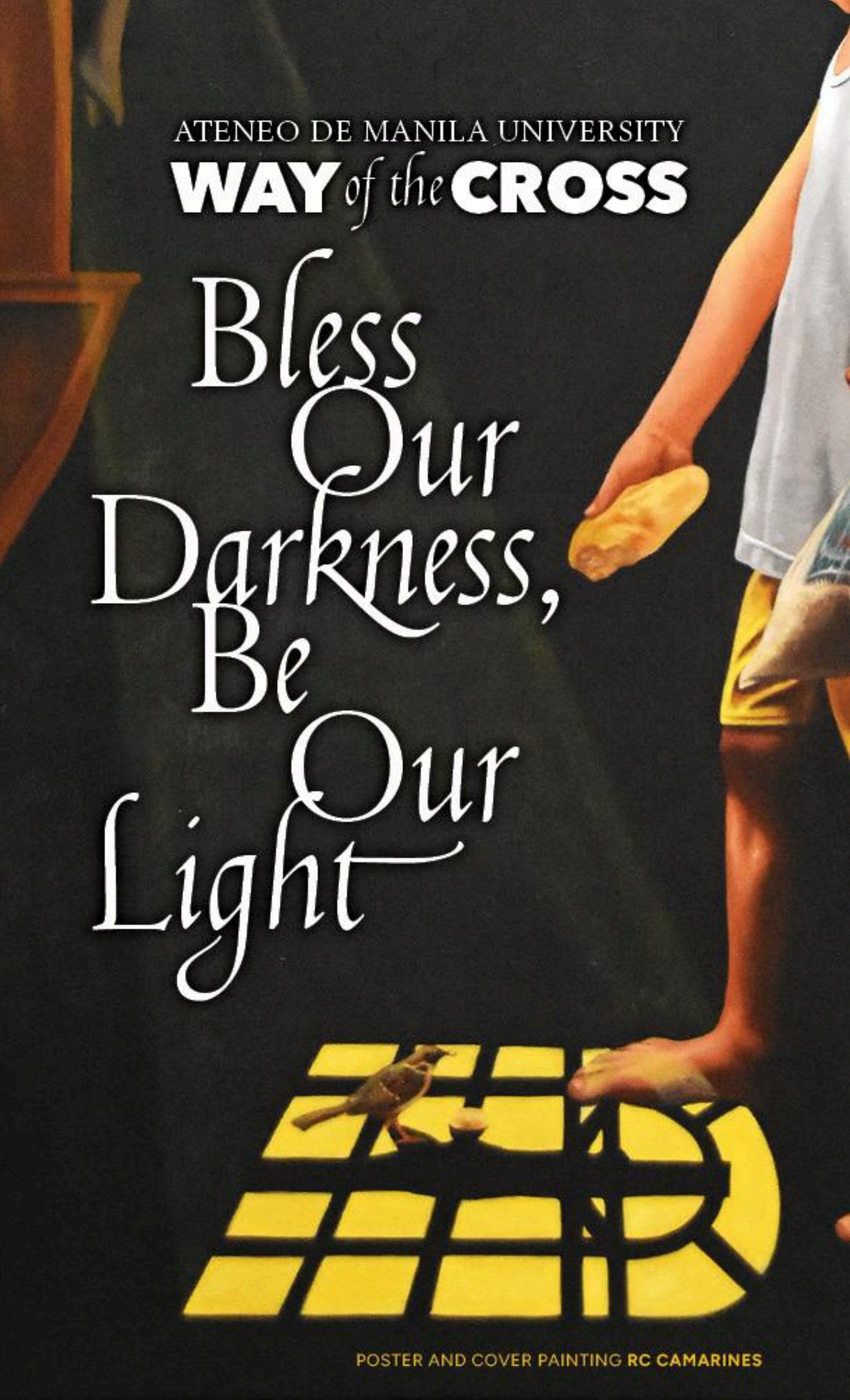
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

WAY of the CROSS

Bless Our Darkness, Be Our Light



POSTER AND COVER PAINTING **RC CAMARINES**

Introduction

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Priest: God, come to my assistance.

ALL: Lord, make haste to help me.

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

Leader: We thank everyone for joining us in this University Way of the Cross.

As we recently commemorated the 40th anniversary of the EDSA People Power, we are reminded that even in our nation's darkest hours, God's light breaks through when people gather in faith and hope. Under the protection of our Blessed Mother Mary, we walk the Way of the Cross with Christ amid the struggles, wounds, and uncertainties of our time.

We lift our prayers for healing, unity, and trust in God, who remains faithful and kind. We journey together, believing that He continues to guide our nation and our lives from darkness into light. In the words of our

Introduction

theme, we pray: "Bless our darkness and be our light."
Let us also pray for the grace to be able to respond with
faith and to truly become responsive to God's invitation
for all of us to become persons for and with others;
upang Laging Manalig at Patuloy na Magtaya.

Priest: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember and join you
in your suffering and death on the cross.
We thank you for your act of selfless love,
which makes it possible for us to share
this burning hope of healing and redemption for all.

O Lord, faithful and kind,
bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving, be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.
Lead us, Lord, in our pilgrimage
until your love is inscribed in our minds and hearts.
We pray, Lord, that we may see the grace
which accompanies us when we carry our cross
with you through the journeys we take.
Bless our wounded world, restore our harmony.
Be our guiding light, our destiny.

ALL: Amen.

Introduction

Priest: Friends, let us now walk together the Way of the Cross of Jesus with our Blessed Mother, Mary.

FIRST STATION
Jesus is Condemned to Death

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, we pray for all who are unjustly condemned or pushed to the margins of society. May those who suffer because of injustice find dignity, protection, and the justice they long for. May we have the courage to stand for what is right, speak the truth, and help build a more caring and just community.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew (Matthew 27:22-26)

Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!” So, when Pilate saw Dr that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.” Then the people as a whole answered, “His

FIRST STATION
Jesus is Condemned to Death

blood be on us and on our children!" So, he released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Reflection: Many in our country today face judgment without mercy, stripped of their dignity by systems of oppression and the cruel words of others. Like Jesus before Pilate, they are silenced by the shadows of gossip and exclusion, condemned not for what they have done but for who they are or where they come from. The voices of the crowd drown out the voice of justice, and the innocent suffer while the powerful wash their hands of responsibility.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

When have I stayed silent, judged others, or ignored injustice? *(Pause)*

How can I help challenge unfair systems and restore dignity to people whom society pushes aside? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of our judgment and silence. Be our light that reveals truth, restores dignity, and calls us to stand with those who are rejected. Amen.

FIRST STATION
Jesus is Condemned to Death

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

SECOND STATION
Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, we pray for our people who carry heavy burdens each day, especially those weighed down by poverty, disaster, and uncertainty.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. John (John 19:14-17)

Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. Pilate said to the Jews, “Here is your

SECOND STATION
Jesus Takes Up His Cross

King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Reflection: All around us, many poor families and struggling children carry heavy burdens.

This becomes even more challenging when calamities happen again and again, threatening their lives and their means to survive. Many worry about having enough food, a safe home, and for their children to have the chance to go to school. Jesus walks with them and carries their pain. He shows us that no hardship is unseen by God, and that even the hardest struggles can become a path to hope and new life.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

What cross am I carrying right now?

How can I help another bear these loads with strength and solidarity? *(Pause)*

SECOND STATION
Jesus Takes Up His Cross

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of the crosses we carry. Be our light and give us strength, and teach us to carry one another's burdens with love. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

THIRD STATION
Jesus Falls the First Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, we pray for all who are sick, confined in hospitals or infirmaries, especially those without anyone to care for them. May they find comfort in their

THIRD STATION
Jesus Falls the First Time

suffering, access to the help they need, and the grace to experience God's healing, presence, and mercy.

Scripture: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 53:4-6)

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Reflection: The weight of sickness, loneliness, and unmet needs often threatens to overwhelm us.

On our journey, some stumble under illness, weakness, or lack of care. Yet Christ's first fall teaches us that vulnerability is not failure; it is part of the human condition He chose to share with us. Falling is not the end, but an invitation to receive God's comfort, healing, and mercy.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

Where do I most need God's healing and comfort?

Who around me is suffering in body, mind, or spirit?

THIRD STATION
Jesus Falls the First Time

How can I be a source of God's care and presence to them? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of sickness, loneliness, and helplessness. Be the Light that comforts, heals, and restores us, and leads us to hope in your mercy. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

FOURTH STATION
Jesus Meets His Mother

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Mother

Leader: In this station, let us pray for all Filipino Families, especially those suffering because of poverty, separation, and conflicts.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 2:33-35)

And Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Reflection: Filipino families today often experience the absence of mothers and fathers—through separation, broken homes, or the demands of work that keep them apart. Many are forced to leave the country, seeking opportunities abroad that are scarce at home. Parents carry the "piercing swords" of worry and grief as they witness their children's struggles, pain, and challenges in a world that sometimes seems to undermine their efforts.

Like Mary meeting her suffering Son on the way to Calvary, they watch helplessly as those they love bear crosses too heavy to carry alone.

FOURTH STATION

Jesus Meets His Mother

The anguish in a mother's or father's eyes reflects the anguish in their children: two hearts breaking as one, bound together in love yet tested by absence, hardship, and longing.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

How can we bring comfort and love to our own families?

How can we channel God's loving and healing presence in our homes and communities? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of struggles and brokenness in our families. Be our light that brings love, healing, and comfort. Help us to reflect Your presence in our homes and communities, and to support one another with open and compassionate hearts. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

FOURTH STATION
Jesus Meets His Mother

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

FIFTH STATION
Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station of the Cross, we pray for all who silently carry heavy burdens—those who feel unseen, exhausted, or alone. We pray especially for Filipino laborers, especially those working in harsh conditions and striving to provide for their families.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 23:22-26)

A third time Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices

FIFTH STATION
Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished. As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Reflection: Many among us are overwhelmed, carrying hidden burdens and laboring in silence. We especially remember Filipino laborers, working in harsh conditions, struggling to make ends meet, and often having their rights trampled by the greedy. Like Simon of Cyrene, we are invited to notice, to step in, and to help carry the weight, sometimes reluctantly, yet always transformed by love. Around us are chances to be Simon for others, and moments when we need a Simon ourselves. The darkness of isolation is broken by the light of genuine community.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

Who needs my help today?

Am I willing to receive help when I need it?

How can I help build a community of care and compassion? *(Pause)*

FIFTH STATION
Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of our struggles and the burdens we carry. Be the light for all of us who labor and feel unseen. Restore our dignity, and grant us the grace to walk together in charity, love, and kindness. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

SIXTH STATION
Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

SIXTH STATION

Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

Leader: In this station, let us pray for those in healthcare, social services, including the formators of our university, and all who offer acts of kindness to the troubled and suffering. May their compassion reflect the face of Christ to the world.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew (Matthew 25:31-36)

When the Son of Man comes in his glory…
the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Reflection: In hospitals, social service centers, schools, and even on the streets, there are people who show kindness and comfort to those who are hurting. Like Veronica, who bravely went to Jesus to wipe His face, they notice people whom others might ignore—those hidden in sadness, poverty, or pain. God also invites each of us to be like Veronica: to reach out, bring comfort, and care for those in need. May we join in their mission, and

SIXTH STATION
Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

may the kindness and compassion of these people show the face of Christ to the world.

As we journey together, let's ask ourselves:

Whose suffering have I ignored?

How can I be Veronica's hands today?

What keeps me from seeing the face of Christ in those who suffer? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of neglect and suffering, and be the light that inspires us to notice and care for the forgotten. May we, like Veronica, bring dignity and comfort to those the world overlooks. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

SEVENTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Second Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, we pray for all who are struggling with addiction and different forms of unfreedom. May they find the strength to rise again, the courage to seek help, and the grace to experience God's forgiveness, healing, and mercy.

Scripture: A reading from the Book of Psalms (Psalm 51:1-7)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Reflection: Repeated failures and setbacks can wear down even the strongest among us. The same challenges return

SEVENTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Second Time

again and again: the same temptations, the same weaknesses, the same struggles we thought we had already overcome. When we fall a second time, discouragement whispers that we are not strong enough, that it might be easier to give up. But Jesus teaches us otherwise. Even when we stumble again, we are not abandoned. Perseverance is not about never failing—it is about rising each time, trusting that we are not alone on the journey.

As we journey together, let's ask ourselves:

Where in my life do I need God's strength and grace to keep going?

Who or what can help me rise again when I feel weak or discouraged? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of our discouragement and despair, and be the light that gives us hope and strength to rise and begin again. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

SEVENTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Second Time

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

EIGHTH STATION
Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, let us pray for an end to violence and the exploitation of women and children.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 23:27-29)

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.'"

EIGHTH STATION

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Reflection: Violence and exploitation continue to mark the lives of women and children in our country and around the world. Poverty, human trafficking, online abuse, and unsafe labor conditions diminish their worth and turn their bodies and dignity into commodities. Many also grieve quietly—lost dreams, broken relationships, and livelihoods cut short. Like the women of Jerusalem who wept for Jesus, we too mourn what has been lost. Yet Jesus calls us to look beyond our tears toward deeper truths. At times, our mourning must lead us to conversion, and our sorrow must move us to compassion, justice, and action.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

What realities of violence, exploitation, or injustice against women and children touch me most personally?

What small steps can we take to challenge these unfair systems and help change them for the better? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of violence, exploitation, and silent suffering, especially among women and children. Be our light that restores dignity, heals wounds, and awakens us to compassion, justice, and action. Amen.

EIGHTH STATION
Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

NINTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Third Time

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, let us pray for those who are pushed to their absolute limits—physically, mentally, or spiritually, and those experiencing total burnout, exhaustion, or despair.

NINTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Third Time

Scripture: A reading from the second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we also suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Reflection: There are those pushed to their absolute limits—physically, mentally, or spiritually—who find themselves in moments of total burnout. Many people, including the young, suffer mental health crises, unsure which way is forward, and wondering if they can take even one more step. This third fall represents our darkest hour, when every resource is depleted, and the finish line seems impossibly far away. Yet Jesus falls here, just steps from Calvary, showing us that even complete exhaustion does not mean the end of our mission. Sometimes the hardest part of the journey comes just

NINTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Third Time

before its completion. Let us beg for the grace to find strength and continue, even when all seems lost. *(Pause)*

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

Where can I find hope, even when I feel completely exhausted?

Who can I reach out to for support when I feel I cannot go on alone?

How can I let Jesus' presence strengthen me in my weakest moments? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of our exhaustion, doubts, and fears, and be the light that gives us strength, hope, and courage to continue. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

NINTH STATION
Jesus Falls the Third Time

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

TENTH STATION
Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, let us pray for an end to corruption and abuse of power in our country, and for the protection of the poor and marginalized who suffer most.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. John (John 19:23-24)

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among

TENTH STATION
Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did.

Reflection: Jesus experiences the ultimate humiliation—stripped naked before his executioners and mockers. Today, many experience this same exposure in different forms. In our country, the poor and vulnerable are stripped of their basic needs and human respect. Families lose security because of economic hardship; communities lose safety when funds meant for flood control and disaster preparedness are lost to corruption; and entire neighborhoods are left exposed to floods and suffering at the expense of people's basic needs. Discrimination strips individuals of dignity, and systemic injustice strips communities of hope. Yet even in this moment of total vulnerability, Christ remains rooted in his dignity. The soldiers may take his garments, but they cannot take who he is.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

When I see others affected by injustice or neglect, what feelings rise in my heart?

In small and quiet ways, how can I help someone feel seen, protected, or respected?

What might God be inviting me to notice or care about more deeply today? *(Pause)*

TENTH STATION
Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of neglect and injustice. Be our light when dignity is stripped away and when the poor are made to suffer by the misuse of power. Restore in our communities the hope, protection, and dignity that come from You alone. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

ELEVENTH STATION
Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

ELEVENTH STATION

Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

Petition: For peace in areas of war and conflict, in our country and around the world, that all forms of violence and injustice may end, and dialogue and reconciliation may prevail.

Scripture: A reading from the Book of Psalms
(Psalm 22:1-2; 6-7; 11, 14-15)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of My groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest... But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they curl their lips, they shake their heads; Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

Reflection: In areas of war and conflict around the world, violence and injustice continue to claim innocent lives. The nails driven through Jesus' hands and feet represent all the ways humanity chooses violence over peace, power over service, selfishness over love. As Jesus was nailed to the cross, we are invited to nail our own selfishness and pride there too: to choose love without

ELEVENTH STATION
Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

conditions. The instruments of torture can become instruments of transformation when we allow God's grace to pierce our egos and transform our hearts.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

Where in my life is God inviting me to choose peace over conflict, understanding over anger?

How can I bring a little more patience, kindness, or compassion into my family, workplace, or community? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of our violence, pride, anger, and conflict, and when our hearts are hardened, be the light that transforms us, heals our wounds, and makes us channels of peace and reconciliation. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ELEVENTH STATION
Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

TWELFTH STATION
Jesus Dies on the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, we especially remember the victims of Martial Law, those who disappeared, and those still seeking justice and healing, as well as the many victims of extrajudicial killings today. May God bring peace to their souls, comfort to those who mourn, and courage to all who work for truth and justice.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 23:44-48)

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this,

TWELFTH STATION
Jesus Dies on the Cross

he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.

Reflection: The moment of death—the final breath, the last heartbeat—remains one of life's great mysteries and fears. As Jesus breathed his last, darkness covered the land, the temple curtain was torn, and even the centurion recognized that something extraordinary had occurred. In Christ's death, the darkness itself was transformed into light; the end became a beginning.

Forty years after Martial Law, many of its victims are still seeking justice, and the wounds of its abuses continue to affect our country today. Let us pray for all who have died, that they may find eternal rest in God's love and mercy. We hold in prayer the victims of Martial Law who still long for justice and healing, those who are still missing, and the lives lost to extrajudicial killings today.

(Pause for a moment of silence to honor the dead)

May God bring peace to their souls, comfort to those who mourn, and hope and courage to all who continue to work for truth and justice.

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus Dies on the Cross

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

In what ways am I aware of the ongoing wounds of our country, and how do they touch my heart?

What small actions can I take to stand for truth, mercy, and peace in my own community? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of suffering, loss, and our hunger for peace and justice. Be our light as You transform pain into hope and guide us to bring comfort, courage, and care for those in need.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, let us pray for the care and protection of the Earth, our common home. May we grow in responsibility, solidarity, and compassion as we safeguard creation, and remember in our prayer our *kababayans* affected by natural and human-made calamities—earthquakes, typhoons, and other disasters.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. John (John 19:31-34)

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

Reflection: In this moment, Mary receives her Son's lifeless body—the fulfillment of Simeon's prophecy that a sword would pierce her heart. Her sorrow mirrors the pain of many today who grieve the loss of loved ones. In our

THIRTEENTH STATION
Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

country, frequent calamities made worse by global warming and our lack of care for the environment continue to take lives and destroy homes, affecting the poor and most vulnerable the most. Like Mary, many of our *kababayans* are left holding loss and sorrow, especially those recently affected by earthquakes, floods, and other disasters in Cebu, Davao, across our nation, and beyond.

In moments like these, loss strips away what is temporary and forces us to ask what truly remains. It teaches us to entrust our lives completely to God, to comfort those who mourn, and to take responsibility for caring for our common home and for one another.

As we journey together today, let us ask ourselves:

Who or what around me is grieving or hurting, and how can I show them care?

What does it mean to truly entrust my life, my pain, and my future to God? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of our grief, fear, and uncertainty. Be our light as we entrust our lives, our pain, and our future to You, and guide us to find hope, healing, and courage in Your love. Amen.

THIRTEENTH STATION
Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

FOURTEENTH STATION:
Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: In this station, let us pray for the universal Church and all believers, that we may be a light of hope to the world, proclaiming the Gospel and the promise of new life and resurrection.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. Luke (Luke 23:50-54)

FOURTEENTH STATION:
Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning.

Reflection: The universal Church, and all of us who believe, are called to be light in an increasingly dark world. There are times when lies spread easily, when truth is questioned, and when standing for what is right feels difficult. In moments like these, being light in the Lord means choosing honesty, justice, and love, even when it is not popular or easy. Like the disciples on Holy Saturday, we may feel as if we are waiting in the tomb—unsure, afraid, and not yet seeing the joy of the Resurrection. The silence can feel like abandonment, as if hope is gone. Yet even in the darkness, God is still at work. He is preparing new life and new beginnings beyond what we can imagine. When we hold on to Him, He helps us choose hope over despair, truth over lies, and light over darkness.

FOURTEENTH STATION:
Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

How can I bear witness to the truth in my words and actions today, even when it is difficult?

In what ways can I be a channel of hope for someone who is struggling or afraid? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless our darkness when the way feels hard, or the world feels dark. Bless the darkness of our fears and doubts, O Lord. Be our light that guides us, strengthens us, and fills us with Your presence. Be our light of courage, truth, and strength to share hope with others. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

(Assembly walks to the next station while praying
1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, 1 Glory Be)

ALL (♪): We carry the saving cross
through the roads of the world,
through the alleys of poverty and misery.
Marching to a dawning day, to freedom and victory,
to God's life and endless glory.

FIFTEENTH STATION:
Jesus Is Resurrected from the Dead

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

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

Leader: At this final station of the Cross, we pray for everyone here and for the whole Ateneo community. We especially lift up the young people among us—may the Lord guide our hearts, inspire our choices, and help us grow into people with and for others. May we all work together to bring hope, justice, and love to our families, school, and nation.

Scripture: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew (Matthew 28:5-7)

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

Reflection: As we look forward to Easter hope, we ask for a renewed sense of purpose and mission as witnesses to the resurrection. The angel's message to the women at

FIFTEENTH STATION:
Jesus Is Resurrected from the Dead

the tomb is the same message we carry: "He is not here, for He has been raised."

Christ is the Light that never fades, transforming all our darkness, disappointments, sufferings, and failures into instruments of His glory. Every part of our lives that has felt desolate or dead can be resurrected by His power. May this Light guide us to be truly with and for others, sharing His love in our families, our community, and our nation.

As we journey together, let us ask ourselves:

How can I respond to God's call to help build our nation as a person with and for others?

How can I share God's Easter joy with the people around me today? *(Pause)*

ALL: Lord, bless the darkness of our selfishness, inaction, and uncertainty about the future, and be the Light that helps us become people with and for others. Grant us the grace to share Your love in our families, our community, and our nation. Amen.

Choir (♪): Bless our darkness and be our light.
In all our striving be our delight.
Bless our grieving and be our healing balm.
In our hurting, instill your calm.

Closing Liturgy

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and our strength, we have walked with Your Son through His suffering and death. We have witnessed His love, mercy, and victory over darkness. Bless us now at this moment. May the light of Christ's resurrection shine in our hearts, so that we may carry hope, peace, and love to all we meet. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighting of Candles & Moment of Silence

(Candle is lit by the priest.)

Priest: Christ is the Light of the world.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Priest: Let us now light our candles.

(Silence is observed while participants light candles.)

As we light our candles, let us pray silently:
"Lord Jesus, bless the darkness in our lives,
in our family, in our school, in our communities,
and in our nation. Be our light."

In silence, let us take this moment
to bring our personal intentions and our prayers
for the Filipino nation before the Lord.

Lighting of Candles & Moment of Silence

Choir: "Bless Our Darkness"

Domine, bonus et fidelis
O Lord, faithful and kind
Domine, miserere nobis
Show your mercy on us
O Lord, faithful and kind

Closing Prayer

Priest: Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of Your light.
You are the Light that no darkness can overcome,
the Light that gives meaning to our journey
and hope to our struggles.

May Your light guide our hearts and minds,
illumine our studies and daily work,
and shape us into people
of compassion, integrity, and service.
Strengthen our communities, our families,
and our schools,
that we may truly become people with and for others.

May Your light shine in places of darkness:
in poverty, division, fear, and indifference,
and awaken in us the courage
to be bearers of Your love and hope.

Closing Prayer

Help us to always remain faithful and courageous—
Upang laging manalig at patuloy na magtaya
As we live out Your call to love and serve.
All this we ask with trust and gratitude,
For You live and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

Priest: May the Almighty God bless you,
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

ATENEO DE MANILA
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
MISSION INTEGRATION
IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY FORMATION