



PASSION OF CHRIST, PASSION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES



**A Scriptural Way
of the Cross**



**"FROM BETHLEHEM TO CALVARY, AND IN
NO OTHER WAY, CHRIST REVEALS HIMSELF
AS A MAN OF SORROWS"**

BLESSED JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI

MIGRANTES

 Casa Scalabrini-CPM

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Centro de Pastoral Migratoria

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Blessed John Baptist
Scalabrini


humilitas



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PRESENTATION

The passion of Jesus is the only biblical account that is included in all four Gospels. It is the central event of his life, the culmination of his mission, the last act of love and service of his life given to others. Despite the opposition that Jesus encountered throughout his life, he was faithful to his mission, resurrected and vindicated by God.

Throughout the history of the Church there have been many ways to remember the passion of Jesus. The Way of the Cross is a devotion that originated in the 4th century when pilgrims arriving in Jerusalem walked from the Garden of Olives to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher. Over time, the recitation of the Way of the Cross, especially during the Fridays of Lent, has become one of the most important Christian practices that recall the redemptive value of Christ's suffering.

The passion of Jesus is for Christians a reminder of God's mysterious communion with humanity. The sufferings of Jesus continue in the suffering of each person. This Stations of the Cross based on the biblical account of Jesus' passion is intended to help us also reflect on the suffering faced by migrants and refugees as they try to find a dignified life for themselves and their families.

In suffering we are not alone; Jesus is with us. Suffering is not sterile; it is the path to resurrection, to a new life.

1st STATION

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE



Photo by Pastoral de Movilidad Humana CEG, April 13, 2020
https://www.facebook.com/MovilidadHumanaGt/photos/bc.AbozLy05PczPxZrwwq65nplgPhRZWcGaoZeYGTEmVllu8xoezncrUx14UkD5gagah-nzICnd9fPGGbyGRCISrcld0vqT_CRxV9EkpsWJ1e4CH8NMwCtCWAFqyDM-oxZIBIZ-6CpsVVOD_m2QeAJQlcoakjYBPrpZ-SIHnzo-

We pray for those who decide to leave their land in search of a safe life for themselves and their families

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

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26: 36-42

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to feel

sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."

Reflection: Making the decision

Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane is a crucial moment in his life. Anguish and sadness seem to take hold of him. However, he decides to do the will of the Father and to give his life for the redemption of humanity. The decision to leave their homeland in search of a safe life for themselves and their families is not a simple decision as it has many implications. Like Jesus, migrants are strengthened by God to be able to seek better opportunities in life.

Prayer

Father of goodness, amid anguish and sadness you make yourself present in our lives strengthening us to be able to do your will, we pray for all people who are forced to make important decisions for their lives, especially migrants, may they feel that you are never indifferent to their anguish.

AMEN

2nd STATION

JESUS IS BETRAYED BY JUDAS AND IS ARRESTED



Photo by Jairo Meraz, 2018

We pray for those who in their attempt to have a better life for themselves and theirs are betrayed, kidnaped, and abandoned by human smugglers

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

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

Scripture Reading: John 18:1-5

When he had said this, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place because

Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So, Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered him, "Jesus the Nazorean." He said to them, "I AM." Judas his betrayer was also with them.

Reflection: Those betrayed in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones.

Betrayal is one of the greatest pains we can experience. Someone we trust takes advantage of our vulnerability to benefit by hurting us. One of Jesus' disciples hands him over to the soldiers and guards of the chief priests. He will face an unjust trial. Like Jesus, migrants are betrayed by people they trust, who instead of helping them end up abusing them and even handing them over to organized crime.

Prayer

Jesus, you who experienced betrayal by someone close to you, we ask that you protect migrants from the abuses of the people they trusted to reach their destination or to obtain a dignified job.

AMEN

3rd STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED BY THE SANHEDRIN



Photo by Jairo Meraz, 2020

We pray for those who are victims of prejudice and stereotyping

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

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 22: 66–71

When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, “If you are the Messiah, tell us,” but he

replied to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?” He replied to them, “You say that I am.” Then they said, “What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth.”

Reflection: Victims of Prejudice and Stereotyping

Sometimes, the ideas we have based on our fears and false beliefs. These prevent us from truly knowing them. We believe that we know how they think, feel and act. We do not make the effort to know them for who they truly are. Like Jesus, migrants are sometimes unfairly judged and become victims of prejudice and stereotyping.

Prayer

Father of goodness who knows our intentions, strengthen those who are victims of stereotyping and prejudice. That they may recognize themselves as created in your image and likeness so as to overcome with dignity the offenses they face.

AMEN

4th STATION

JESUS IS DENIED BY PETER



Photo by Jairo Meraz, 2018

We pray for refugees around the world

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

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26: 69-75

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not

know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again, he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man!" A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.

Reflection: Refugges

Peter denied Jesus three times. At the time when Jesus was being unjustly judged, Peter was afraid to be identified as His friend. Refugees must seek legal protection outside their countries, where there is no guarantee that their rights will be respected. They are rejected despite being from the same land and the same people. Refugees escaping one cruel situation often to find themselves in situations that are even more cruel and desperate.

Prayer

Jesus, you experienced denial by the person whom you selected as leader of your Church, we pray for all people who must seek protection and safety in a country other than their own so that they can integrate into the society of the country that offers them refuge.

AMEN

5th STATION

JESUS IS JUDGED BY PILATE



*Photo by Pastoral de Movilidad Humana en Guatemala CEG,
January 2021*

Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He said to him in reply, “You say so.” The chief priests accused him of many things. Again, Pilate questioned him, “Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of.” Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

Reflection: Civil authorities have the responsibility to promote a life of dignity for all people

Pilate, a civil authority of Jesus' time, without much understanding what the chief priests, the elders, the scribes, and the Sanhedrin were plotting against Jesus, became their accomplice in having him crucified. Similarly, today civil authorities, by action or omission, can become accomplices of those who abuse migrants and refugees, not only by failing to act for their good and in their defense, but by omitting any intervention on their behalf out of fear or political expediency.

Prayer

Father of justice, we pray for all those who have the responsibility to promote a life of dignity for all people, inspire in them the desire and the conscience to seek justice and truth.

AMEN

We pray for our authorities who have the responsibility to promote a dignified life for all people

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

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

Scripture Reading: Mark 15:1-5

As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound

6th STATION

JESUS IS SCOURGED AND CROWNED WITH THORNS



Image taken from the website
<https://www.canva.com/design/DAEUcl3pmKo/B55D70Yrwha5ZMAx7pYZbg/>

We pray for all people who in search of a dignified life endure humiliation

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

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

Scripture Reading: John 19:1-5

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King

of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly. Once more Pilate went out and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you, so that you may know that I find no guilt in him." So, Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. And he said to them, "Behold, the man!"

Reflection: People who endure humiliation in search of a dignified life

Just as Jesus endured humiliation, torture and violence, many migrants and refugees must endure discrimination, xenophobia, deportations, and kidnappings in the search of a dignified life for themselves and their families.

Prayer

Merciful Father, you who dignify us by making us your children, strengthen all migrants and refugees who endure humiliation in search of opportunities for a better life than the one they had in their places of origin.

AMEN

7th STATION

JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS



Photo by Jairo Meraz

We pray for those who are willing to face any obstacle to offer their family a better life

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

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

Scripture Reading: John 19:16-17

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So, they took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.

Reflection: Migrants and refugees are willing to face any hardship to offer their families a better life.

Jesus was handed over to be crucified. He understood that by carrying the cross he was going to fulfill his mission to redeem humanity. Jesus was willing to be faithful to the mission for which his Father sent him into the world. Migrants and refugees are also willing to face any challenge to offer their families a better life than the one they had in their place of origin.

Prayer

Jesus, you were handed over to be crucified and you were forced to carry the cross, strengthen all migrants and refugees who are willing to face any difficulty to offer their family a better life than they had in their place of origin.

AMEN

8th STATION

JESUS IS HELPED BY SIMON TO CARRY HIS CROSS



Photo by Jairo Meraz, 2019

Reflection: Some people who leave their country fleeing violence and insecurity sometimes become victims of human trafficking and slavery

Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was forced to carry the cross of Jesus. Just as Simon was forced to do something he did not want to do; migrants and refugees are sometimes forced to do things against their will. In their eagerness to escape poverty, violence and insecurity, some people unknowingly fall into the hands of organized crime. They become victims of human trafficking subjected to sexual or labor slavery.

Prayer

Merciful Father, who sent your son into the world so that we may have life in abundance, strengthen those who are forced to act against their will so that they may regain their freedom and dignity.

We pray for those who are victims of human trafficking and slavery

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

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

Scripture Reading: Mark 15: 21

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.

AMEN

9th STATION

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



Photo by Migrants & Refugees, February 1st, 2020

<https://migrants-refugees.va/es/recursos/fotos/>

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GU2WkVn

We pray that the dignity of all migrant and refugee women is respected

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

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:27-31

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said,

“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.’” At that time people will say to the mountains, “Fall upon us!” and to the hills, “Cover us!” for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?”

Reflection: For migrant and refugee women so that their dignity may be respected

Throughout his life Jesus treated women with respect and dignity. Sadly, today many migrant and refugee women suffer mistreatment and discrimination. May the example of Jesus who related to women recognizing their dignity help us to relate to all people respecting their worth and dignity.

Prayer

Father of Goodness and mercy, we pray for migrant and refugee women who suffer mistreatment and discrimination, that their dignity may be recognized and that they be treated with respect.

AMEN

10th STATION

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED.



Photo by John Moore, EUA, 2018

We pray for those who are treated as criminals even though innocent of any crime

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

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

Scripture Reading: Mark 15: 27-32

With Jesus they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads, and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild

it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross." Likewise, the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him.

Reflection: Migrants are often criminalized

Jesus was unjustly condemned to death on a cross, as if He had committed a crime. Treated as a criminal; insulted and denigrated; even some of his disciples doubted him! Jesus faces the turning point of his life. Like Jesus, migrants are sometimes humiliated and suspected as criminals. Even some Catholics doubt them and their dignity as persons and children of God. The only transgression by migrants, if it can be called a transgression, is to have the courage to seek a dignified life for themselves and their families.

Prayer

Jesus, you who were unjustly condemned to die as a criminal, we pray for migrants and refugees who are unjustly treated as criminals. May the societies that receive them ensure fair and just treatment for all people.

AMEN

11th STATION

JESUS PROMISES HIS KINGDOM TO THE REPENTANT THIEF



*Photo by Jairo Meraz, Casa del Migrante,
Cd. de Guatemala, 2017*

**We pray for those who seek to be in solidarity with migrants and
refugees**

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

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

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:39-43

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however,

rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Reflection: Recognizing Jesus in the person of migrants and refugees

Jesus taught us to recognize him in the hungry, the thirsty, the migrant, the naked, the sick and the imprisoned. On the cross, one of the evildoers who was crucified next to Jesus felt compassion for him and recognized his divinity. In the same way that the "good thief" recognized Jesus as the Messiah, may we Christians recognize Jesus in migrants and refugees, and be in solidarity with them by welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating them.

Prayer

Jesus, you revealed to us that you are present in the poor and forgotten, give us the grace to be able to recognize your presence in migrants and refugees and that, by welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating them, we may serve you generously.

AMEN

12th STATION

MARY AND JOHN ACCOMPANY JESUS ON THE CROSS



*Photo by Daniel Etter para
Catholic Relief; Migrants & Refugees, August 28th, 2014*

**We pray for migrants and refugees to find someone to accompany
them in times of anguish and sorrow**

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

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

Scripture Reading: John 19: 25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister,
Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his

mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother,
"Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your
mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home

**Reflection: Migrants and refugees find someone who
cares and worries about them**

In the moment of greatest pain and approaching death, Jesus is
not alone, he is accompanied by some women, his mother, and
the disciple he loved so much. The same happens to some
migrants and refugees, even if they are far from the people who
love them, they find communities, people of "good will" who
support them and accompany them in moments of pain and
confusion.

Prayer

Merciful Father, we pray for migrants and refugees that they may
find in moments of anguish and confusion those who care and
have concern for them.

AMEN

13th STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



Photo by Karen Siu/ Nómada

We pray for those who will die today trying to find a decent life outside their land

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

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:45–50. 54

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Some of the bystanders who heard it said, "This one is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it

on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him." But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice and gave up his spirit. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

Reflection: Thousands of migrants die every year in the attempt to seek a dignified life

According to data from the International Organization for Migration, during 2019, 810 migrants lost their lives while crossing deserts, rivers, and remote areas in different parts of the American continent. The most dangerous area is the border region of Mexico and the United States, where on several occasions migrants have been victims of massacres by organized crime. Unfortunately, many of the migrants who die are not identified. Many of them are dead without names, taken to a mass grave, their families mourn their absence and still hope that one day they will return.

Prayer

Merciful Father, we pray for all migrants who died in their attempt to seek a dignified life for themselves and for their families. Eternal rest grant unto them and may perpetual light shine upon them. To their families give comfort and peace.

AMEN

14th STATION

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB



Photo by Jairo Meraz, 2018, Tenosique, Tabasco

We pray for those who seek a life of dignity

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

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 57-61

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over him. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it clean linen

and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

Reflection: Migrants and Refugees Deserve Dignified Treatment

Joseph of Arimathea treated the dead body of Jesus with dignity, offering him the tomb he had had dug for himself. All people, including migrants and refugees, deserve dignified treatment, throughout life. Dignity is ensured when people can meet their needs for housing, work, health, and safety.

Prayer

Merciful Father, we pray for all migrants and refugees seeking a life of dignity. May our societies strive to meet the basic needs of housing, work, health, and safety of all who live in them.

AMEN

15th STATION

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS



*Image taken from the website
<https://www.canva.com/design/DAEUcl3pmKo/B55D70Yrwha5ZMAx7pYZbg/>*

We pray for migrants and refugees that they may find what they have sought with sacrifice and effort

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

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

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28: 1-8

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord

descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples.

Reflection: Meeting the Risen Jesus

By rising from the dead, Jesus conquered death as he had announced to his disciples, although they had not understood him. To meet the Risen Jesus, it is necessary to go to Galilee, the place of the poor and oppressed. If we Christians want to meet Jesus, it is necessary to look for Him in those who are ignored and despised, such as migrants and refugees. In that "Meeting", we will meet the Risen Jesus!

Prayer

Jesus, we ask you to give us the grace to encounter you every day in our service to migrants and refugees. May we be instruments of hope so that all those who now suffer the trauma of having to leave their country in search of a better life, may they find what they have sought with sacrifice and effort.

AMEN

PRAYER TO BLESSED JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI I

O Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini,
missionary of the Word of God,
minister of the Eucharist and of the
Church,
man of charity and communion,
most loving son of Mary,
apostle of the catechism
and father of migrants,
we rely on your intercession
to receive God's blessing
on ourselves and on our beloved ones,
on those who face migration and on all humankind.
May the Holy Trinity, through your intercession,
grant us the grace that we entrust to your fatherly love.

AMEN

For graces received through the intercession of Blessed Scalabrini please contact
Fr. Fernando Cuevas, c.s. Vice Postulator of the Cause of Canonization for the North and
Central American area cuevaspreciado@gmail.com

PRAYER TO BLESSED JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI II

Oh, Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini, Apostle of the Catechism and
Father to the migrants, you always listened to the cry of the poor.

You taught the children to believe in God's love for them. You
opened the doors of opportunity for the deaf and you gave
protection to the rice workers.

You listened to the cry of the migrants and nourished their faith,
you sought to assure them protection and respect, you fought for
their rights, and walked in their company.

As Bishop, you led the faithful of your diocese to God in
communion with the universal Church and in acceptance of the
Cross.

You inspired your religious and lay missionaries to imitate your
apostolic fervor in serving the migrants.

On the journey of life, we are often disoriented and separated.
Help us to imitate you in seeking Christ in the Eucharist and in
serving Him in our brothers and sisters. Give us a welcoming heart
toward those who come to our door and make us ever ready to
answer when the Lord calls upon us.

Through your intercession and the prayers of the Blessed Virgin
Mary, whom you loved with a love of a son, may God make us
open to dialogue, untiring in working for brotherhood and
courageous in overcoming borders, so as to build a community of
people, where strangers are brothers and sisters and where
migrants are always at home.

AMEN