

14th Station

Jesus is laid to rest in a tomb

Focus: The price and the reward of witnessing for Christ

Action: Pray, fast and carry out works of mercy to express our faith in Jesus



Reflection

"After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes..., they took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices..., " (and laid him in a tomb—John 19: 38-40).

Associating oneself with Jesus became increasingly risky in the days leading up to his execution. The Apostles abandoned him, including Saint Peter who went as far as denying him not once, but three times. From what we can glean from the Gospels, only a few people risked public displays of allegiance to Jesus: Veronica who wiped his face with her veil, the women he spoke to along the way of the cross; His mother and her sister, Mary Magdalen, Saint John, and the two men mentioned in this station. Being a Christian today is not necessarily going to win us any popularity contests, and in some cases, it still can cost us our lives. Satan will remain relentless in his efforts to turn us away from Jesus, so we must never let down our guard. Prayer, fasting and works of mercy will release torrents of grace to strengthen our faith, sustain our hope and increase our love for Christ and for each other. Doing this will diminish Satan's influence over us and embolden us to proclaim what the Psalmist declared long ago: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge. Of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).*

Prayer

Almighty Father, help us to realize and always cherish the faith we profess. Although at times we might find it uncomfortable and even challenging to publically admit that we are Christian, make us bold nonetheless in giving witness, never for our own glory, but always with the intention of giving the glory to you, our loving and benevolent Father. Jesus died for us, help us to die to the selfish inclinations we have that we in turn may share in the glory of his resurrection. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Leader

We adore you O Christ
and we praise you.

People

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