support their families and taking leadership roles in grassroots peace movements. How can we support the vulnerable who suffer from the effects of violence and conflict?

ALL: Lord Jesus, those women of Jerusalem were surely sincere in their sorrow for you. They were brave enough to follow you along the road to Calvary. But you directed their attention to the cause of your suffering – sin, and the punishment which repentance would bring down on all.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: When they came to the place called “the Skull,” they crucified Jesus there together with the two criminals. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.” The people stood there watching and the leaders kept jeering at him, saying, “He saved others, Let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!” (Lk 23:33-35)

LEADER: We pray for those who are persecuted because of their faith. Jesus was put to death. Both society and the state judged that his words and actions didn’t fit with their belief system and they sentenced him to death because of it. It is shocking that in today’s world people are still persecuted and even killed because of their faith. In fact, restrictions on religion around the world have been on the rise in recent years. Jesus’s suffering and death offers us a reminder that we must continue to promote religious freedom for all. How can we safeguard the freedom of religion for all peoples?

ALL: Lord, those hands of yours which caressed the children, blessed thesick and chased demons away are now nailed mercilessly to the wood of the cross. Your feet which had taken you from village to village in an effort to bring the Good News of the Kingdom to all are now immobilized forever… your enemies dare you to come down from the cross. But you don’t. Not because of the nails, but because of your love for us sinners. It was love which brought you there. It is love that keeps you there.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: One of the criminals hanging in crucifixion blasphemed Jesus: "Aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us!" But the other one rebuked him: "Have you no fear of God, seeing that you are under the same sentence? We deserve it, after all. We are only paying the price for what we've done, but this man has done nothing wrong." He then said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign." And Jesus replied, "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise." (Lk 23:39-43)

LEADER: We pray for those who are seeking forgiveness for their sins. The criminal confesses his sins and Jesus offers him forgiveness and acceptance. He promises to include him in his kingdom. Forgiveness is not easy. Neither is admitting when we do wrong and asking for forgiveness. Jesus and the criminal give us a wonderful example. Just as Jesus welcomes the criminal into his kingdom, in countries affected by war and conflict are working to accept and reintegrate perpetrators of violence back into their communities in order to restore right relationship. Repentance and forgiveness can sometimes seem overwhelmingly difficult, but the relationship between Jesus and the criminal and restored relationships in communities around the world that have faced horrendous crimes give us hope that reconciliation is possible. Who do we need to forgive in our lives? Who do we need to ask forgiveness from?

ALL: Lord Jesus, there was so much sincerity in the public confession of the repentant thief…so much faith and trust in the words he addressed to you. The man really believed in your mercy. He believed in your kingdom. And you did not disappoint him.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, his mother's sisters, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, there is your son." In turn he said to the disciple, "There is your mother." From that hour onward, the disciple took Mary into his care. (Jn 19:25-27)

LEADER: We pray for orphans and children of broken families. At the time of his death, those who loved Jesus were present to him in his suffering, "standing by the cross." By their participation in his death, Jesus continued to show his disciples how to persist in building a loving community that cares for each other. Faith and love were active, "from that hour the disciple took her into his home." Those who are orphans and children of broken families are pushed to the fringes of society, isolated, and left out of decisions that affect them and their families. The Church understands that community is built on relationships, loving our neighbors as our God loves, forming families with new brothers and sisters and, ultimately, working together to end suffering, isolation and poverty. How can we accompany our students who are orphans and products of broken families?

ALL: No one on earth loved you as your Mother did, Lord; nor did you love any other person on earth as you loved her. And she was there, witness and sharer of your redeeming suffering. By entrusting her to John, you provided for the remaining days of your Mother. By entrusting John to her, you provided for all mankind, for you gave us all your very own mother as our mother.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: It was now around midday, and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon with an eclipse of the sun. Jesus said: "I am thirsty." They stuck a sponge soaked in wine on some hyssop and raised it to his lips. When Jesus took the wine he said: "Now it is finished." He uttered a loud cry and said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." After he said this, he died. (Lk 23:44,46; Jn 19:28-30)

LEADER: We pray for all the victims of brutality and killings. Both in print and digital news sources in recent years, we have seen blurry images of those who were killed in our cities. They have been the face of societal injustice that continuously claims the lives of many people. It is right that we prayerfully reflect on the brutality and killings as direct assault to God's love and human dignity. We must remember all the lives that have not been protected or cared for and contemplate our place in the crowd. As a member of civil society, how does my faith help me reflect on the value of human life?

ALL: Before you breathed your last you said you were thirsty – thirsty for love. Today we offer you the solace of our repentant love, Lord. We want to love you also for the days when we failed to do so. We want to love you for all those who refuse to love. And may we, at the end of our stormy life, die confidently pronouncing your last words, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!"

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: When evening fell, a wealthy man – Joseph of Arimathea, arrived. He was another of Jesus' disciples, and had gone to request the body of Jesus. Thereupon Pilate issued an order for its release. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in fresh linen, and laid it in his own tomb which had been hewn from a formation of rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. (Mt 27:57-60)

LEADER: We pray for the homeless and refugees. Joseph's care for Jesus in death, ensuring he was cleansed, clothed, and sheltered, affirms the basic human right to shelter and security from life into death. Adequate shelter for ourselves and our loved ones affirms that we are made in the image of God. Our dignity, which is a gift from God, allows us to fulfill our potential. Too many people cannot find stable and affordable housing, which wounds their dignity and contributes to other personal and societal problems. What can I (and my community) do to support those experiencing homelessness and the refugees? What are ways that I can work with them to ensure all basic needs are met?

ALL: Lord Jesus, the dark night of death has engulfed you. The only bright lights are the tender love of your Mother, the faithfulness of John and the friendship of Joseph of Arimathea and a few others. You are laid in the tomb like a precious treasure placed in a chest; like a seed hidden in the soil.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

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

ALL: Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

LEADER: After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene came with the other Mary to inspect the tomb. Suddenly there was a mighty earthquake, as the angel of the Lord descended from heaven. He came to the stone, rolled it back, and sat on it. Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: “Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified. He is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised. Go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead.’”(Mt 28:1-2, 5-6)

LEADER: We pray that all Christians may be the light of Jesus in the world. In the resurrection, we see the most sublime fulfillment of what this text describes as the beginning of all things. God says once again: “Let there be light!” The resurrection of Jesus is an eruption of light. Death is conquered, the tomb is thrown open. The Risen One himself is Light, the Light of the world. With the resurrection, the Lord’s day enters the nights of history. In what ways can we truly radiate the light of Jesus in our community and schools?

ALL: Jesus, your holy body could not undergo the corruption of the sepulcher. The tomb could not hold you longer than it was needed to prove that your death was real. Now the shattered seals, the entrance stone rolled back, the testimony of the angel proves that your resurrection is real. It also proves in advance that we too shall rise.

LEADER: Jesus Christ, Crucified.

ALL: Have mercy on us.

BROS of SFNO

CLOSING PRAYER

LEADER: All-powerful and ever-living God, Your only Son died for our sins and rose triumphantly from the dead. In Your goodness, raise up Your faithful people to be one with Him in the eternal life of heaven, where He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

ALL: Amen

St. John Baptist de La Salle… Pray for us.

Live Jesus in our hearts… Forever.

LASALLIAN DISTRICT of SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS

SIGNUM FIDEI

Brothers of the Christian Schools

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