

27

**WAY OF
THE CROSS**



Entrance Song.

THE HOLY FATHER:

*Dear young people of the world,
Walking with Jesus will always be a grace and a risk.*

It is a grace, because it is a commitment to live by faith and to know Jesus, entering into the depths of His heart, understanding the power of his words and the significance of his actions, his tender nearness, his generous sacrifice, his love for each and every one of us, by which he, as the Suffering Servant, took upon himself the mysterious journey of humanity, so often marked by the sign of the cross.

It is a risk because Jesus – the Teacher, the Way, the Truth, and the Life – knows that his word, his gestures, his actions go against the spirit of the world, with its human ambition, with the proposals of a throw-away and indifferent culture.

There is a certainty that fills this Way of the Cross with hope: Jesus walked this way with love, as did the Glorious Virgin, who has desired to sustain the path of evangelization with her motherly care ever since the birth of the Church. With each step, we'll see Mother Mary in the appearance she chose to draw near her children.

V/. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen.

YOUTH A: "What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? ... neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:35-39)

YOUTH B: When young people want something, we don't give up. When one of us is convinced by an ideal, we give everything we have for the cause we believe in. Today, at the center of this great continent, we want to walk with all young people of the world at Jesus' side. In every step on this path of sorrow and hope, we want to encounter the lives of those who unite themselves to the Cross of Jesus, who embrace the grace of following the Lord as well as the risk of committing themselves to him in life, in truth, and in hope.



HOLY FATHER: Let us pray. (brief moment of silence)

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Lord, look with mercy on these young pilgrims and fill their hearts with your Spirit of Wisdom, that they may enthusiastically proclaim the good news to their peers. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

R/. Amen.



FIRST STATION JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

(Mark 14:32-36)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"We must not wait to be perfect to say, 'Here I am.'" (Pope Francis)

Reflection

Let us put our hearts into this prayerful encounter and hear the call that comes from Gethsemane to do the will of the Father. Let us dedicate our lives to a continuous and everlasting "Yes" – a yes given by young people, the bravest in pursuit of Christ, the most dedicated in response to their vocations, and the most faithful – that the chalice of Christ's passion, which so many young people have united themselves to, may become hope and blessing for all.

Gethsemane is always a remembrance of silence, of prayer, of suffering. God comes silently and discreetly, without imposing on our freedom. We need, then, to prepare ourselves to listen deeply to his word, to learn how to view things with the eyes of faith, and to keep ourselves open to the surprises of the Spirit.

Prayer

Give us, Lord, the joy of saying YES to you, the joy of letting you call us and being sent to give witness to you to the many peoples – especially to those who live in



situations of material desperation and spiritual and moral crisis.

May our Lady of Suyapa, Patroness of Honduras, the Virgin sweet, humble, little, teach us that Jesus, her Son and our Lord, is freedom and hope. May she reassure us that those persecuted in so many ways in so many places will find the fraternal comfort of all humanity.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



SECOND STATION JESUS IS BETRAYED BY JUDAS AND ARRESTED.

(Mk 14:43-46)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"May they all be one, Father, so that the world may believe." (John 17:21)

Reflection

Master! This is what Judas calls Jesus. Today we also approach Jesus, betrayed and arrested. Today we see how important it is to build unity, so that our faith becomes an eloquent service that enlightens the peoples with the truth and with the hope that Jesus gives us.

From the heart of Cuba, we cry out that we may be sources of communion, of life, of joyful hope that gives the world a new "rhythm" of vitality, of joyful searching for what unites us. The path of a Church that is an artisan of unity passes through the Garden of Gethsemane to find in the pain of Jesus an incentive to heal wounds, to draw bridges, to unite wills and to build fraternal communities that seal covenants with joy and hope. Therefore, we ask the Lord, betrayed and arrested in the Garden, that the olive trees that surrounded his pain may now sprout as signs of unity, communion, and peace for everyone and everywhere.

Prayer

Grant, Lord, that young people be "artisans" of the unity and peace that the world needs; generous witnesses of life, joy, and hope.

May our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Patroness of Cuba, teach us that Jesus, her Son and our Teacher, continues to call us to "be one" (cf. John 17) and to work without ceasing in communion and fraternity.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



THIRD STATION JESUS IS CONDEMNED BY THE SANHEDRIN. (Mk 14:55-60, 62, 64)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"You will be hated - hated - by all for my name's sake.' (Mt 10:22)... Martyrs do not live for themselves; they do not fight to assert their own ideas, and they accept having to die solely out of loyalty to the Gospel." (Pope Francis, 28/06/17)

Reflection

In the glorious crown of the Martyrs, Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero, bishop and witness of the faith, reminds us how the Sanhedrin lives on in history and how many today are persecuted, opposed, and condemned, because their coherent and firm lives are a scandal to the world.

The voice of the martyrs will always be a song of hope. The voices of the shepherds will continue to show their flock the path of life and hope. The voice of those who die, because they are faithful to Jesus, is an eternal cry of hope and blessing.

Prayer

Lord, giving up our life will always be a challenge. Grant us the grace to learn to surrender our life, to give it with joy, to risk it with happiness so that you may be Life



in the midst of the world.

May our Lady of Peace, Patroness of El Salvador, remind us of how much God loves the blood of the martyrs, which is the seed of hope; and how precious the heart, offered by all those who have joined Christ in an offering of peace and blessing, is in the eyes of the Lord.

V/."I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



FOURTH STATION JESUS IS DENIED BY PETER.

(Mk 14:66-72)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"On many occasions, in a systematic and organized way, your people have been misunderstood and excluded from society. Some have considered your values, culture, and traditions to be inferior. Others, intoxicated by power, money and market trends, have stolen your lands or contaminated them." (Pope Francis, Chiapas, Mexico, 15/02/16)

Reflection

God wanted to reveal his Son with the human face of all those who would be redeemed. Therefore, denying Jesus is also denying his loving decision to enter into all of humanity, all cultures, all expressions of humanity that are capable of recognizing him as Lord and Savior.

Our Indigenous peoples portray Jesus in the centennial pain that marks their lives. Denied and forgotten, they found in their Lord Jesus the image of their pain, the face of so many that have been forgotten. That is why they decided to recognize themselves in the Suffering Servant and saw in their defenders the hand of God that extends toward those who should be most loved because they are still the first in these lands. The Indigenous people, the natives of this land, have become

so close to Jesus that in their faces we find his beloved face whom we venerate, sculpted and painted with love in those whom he made his brothers and sisters.

Prayer

We are sorry, Lord, for we do not recognize the value of each person, because we continue to consider them as objects of use and domination and we have not learned to contemplate their beauty, to give thanks for their kindness, and to respect their integrity and culture.

May our Lady of the Rosary, Patroness of Guatemala, continue to remind us how her Son always finds in our indigenous peoples a cradle of tenderness and a cross that has flourished in hope.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



FIFTH STATION JESUS IS JUDGED BY PILATE.

(Lk 23:1-4, 23-24)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded." (Laudato Si', 13)

Reflection

It is typical of the greats to think that everything belongs to them: life, people, and the world. Jesus, in front of the one who represented Caesar, offers us a suggestive and admirable contrast: He is the Lord of all. Someday the whole of creation will surrender before his glorious presence because God placed this wonderful world, full of beauty and harmony in the hands of humanity. Like Pilate, we thought that we could dispose of everything and ended up enslaving creation to the ambitions of a few, to the ambition of those who thought they were masters when they were only caretakers.



Prayer

Lord, do not take your eyes off of us when we alter ecosystems, when we weaken the nourishing power of nature, when we pollute the water flows, the deep blue of the seas, or the Nordic snows. Save us from the cruel indifference to our common future and do not let us drag our planet to ruin.

May our Lady of the Angels, Patroness of Costa Rica, remind us that the Lord, who was condemned to an unjust death, will be the Lord of all. Together with her let us say: "Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs."

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



SIXTH STATION JESUS IS SCOURGED AND CROWNED WITH THORNS.

(Matthew 27:26-30)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"Welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating migrants and refugees. 'You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.' (Leviticus 19:34)" (Pope Francis, World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2018)

Reflection

In the Gospel of St. Mark, we are told about the iniquity of the mockery and horrible insults which Jesus was subjected to. The Scourging and the Crown of Thorns continue to cruelly pierce Jesus' face and body. Jesus wants us to find him in the pain of migrants and the anguish of refugees. He himself was one as a child in Egypt, He himself felt the steps of those who, yesterday and also today, brutally pursue those who have lost everything and feel how borders and doors are closed; how the lines that limit countries are being crowned with sharp thorns that threaten,

despise, and reject so many brothers and sisters.

Prayer

May Jesus, crowned with thorns, open the borders of the hearts of so many, and may we, as a Young Church, unite in the readiness to tear from the hearts of so many, the piercing threats, the persecutions that pierce life and the bitter tears of the many refugees and migrants who continue to cry out for justice and consolation.

May our Lady of Coromoto, Patroness of Venezuela, who has walked together with the beating hearts of so many migrants and refugees, help us to care for, heal, and fill with hope the hearts, scourged and crowned with thorns, of so many who have lost their homeland.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



SEVENTH STATION JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS.

(Jn 19:16-17)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"The great wealth of our Haitian Catholicism is how we rely on Providence. It is an attitude that believers from other countries can learn from. We know that in our country there are limits that can only be overcome by the intervention of God. This is what helps us to continue living and continue to survive." (Cardinal Chibly Langlois)

Reflection

In the Pilgrim Cross of World Youth Day, Saint John Paul II gave us a banner of hope. It is the banner of Jesus; it is the sign of the surrender that saves, of the love that extends to all, and of the open arms of the Redeemer who turned the Holy Tree into the sign that marks his glory, the throne of the Lamb that was slain, and the Tribunal in which we are judged in love.



On our way of the Cross, this holy wood, which the young people of the world have taken to so many places, identifies the life that is offered. At the same time, it invites us to unite to the cross all the pains of the world, all the crosses that so many have to bear, the crosses of so many tragedies, and the cross that represents the immense suffering of all the victims of all violence.

Prayer

Lord, may we opt for the poor, the weak, the suffering, and for those who are excluded and marginalized. Anoint us so that we may be led to take critical and proactive attitudes towards reality, prophetically denouncing the situations of injustice that children and young people face in our countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

May our Lady of Perpetual Help, venerated with so much love in Haiti, show us Jesus who, in the way of the cross, meets her, the Mother of Comfort and strength. May she, the Lady of Hope, gather in her maternal heart the cry of so many victims and teach us the healthy path of forgiveness and reconciliation.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



EIGHTH STATION JESUS IS HELPED BY THE CYRENIAN. (Mk 15:21)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"Do not let your youth be stolen from you. Do not allow anyone to slow and obscure the light that Christ puts in your face and in your heart. Be weavers of relationships signed by trust, by sharing, by openness even to ends of the world." (Cf. Pope Francis. 23/10/2017)

"Called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect." (Laudato Si, 89)

Reflection

Young people know solidarity, compassion, how to share life and encounters that build bridges and open roads for unity. On the way to the victory of Jesus that we now walk, Simon of Cyrene represents us, calls us, encourages us so that all the initiatives that foster community and solidarity have a sure motivation through this station.

We cannot lose the hope that lives in the two dimensions of this virtue: the hope of those who know their hope is God and thus wait with confidence that his kind love is revealed some way, and our own hope that we are now invited to offer. Many times we have been told that young people are the hope for the future: that this virtue flourishes in our lives is a sign of our identity and how we are present in a world empty of love and joy.

Prayer

Lord, console and inspire all the young people in the world that feel defeated by lack of love, lack of opportunities, lack of friends, so that, coming close to You, ever faithful, they find the Hope to live.

May our Lady of Aparecida, Patroness of Brazil, teach us to be generous and offer all our Christian solidarity, that in light of the Gospel called charity and allow us to fill the world with our bright joy called hope.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



NINTH STATION JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM. (Lk 23:27-28)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"It is not right for us, brothers and sisters, to look the other way and let the dignity of so many women, especially young women, be trampled upon." (Pope Francis, talk in Puerto Maldonado, 2018)



Reflection

The women of Jerusalem have the virtue of offering us the splendor of grace and the virtues of the biblical women who came before them: Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Judith, Esther, Naomi, Ruth; of those who like them, shared that blessed time of closeness to Jesus: Elizabeth, Mary of Magdala, Salome; of those who in the history of the faith have been shining stars in the Church's journey: Mothers, Martyrs, Doctors, Founders, Missionaries.

It is they, the women of Jerusalem, who see the road to Calvary reflected in Jesus' eyes, the worldly pain of so many women who are united to our glorious Savior's passion in such suffering, discrimination, violence, exploitation. Today, as we honor them, we think of our own mothers, sisters, and friends, living signs of God's love.

Prayer

Lord, we pray for all women who suffer from gender discrimination, inequality, and prejudice. For those who are fighting against the darkness of abuse, poverty, loneliness, human and sex trafficking, and slavery. Grant them your Spirit, so that with your light and strength, they may say Yes to a new life.

May our Lady of Altagracia, Patroness of the Dominican Republic, the faithful virgin, the Glorious Woman who is the prototype of all women, remind us of the love that Jesus showed to the women in his time and help us to overcome all discrimination, human and sex trafficking, and gender violence so that the true dignity of women may shine in all its splendor.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



TENTH STATION JESUS IS CRUCIFIED.

(Mk 15:21)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"Do not be afraid of asking for forgiveness and offering it. Do not resist that reconciliation which allows you to draw near and encounter one another as brothers

and sisters, and surmount enmity. Now is the time to heal wounds, to build bridges, to overcome differences. It is time to defuse hatred, to renounce vengeance, and to open yourselves to a coexistence founded on justice, truth, and the creation of a genuine culture of fraternal encounter. May we live in harmony and solidarity, as the Lord desires." (Pope Francis, Villavicencio, Colombia 2017)

Reflection

From the Wood of the Cross, lifted over the summit of Calvary, Jesus is Lord. Nailed to the Holy Wood is the consummate sign of the love of God that extends his arms to embrace all, to be home for all, to be the sublime altar where the life offered in paschal sacrifice becomes Life for all, Light for all, Mercy for all.

His body, bruised for love, rises above all of creation to be a flag of hope, the generous victory of love, the offering to save humanity and definitively restore the bonds of love that sin had broken at the very dawn of humanity and shown through Human Rights which are so profaned and defiled in our painful history, through violence and vengeance which destroy countries and families.

Prayer

Lord, in Colombia, we have seen the grief of violence and hate in a dramatic way. Remind us that only in you, the Crucified, can the world find true love that reconciles and saves. Grant us your mercy to offer forgiveness, to encounter one another as brothers and surmount enmity, to renounce vengeance, and open ourselves to the coexistence based on justice, truth, and a genuine culture of fraternal encounter.

May our Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquirá, Patroness of Colombia, remind us that in the joy, in the light, in the sorrow, and in the glory of the life of Jesus we are given true peace.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.





ELEVENTH STATION JESUS PROMISES HIS KINGDOM TO THE REPENTANT THIEF. (Lk 23:39-43)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"Corruption is not countered with silence. We must speak about it, denounce its evils, and try to understand it so as to show our resolve to make mercy reign over meanness, beauty over nothingness." (Pope Francis, 01/02/2018)

Reflection

The Gospel has told us: Jesus on the cross has the key to the gates of the kingdom of hope and can open for all the merciful heart of the Father where we all have a place, in him who has love and forgiveness for all. We cannot forget that it is a mystery how the crucified thief could recognize in the tortured man by his side the face of the King who would open for him the Kingdom of Life and Peace.

That man asked to be remembered in the Kingdom so often preached by Jesus and he found life. He knew that at the end of his existence, the pure and sincere look of Jesus washed him of his sins, tore away from his soul the continuation of a dramatic existence full of sadness.

Prayer

Lord, in this world where corruption has caused so many injuries and has sacrificed the truth, your word promises us a crystalline and serene Paradise, a joyful and transparent peace, a new life full of joy and calls us to conversion to build the Kingdom.

May our Lady of Divine Providence, Patroness of Puerto Rico, remind us that her Son, Jesus, laying in her lap, is the only one that can bring us to the Port of Life and the luminous Kingdom of goodness and truth.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



TWELFTH STATION JESUS CRUCIFIED, THE MOTHER, AND THE DISCIPLE. (Jn 19: 26-27)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"Thank you, women who are mothers! You have sheltered human beings within yourselves in a unique experience of joy and travail. This experience makes you become God's own smile upon the newborn child, the one who guides your child's first steps, who helps it to grow, and who is the anchor as the child makes its way along the journey of life."(Saint John Paul II, Letter to Women, 1995)

Reflection

You cannot live without a mother. Mary, the Mother, gave us in Bethlehem the blessed fruit of her womb; she followed her Son in obedient and ungrudging silence: in Cana, she showed us the way of fidelity, and finally, at Calvary, below the Cross, according to the Gospel of St. John, she understood that the young man that was there embodied all of humanity that was entrusted to her and would see in Her the faithful Educator, the prudent Mother, the most perfect Model of sanctity and life.

Mary has always accompanied World Youth Day. She became the mother of the disciples and perpetually young, with her maternal goodness she continues to care for the frailty of young people, the need for tenderness and of goodness that defends young people from the fury of sin and the bitterness of loneliness. The Mother took care of the first hour of evangelization as the Pillar of support and her presence opened paths and hearts.

Prayer

Lord, faith is the strength of our heart. We pray with all women who in their families give life its true meaning by the gift of unconditional love, for the maternal nature that they develop day by day. Amen.

May the Immaculate Conception, so humble and simple, so motherly, Patroness of the United States of America, continue accompanying us on our journey, defend us from the tendency to despair, make us true disciples of the One who from the Cross gave us a Mother and Educator for our life.



V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Choir: Transition Song.



THIRTEENTH STATION JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS.

(Lk 23:44-46)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Young people, be astute as a serpents, but humble as doves to avoid falling into the clutches of violence or drugs, which are only some of the primary dangers which you are exposed to due to your lack of experience in life. (Pope Francis, Mexico, 2016)

Reflection

The death of Jesus on the cross is, at the same time, a sacrifice, an offering, a gift of oneself, and light. It is not easy to understand how a painful death can be a fountain of life, but the Sacrificial Lamb, the Lord of Life, consummated all of the sacrifices of the Old Covenant on the holy cross and, with His glorious death, inaugurated the new era of life, peace, and hope. A river of light and life streams from the side of the Savior. His pierced body depicts the sufferings from all time periods, from all of history. His words are victory. His silence is a shout of hope. His open heart reigns serene and is a flame of living love which purifies, heals, redeems, and consoles.

In our world, terrorism has destroyed many lives. These murderers have broken many hearts. Jesus, dead on the cross, becomes the voice of many victims in order to teach us the kind of love with which we should defend, respect, and care for life.

Prayer

Lord, we present to you the lives of the many young people who pass through valleys of darkness, whose lives are in danger, who are violently assaulted. We ask you to free them from evil.

May our Lady of Guadalupe, whom the Mexican martyrs embraced with love in their petitions, she who tenderly loved the young martyr, Saint José Sánchez del Río, continue to show the luminous face of the crucified Lord and teach us to sow hope there where heartbreak has pierced the heart of humanity.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Chorus: Transition song.



FOURTEENTH STATION JESUS IS PLACED IN THE SEPULCHER.

(Jn 19:41-42)

V/. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

R/. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

"Every life is sacred! Let us go forward with the culture of life to counter the logic of waste and the declining birth rate...let us pray for the babies who are threatened by the termination of pregnancy." (Pope Francis, World Day for Consecrated Life 2017)

Reflection

The Gospels proclaim that the Sepulcher of Christ was in a garden, as was where life began. Life flourishes in the body of Christ, which, anointed with the balm of kings, wrapped in a shroud woven with clemency and mercy, awaits the Easter dawn to emerge victorious.

There are many tombs, some are engraved with human art, others open in the depths of the earth and hold the remains of so many deceased, so many victims of violence and hatred. However, there is a tomb which cries to heaven and condemns the terrible cruelty of humanity: it is the tomb which is made in the wombs of the mothers of the innocents whose lives are torn from them. It is the tomb in which rest the new Innocent Martyrs, the victims of Abortion, who like the Holy Innocents in Bethlehem, continue to shout out to the world with their drowned voices, the cries of their bodies torn apart, the deep sadness of their defiled rights, the supreme injustice which denied them the right to live.



Prayer

God, grant that we may truly humanize ourselves, resolutely defend life, and erase laws which kill innocent life may forever.

May the Most Pure, the Immaculate Conception who reigns in Nicaragua, teach us the sacred value of life from its conception to its natural end, so that tombs are never made of the sacred wombs of mothers.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Chorus: Transition song



FROM THE CROSS TO THE LIGHT.

"Young people are the hope of mission. The person of Jesus Christ and the Good News he proclaimed continue to attract many young people... 'There are many young people who offer their solidarity in the face of the evils of the world and engage in various forms of militancy and volunteering...How beautiful it is to see that young people are "street preachers," joyfully bringing Jesus to every street, every town square and every corner of the earth!' We must involve young people in the shared missionary responsibility that needs their rich imagination and creativity." (Pope Francis, World Mission Day 2017)

Reflection

The Cross of Jesus has accompanied us. Fourteen times we have proclaimed the triumph of life, the paschal victory of the Lamb who returns hope to us with his sacrifice. Now, when the victory of the Lord of life is announced, his Cross becomes a banner of life and the light of the Resurrected One sends us out with the task of being missionaries of truth and of peace, witnesses of his triumph over death, joyful messengers who bring the faith out on the streets, to be shouted in the city squares, to flood humanity with joy and blessing.

We must convince the world of a faith which transforms, of hope which brings humanity forth from the pain of sin and death. Jesus lives. So we sing it, so we shout it, so we will continue proclaiming it from every heart rejuvenated with paschal joy, illuminated by baptismal grace, which is reawakened when we are told that in the bosom of the Church we have all been reborn in Christ. We all have been made anew.

Prayer

Risen Lord, may young people, the vital force of the missionary church, courageously assume the mission of bringing you to all, especially to other young people. May the Easter Virgin, the Queen who also proclaims the victory of her Son, accompany us from Panama to do the will of God and to say yes to the Lord of life who lives forever.

May Our Lady of Antigua, Patroness of Panama, the evangelizer, she who showed us the face of the Lord of Hope for the first time, help us to offer everyone, with the light of the Gospel, our Christian solidarity which is called charity and allow us to fill the world with our luminous joy which is called hope.

V/. "I am the servant of the Lord."

R/. May it be done to me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

Song:

Pope Francis.

Dear young people, the way of the Cross that we have traveled with Jesus is the way of our martyred Churches, of our suffering young people, of humanity in its pains and dramatic experience which is full of thorns, falls, scourges, and loneliness. Jesus endured everything (cf. Isaiah 53:4) for us and with us. He is the incarnate love of God who knows and redeems pain, who heals wounds with his own wounds (cf. Isaiah 53:4).



With each step we have encountered the image of our sufferings, of our struggles, of our limitations. Also, at each station we have encountered the light of hope, the love of the Mother of Jesus, the word of life and joy that heals us. With his cross, Jesus carried the crosses of all youth people. He will fill our path of hope with the light of his resurrection. He will give us the joy of being prophets of life, joy and peace.

I bless you, and I ask you not to forget me in your prayers.

FINAL BLESSING

Holy Father:

This blessing is not the conclusion of a journey, but rather I send you out to proclaim life and hope. When I give you this blessing, I send you to go throughout the world with the good news of the Lord's victory with the joy of being disciples of the One who overcame death and who reigns eternally.

Holy Father:

V/. The Lord be with you.

R/. And with your spirit.

Deacon:

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

Holy Father:

V/. May the Lord bless you and keep you,
making you missionary disciples of the paschal victory of his Son.

R/. Amen.

V/. May he ignite in you the flame of the Spirit who sanctifies.

R/. Amen.

V/. May he make you servants of truth, justice, life, and peace.

R/. Amen.



V/. And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
descend upon you and remain with you always.
R/. Amen.

Deacon:

V/. Go in peace.
R/. Thanks be to God.

Closing song: WYD 2019 Hymn (choral version)

