

Pray, Grow, & Serve

Learning about the dignity of the human person

The PELICAN
PROJECT

2nd Sunday of Lent
February 25, 2024 | Violet

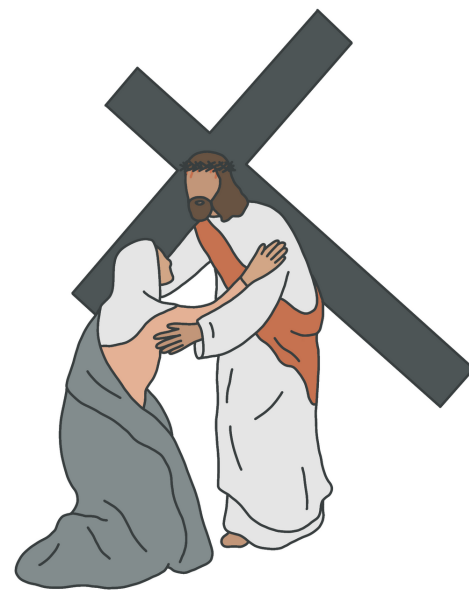
THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Precious and wonderfully made in His eyes, Jesus had YOU in His mind's eye every step of His journey to Calvary. Spending time praying over Christ's Passion helps us to better understand His merciful love and gift of salvation. Following the tradition of the Church, throughout Lent we will Pray, Grow, & Serve with the Stations of the Cross!

The 3rd Station, Jesus Falls for the First Time

As Jesus walks, the weight of the Cross on His shoulder makes each step difficult to take. His movements are slow, and His breathing is quick. Around me, I **look** at the crowd; I **see** Mary, Jesus's mother, with tears staining her cheeks. My eyes follow her as she slowly moves to the front of the crowd. Her lips gently move as she prays with each breath. I see a cloud of dirt and sand fill the small space around Jesus. The Cross has crashed to the ground; I **feel** the grit of the earth rise up against my face. Jesus has fallen beneath its weight. I **watch** as Mary bends towards her Son with outstretched arms; she chokes back a sob. I wonder how many times Mother Mary reached for Jesus in the same way when He was small to gather Him into her arms and comfort Him. As the crowds press in, Mary pulls her arms to her chest. Watching her Son suffer such pain and humiliation **feels** like a sword piercing her heart.

Pray: Lord, as Your disciple, you have instructed me to "pick up my cross daily" and follow You. You know the weight of the cross and the many humiliations I may experience along the way. Help me to have the courage to put one foot in front of the other and the grace to stand back up after I fall. In a special way, help me to carry the precious cross of affirming the dignity of every person I encounter, especially the most vulnerable among us. Remind me always that every person is the work of Your Love.



Our Lady's "Yes"

Grow: When the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she chose to say "yes" to God. We call Mary's "yes" her "Fiat" because in Latin, fiat translates into the words Mary said to Gabriel, "Let it be done."

We are asked to accept God's will for our lives. When we do so, we know that parts of God's plan are hard to understand. Mary gave her fiat each day of Jesus's life, including when she first held Jesus in the joyful hours of Christmas morning and when she held His Body after His painful death on the Cross.

Mary gives us the courage to offer our fiat each day. She shows us that even when it is hard, God desires our perfect good—*His plan is the route to heaven.*

The 4th Station, Jesus Meets His Mother

Slowly placing both feet underneath Him and the Cross back on His shoulder, Jesus rises from His fall. Standing at almost His full height, with labored breathing, He looks into the crowd for His mother; her prayers have been heard, and they have strengthened Him. I **watch** Mary and Jesus as they look at one another; they share trust in God's will and the courage to go on. Mary's fiat echoes within her soul. Her "yes" to the angel Gabriel so many years ago has been repeated every day of Jesus's life. Today, she reminds herself that even when it is very hard, God's plan is perfect.

Pray: Lord, I thank you for the gift of family. Every day, mothers and fathers are given the chance to say "yes" to Your plan; give them the courage to trust in Your will and help them understand what a gift they are to their children. I pray for my mom, dad, and grandparents that they are close to Your heart always. I thank you for the trusted adults in my life who pray for me and encourage me when I need it most. Help me to have the courage to give my fiat, or "yes," to Your will for my life in all things.

