

The CIRCLE of LIFE JOURNEY

SESSION 9 Respect for All, Both Victim and Detained

As our JOURNEY continues . . .



What is it like to be barred from
the Circle of Life?

As our JOURNEY continues . . .

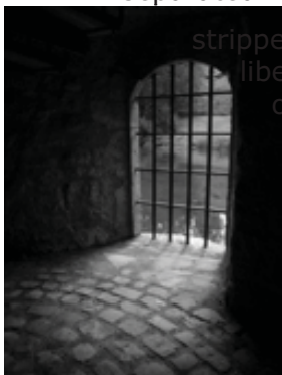


What is it like to be barred from
the Circle of Life?



What is it like to be barred from
the Circle of Life?

Imprisoned . . . confined . . .
separated from loved ones . . .



stripped of the simple
liberties
of everyday life . . .

. . . feeling
like the dead,
long forgotten.

'Listen to
my cry for help,
for I am brought
very low.

Lead me
out of my prison,
that I may
give thanks
to your name.



Psalm 142:7a,8a



'I look to
my right hand,
but no friend
is there.

There is no
escape for me;
no one cares for me.

I cry out to you,
LORD, I say,
You are my refuge.'

Psalm 142:5-6

JESUS himself
– both prisoner
and victim –
experienced . . .



condemnation,
imprisonment,
torture,
and
execution.

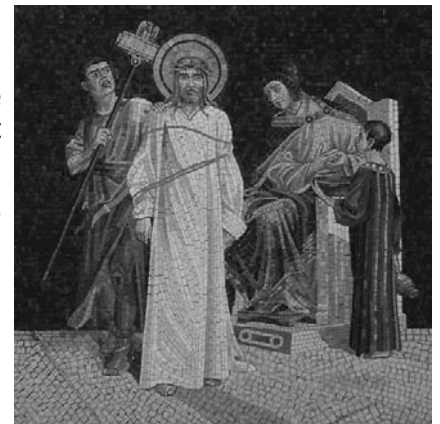
As we reflect on
the imprisoned –

and those suffering as victims
of their crimes,

Let us first walk
'THE WAY OF SORROW'
with our brother –
Jesus, the prisoner . . .

The
First
Station

JESUS IS
CONDEMNED
TO DEATH



The
Second
Station

JESUS IS
FORCED TO
CARRY HIS
CROSS

The Third
Station

JESUS
FALLS
THE FIRST
TIME





The Fourth Station

JESUS
MEETS
MARY, HIS
MOTHER



The Fifth Station

SIMON IS
FORCED TO
CARRY THE
CROSS



The Sixth Station

VERONICA
WIPES THE
FACE OF
JESUS



The Seventh Station

JESUS
FALLS THE
SECOND
TIME



The Eighth Station

JESUS
COMFORTS
THE
WOMEN OF
JERUSALEM



The Ninth Station

JESUS
FALLS THE
THIRD TIME

The Tenth
Station
JESUS IS
STRIPPED
OF HIS
GARMENTS



The
Eleventh
Station
JESUS IS
NAILED TO
THE CROSS



The Twelfth Station
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



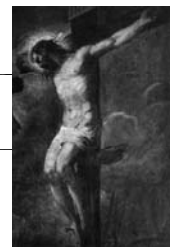
The
Thirteenth
Station
JESUS'
BODY IS
TAKEN
DOWN
FROM THE
CROSS



The
Fourteenth
Station
THE BODY
OF JESUS
IS LAID IN
THE TOMB



Through JESUS,
we are called
to respect the
intrinsic
human dignity
of all persons—



those who have
suffered from criminal acts . .
. . . and even criminals
themselves.

*Respect for all,
both VICTIM
& DETAINED*



Our faith calls us to value the lives of all those caught up in crime and punishment:

those suffering from injustice in the criminal justice system,

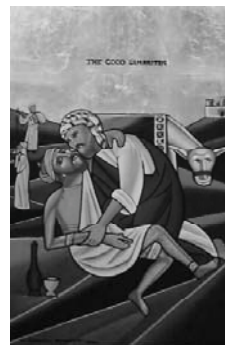
innocent persons who have been wrongfully condemned,

those who have been gravely hurt by the crimes of others,

those who carry out punishment and executions,

and even those guilty of horrific crimes.

We must first
have compassion
and respect
for all victims. . . .



"Our family of faith must care for sisters and brothers who have been wounded by violence . . .

. . . and support them in their loss and search for justice."

U.S. Bishops' Statement

"Our society should not flinch from contemplating the suffering that violent crime brings to so many



when it destroys lives, shatters families and crushes the hope of the innocent."

U.S. Bishops' Statement

A principled Catholic response to crime and punishment is rooted in our convictions

about good & evil, sin & redemption, justice & mercy.



U.S. Bishops' Statement



It is also shaped by our commitment to the life and dignity of every human person, and the common good.



What the Church teaches

“We believe that — in the conditions of contemporary American society — the legitimate purposes of punishment



do not justify the imposition of The Death Penalty.”

U.S. Bishops’ Statement

Our nation should forgo the use of the death penalty because:



- 1) The sanction of death, when it is not necessary to protect society, violates respect for human life and dignity
- 2) State-sanctioned killing in our names diminishes all of us.

U.S. Bishops Statement

- 3) Its application is deeply flawed and can be irreversibly wrong, is prone to errors, and is biased by factors such as race, the quality of legal representation, and where the crime was committed



- 4) We have other ways to punish criminals and protect society.

U.S. Bishops Statement

“We believe that abolition of the death penalty is most consonant with the example of Jesus.”

U.S. Bishops Statement



“More attention should go into correcting the root causes of crime than to enlarging death row.”

U.S. Bishops’ Statement

“Respect for life applies to all,
even the perpetrators of
terrible acts.”



U.S. Bishops' Statement

“Even when people
deny the dignity of others,
we must still recognize
that their dignity is a gift from God



and is not something that is
earned or lost through
their behavior.”

U.S. Bishops' Statement



'As I live,
says the Lord God,
I swear I take no pleasure
in the death
of the wicked man,

but rather
that he may be
converted and live.'

Ezekiel 33:11

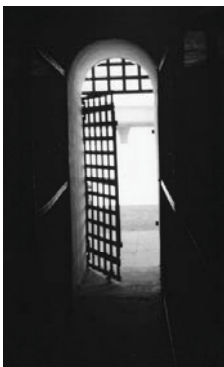
“Our prisons must be transformed
from warehouses of human failure
and seedbeds of violence . . .



. . . to places of responsibility,
rehabilitation, and restoration.”

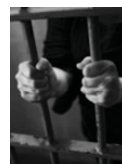
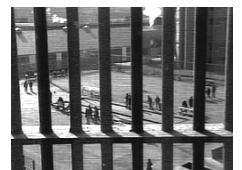
U.S. Bishops' Statement

'Listen to my cry for help,
for I am brought very low.



Lead me
out of my prison,
that I may
give thanks
to your name.'

Psalms 142



This is what the
Lord Almighty says:





'Administer true justice;
show mercy & compassion
to one another.'

Zechariah 7:9



*'For I was . . . in prison
and you visited me.'*


Matthew 25:36



Our Prayer

Lord, you offer freedom
to all people.

We pray for all who are
captive in prison
and for those who are affected by,
or involved in,
their imprisonment.

Break the bonds of fear and
isolation that exist. 

Support with your love,
prisoners, their families,
friends, prison staff and
all who care.

Heal those
who have been wounded
by the actions of others,
especially
the victims of crime.

Help us
to forgive one another,

to act justly,
love mercy
and walk humbly
together with Christ,

in his strength
and his spirit,
now and every day . . .

. . . for you say to us:

*'Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be
shown mercy.'*

Matthew 5:7

*'I have set before you
LIFE and DEATH,
The blessing and the curse.
CHOOSE LIFE,
then, that you
and your descendants
may live.'*

Deuteronomy 30:19

Amen

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Mosaic Stations of the Cross from
Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in
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<http://www.olaclaremont.org/>

Presentation prepared by K.K. Hirschboeck
Our Mother of Sorrows Parish
Christian Life Commission