

## 6th Station

### Veronica wipes the face of Jesus with her veil

**Focus:** Being a Christian will at times require us to be courageously compassionate.

**Action:** Commit to performing at least one random act of kindness every day.



#### Reflection

According to Church tradition, a woman named Veronica was moved with pity when she saw Jesus carrying his cross and broke through the crowd to wipe his face with her veil. Jesus accepted her kindness and left an image of his face miraculously impressed upon it. There is no hard evidence to verify that Veronica was a real person. Regardless of whether or not the account of what happened is true, what matters is the example of courageous compassion described, compassion that disregards the risk of personal injury.

#### Leader

We adore you O Christ  
and we praise you.

#### People

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

We can imagine many people being horrified at what they were witnessing as Jesus made his way to Calvary. It is not unrealistic therefore, to believe this woman was so overcome by the sight of Jesus suffering, that regardless of the consequences, she was compelled to help him. Have you ever had someone, perhaps a stranger, reach out unexpectedly to help you, or have you ever witnessed someone performing what has come to be known as, a 'random act of kindness,' to a stranger? God did not create people to live in isolation from one another. We are social beings by nature. Our cooperative actions are what has enabled us to survive as a species, and what has allowed the Church to be the living presence of Christ in the world for over 2000 years. If every Christian performed just one random act of kindness each day, we would begin to reclaim the 'paradise' God intended for us from the beginning.

#### Prayer

Almighty Father, the woman Veronica, whose legacy we recall in this 6th Station, was a person who exercised courageous compassion. Without regard for her own safety, she reached out to wipe the face of Jesus. It was a small, yet powerful act of kindness. Jesus rewarded her by imprinting the image of his face on her veil. We implore you Father, to imprint his image upon our hearts, and may that impression overpower any fear that would prevent us from exercising mercy and compassion where it is needed. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.