

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



2026 REFLECTIONS





Prayer to Jesus Christ Crucified

My good and dear Jesus,
I kneel before you,
asking you more earnestly
to engrave upon my heart
a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity,
with true repentance for my sins,
and a firm resolve to make amends.
As I reflect upon your five wounds,
and dwell upon them
with deep compassion and grief,
I recall, good Jesus,
the words the Prophet Daniel spoke
long ago concerning yourself:
“They pierced my hands and my feet;
they have numbered all my bones

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

The First Station



Jesus is
Condemned to Die

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man, was sent to die by the ones He came to save. Our sin made Him into a slave, condemned to die one of the worst deaths that humanity has ever seen. Though this happened 2000 years ago, we cannot let that fact be forgotten. We need to recognize our need for forgiveness, our sinful nature, and our own shortcomings, whether big or small. May we see Christ in one another and dedicate ourselves to patience, humility, and self-giving rather than condemnation and isolation!

Reflection by
Natalie Hornberger
(Class of 2026)

The Second Station



Jesus Carries
His Cross

After being condemned to die, Jesus accepts His Cross. We can learn amazing things from Jesus' willingness to bear not only the physical Cross, but all of the sins of the entire world. Jesus knew the pain that was in store for Him, however he was inspired by the joy that was to come for the human race. As college students we find ourselves facing "crosses" every single day. We can learn through mimicking Jesus' devout holiness in carrying our daily crosses and burdens. Can you recall a time where you endured pain, knowing a greater reward was on the horizon?

Reflection by
Emma Bannon
(Class of 2027)

The Third Station



Jesus Falls
the First Time

Burnout doesn't always look dramatic, sometimes it is just numbness, a quiet disconnection from yourself, from God, from everything, and Jesus falls right into that place with you and refuses to stay there. He rises and continues, not because the weight disappears, but because the Father's will and His love are more real than the collapse. When you feel nothing, getting back up may be as small as becoming present again, because your numbness is not the truth about you, the Father's love is.

Reflection by
Gabriel Jiminez-Ortiz
(Class of 2029)

The Fourth Station



Jesus Meets His
Sorrowful Mother

We cannot always take away the pain of those we truly love, even if we want to relieve their suffering. What we can do is do exactly what the Blessed Mother did, simply being a presence that gave strength to Jesus to keep going while he was suffering. We can be that presence to others when they are bearing their own crosses. Take the Blessed Mother's example and reflect on how you can be that presence to someone during a difficult time.

Reflection by
Kelley Burns
(Class of 2026)

The Fifth Station



Simon Helps Jesus
Carry His Cross

You don't have to carry everything alone. Though Simon didn't volunteer to help Jesus carry his cross, his presence still mattered. Without Simon's help, Jesus could have died before reaching Calvary to be crucified and die for the sins of humanity, meaning God's salvation plan for us could only be achieved through Simon lightening our Savior's load. In college, it is easy to feel like we must handle everything ourselves: academics, social life, mental health, and faith life. Let this fifth station remind you that it is okay to accept help (friends, mentors, campus ministry) and to recognize that God works through other people, not just in private moments. As Simon helped Jesus carry his cross, let others help you carry your cross, whatever it may be, and accept help from the people who God has placed in your life for a reason.

Reflection by
Matthew Sabat
(Class of 2026)

The Sixth Station



Veronica Wipes the
Face of Jesus

In the heart of a deeply repulsive scene in which it would have been easier to keep a safe distance, Veronica goes right up to Jesus. She sacrifices her own comfort in this moment to relieve a fraction of Jesus' discomfort. Knowing that Jesus is present in each person, how do I honor Him in the ways I view and treat others? Can I help a friend study, give an encouraging word to someone, lend a hand in a task, or take the extra time to ask how someone is doing and truly listen to them?

Reflection by
Amanda Fennell
(Class of 2027)

The Seventh Station



Jesus Falls the
Second Time

No matter how many times we fall, Jesus is always there to lift us back up with love and mercy. His second fall reminds me that failure is not the end, but an invitation to rely more deeply on His strength. Even in my weakness, I am never alone, because He walks with me and helps me rise again.

Reflection by
Bridget Cooper
(Class of 2026)



The Eighth Station



Jesus Meets the
Women of Jerusalem

In the 8th Station of the Cross, Jesus meets a group of women who are devastated by his pain and suffering. But Christ, the one being tortured and killed, comforts them. How can we momentarily look away from our own suffering and pain and toward the difficulties of others? How can we be a friend and companion to others in the midst of our own lives, just as Jesus was a comforter to the women in the middle of his journey to Calvary? Jesus, meet us in our suffering and help us to meet others in theirs. Amen.

Reflection by
Rose Lindsey
(Class of 2026)

The Ninth Station



Jesus Falls the
Third Time

Jesus falls the third time under the weight of the cross, and in that moment, we see not just physical exhaustion, but the depth of human struggle. This fall feels different; he is weaker, closer to the end, and yet still he chooses to rise. It reminds us that even when we feel completely worn down, when getting back up seems impossible, perseverance is still within reach. The third fall speaks to those moments in life when we fail again and again, despite our best efforts. It is easy to feel defeated or ashamed, but Jesus shows that falling is not the end of the journey. What matters is the willingness to continue, to trust in a purpose greater than the pain.

Reflection by
Consuelo Barcenas
(Class of 2027)

The Tenth Station



Jesus is Stripped
of His Clothes

When Jesus is stripped of his garments, the shame and humiliation that He must have experienced is unimaginable. However, through this station, we are oftentimes reminded of our own fallen nature, which has led to shame and humiliation due to the sins we have committed. Yet, just as in that moment, Jesus shouldered intense shame and humiliation for the love of humanity, we must always remember that He will act similarly in our everyday lives as well. When we experience these feelings of shame, guilt, and humiliation, we must always remember that if we turn to Jesus and ask for His help, He will bear those feelings that make us feel unworthy, ensuring that we are encompassed by His love and mercy.

Reflection by
Gabrielle Roberts
(Class of 2026)

The Eleventh Station



Jesus is Nailed
to the Cross

Three nails, three nails were driven into Jesus's hands and feet, hanging Him on the cross. These nails represent our sins and the effect that they have on Jesus. When we sin, we turn from God. Let us remember the effects that our sins can have and in that remembrance, work harder to turn towards God and away from sin, let us not further drive the nails into Jesus's hands and feet, but instead turn towards Jesus and thank Him for the greatest sacrifice that He made for us on the cross.

Reflection by
Abby Butkovich
(Class of 2026)

The Twelfth Station



Jesus Dies
on the Cross

As Jesus takes His last breath on the cross, we must remember that this is Christ's major sacrifice for us. Jesus' death is the end of suffering and the beginning of new life. When our earthly pilgrimage comes to its end, our suffering ends and we also become reunited with the Father. Let us continue to make sacrifices for our Lord through love and service to each other.

Reflection by
Christopher Ramones
(Class of 2026)



The Thirteenth Station



Jesus is Taken Down
from the Cross

Imagine standing at the foot of the Cross after Jesus has died. You feel like you are in the midst of a hopeless situation, as the one in whom you have placed all of your hope seems to have been defeated by death. You are standing next to Jesus' Mother, Mary. As Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in Mary's arms, you can barely watch. Mary is absolutely heartbroken as she holds the broken body of her son, yet continues to trust in God's plan. Just before He died, Jesus gave Mary to each one of us as our mother, to be an example to us, to care for us, and to always lead us to Jesus. In difficult times in your life, how can you turn to our Blessed Mother and allow her to carry you to Jesus?

Reflection by
Sister Christina Marie Roberts, IHM
Director of Campus Ministry

The Fourteenth Station



Jesus is Placed
in the Tomb

One aspect of Jesus' burial that isn't often mentioned is that Joseph of Arithmaea, a man who was very influential in the Jewish assembly, offered his own tomb for Jesus. I am inspired by his courage and compassion, especially his actions would definitely risk his high status. As we quietly reflect, let's ask ourselves, "have I prepared a place for Jesus in my heart, like Joseph of Arithmaea prepared his tomb to shelter Jesus?"

Reflection by
Lauren Kolenda

Assistant Director of Campus Ministry





The cover photo was taken in the Rotunda of Immaculata University
All other photos were taken in Sacred Heart Chapel in
Villa Maria House of Studies.