



## **Good Friday Way of the Cross: Walk for Justice and Mercy**

March 25, 2016

Sponsored by the St. Francis  
Catholic Worker Group of Madison  
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This 1-hour, 1-mile walk is a modern day Way-of-the-Cross. We will walk, pray, and sing at each of the ten stops which are the walk's stations. Each station will explore issues and problems in today's society that call for justice and mercy.

The crosses that will be carried during this walk are from the School of the America's peace vigil, which takes place each November at Fort Benning in Columbus, GA. The names that are written on the crosses represent individuals who have been killed or disappeared by graduates of the SOA in Latin America. During the peace vigil these crosses are laid at the gates of Fort Benning to call attention to the school's history and to remember all those who have died.

After each station, before moving onto the next, we will sing the following refrain:

*"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"*

*♩ = 69*

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

### **Our Path**

Station 1 – Cathedral Park  
Station 2 – Dane County Court House  
Station 3 – Dane County Jail  
Station 4 – Madison Police Department  
Station 5 – City County Building

Station 6 – WI State Capital Building  
Station 7 – YWCA Women's Shelter  
Station 8 – Wisconsin Veterans Museum  
Station 9 – Porchlight Men's Shelter  
Station 10 – Cathedral Park

\*\*Artwork by Hank Zyp, who dedicated his life to work with the poor and underprivileged. He saw Christ in all his fellow human beings. Through his art, teaching, and writing, he strove to bring about meaningful change.

## Opening Prayer

The Way of the Cross is one of the oldest devotions in Christianity. It connects humans with one of the oldest struggles and searches in human history: to understand the meaning of suffering. We yearn to know what life beyond death could be, what justice beyond oppression could look like.

During this walking prayer, we accompany Jesus on one of the holiest and hardest days for Christians. With him, we carry the Cross into the public square, here in the heart of Madison, as he labored beneath its burden through the streets of Jerusalem. With him, we acknowledge the presence of pain in every life – human, animal, and all life on and in Earth. These small crosses we bear symbolize that pain.

Our intention is that these Stations be a public statement of faith, of compassion, of the conviction that both our daily deaths and our big passage – from this life to whatever is beyond – can lead to the fullness of life.

So let us proceed with this Way of the Cross, first calming and quieting ourselves so that we can be fully present in this prayer.

Sha - lom, Sa - laam, Pa - cem, grant us peace!

### Station 1 - Cathedral Park - Nonviolence *Jesus is Condemned to Death*

Leader: The first station: *Jesus is condemned to death*. The innocent One is delivered to the authorities because he stood with the poor and the outcast all his life. He stood firmly against the violence that permeated his society and that continues to permeate ours.

Leader: Do we not continue to promote the myth of redemptive violence?

**All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.**

Leader: Do we not find it hard to hear and live by the biblical message of restorative justice: that which calls all to a change of heart, to reconciliation, to bridge-building?

**All: Where there is hatred let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon.**

Leader: Too often, we find ourselves and our society exerting force and meting out punishment for wrongdoing.

**All: Where there is doubt, faith.**

Leader: We uncover this violence in ourselves, in our relationships, in our country's engagement in many kinds of warfare, in our abuse of our precious Mother Earth, in our attitudes and actions around immigration, incarceration, respect for the dignity of all life, and the racism that lies beneath all this.

**All: Where there is despair, hope.**

Leader: When we look at Jesus, we do not see him standing passively by when he saw injustice or violence. No, he took action decisively but nonviolently. Jesus presented an alternative vision of how to confront violence and evil. He willingly took it on himself, proclaiming that there was no wrath or violence or vengeance in the God he knew, the one he called "Abba."

**All: Where there is darkness, light.**

Leader: Jesus asks us to do the hard thing of loving our enemies because God does so. God patiently waits for a change in the enemy's heart because of the **love** shown. In this way – and only this way – will the reign of God come.

**All: And where there is sadness, joy.**

Leader: So we stand here, taking in the challenge of Jesus, his great love for us and all humankind, grateful that he desires only our good. We stand, hopeful that we can come to understand that pain is necessary for our growth. Its gifts can be courage, wisdom, patience, and hope . . . and learning the difficult practice of nonviolence.

... ..  
*Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom*

## **Station 2 – Dane County Court House – Immigration**

### ***Jesus is Given His Cross***

Leader: The second station: *Jesus is given his cross*. Jesus was made to carry the instrument of his own torture through the streets, both a physical burden and a weight of shame and humiliation.

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

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

Leader: Outside this courthouse, symbolic of our legal system, we are grateful to those who work hard each day to resolve disputes and enforce laws in our name. Yet, we mourn the ways our laws fall short of justice and mercy, particularly toward Jesus the stranger, migrants and refugees.

**All: Have mercy on us, Jesus, enable us to see the crosses we give you.**

Leader: Since coming to the US in 2001, Jose had worked hard to provide for his family and had no interactions with law enforcement. On August 29, 2013, he was arrested at his home in front of his wife and their two children, both US citizens. Like over 70,000 other parents of U.S. citizen children in 2013, Jose was later deported.

**All: Have mercy on us, Jesus, enable us to see the crosses we give you.**

Leader: Alta and her 3 children, ages 2-10, having fled north to escape drug cartel violence in her El Salvador hometown, arrived in the US only to be locked up in a Texas detention center. She and her children suffered mentally and physically from the conditions inside, sharing 4 bunk beds, 1 shower, and 1 toilet with 2 other families for over six months. We have locked up thousands of families like them in recent years.

**All: Have mercy on us, Jesus, enable us to see the crosses we give you.**

Leader: “[Divine mercy] seeks and invites us to conversion, it invites us to repentance; it invites us to see the damage being done at every level. Mercy always pierces evil in order to transform it. It is the mystery of God our Father: he sends his Son who pierced into what was evil, he took on sin in order to transform evil. This is his mercy.”

**All: “Let us together ask our God for the gift of conversion, the gift of tears, let us ask him to give us open hearts..., open to his call heard in the suffering faces of countless men and women. No more death! No more exploitation!”**

Pope Francis, Ciudad Juárez, Feb. 17, 2016

Leader: And so we cry out

**All: No más, no more.**

... ..  
***Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom***

### **Station 3 – Dane County Jail – Incarceration** ***Jesus Meets His Mother***

*This station was co-written with the help of the inmates and deputies in the Dane County Jail Maximum Security section.*

Leader: The third station: *Jesus meets his mother*. While walking the path to his crucifixion Jesus is confronted by the stares of those watching him. They are the faces of strangers, mocking, condemning, and whispering as he walks past. Standing at the side though, separate from the masses, is his mother. She witnesses his pain, the violence of the cross; she is forced to remain at a distance, able only to observe and silently pray.

Leader: Jesus, your walk to the crucifixion was meant to shame you, humiliate you. The cross was meant to destroy you, body and spirit. Your mother and all those who loved you were made to watch. Too many families today are ruined by the incarceration of a loved one; children are left without parents, a mother is left without a son. You though confronted shame for all of humanity, and rendered it powerless. We take refuge in the cross that offers liberation of spirit to all who are incarcerated.

**All: We stand with those who suffer the stigma of incarceration, those saddled with the lifetime labels of ex-offender, criminal, felon, those forever haunted by their past mistakes and forced to live on the margins of society. We seek your redemption and their full integration as returning citizens to our society.**

Leader: Jesus, the inmates and deputies who live and work in the Dane County Jail have asked for our prayers, that their daily struggles not be forgotten.

**All: We join the inmates and deputies in prayer, lifting their petitions (for patience, freedom from sin, safety, courage and strength against temptation) to You, Merciful, Compassionate Lover and Forgiver of all human weakness.**

Leader: We pray for strength and endurance for the families separated by incarceration, for healing for all lives touched by crime, and for a new beginning of mercy and forgiveness.

**All: Loving God, hear our prayers.**

Leader: We affirm the many gifts, talents, hopes and dreams of the women and men who are currently serving time, and we pray for a justice system in which all, regardless of color or social status, are treated fairly and equally.

**All: God of the poor, You call us to love all, but urge us to seek out in a special way those who have been pushed by shame to the margins of society. Give us all the courage and strength to accept this invitation of**

**grace and reveal to us your loving presence in the least among us. We ask for the grace to continue to explore and implement more effective alternatives to mass incarceration. Amen.**

... ..  
***Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom***

*It is said that no one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.* Nelson Mandela

## **Station 4 – Madison Police Department – Restorative Justice**

### ***Jesus Falls***

Leader: The fourth station: *Jesus falls*. In our city and across the country there has been a national conversation concerning policing and its impact on the community. A level of mistrust and pain has arisen, as those weighed down by violence, poverty, racism, and a lack of opportunity stumble and fall under the weight of the cross. We are called here to recognize the underlying causes of suffering within our own backyard. We are called to respond through relationship and forgiveness. We are called to remember the names of all those who have fallen victim to violence.

Leader: Tony Robinson – March 6, 2015

**All: Presente**

Leader: Police Officer David Stefan Hofer – March 1, 2016

**All: Presente**

Leader: Daily, members of the police force, the sheriff's department, and all other branches of public safety confront the brokenness of our community – responding to calls of domestic abuse, mental health crises, exploitation, drug addiction, and verbal assault. They are witnesses to the very worst of the human condition, but are also provided with the opportunity to offer a hand to those who have fallen down.

Leader: Police Officer Allen Lee Jacobs – March 18, 2016

**All: Presente**

Leader: Trayvon Martin – February 26, 2012

**All: Presente**

Leader: We heed the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as we seek to make whole all that has been broken, as we look toward healing instead of fracture: "True peace is not merely the absence of tension, it is the presence of justice."

Leader: Eric Garner – July 17, 2014

**All: Presente**

Leader: Officer Ashley Marie Guindon – February 27, 2016

**All: Presente**

Leader: Violence is a cyclical event that does not cease unless we are willing to take a stand and speak out on behalf of those who are most affected. We must commit ourselves to the Gospel's radical call for peace, and not stand idly by when confronted by injustice.

Leader: Deputy Sheriff Carl A. Koontz – March 20, 2016

**All: Presente**

Leader: Michael Brown – August 9, 2014

**All: Presente**

Leader: We recall the recent shooting deaths by police of individuals within our communities.

Leader: We recall the recent shooting deaths of police who were killed in the line of duty.

**All: Be still and know that I am God.**

... ..  
***Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom***

*The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us? When we begin to take the lowest place, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers with that burning love, that passion, which led to the Cross, then we can truly say, 'Now I have begun.'*

Dorothy Day, Loaves and Fishes (215)

## **Station 5 – City County Building – The Common Good**

### ***Jesus Receives Help Carrying His Cross***

Leader: The fifth station: *Jesus receives help carrying his cross.* Simon, a bystander visiting Jerusalem from present-day Libya, did not know the man being marched to the place of his execution. Conscripted by the Roman soldiers, he took up the cross and followed Jesus.

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

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

Leader: Those who work here, at this building, serve our proud city and county each day. In their diligent work at mostly thankless tasks on behalf of strangers; they, too, are examples for us.

**All: Give us the courage to take up your cross and follow you.**

Leader: Outside the City County Building, where dozens of people slept outside each night until last fall, we are mindful of all who are without a stable place to call home. As Saint John Paul II reminds us, “housing is a basic human right, which means we have a human duty to ensure it is met.” - Message for 2003 World Day of Peace

**All: Give us the courage to take up your cross and follow you.**

Leader: The role of government is to ensure the common good, the “social conditions which allow people...to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.” Give us a spirit of creativity and generosity to imagine “a world in which it is easier to be good” and to offer our talents and our money, through taxes as appropriate.

**All: Give us the courage to take up your cross and follow you.**

Leader: Deep divisions in our city, state, and nation draw each of us into mutual resentment and suspicion, so that working together for the common good can seem impossible. But there is a way out: “love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” [Luke 6:27-28]

**All: Jesus, teach us to love those we consider our worst political enemies, to do good to them, bless them, and pray for their well-being, that we may be children of the Most High, who is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.**

... ..  
*Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom*

## **Station 6 – State Government, WI Capital Building – Tolerance** ***Jesus Falls Again***

Leader: The sixth station: *Jesus falls again*. While stumbling for the second time, Jesus falls to the ground under the weight of the cross. He is insulted, spat upon, and called names. To those in the crowd he represents the *other*; to those in authority he is a challenge to the status quo.

Leader: Standing here, at the Wisconsin state capital building, we find ourselves in the midst of a national conversation that seems all too focused on divisive politics and a clamoring to place blame on those who are different than us—those who may speak a different language, practice a different faith, or hold a different belief. Throughout our history though, it has been at these very centers of government in which people of all walks of life have come to speak, and through conversation, have found commonality.

**All: In the image of God we are created.**

Leader: For our elected officials, who daily provide public service to the community. Let us be reminded of the greater good that can be accomplished when we choose to work together for the benefit of all.

**All: In the image of God we are created.**

Leader: For our neighbors of different faiths, especially our Muslim brothers and sisters during this time of judgement and increased scrutiny. That we may always remember the tenants of peace and the everyday peacemakers present in the midst of those actions and events which are corrupted by violence and hatred.

**All: In the image of God we are created.**

Leader: And for the strangers who sit among us, whether in the hallways of government or in our own neighborhoods. Let us always take the opportunity to break bread together, for we never know when we may be *entertaining angels*. (Dorothy Day)

**All: In the image of God we are created.**

... ..  
***Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom***

*My dear brothers, we are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we already are.*

Thomas Merton in an address to fellow monks on December 10, 1968.

**Station 7 – YWCA Women’s Shelter – Violence Against Women and People of Color**  
***Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes***

Leader: The seventh station: *Jesus is abused and stripped of his clothing*. Every day in this country women are abused. People of color are mistreated, hurt and even killed because of their race. Just as Jesus’s abusers took his clothing in an attempt to strip him of his dignity and humiliate him, every day there are people who abuse and humiliate women and people of color. They try to take away their dignity and self-respect, strip them of things they value, and even take their lives. We need to stand as a society and say no to this behavior. We need to tell our fellow citizens that we stand with Jesus, and with all victims of abuse and mistreatment.

Leader: Let us pray that the people in this country stand up and stop abuse and mistreatment of people of all races and genders.

**All: God of Compassion, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, we beg you, hear our prayers.**

Leader: For women who experience abuse, may they receive the help they need to break free from their abusers and find healing:

**All: God of Compassion, at one with our brothers and sisters in need, we beg you, hear our prayers.**

Leader: For people who experience abuse and mistreatment because of the color of their skin, may each of us stand with them to stop such abuse:

**All: God of Compassion, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, we beg you, hear our prayers.**

Leader: For people who feel it is acceptable and warranted to abuse and mistreat women, may they experience true remorse and redemption:

**All: God of Compassion, we seek your presence. Hide not your face.**

Leader: For people who find it acceptable and warranted to mistreat and abuse people of color, may they experience true remorse and redemption:

**All: God of Compassion, you are our light and our hope.**

Leader: For all of society, may we all take action against abuse and mistreatment and not stop until it ends:

**All: God of Compassion, let justice reign.**

*Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom*

## **Station 8 – Wisconsin Veterans Museum – Peace and Non-Violence** ***Jesus is Nailed to the Cross***

Leader: The eighth station: *Jesus is nailed to the cross.*  
*(All remain silent while drummers play.)*

Jesus, you freely laid down your life, you acceded to systemic violence, allowing yourself to be killed in the most brutal of ways. How are we to understand your death on the Cross?

Leader: We pray for our veterans – especially those who still carry the cross of physical and psychological scars of war – and for their families. We pray for homeless and jobless veterans and for those who are disabled and those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder – and lack adequate medical and social services.

**All: Bring them your mercy, healing and peace.**

Leader: We pray for those on active duty and in the Reserves and National Guard, all who serve to protect. Comfort them and sustain them and us with the hope of the resurrection and of peace. We pray for the people throughout the Middle East who also grieve the deaths of tens of thousands of loved ones, who live daily in harm's way and have suffered countless injuries. And we pray for refugees and all those seeking a home in a new land.

**All: Bring them your mercy, healing and peace.**

Leader: We pray for an end to war and all belief that violence is the ultimate solution to our perceived political and religious differences. We pray for the recent victims of the terrorist attacks in Brussels, and for all those victims in tragedies that go unreported. Inspire us with your Spirit of deep wisdom to see beyond our cultural and political passions and convictions, and to truly seek humanity's common good.

**All: Bring them your mercy, healing and peace.**

Leader: We pray in silence for renewed hearts and minds. We remember that by Christ's wounds we are healed.

... ..  
***Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom***

*Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.*

Abraham Lincoln

## **Station 9 – Porchlight Men's Shelter – Homelessness and Poverty** ***Jesus Dies on the Cross***

Leader: The ninth station: *Jesus dies on the cross*. In his last moments, Jesus said "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). Lord, we hear this cry, your cry daily from the chorus of our brothers and sisters searching for housing in the Madison area.

**All: Let us answer the call; make us instruments of your peace.**

Leader: Make us bold, and soften our hearts to our brothers and sisters in need. We learn from our neighbors, here, at Porchlight, from those at St. Vincent de Paul's and Luke House. We recognize the face of our neighbor in those men, women, and children who live temporarily in a shelter, on a friend's couch, in a car, or out on the street. And we recognize the countless individuals who pray, work, and participate in actions of mercy; for these, our brothers and sisters, strangers who have shared with us their name.

**All:** Lord, we strive to preserve basic human rights, here in our home of Madison. Make us alert and attentive to the plight of those near us. Make us willing to give with a whole heart, not just our money, but our time, our friendship, our homes, and our love to these men and women.

Leader: Fear, mistrust, and selfishness have often taken the place of curiosity, friendliness, and a loving heart. Let us be filled with the spirit of the beatitudes.

**All:** We want to love, respect, and work hand-in-hand with those who are seeking housing in Madison. We desire to be the hands and feet of Christ, seeking a common love, good, and understanding with all of our neighbors.

Leader: We remember that this is a shared home and we pray that our deeds reflect our intentions for those in need. As Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

**All:** We pray for those serving, that they may continue to seek the good of their fellow man. We pray for a strengthening of relationships between us and our neighbors.

... ..  
*Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom*

*We are all frightened of the ugly, the dirty. We all want to turn away from anything that reveals the failure, pain, sickness, and death beneath the brightly painted surfaces of our ordered lives . . . We shun our own weakness and the weakness in others. We refuse to listen to the cry of the needy.*

Jean Vanier, Becoming Human (80-81)

## **Station 10 – Cathedral Park – Care for Creation** ***The Resurrection: New Life***

Leader: The tenth station: *The resurrection, the new life.* We have walked these stations together as a community of believers and searchers. We have walked in solidarity with Christ, the incarnate one, the enfleshed Word of God – the one who chose to enter our suffering world and bear our cross with us. He has died on the cross. He has been planted like a seed in the ground, watered by our tears. He has entered the tomb and endured a period of darkness. He has emerged, transformed as LIGHT, beyond the cross to the wholeness of new life.

**All:** Be praised, my Lord, for all your creation and especially for our Brother Sun, who brings us the day and the light; he is strong and shines magnificently.

Leader: In this final Station, we cannot turn away from the pain that exists in our Mother Earth. (Look around us at all that is in this Cathedral Park; take a few moments to look at the trees, the sky, the green things popping up out of the winter ground).

**All: Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon,  
and for the stars  
which you have set shining and lovely in the heavens.  
Be praised, my Lord,  
for our Brothers Wind and Air  
and every kind of weather  
by which you, Lord,  
uphold life in all your creatures.**

Leader: St. Thomas Aquinas teaches us that Creation is God's first revelation of God's Self to us . . . long before the Scriptures were written. So we look deeply into the eyes of our Creator God and behold the sacred, embodied Self present in Earth, the Body of Christ. We see Earth's anguish as she undergoes suffering and dying. Earth pleads with us to **see** her and all her creatures, beautiful but endangered. She pleads for us to recognize her as our only home, a gift of God, to be protected and enjoyed with respect and gratitude.

**All: Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,  
who is very useful to us,  
and humble and precious and pure.  
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,  
through whom you give us light in the darkness:  
he is bright and lively and strong.**

Leader: We draw close to Mother Earth, ready to learn from her how to live in right relationship with her and all creatures. Her resurrection will come only through humans deciding to live upon her differently than we have been. She provides nourishment of many kinds, providing food, health, systems of sharing, education, and co-creation. She delights in play, humor, beauty, abundance, and mystery. We open ourselves to learn to live together with Earth as one Body, as the Body of Christ, the one "in whom we live and move and have our being."

*(Acts 17:29; with gratitude also to "Stations for Earth," authored by Surette Cauley, and Southard).*

**All: Be praised, my Lord,  
for Sister Earth, our Mother,  
who nourishes us and sustains us,  
bringing forth fruits and vegetables of many kinds  
and flowers of many colors.**

**And be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,  
whom we must all face.**

I praise and bless you, Lord,  
and I give thanks to you,  
and I will serve you in all humility.

... ..  
*Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom*

### Closing Prayer

Leader: May God bless us with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths,  
And superficial relationships,  
**All: So that we will live deeper in our hearts.**

Leader: May God bless us with anger  
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation  
Of people and the earth,  
**All: So that we will work for justice, equity, and peace.**

Leader: May God bless us with tears  
To shed for those who suffer,  
**All: So we will reach out our hands  
To comfort them and change their pain into joy.**

Leader: And may God bless us with the foolishness  
To think that we can make a difference in the world,  
**All: So we will do the things  
Which others say cannot be done.**

Musical notation for the closing prayer. The score is in common time (C) and begins with a tempo marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "Sha-lom, Sa-laam, Pa-cem, grant us peace!". Above the treble staff, the chords are indicated as Am, C, Dm, ESUS, and E. The piece starts at measure 72.

*Holiness is not a state of perfection, but a faithful striving that lasts a lifetime. It is expressed primarily in small ways, day after day, through the practice of forgiveness, patience, self-sacrifice, and compassion.*

Robert Ellsberg, The Duty of Delight: The Diaries of Dorothy Day (xx)

*I have done what was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours.*

St. Francis' words – LM 14:3