

10th Station

Jesus is publically stripped of his clothing

Focus: The naked, bruised and battered Jesus is an image of the poorest of the poor

Action: Share with those who are lacking a portion of our abundance



Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

Because by your
holy cross, you have
redeemed the world.

Reflection

We live in a society that relentlessly seeks to accumulate material goods, and regardless of how much we acquire, we are seldom satisfied. We are bombarded with messages that convince us we are lacking: lacking the watch, the ring, the shoes, the jeans, the car, the medicine, etc., that will satisfy us and make us happy. How many times have we submitted to such messages, only to feel disappointment in the end? Saint Augustine was very much a consumer like you and me. In his famous work, *The Confessions*, he said this: "O Lord, you made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you!" After many years of acquiring literature, knowledge, prestige and inordinate amounts of sex, he came to the realization that the life he was leading was meaningless, and that only God could satisfy his deepest longings.

In this 10th station, we witness the humiliation Jesus endured in having been stripped naked in front of the callous onlookers. He was stripped of everything he owned—his friends, his prestige, and now his honor, and left with only a soiled cloak, which in turn was taken from him, leaving him naked in every sense of the word. He became an iconic image of the poorest of the poor, who like Jesus in this station, have nothing!

Prayer

Almighty Father, we are blessed to live in a free country where the majority of people do not lack the basic necessities of life. Help us to appreciate this gift and grant us the desire and grace to share with those who are lacking, a portion of what we've been given. Help us to fast from consumption and learn to live with less, so that we can appreciate what others lack, and make a conscious effort to develop a gracious spirit of generosity. In contemplating Jesus, battered, bruised and naked, may we be reminded of the poor and marginalized throughout the world and do what we can to alleviate their suffering. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.