

# Stations of the Cross Rochester, New York Good Friday, 2020



Sponsored by:  
**The House of Mercy**  
**St. Joseph's House of Hospitality**  
**Rochester Pax Christi**

**FIRST STATION – JESUS  
IS CONDEMNED TO  
DEATH  
SITE OF THE FORMER GENESEE  
HOSPITAL**



demolition of Genesee Hospital

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: For a quarter of a century, the House of Mercy, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality and Rochester Pax Christi have gathered to commemorate Good Friday, the day on which Jesus was executed by the Roman Empire, and to remember the many ways in which Christ is crucified today, in His people. This Good Friday, the pandemic prevents us from gathering physically; however, this virtual gathering allows us to take the stations beyond Rochester's central city.

Today, the crucifixion is being reenacted by tens of thousands - dying not on a cross, but in hospitals and nursing homes, isolated from family and friends. Health care workers and emergency personnel courageously emulate Jesus in His role of healer, risking their own lives to save others. They work under conditions of severe shortages - of protective masks and equipment, of ventilators, of hospital beds, of medical personnel. These shortages can be blamed, in part, to a lack of leadership by the current Administration, which downplayed the crisis and lost a month during which supplies and tests could have been manufactured and provided. From a broader perspective, however, the shortages are systemic, the effect of the corporate capitalist takeover of the health "industry," with its anti-Christian, anti-human ideologies of profit maximization and "just in time" inventories, which led hospitals to keep their supplies of equipment and beds at a "cost effective" minimum, making no allowance for a major crisis. We "stand" here today before the location where Genesee Hospital once stood, demolished in 2010, as its board of directors followed "good" short-sighted capitalist logic and eliminated beds we now desperately need.

**LET US PRAY**

People: Lord Jesus, toward the beginning of his papacy, Pope Francis urged the church to become a "field hospital" for the poor and marginalized. Little did we imagine how literally we would need to heed his prophetic call. Strengthen us in this time of crisis to reach out to those in need and to call to account the systems which have allowed so much suffering.

Leader: Jesus, Healer of the Sick

People: Hear Our Prayer.

**SECOND STATION –  
JESUS CARRIES THE  
CROSS  
OATKA CEMETERY**

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.



Sally Green's coffin in Oatka Cemetery

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

Leader: In the context of the devastating earthquakes that hit El Salvador in 2001, Jon Sobrino reflected that natural disasters are like an X-ray that reveals "the truth that people would rather keep hidden." He argued that "The fundamental reality revealed by the earthquake is the poverty and vulnerability of the Salvadoran society, produced by injustice and by a national leadership that cares little about eliminating it." We must ask ourselves whether this pandemic will also function as an X-ray, uncovering the disturbing truth of inequality in American society. Pope Francis, in his March 27 *Urbi et Orbi Blessing* insisted that we must approach the pandemic in this way: "The storm [of the pandemic] exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities." Oatka Cemetery, where Monroe County has buried its poor in an unkempt "potters' field" just yards from the neatly manicured cemetery for those better off, is another image that reveals the inequities in our society, inequities that follow us to the grave. We remember when Sally Green, a homeless person who frequented the House of Mercy, was buried there because County employees decided there were too many Greens in the phone directory to bother trying to track down her family.

LET US PRAY.

People: Lord Jesus, we pray that this pandemic, which began in the US by striking more well-to-do travelers but is now afflicting the poor, and particularly Blacks, may open our eyes and our hearts to the inequalities built into the structure of our society. Inspire us to work for a society based on justice and equality, a society which is committed to the health of its people rather than to war and profit.

Leader: Jesus, laid to rest in a borrowed tomb.

People: Hear Our Prayer.

**THIRD STATION – JESUS  
FALLS THE FIRST  
TIME  
THE BORDER WALL**



Border Wall near San Diego

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: President Trump has bragged that his closing the borders to people coming from China has saved countless lives in America. Yet, the Palm Sunday *New York Times* documents that US borders were shockingly porous even after Trump declared his border closing. Meanwhile, thousands of young children have been separated from their parents at the border and detained with no records kept to enable the families to be reunited. Former Democratic Presidential hopeful Marianne Williamson described the treatment of children at the border best - as "government sponsored child abuse." According to an ICE report, 21 persons have died in the overcrowded detention centers since 2018. At least seven were children, including Carlos Vasquez, a 16 year old Guatemalan immigrant. The Trump Administration this year began a policy of forcing refugee applicants to remain in Mexico, where many live in terror and some have been raped and robbed. At the House of Mercy and St. Joes, we have become friends with many migrants and have heard of their mistreatment and imprisonment at the hands of ICE. Last year, the President shut down the government in an attempt to build his idolatrous border wall. Perhaps Mr. Trump won't be satisfied until he has torn down the **Statue of Liberty** and used its wreckage to build his **Wall of Exclusion**

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, when the Holy Family, fleeing the wrath of the Roman Empire, went to Egypt, You became an illegal immigrant. Had Donald Trump been Pharaoh, You would have been separated from Joseph and Mary, perhaps never to see them again. When Joseph's brothers and father went to Egypt in time of famine, they too were illegal immigrants. Teach us that no human being is "illegal." Teach us that we are all children of God, that nationality is an artificial distinction, created by human beings and meaningless in Your eyes. Pope Francis entitled his 2018 World Day of Peace message Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace. In it, he said: "*In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.*" We pray that Americans may heed the words of Pope Francis and of our own Statue of Liberty.

Leader: Jesus, "Illegal" Child Immigrant to Egypt

People: Hear Our Prayer.

**FOURTH STATION –  
JESUS MEETS HIS  
MOTHER  
RCSD**



Rochester Central School District

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: Even in this time of pandemic, when all schools are closed and "teaching online," we cannot forget the travesty of this past year in the Rochester Schools. After years of mismanagement, the chickens came home to roost this year. At first, the District said there would be a deficit of around \$30 million. A review by the Office of the New York State Controller, concluded that the "true" deficit estimate was \$40.5 million. The report found that the District had severely underestimated expenditures and overestimated revenue. Both the CFO and the Budget Director resigned even before the review was begun. Later, the estimated budget deficit climbed to around \$60 million. Meanwhile, in response to the deficit, the RCSD budget proposed on March 27 proposed laying off 193 teachers. Preschool programs are being "consolidated" in a limited number of locations, further burdening parents who are already strapped for time and money. Wednesday's *Democrat and Chronicle* revealed that "even more schools" will probably be closed, as the deficit has grown by still another \$20 million. For years, we have held a Station here at RCSD headquarters, decrying the infiltration of JROTC into our schools, the "security" policies which create a school-to-prison pipeline, the rise of school violence, and the economic inequality in our school systems. Much of the current crisis appears to be the result of mismanagement, but the deeper reality we must address stems from the "savage inequalities" in funding American schools so eloquently documented decades ago by Jonathan Kozol and others.

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, Your mother was present, watching in agony as You were led to Your execution. How many mothers – and fathers – in America have sent their children off to school, assuming they would return safely, only to find that their children, too, had become victims of violence - both the direct violence of guns and the violence of economic and racial inequality. Your own mother shared in the agonies of these parents. In the words of Pope Francis, *“Let us ask Mary to help us respond to violence, to conflict, and to war, with the power of dialogue, reconciliation and love. She is our mother: may she help us to find peace.”*

Leader: Jesus, Who Called the Little Children to Come to You

People: Hear Our Prayer.



**FIFTH STATION – SIMON  
OF CYRENE HELPS  
JESUS TO CARRY THE  
CROSS**  
**FREDERICK DOUGLASS GRAVE**



Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: The grave site of one of the great Abolitionists lies in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Racism is America's Original Sin, reflected in the enslavement of Blacks and the systematic theft of the land from Native Americans. As Michelle Alexander documents in *The New Jim Crow*, America has deployed three systems of racial oppression: Slavery, Jim Crow, and now The War on Drugs. Within two decades after the previous system was dismantled, the new one was put into place. The killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson in 2014 has brought to light a phenomenon that has long gone unrecognized – that American police kill at least ten times as many people as are executed by capital punishment every year, and that they have been doing this for a long time. Under the current administration, racism has become more blatant, as evidenced by the four young Monroe County men who were arrested last year for plotting to bomb the town of Islamberg. Recent news reports have indicated that the pandemic has affected Blacks more strongly than Whites, particularly in Chicago. As Christians, we must work to eliminate the sin of racism, both in our social structures and in our hearts.

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, Simon of Cyrene was impressed into service by the Roman military to help to carry Your cross. Cyrene is located in modern day Libya. Thus, Simon was an African. How fitting that an African was forced into this service, much like Africans were forced into slavery by white Christians in this country. The US Catholic Bishops' 2018 pastoral letter *Open Wide Our Heart* proclaims that: *"Love compels each of us to resist racism courageously. It requires us to reach out generously to the victims of this evil, to assist the conversion needed in those who still harbor racism, and to begin to change policies and structures that allow racism to persist."*

Leader: Jesus, in Whom There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither Male nor Female

People: Hear Our Prayer.



**SIXTH STATION – VERONICA  
WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS  
SUSAN B. ANTHONY GRAVE**

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we  
praise You,

People: Because by your Death and  
Resurrection You have saved us



Susan B. Antony grave, Mt. Hope Cemetery

Leader: Not far from Frederick Douglass' grave lies the grave of a friend of his, another renowned crusader for human rights, Susan B. Anthony, who was arrested for voting while feminine in 1872. Yet Rochester, her home town, has failed to live up to her vision of women's rights. Around Ms. Anthony's time, the local clothing industry forced women to work under oppressive conditions. Emma Goldman was radicalized while working in a Rochester sweatshop. On Feb. 5, 1913, Ida Braiman, a 17 year old immigrant, was shot and killed by the owner of a tailor shop during a strike. The owner, Valentine Sauter, was not indicted. Today, women continue to suffer wage discrimination and sexual harassment on the job. Two of the nine Justices on the US Supreme Court were appointed despite credible public charges of sexual harassment, even attempted rape. America continues to be a "culture of rape," where the ever present threat of rape functions to restrict women's freedom. Oppression continues as women have been objectified and portrayed as being unfit, emotional, and unable to hold public office which inhibits women from having a voice in our government. While we applauded an influx of women to public office two years ago, that increase still represented less than 25% of elected positions.

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, as a Jew of your time, you challenged religious orthodoxy in its treatment of women. In a patriarchal society, you welcomed women into your life and discipleship. When a woman was given the death sentence by stoning for adultery while her male companion walked free, you revealed to her, and to the society in which she lived, her inherent dignity, worth, and right to life. As you were nailed to the cross, most of your followers had fled. Other than John, those who remained to witness your execution were women. It has been said that without the full and equal participation of women in the Church, only half of God can be made visible in the world. We pray that the Roman Catholic Church may soon become a church where women's right to be equally included in all areas is a reality.

Leader: Jesus, Who Welcomes Women into Your Community

People: Hear Our Prayer.



protest at Civic Center Garage

**SEVENTH  
STATION –  
JESUS FALLS  
THE SECOND  
TIME**

**Civic Center Garage/  
Cashman Center**

Leader: We adore You, O  
Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death  
and Resurrection You have  
saved us.



Cashman Center parking lot

Leader: For weeks now, New Yorkers have been under a "stay at home/shelter in place" order. This order ignores those who have no home - those who, like the Son of Man, have nowhere to lay their heads. In Las Vegas, the Catholic Charities shelter closed for a week when one resident tested positive for COVID19. The response of the city was to paint white rectangles in the parking lot of the Cashman Center as the "shelter" for homeless persons. This in a city filled with casino hotels, most of whose rooms, we presume, stand empty. The shelter reopened about a week later. In Rochester, in 2014, the Civic Center Garage, was officially closed to homeless persons, who had been using its two heated floors as an unofficial shelter for decades. In response to the pandemic, Monroe County, under new leadership, has increased its efforts to place homeless persons in hotel rooms. This has significantly decreased the number staying at the House of Mercy and St. Joseph's House. However, thus far, the County has refused to prioritize COVID19 testing of persons in homeless shelters, despite the fact that shelters, even with smaller numbers, can become incubators for the virus. This threatens the health not only of homeless persons, but of the entire community.

**LET US PRAY**

People: Jesus, You were born in a stable because there was no room at the inn. Had you been born in Rochester, it may well have been in a tent. You spent much of Your adult life without a fixed abode, relying on the hospitality of others. We pray that, we may follow the Gospel and open our hearts and our homes to those without shelter. Even before the pandemic homelessness was not just a matter of no housing, but, in effect, a death sentence. The average life span of homeless men known to the House of Mercy was 55 years; that of women was 42. In September, 2015, Pope Francis spoke to homeless persons: *“The Son of God knew what it was to start life without a roof over his head. . . . There is no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing.”*

Leader: Jesus, Who Had Nowhere to Lay Your Head

People: Hear Our Prayer

**EIGHTH STATION –  
JESUS SPEAKS TO THE  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
THE COUNTY BUILDING**



Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: Jesus, you spoke with compassion to women and children. The women and children of Monroe County have not been treated with compassion for decades. Every year, the county's brutal use of sanctions in their social programs leaves hundreds homeless for such offenses as missing a meeting or succumbing to the lure of alcohol or drugs. Are these offenses worth risking people's lives by putting them on the streets? Sanctions effectively create two classes of homeless people – only those who are not sanctioned are eligible for DHS-funded shelters. Sanctioned homeless persons must rely on one of the few non-DHS-funded shelters or live on the streets. The City of Rochester has the third highest child poverty rate in the nation for a city of its size. Despite this horrific reality, Monroe County has dropped over 7,800 children from public assistance since 2014, a decrease of over 40%. Now, a new County Executive, Adam Bello, has expressed an intention to review the sanction policy. We hope that he will listen to the prayer of an unwed mother – Mary, the Mother of God:

**LET US PRAY THE MAGNIFICAT.**

People: My soul proclaims your greatness, oh God,  
And my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.  
For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant.  
And from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed.  
For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name.  
Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.  
You have shown strength with your arm,  
You have scattered the proud in their conceit,  
You have deposed the mighty from their thrones  
And raised the lowly to high places.  
You have filled the hungry with good things,  
While you have sent the rich away empty.  
You have come to the aid of Israel your servant,  
Mindful of your mercy – the promise you made to our ancestors –  
To Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.

Leader: Jesus, Who Listened to Women and Children

People: Hear our prayer.

## NINTH STATION – JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME EPA



Environmental Protection Agency Building

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis challenges us through individual and community action to protect our “common home.” But our common home, our planet, is becoming less hospitable to human and animal life every year, threatening the very existence of the human race. Our Republican leaders continue to express doubts about the reality of climate change because to acknowledge its reality would be to admit that “free market” capitalism has led us to the brink of disaster. The President has pushed to continue using oil by approving both the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Keystone XL pipeline despite public opposition. He has promised to bring back jobs in coal mining even though current technologies make coal obsolete. The current Administration has begun to take the Environmental Protection Agency apart piece by piece. The President’s 2020 budget reduces EPA funding by over 30% from 2019 levels. Dozens of regulations are being rolled back, which will, of course, allow corporations to increase their pollution of our communities and accelerate the global warming which threatens all humanity.

### LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, give us the strength to protect the world from pollution and destruction. In his address to Congress, Pope Francis said: “*Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies, aimed at implementing a “culture of care” and “an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature”*”. Our government has done exactly the opposite. It is up to us to continue the momentum created in North Dakota by the water protectors fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock, who used peace and prayer to protect our water and earth. Give us the wisdom to encourage our leaders to transition toward more sustainable and clean energy sources. “Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.”

Leader: Jesus, Through Whom All Things Were Created

People: Hear Our Prayer.

**TENTH STATION – JESUS  
IS STRIPPED OF HIS  
GARMENTS  
M & T BANK**



Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: Since 2008, American banks have been fined \$251 Billion dollars for a myriad of transgressions, including predatory lending, currency manipulation, LIBOR manipulation, discriminatory hiring and work practices. In 2016, M&T Bank, whose headquarters are in Buffalo, NY was fined \$64 Million dollars for failing to follow FHA rules that put taxpayer funds at risk and increased the chances of borrowers losing their homes. Barbara Horton, of Irondequoit, was one local woman who lost her home after valiantly refusing to leave. Rather than negotiate with Ms. Horton, M&T sold her debt to Fannie Mae, who then used the coercive power of the state, which sent seventy officers to her home to forcefully remove her. Losing \$64 million means nothing to M&T, but Barbara Horton and her family lost their home. Sadly, Catholic Family Center of Rochester received a large donation from M&T Bank in 2018. Taking money to operate shelters from the money-changers that put people out into the streets seems more like glorifying Judas rather than Jesus. Let us not forget that banks fund war, pipelines, private prisons and enjoy major political influence that keeps people poor and oppressed by lobbying the state to make banks richer at the expense of the poor.

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, your last words before dying were: “forgive them for they know not what they do.” However, banks know exactly what they are doing. You drove the money-changers from the Temple. May your church heed the words of Pope Francis: “*Rampant capitalism has taught the logic of profit at all costs, of giving to get, of exploitation without looking at the person . . . and we see the results in the crisis we are experiencing!*” We pray for all who have been fighting to stay in their homes by risking arrest for refusing to leave. We pray for all who have been evicted or are facing eviction or foreclosure. We pray for the victims of bank funded wars, poisoned water and the prisoners suffering in bank funded jails

Leader: Jesus, Who Drove the Money-Changers Out of the Temple

People: Hear our prayer.

**ELEVENTH STATION –  
JESUS IS NAILED TO  
THE CROSS  
THE JAIL**



Monroe County Jail

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: Here stands the JAIL – a fortress of oppression and despair for our poor. So many members of the House of Mercy and Saint Joseph’s House communities – both workers and guests – have spent time behind these walls. American jails and prisons are total institutions, which subject inmates to often inhuman conditions. But, only rarely does word of these conditions leak to the public. Some two decades ago, Catholic Worker Kathleen Rumpf lived for a week in a “tiger cage” outside the Public Safety Building in Syracuse to draw attention to the fact that inmates were being subject to the “Jesus Christ” – hung by their wrist from the bars of their cell for hours at a time, with nurses checking to see if the circulation was cut off. In January, 2019, power and heat went out throughout much of the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. As temperatures plummeted to 2 degrees, inmates, most not convicted of any crime and awaiting trial, huddled in their beds, and banged on their windows to draw attention to their plight. Jail officials claimed that the power failure had only “minimally” affected the facility. This past year, New York State enacted a bail reform law, effectively eliminating cash bail for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies. Amid protest from much of the criminal justice establishment, the biblical mandate was partially fulfilled - many prisoners were released and jail populations plummeted in many counties. This was Providential indeed, since it occurred shortly before the onset of the COVID19 virus, for which crowded jails and prisons provide a fertile breeding ground.

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, You spent a brief time in the custody of the Roman criminal justice system before they executed You. We pray for all those who are locked away and forgotten in our local jails and prisons. When Pope Francis visited detainees at a correctional center in Philadelphia in 2015, he told them: *“It is painful when we see prison systems which are not concerned to care for wounds, to soothe pain, to offer new possibilities. It is painful when we see people who think that only others need to be cleansed, purified, and do not recognize that their weariness, pain and wounds are also the weariness, pain and wounds of society.”*

Leader: Jesus, Victim of the Criminal Justice System

People: Hear Our Prayer.

**TWELFTH STATION –  
JESUS DIES ON THE  
CROSS  
THE PENTAGON**



The Pentagon

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: In his address to the United Nations in 2015, Pope Francis said: *“War is the negation of all rights and a dramatic assault on the environment. If we want true integral human development for all, we must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and between peoples.”* Locally, Hancock Airbase near Syracuse continues to host the 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing, which pilots armed Reaper drones in the Middle East. The US is currently bombing SEVEN countries: Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Libya. In addition, the US has continued to support and supply the barbaric Saudi Arabian bombing campaign in Yemen, which has created what the UN has called the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world today. On April Fool's Day, President Trump announced at the start of his Pandemic Press conference that he was sending a Navy fleet to Venezuela, supposedly for anti-drug operations. Will he launch a war while protests in the street appear to be effectively shut down by the pandemic?

In 2013, Pope Francis said: *“The Holy See shares the thoughts and sentiments of most men and women of good will who aspire to a total elimination of nuclear weapons. Hence, we would like to use this opportunity to renew our call upon the leaders of nations to put an end to nuclear weapons production”* We reject our nation's current wars and its plans for future nuclear wars as contrary to the Gospel.

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, you were nailed to the cross under the supervision of Roman soldiers, who were simply doing their job, protecting their homeland by neutralizing a Middle Easterner whom they deemed dangerous, who associated with terrorists like the Zealots. Let us remember that the Gospel is a call to nonviolence, to love our enemies, to not return evil for evil. We love persons in the military as our brothers and sisters, but we reject the military system, which is based on violence and power, and which is antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray for the Kings Bay Plowshares Seven, whose sentencing has been delayed by the pandemic, and especially for Father Steve Kelly, S.J., who remains in jail for his Plowshares Actions, highly at risk for the coronavirus.

Leader: Jesus, Prince of Peace

People: Hear Our Prayer.



**THIRTEENTH STATION –  
JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN  
FROM  
THE CROSS  
CITY HALL**



Rochester City Hall

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: For several years now, the Rochester City-Wide Tenant Union has been waging a nonviolent struggle on behalf of renters' rights and against unjust evictions. They have achieved significant victories through public protests, rent strikes, and persuading the media to tell some of the stories of conditions in certain apartment buildings, including high rises for the elderly and disabled. They have traveled to Albany repeatedly to petition state legislators to make changes, with some success last year. Campaigns against several notorious slumlords have met with a good deal of success; in one case, one of the buildings may be turned over to cooperative tenant ownership. Yet far too many tenants are living in squalid conditions, subject to unjust evictions. The Cadillac Hotel has remained empty for another year, after the illegal eviction of homeless persons who had had rooms there. The pandemic has made the rental housing crisis even more critical. Many states have declared rent moratoria as a response to the pandemic, but in some cases this appears to apply only to formal evictions which go through the courts.

**LET US PRAY.**

People: Jesus, You were no stranger to substandard housing. The Prophet Isaiah, whom you often quoted, condemned those who accumulate property: "Woe to you who join house to house, who connect field with field, until no room remains ..." (5:8) The words of Pope Francis reflect what has too often been the case in housing projects in Rochester: *"Houses and neighborhoods are more often built to isolate and protect than to connect and integrate. The proclamation of the Gospel will be a basis for restoring the dignity of human life in these contexts, for Jesus desires to pour out an abundance of life upon our cities."* Bless our efforts to make decent, safe, livable housing a human right rather than a market commodity.

Leader: Jesus, born in a manger.

People: Hear Our Prayer.

**FOURTEENTH STATION**  
—  
**JESUS IS BURIED**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE**



Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

People: Because by your Death and Resurrection You have saved us.

Leader: On Good Friday, Jesus exposed the Principalities and the Powers - the social and spiritual structures which operate to shape our lives. In these Stations, we have tried to confront some of those Principalities and Powers. Clearly, the office of the Presidency of the United States, is one of those Principalities and Powers. A position which gives one human being the power to effectively end the human race by launching a major nuclear attack within the space of twenty minutes is clearly a demonic Power. And yet, although we grapple with Powers, we must also recognize the role of human beings in carrying out institutional oppression. While the Roman Empire and the Sanhedrin were the Powers which executed Jesus, the individuals Pilate and Judas too played their part.

And so, we wrestle with a Christian response to the reality of Donald Trump as President. We cannot ignore the fact that his decisions have had a devastating effect on people, in America and across the planet: the decision to deny the reality of climate change and demolish environmental regulations, the decision to downplay the threat of the coronavirus which lost a month or more in which the medical establishment and the American people could have prepared, the decision to foster racism and sexism by his language and actions, the decision to imprison children at the border and separate them from their parents, the decision to build a wall at the border, the decision to send the US Navy to the coast of Venezuela amidst the pandemic crisis, and so many others. We must confront the Powers and Principalities, but we must also denounce egregious individual sinful acts.

**LET US PRAY.**

People: Jesus, You taught us to love our enemies, to turn the other cheek. In Your confrontation with the brutally violent Roman Empire, You exemplified the way of nonviolent suffering, submitting to execution on the cross to expose the sinfulness of political power maintained by violence. We pray that our Nation may embrace Your way of peace and may renounce its strategies of war and terrorism and violence. We pray for all those who have died this past year, and we pray that we all may turn to your Way of Love and reject the ways of violence and oppression.

Leader: Jesus, Prince of Peace

People: Hear Our Prayer.

### **SIGNS OF RESURRECTION**

**LEADER:** The situation of our country, of our city, of our planet, is dire. Christ is crucified today in so many ways that we have only scratched the surface. And yet, in the past few years there have been signs of hope, signs of resurrection, as new movements for social change add their voices to the older movements which have struggled for justice for years, or decades, or even centuries. We lift up in prayer the Rochester City-Wide Tenant Union, the Community Land Trust, and the Rochester Homeless Union. We also lift up in prayer the many new movements which have arisen in the past few years. We welcome them into the community of those working for peace and justice. This community includes those who have passed into eternal life.

### **LITANY OF OUR SAINTS**

**LEADER:** To close our Stations of the Cross, we call to mind the saints whose lives have inspired us, including saints as yet unrecognized by the Church, especially peacemakers from upstate New York. We especially cherish the memory of Father Neil Miller and Sister Gloria Ruocco, two saints who served the people of God at the House of Mercy in sickness and in health, until the Lord saw fit to call them to Himself. Their faith inspired them to step out in risk, to embrace all their brothers and sisters. Rarely in America do we see people come together across races, across social classes, as we have seen at each of their funerals. Their kindness, gentleness, and humor touched the lives of poor and rich alike. All have felt the loss of their earthly presence.

As I call out the names of each of the saints, please respond in the traditional Latin American manner: After each name, call out "Presente" to indicate that the spirit of that person is still with us.

<b>LEADER:</b>	<b>ALL:</b>
Father Neil Miller	Presente
Sister Gloria Ruocco	Presente
John Honeck	Presente
Jan Bezila	Presente
Peter DeMott	Presente
Audrey Smith	Presente
Jerry Berrigan	Presente
Katie White	Presente
Father Dan O'Shea	Presente
Phil Berrigan	Presente
Dan Berrigan	Presente

Frank Woolever	Presente
Father Ray McVey	Presente
Sue McVey	Presente
Dorothy Day	Presente
Mother Catherine McAuley	Presente
Peter Maurin	Presente
St. Francis of Assisi	Presente
Rev. Raymond Graves	Presente
Mother Teresa of Calcutta	Presente
Mother Theresa Weider	Presente
Dr. Martin Luther King	Presente
Thomas Merton	Presente
George Homanich	Presente
Tamar Hennessy	Presente
Claire Regan	Presente
Louise Slaughter	Presente
Father Larry Tracy	Presente
Shep Davis	Presente
Ben Salmon	Presente
Franz Jaggerstatter	Presente
Oscar Romero	Presente
Marv Mich	Presente
Jim Vogel	Presente
Tom Ecker	Presente
Li Wenliang, the doctor who raised the alarm about Coronavirus	Presente

LEADER: Feel free to add the names of any other saints you would like to invoke.

LEADER: Finally, let us always strive to live the words of Sister Gloria: “Love without limit.”

Sing: Oh, When the saints go marching in,  
Oh, when the saints go marching in,  
Oh, Lord, I want to be in their number,  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh, when those bells begin to chime,  
Oh, when those bells begin to chime,  
Oh, Lord, I want to be in their number,  
When those bells being to shine.

Oh, when they gather round the throne,  
Oh, when they gather round the throne,  
Oh, Lord, I want to be in their number,  
When they gather round the throne.

