

The Stations of the Cross with John Paul II: On the path of ecological conversion



These Stations of the Cross have been prepared in a special way for those who have a deep admiration and love for soon-to-be-beatified late Pope John Paul II. If you are one of those people, and if you want to continue to be inspired and challenged by his prophetic message, these Stations of the Cross are meant in a special way for you and your faith community.

Throughout his pontificate, in his preaching and teaching, John Paul II consistently emphasized the gravity of the environmental crisis and the urgent need for the Church to respond to its moral and spiritual dimensions. He said that, “we must encourage and support ‘**the ecological conversion,**’ which has made humanity more sensitive to the catastrophe to which it has been heading.”¹ For the Holy Father, “the penitential season of Lent offers a profound lesson to respect the environment.”² It is in this spirit that we present to you these Stations of the Cross with John Paul II.

¹ Homily, Vatican, Jan. 17, 2001. Emphasis added.

² Angelus address, Vatican City, March 25, 1996.

STATION I CHRIST CONDEMNED TO DEATH

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

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

Scripture:

"The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt." Isaiah 24:4-6

Reflection:

"Man, especially in our time, has without hesitation devastated wooded plains and valleys, polluted waters, disfigured the earth's habitat, made the air unbreathable, disturbed the hydro-geological and atmospheric systems, turned luxuriant areas into deserts and undertaken forms of unrestrained industrialization, degrading that 'flower bed' – which is the earth, our dwelling place."³

"In his desire to have and to enjoy rather than to be and to grow, man consumes the resources of the Earth and his own life in an excessive and disordered way."⁴

"Man is no longer the Creator's 'steward,' but an autonomous despot, who is finally beginning to understand that he must stop at the edge of the abyss."⁵



Popenguine, Senegal. UN Photo/Evan Schneider. www.un.org/av/photo/

Let us pray: O God, we confess that we have fallen into the temptation of believing that we can and should have it all: more income and comfort, more energy consumption, bigger houses and cars. Our addiction to the consumer version of the abundant life is ravaging our fellow creatures and ecosystems and condemning future generations to desolation. Forgive us, O Divine Creator, for the wrong that we have done and for the good that we have failed to do. Amen.

³ General Audience Address, January 17, 2001.

⁴ The Encyclical "*Centesimus Annus*," 1981.

⁵ General Audience Address, January 17, 2001.

STATION II JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS

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

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

Scripture:

“Jesus...stood up in the synagogue and read: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’ Then he said to them, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’” Luke 4:18-21

Reflection:

“Every individual is called upon to play his or her part to...secure development in peace, in order to safeguard nature itself and the world about us.... I wish to appeal with simplicity and humility to everyone, to all men and women without exception. I wish to ask them to be convinced of the seriousness of the present moment and of each one’s individual responsibility, and to implement – by the way they live as individuals and as families, by the use of their resources, by their civic activities, by contributing to economic and political decisions, and by personal commitment to national and international undertakings.”⁶

“While in some cases the damage already done may be irreversible, in many other cases it can still be halted. It is necessary, however, that the entire human community – individuals, States and international bodies – take seriously their responsibility.”⁷

“Families and schools must train young people in respect for life, goodness and beauty. All followers of Christ should examine their own lifestyle.”⁸



Let us pray: God of justice, your son identified himself with the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of his time. Strengthen us, the disciples of Jesus Christ, to take up the cross of our global responsibilities as seekers of justice and agents of healing for God’s creation. Amen.

⁶ General Audience Address, January 17, 2001.

⁷Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

⁸ Homily in the city of Zamość, Poland, June 12, 1999.

STATION III JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Minister: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

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

Scripture:

“The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with me. And in all the country you shall possess, you shall grant a redemption of the land.” Leviticus 25:23-24

Reflection:

“One of the greatest injustices in the contemporary world consists precisely in this: that the ones who possess much are relatively few and those who possess almost nothing are many. It is the injustice of the poor distribution of the goods and services originally intended for all.”⁹

“Rural poverty and unjust land distribution in many countries have led to subsistence farming and to the exhaustion of the soil. Once their land yields no more, many farmers clear new land, accelerating uncontrolled deforestation, or they settle in urban centers which lack the infrastructure to receive them.”¹⁰

“We are concerned to see the desert expanding to lands which only yesterday were prosperous and fertile. When people do not respect the goods of the earth, when they abuse them, they act unjustly, even criminally, because for many of their brothers and sisters their actions result in poverty and death.”¹¹



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Let us pray: O God, how often we have caused the living Christ to stumble and fall. It happens each time we acquiesce to unjust laws. As hundreds of millions of desperately poor people are being denied their basic human rights and even life itself, the whole structure of God’s creation begins to collapse. Strengthen our baptismal commitment to strive to overcome every form of exploitation and oppression. May your Kingdom come, O Lord, where wealth is measured by how much we can afford to do without, and comfort level by our ease in sacrifice. Amen.

⁹ Encyclical “*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*,” 1988.

¹⁰ Message for the World Day of Peace, January, 1, 1990.

¹¹ Lenten Message, “Those Who Thirst in the World’s Growing Deserts,” 1993.

STATION IV JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

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

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

Scripture:

"As a mother comforts her son, so I will comfort you." Isaiah 66:13

Reflection:

"Nature becomes a Gospel that speaks to us of God. But this capacity for contemplation and knowledge, this discovery of a transcendent presence in creation, must lead us to rediscover our fraternity with the earth, to which we have been linked since creation."¹²

"In contact with creation a person can better understand the eternal values upon which life is built. These are, among others, values of beauty and truth, of simplicity and love, of fidelity and solidarity."¹³

"Whoever really wants to find himself, must learn to savor nature whose charm is intimately linked with the silence of contemplation. The rhythms of creation are so many paths of extraordinary beauty along which the sensitive and believing heart easily catches the echo of the mysterious, loftier beauty, that is God the Creator, the source and the life of all reality."¹⁴



Let us pray: O God, so many people in our world are forced to walk a *via dolorosa* of unjust policies, violence, poverty and hunger. As this happens, our earth also suffers. Like Mary who comforted Jesus, we too can be consoled, strengthened and reassured of your steadfast love for us through our encounter with the wonder and beauty of your creation. May it engender in us a greater sense of compassion and solidarity with all our kin in the community of life. Amen.

¹² Homily at a general audience in Rome, January 26, 2000.

¹³ Remarks at presentation of the Franciscan Environmental Prize in Costa Rica, 1991.

¹⁴ Remarks made while visiting the Dolomites Mountains, July 11, 1991.

STATION V SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS CARRY THE CROSS

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

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

Scripture:

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers, however insignificant, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

Reflection:

"There is a growing threat to the environment, to the vegetation, animals, water and air. Sacred Scripture hands us the image of Cain who rejects his responsibility: 'Am I my brother's keeper?' The Bible shows the human person as his brother's keeper and the guardian of creation which has been entrusted to him."¹⁵

"The people of the North possess far more human and economic resources. A sense of the unity of humanity must come into play."¹⁶

"Examine what is offered to you as progress. We have to be alert if we are to defend this planet and live on it effectively. Regarding the environmental protection, concerns long ceased to be only for the present moment, because we also have a concern for future generations. We must draw conclusions from the limits and hazards of growth. We must not do all that we are capable of doing. Asceticism, self-restraint, self-denial has suddenly become fashionable again. These virtues are vital to man's survival."¹⁷



Port-au-Prince, Haiti. UN Photo/Logan Abassi. www.un.org/av/photo/

Let us pray: O God of compassion, help us to recognize that we are our brother's (and sister's) keepers. Like Simon of Cyrene who helped Jesus carry his cross, may we too work to alleviate the suffering of those who are being crushed by the heavy cross of injustice and violence committed against them and their fellow creatures. Amen.

¹⁵ Address to educators in science, art and journalism in the city of Salzburg, June 26, 1988.

¹⁶ Visit to Ouagagougou in Burkina Faso, May, 1980.

¹⁷ Homily at morning prayer, Kevelaer, Germany May 2, 1987.

STATION VI VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

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

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

Scripture:

"I knew of you then only by report, but now I see you with my own eyes. Therefore I yield, repenting in dust and ashes." Job 42:5-6

Reflection:

"Today there is a great need to slow down the sometimes hectic pace of our days. Contact with nature, with its beauty and its peace, gives us new strength and it restores us. Yet, while the eyes take in the wonder of the cosmos, it is also necessary to look into ourselves, into the depths of our heart, into the center of our being where we come face to face with our conscience."¹⁸

"In this past century, man has used earthly materials in not just a few cases in irresponsible ways. It is necessary to learn to look at nature with new eyes."¹⁹

"Before the panorama of meadows, woods, streams and mountain peaks, we discover afresh the desire to thank God for the wonders he has made and we wish to listen in silence to the voice of nature so that we can transform our admiration into prayer."²⁰



Let us pray: O God, we see the face of your Son reflected in all men and women and in the whole universe created through him and for him. And yet our human sin and distorted desires have tarnished that divine image. Give us, we pray, new eyes to lay hold of a deeper vision and see the world as you see it. May our works of charity and justice, contemplation and personal holiness serve to wipe the bloody, wounded face of Christ in our world today so that others may see with their own eyes a glimpse of the glory of God. Amen.

¹⁸ Noontime Angelus in the Italian Apennine Mountains, 1993.

¹⁹ Address to a gathering of young people in Viterbo, Italy, May 27, 1984.

²⁰ Homily in the alpine town of Val Visdende, July 12, 1987.

STATION VII JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME

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

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

Scripture:

“Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field until everything belongs to them and they are the sole inhabitants of the land!” Isaiah 5:8

Reflection:

“God entrusted the earth to human beings ‘to till it and keep it’. When this principle is forgotten and they become tyrants rather than the custodians of nature, sooner or later nature will rebel.”²¹

“There is a temptation of an unbridled exploitation of resources under the urge of unlimited profit seeking, according to the capitalistic mentality typical of modern societies. Thus the environment has often fallen pray to the interests of a few strong industrial groups to the detriment of humanity as a whole, with the ensuing damage to the balance of the ecosystem, the health of the inhabitants and future generations to come.”²²

“We are deeply worried to see that entire people, millions of human beings, have been reduced to destitution and are suffering from hunger and disease because they lack drinking water. In fact, hunger and many diseases are closely linked to drought and water pollution. In places where rain is rare or the sources of water dry up, life becomes more fragile; it fades away to the point of disappearing. We are running the risk of leaving as our heritage to the future generations the tragedy of thirst and deforestation in many part of the world.”²³



Let us pray: Lord, you fall to the ground crushed by the forces of greed, rampant consumerism and politics without soul. Help us to recognize you in those who carry the heavy load of unjust public policies. May we not remain on the sidelines in the struggle for a more just and sustainable future. Amen.

²¹ Homily given in Rome to thousands of farmers, November 12, 2000.

²² An address given at a convention on the environment and health at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, March 24, 1997.

²³ Lenten Message, “Those Who Thirst in the World’s Growing Deserts,” 1993.

STATION VIII

JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

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

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

Scripture:

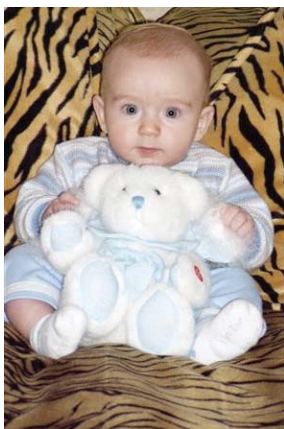
"This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live." Deuteronomy 30:19

Reflection:

"The divine plan must not be upset, risking to provoke catastrophic consequences for today and above all for tomorrow."²⁴

"America faces a time of trial today. Today, the conflict is between a culture that affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life, and a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings – the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped, and others considered "unuseful" – to be outside the boundaries of legal protection. My fervent prayer is that through the grace of God at work in the lives of Americans of every race, ethnic group, economic condition and creed, America will resist the culture of death and choose to stand steadfastly on the side of life. To choose life involves rejecting every form of violence: the violence of poverty and hunger, which oppresses so many human beings; the violence of armed conflicts... and the violence of mindless damage to the natural environment."²⁵

"It is my hope that the inspiration of Saint Francis will help us to keep ever alive a sense of 'fraternity' with all those good and beautiful things which Almighty God has created. And may he remind us of our serious obligation to respect and watch over them with care, in light of the greater and higher fraternity that exists within the human family."²⁶



Let us pray: O God, we may lament when we see Christ suffering in the poor and embracing the pain of all God's creation. Still, like women of Jerusalem, we should perhaps also weep for our own children who will bear the brunt of global environmental destruction. May our tears of repentance purify our vision and empower us to choose life, for our children, grandchildren and all God's creatures. Amen.

²⁴ An address to a gathering of young people in Viterbo, Italy, May 27, 1984.

²⁵ Homily in St. Louis, Missouri, January 27, 1999.

²⁶ Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

STATION IX JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME

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

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

Scripture:

"They say to the seers, 'You are not to see,' and to those who have visions, 'Do not produce true visions for us; give us smooth words and illusory visions. Turn aside, leave the straight path and rid us of the Holy One of Israel.'" Isaiah 30:10-11

Reflection:

"Faced with the grave social problems which, with different characteristics, are present throughout America, Catholics know that they can find in the Church's social doctrine an answer which serves as a starting-point in the search for practical solutions. Spreading this doctrine is an authentic pastoral priority. It is therefore important that in America the agents of evangelization (bishops, priests, teachers, pastoral workers, etc.) make their own this treasure which is the Church's social teaching and, inspired by it, become capable of interpreting the present situation and determine the actions to take."²⁷

"The lack of interest in politics on the part of so many people reveals their sense of helplessness in the struggle for good."²⁸

"The realization that the earth as a gift from God is for all people gives rise to a corresponding duty with regard to others. There can be a grave sin against the natural environment which calls for grave responsibility towards God the Creator."²⁹



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Let us pray: O Lord, you have graced us with your intelligence, wisdom and power. You have called us to exercise leadership for the good of all your creation. And yet, so many times we as the Church and as members of the larger society fall short in responding to that call. Diverting our attention away from the search for truth and justice to lesser things, we let you fall. Forgive us and renew in us a commitment to you the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. Amen.

²⁷ *Ecclesia en America*, January 26, 1999.

²⁸ Homily at World Youth Day, Czestochowa, August 15, 1991.

²⁹ Homily in the city of Zamość, Poland, June 12, 1999.

STATION X JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

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

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

Scripture:

"He was despised and forsaken of men. A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And like one from whom men hide their face. He was despised, and we did not esteem him." Isaiah 53:3

Reflection:

"How much ecological abuse and destruction there is in many parts of America! It is enough to think of the uncontrolled emission of harmful gases or the dramatic phenomenon of forest fires, sometimes deliberately set by people driven by selfish interest. Devastations such as these could lead to the desertification of many parts of America, with the inevitable consequences of hunger and misery. This is an especially urgent problem in the forests of Amazonia, an immense territory extending into different countries: from Brazil to Guyana, Surinam, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. This is one of the world's most precious natural regions because of its bio-diversity, which makes it vital for the environmental balance of the entire planet."³⁰

"Around the world, we see the results of exploitation which destroys much without taking future generations into account. Protecting the world's forests; stemming desertification and erosion; avoiding the spread of toxic substances harmful to man, animals and plants; protecting the atmosphere; all these can be accomplished only through active and wise cooperation, without borders or political power plays."³¹



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Let us pray: O gracious God, all too often human life and the rest of your creation are stripped of the integrity, beauty and dignity with which you have endowed them. This happens right before our eyes, and yet we don't recognize it as part of the modern Calvary. Like the Roman soldiers throwing dice for your seamless garment, we may even be willing accomplices in your passion, seeking a short-term gain from ecological destruction of the very fabric of life on our planet. Touch our hearts so that we recognize the wrong that we are doing and change our ways. Amen.

³⁰ *Ecclesia en America*, January 26, 1999.

³¹ Press conference in Antananarivo, Madagascar, April 1989.

STATION XI JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

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

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

Scripture:

"They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son." Zechariah 12:10

Reflection:

"Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God."³²

"The earth is not a limitless, exploitable reservoir but part of the mystery of creation. To arrive at this attitude, we need a culture of asceticism. It is not too late for a radical conversion to the earth as a living space to be a garden, not a desert."³³

"False models of progress have led to a threat against the earth's ecological balance. Man – made in in the image and likeness of the Creator – is called to be the good shepherd of the environment, not the destroyer of his natural environment that he has become."³⁴

West Virginia mountaintop removal mining



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Let us pray: O God whose forgiveness is boundless, your Son spoke to you of us when he cried out, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." Our dismissiveness of the intrinsic dignity of all human life, our obliviousness to the wonder and sacred destiny of all your creation, our misguided models of progress – these are like nails with which we crucify you today on a cross of small visions. May our tears of repentance reawaken us to your abiding presence in which everything lives, moves and has its being. Amen.

³² Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

³³ Address to educators in science, art and journalism in the city of Salzburg, June 26, 1988.

³⁴ Homily at World Youth Day, Denver, Colorado, August 14, 1993.

STATION XII JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

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

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

Scripture:

"[Christ Jesus,] though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross." Philippians 2:6-8

Reflection:

"The profound sense that the earth is 'suffering' is also shared by those who do not profess our faith in God. Indeed, the increasing devastation of the world of nature is apparent to all. It results from the behavior of people who show a callous disregard for the hidden, yet perceivable requirements of the order and harmony which govern nature itself."³⁵

"Clearly, an adequate solution cannot be found merely in a better management or a more rational use of the earth's resources.... Rather, we must go to the source of the problem and face in its entirety that profound moral crisis of which the destruction of the environment is only one troubling aspect."³⁶

"In our day, there is a growing awareness that the world peace is threatened, not only by the arms race, regional conflicts and continued injustices among peoples and nations, but also by a lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources."³⁷



Let us pray: O God of compassion, you who embrace and keep close to your heart all human suffering and earth's travails, hold us in your mercy. Give us courage to accept our vulnerability and personal crosses. And free us from the fear of changes to which you call us in our personal lives, our society and its institutions. Amen.

³⁵ Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

STATION XIII THE BODY OF JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN

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

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

Scripture:

“For in him (Christ), God in his fullness chose to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things to himself, making peace through the blood of his cross – all things, whether on earth or in heaven.” Colossians 1:19

Reflection:

“Today, some Catholics are tempted to discouragement or disillusionment. They are tempted to cry out to the Lord: why does God not intervene when violence threatens his people; why does God let us see ruin and misery; why does God permit evil? Our trust can falter; we can lose patience with God. In the drama of history, we can find our dependence upon God burdensome rather than liberating. We too can ‘harden our hearts.’ Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: openness to the Lord – a willingness to let him transform our lives – should produce a renewed spiritual and missionary vitality among American Catholics. Jesus Christ is the answer to the question posed by every human life.”³⁸

“The seriousness of the ecological issue lays bare the depth of man’s moral crisis. If an appreciation of the value of the human person and of human life is lacking, we will also lose interest in others and in earth itself. Simplicity, moderation and discipline, as well as a spirit of sacrifice, must become a part of everyday life, lest all suffer the negative consequences of the careless habits of a few.”³⁹



A CRS photo

Let us pray: O God who makes all things new, help us hold on to our faith, hope and love when we feel overwhelmed and discouraged by the daunting challenge of the ecological crisis. Deepen our courage and use us as instruments of the reconciliation and peace that you desire for all your creation. Amen.

³⁸ Homily in Oriole Park at Camden Yard in Baltimore, M.D., October 8, 1995.

³⁹ Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

STATION XIV JESUS' BODY IS BURIED

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

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

Scripture:

"Creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God." Romans 8:18-21

Reflection:

"Faced with the widespread destruction of the environment, people are coming to understand that we cannot continue to use the goods of the earth as we have in the past."⁴⁰

"A radical challenge facing the human family is to use the earth's resources wisely and responsibly which means with respect to the limits to which these resources are necessarily subject. To do this is to respect the will of the Creator."⁴¹

"Filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, may you become builders of a new world: one that is based on truth, justice, solidarity and love. The challenges that we face are enormous. They require courageous hearts capable of radical faith and trust in God (Rom 4.18)."⁴²



Let us pray: O gracious God, for whom nothing is impossible, help your Church to be faithful to you in the midst of adversities. Empower us to be bearers of your dream of justice, peace and harmony for all your creation and prophets of hope in our world today. Amen.

⁴⁰ Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

⁴¹ Homily, Iceland, June 4, 1989.

⁴² World Youth Day, Czestochowa, August 15, 1991.

STATION XV JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN

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

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

Scripture:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

(Revelation 21:1-5)

Reflection:

"If we look around with a contemplative gaze, it is not difficult to discern a ray of the face of Christ in the beauties of creation. I'm glad that I have been able to witness, on various occasions, to the Church's commitment in the context of ecology."⁴³

"A new 'ecological awareness' is beginning to emerge, which, rather than being downplayed, ought to be encouraged to develop into concrete programs and initiatives."⁴⁴

"In this rediscovered harmony with nature and with one another, men and women are once again walking in the garden of creation, seeking to make the goods of the earth available to all and not just to a privileged few, as the biblical justice suggests."⁴⁵

"Catholics and all citizens of the United States, you have such a tradition of spiritual generosity, industry, simplicity and sacrifice that you cannot fail to heed this call today for a new enthusiasm and a fresh determination. It is in this joyful simplicity of a life inspired by the Gospel and the Gospel's spirit of fraternal sharing that you will find the best remedy for sour criticism, paralyzing doubt and the temptation to make money the principal means and indeed the very measure of human advancement."⁴⁶



Let us pray: We praise you and give you thanks, O powerful God, for Jesus Christ is indeed risen. May we fan into flame the gifts we have received, mindful that you gave us no cowardly spirit, but one of power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7) May we as the Body of the Christ take up his mission, healing and sanctifying this world so that "God may be all in all." (1 Corinthians 15:28) Amen.

⁴³ Address to Cardinals and the Roman Curia. A Joint Declaration with Patriarch Bartholomew, December 21, 2002.

⁴⁴ Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

⁴⁵ General Audience Address, January 17, 2001.

⁴⁶ Homily at Yankee Stadium, NYC, October 2, 1979.



These Stations of the Cross were prepared by Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM. The quotations were drawn from the manuscript: ***The Ecological Crisis is a Moral Crisis: Pope John Paul II on Environmental Responsibility.***

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