

## **HCA MISSION STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

*Leader:* Together we will walk along the Way of the Cross with Jesus. Let us think about Jesus' suffering and about how that suffering ended in joy and new life.

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

### **FIRST STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

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

*All:* Jesus, you were innocent yet condemned to death. Help the children who try to hide from war every day. Let them know peace through your love. Help those of us who live in peaceful countries to try and spread more love and peace among our families and friends.

### **SECOND STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS IS MADE TO CARRY HIS CROSS

Children suffer from many things in our country and in countries far from us. Jesus loves all children and wants all children to love each other. He wants us to learn about others, so we can love and help them when they suffer and "carry great crosses." Jesus suffers with them, too.

*All:* Suffering Jesus, make us always aware of the hurt in the world around us. Help us to be generous members of HCA, so we can help to change each person's suffering into joy.

### **THIRD STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Sometimes children in mission countries cannot bear their suffering. They cry because they are hungry, cold, or lonely. Many children do not have medicine to heal them when they are sick. They cannot care for themselves. They often have no one to help them to get up when they fall" as Jesus did.

*All:* Jesus, burdened with your cross, we are stronger and have fewer burdens than many children in the world. Through your love, we can share our strength and help other young people to get up when they fall from hunger and sickness.

## **FOURTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Some children have lost their mothers. No one shows them how to live according to the ways of Jesus. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is every child's mother and teacher. She is the best example of what it means to be truly Christian.

*All:* Jesus, Son of God, we thank you for sharing your mother with us. Help us to be more like Mary in caring for other children through HCA.

## **FIFTH STATION**

*Leader:* SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

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

*All:* Jesus, you were weak as you carried your cross that long way to Calvary. Teach us to be grateful when friends help us. Open our hearts to make us generous and helpful when we see others who are in need.

## **SIXTH STATION**

*Leader:* VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

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

*All:* Jesus, gentle and kind, help us to be more like Veronica. Make us strong and unafraid to help suffering people. Help us to be generous and offer our "cloth" of love to wipe the face of a child who needs us today.

## **SEVENTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Millions of children are cold and hungry. Many of them cannot run or even walk because they are so weak. Many cannot play or learn. These children have many problems and often need all kinds of care, like medicine, food, and a chance to go to school.

*All:* Jesus, our loving Brother, feed our spirits with your love. Teach us to be generous in our HCA Lenten sacrifices, so that we can help to give care to children in other countries who need so much.

## **EIGHTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Jesus told the women of Jerusalem to care more for their own children than for him. Many mothers in the world worry about their children's future. Will there be enough food? Can they go to school? Will there be a war soon? They care deeply about their children's lives now and for the future.

*All:* Jesus, you love all children. Help us to show the parents of suffering children that there is hope. Through our sharing and caring as HCA members, give all children the hope of new life in you.

## **NINTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

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

*All:* Jesus, let your comforting love be a shelter for the homeless. Let them know your love through our generosity. We are your hands and feet in the world now.

## **TENTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

When Jesus was stripped of his clothes, he must have felt like refugee children in warring countries who are stripped of everything they need: family, home, food, and clothing.

*All:* Jesus, you sacrificed everything for each one of us. Help us not to want more than we need. Open our eyes so that we appreciate what we have. Help us to sacrifice and share with others.

## **ELEVENTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

On the cross, Jesus had no freedom to move. Many children today live in countries and are not free to learn about Jesus and his love for them.

*All:* Jesus, when we join in the celebration of the Eucharist, we will remember those who are not yet free. We are happy to be free to praise and proclaim you. We pray that some day, all children will know this same freedom in you, our greatest friend.

## **TWELFTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Jesus was obedient to God, his Father, even when it meant that he must die on the cross. When we are also obedient and imitate Jesus in everything, we show that we want to also live and die like God's beloved Son. We want to see both Father and Son one day in heaven!

*All:* Jesus, crucified for us, help us to be obedient to all our loving Father in heaven asks of us.

## **THIRTEENTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

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

## **FOURTEENTH STATION**

*Leader:* JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB

Many children suffer silently. Sometimes we do not see how much they are in pain. Jesus was, silent in the tomb. His friends could not see him.

*All:* Jesus, you were once silent and hidden in the tomb. We want to help children who are suffering silently. Through your love, help us to be generous this Lent, so many children will know that we hear their cries for help.

## **FIFTEENTH STATION**

*All:* Our journey does not end at the tomb. It ends in victory and glory. We look forward to the new life of Easter and the hope that Jesus' saving power will be brought anew to all children around the world.

## **HOLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION**

*Making a Difference in the Lives of Children*