

**FIRST STATION – JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH**  
**CITY HALL**

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

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

Leader: Every year, for more than twenty years, the House of Mercy, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality and Rochester Pax Christi have gathered to commemorate Good Friday, the day on which Jesus was executed by the Roman Empire. By suffering and dying on the Cross, Jesus exposed the deadly power of the State, a power which is ultimately supported by the State's willingness to kill, particularly through its armies and police. We remember Jesus' suffering and death, but we also call to mind ways in which the Powers and Principalities crucify Jesus today, by oppressing and killing the poor and marginalized in order to maintain and increase governmental and corporate power. Pope Francis sums it up: *"States can kill by their action when they apply the death penalty, when they lead their people to war or when they perform extrajudicial or summary executions. They can also kill by omission, when they do not guarantee their people access to the basic necessities of life."* While we expose and denounce these Powers, we also, as Christians, bear in mind that in three days, we will celebrate Jesus' triumph over the power of death, through His Resurrection. In His Resurrection, He exposes the ultimate futility of the powers of oppression and death.

**LET US PRAY**

People: Jesus, you were condemned to death by the Roman Empire because You condemned the Empire's worship of wealth and violence, because you taught and practiced an economy of generosity, of mutual aid, of love, in opposition to the Empire's economy of greed, competition, and fear. Your Gospel was blasphemy to the Roman Empire, as it is blasphemy to the American Empire even now. Help us to expose the Powers of Empire and Domination today. Help us to show this city that to trust in corporate America for its salvation, to sacrifice everything to "attract business," is a form of idolatry. As Isaiah 58 tells us, the only way to rebuild our city is to feed the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to provide justice to the poor.

Leader: Jesus, Whose Kingdom is Not of This World

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.  
When I was hungry you gave me to eat,  
When I was thirsty you gave me to drink  
Now enter into the home of my Father.

**SECOND STATION – JESUS CARRIES THE CROSS**  
**HOCHSTEIN MUSIC SCHOOL**

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

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

Leader: We stand before ground on which stood the home of Amy and Isaac Post, leaders of the Underground Railroad. In their time, the federal government prosecuted those who sought to free refugees from slavery. In our time, the federal government arrests and deports so-called “illegal immigrants,” who are often refugees from oppression. ICE agents patrol the Rochester bus station looking for undocumented aliens. Thousands of young children have been separated from their parents at the border and detained with no records kept to enable the families to be reunited. Four persons have died in the overcrowded detention centers. We have seen our friends arrested and detained in the Batavia federal detention center. One friend, who survived the threat of deportation eight years ago, has recently received a letter from the Department of Justice informing him “as a courtesy” that he is subject to deportation – to a country in which close family members of his had been murdered. Meanwhile, the President has shut down the government in an attempt to build his idolatrous border wall. Perhaps Mr. Trump won’t be satisfied until he has torn down the **Statue of Liberty** and used its wreckage to build his **Wall of Exclusion**.

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, when the Holy Family, fleeing the wrath of the Roman Empire, went to Egypt, You became an illegal immigrant. When Joseph’s brothers and father went to Egypt in time of famine, they too were illegal immigrants. Teach us that no human being is “illegal.” Teach us that we are all children of God, that nationality is an artificial distinction, created by human beings and meaningless in Your eyes. Pope Francis entitled his 2018 World Day of Peace message Migrants and Refugees: Men and Women in Search of Peace. In it, he said: *“In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.”* We pray that Americans may heed the words of Pope Francis and of our own Statue of Liberty.

Leader: Jesus, “Illegal Immigrant” to Egypt

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**THIRD STATION – JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME**  
**NORTH PLYMOUTH TERRACE LUXURY APARTMENTS**

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

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

Leader: Here stands one of dozens of apartment complexes recently erected in the city, complexes which, even if they are advertised as “affordable” housing, do not welcome our poor. This plot of land was sold by the city to a developer for \$1 to build luxury homes. Our government subsidizes housing for those who can afford it, but regularly ignores those who desperately need housing. Over the past two years, the Rochester Tenant Union has exposed dreadful conditions in city apartments. In one complex, icicles were found on the inside of the windows! The scandalous conditions in the apartments formerly owned by Peter Hungerford continue to make front page news. Meanwhile, evictions continue at an alarming rate. The Cadillac Hotel, once a lodging where homeless persons were placed by DHS, has been closed down, its residents illegally evicted, by an owner who hoped to convert it into more profitable housing catering to the upper classes. We do, however, have some rays of hope, some signs of Resurrection. The Rochester City-wide Tenant Union and the Rochester Homeless Union have campaigned tirelessly to change housing conditions. The New York State Legislature is considering bills to alleviate housing problems and public assistance sanctions.

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, You fall the first time. You have experienced weakness, failure, and suffering. You stand with those who are not successes in the eyes of society. The words of Pope Francis reflect what has too often been the case in housing projects in Rochester: *“Houses and neighborhoods are more often built to isolate and protect than to connect and integrate. The proclamation of the Gospel will be a basis for restoring the dignity of human life in these contexts, for Jesus desires to pour out an abundance of life upon our cities.”* Bless our efforts to make decent, livable, housing a human right rather than a market commodity.

Leader: Jesus, the Fallen One

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Let us build the city of God.  
May our tears be turned into dancing.  
For the Lord, our light and our love,  
Has turned the night into day.

**FOURTH STATION – JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER**  
**ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

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

Leader: There has been much talk in the past few years of the School to Prison Pipeline. The increased use of police stationed in schools, “zero tolerance,” and other policies has led to the arrest of students whose situation should have been handled within the school. How ironic that the RCSD is located a stone’s throw from the jail. Across the country, schools are coming to be viewed as targets of gun violence rather than sanctuaries for education. And yet, even after Columbine, Parkland, Sandy Hook, and so many other tragedies, our nation refuses to take meaningful action to control gun violence. RCSD continues, through the JROTC program at Rochester Early College International High School, to expose students to an organization which Martin Luther King called “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today”. RCSD, despite so many regime changes (seven superintendents in the past 16 years) and outside “experts,” has failed to address its serious educational problems. The graduation rate has now climbed to 53.5%, the highest in a number of years. Yet this means that nearly half of our students don’t graduate. We need to teach our children, not imprison them.

LET US PRAY.

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

Leader: Jesus, Practitioner of Nonviolence

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Peace is flowing like a river,  
Flowing out of you and me,  
Flowing out into the desert,  
Setting all the captives free.

**FIFTH STATION – SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY THE CROSS**  
**CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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

Leader: The Central Church of Christ, under the leadership of Minister Franklin Florence and Minister Clifford Florence, has long been outspoken in the fight against the sin of racism. And so it is fitting that we gather here today to proclaim that racism is one of the ways in which Christ is crucified. Racism is America's Original Sin, reflected in the enslavement of Blacks and the systematic theft of the land from Native Americans. As Michelle Alexander documents in *The New Jim Crow*, America has deployed three systems of racial oppression: Slavery, Jim Crow, and now The War on Drugs. Within two decades after the previous system was dismantled, the new one was put into place. The killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson in 2014 has brought to light a phenomenon that has long gone unrecognized – that American police kill at least ten times as many people as are executed by capital punishment every year, and that they have been doing this for a long time. Under the current administration, racism has become more blatant, as evidenced by the four young Monroe County men who were arrested earlier this year for plotting to bomb the town of Islamberg. As Christians, we must work to eliminate the sin of racism, both in our social structures and in our hearts.

LET US PRAY.

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

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

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring.  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, Let us march on till victory is won.

**SIXTH STATION – VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS**  
**JAIL**

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

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

Leader: Here stands the JAIL – a fortress of oppression and despair for our poor. So many members of the House of Mercy and Saint Joseph’s House communities – both workers and guests – have spent time behind these walls. American jails and prisons are total institutions, which subject inmates to often inhuman conditions. But, only rarely does word of these conditions leak to the public. Some two decades ago, Catholic Worker Kathleen Rumpf lived for a week in a “tiger cage” outside the Public Safety Building in Syracuse to draw attention to the fact that inmates were being subject to the “Jesus Christ” – hung by their wrist from the bars of their cell for hours at a time, with nurses checking to see if the circulation was cut off. In January, 2019, power and heat went out throughout much of the federal Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. As temperatures plummeted to 2 degrees, inmates, most not convicted of any crime and awaiting trial, huddled in their beds, and banged on their windows to draw attention to their plight. Jail officials claimed that the power failure had only “minimally” affected the facility. We wait eagerly to witness the implementation of the federal FIRST STEP Act, signed into law in December, 2018, which enacted numerous prison reforms, including expanding opportunities to shorten sentences for good behavior, and restricting the shackling of pregnant prisoners. We pray that this will be indeed a first step in a many-step process of prison reform.

LET US PRAY.

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

Leader: Jesus, Victim of the Criminal Justice System

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**SEVENTH STATION – JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

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

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

Leader: Jesus, You fall the second time; eventually you will fall three times. Eddie O'Dell, a homeless Rochesterian also fell three times on the way to his death according to the Monroe County Medical Examiner. Rochester police came upon his body in a parking lot in the early morning, saw the blood-stained back of his head, identified him as a homeless man, called the coroner, and left without marking it off as a possible crime scene. The official verdict, arrived at months later, was that Eddie had fallen backwards three times because he was drunk. The first two times he cut his head, picked up his cap, beer can, and tobacco pouch and stumbled on, only to fall, fatally, a third time. Eddie is just one among so many poor and homeless persons who have been ignored, harmed, and even killed by the police. We remember the travesty of a jury which awarded one dollar in punitive damages to Benny Warr, a black man who was waiting at a bus stop and was knocked from his wheelchair by police when he refused to leave the bus stop.

**LET US PRAY**

People: Jesus, You knew what it was to be treated by government agents as a member of a despised class of people. Welcome Eddie into Your Kin-dom, and console and aide his mother Gail as she searches for The Truth. Pope Francis says: "*Jesus wants us to touch human misery, to touch the suffering flesh of others.*" Let us learn to touch human misery and not to turn our backs on it. Let us pray for all the unarmed citizens who have been killed by police, as well as for those police officers who have been killed in the line of duty. Let us pray that Rochester will soon have a civilian-controlled police accountability board. .

Leader: Jesus, Stumbling Toward Your Execution

People: Hear Our Prayer

Sing: Who will speak for the poor and the broken?  
Who will speak for the peoples oppressed?  
Who will speak so their voices will be heard?  
Oh! Who will speak if we don't?

**EIGHTH STATION – JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
HALL OF JUSTICE/GARAGE**

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

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

Leader: In the Fall of 2014, Monroe County, acting through its surrogate, the Civic Center Local Development Corporation, evicted homeless persons from the Civic Center Garage, a heated structure under the Hall of Justice. This garage had been the unofficial shelter of last resort for over thirty years. In protest, the House of Mercy and St. Joseph's House organized a tent city in Washington Square Park. So many homeless people arrived the very first night that there was little room for protestors. Within 48 hours, the mayor ordered Sanctuary Village to move to a location under the Anthony-Douglass Bridge, where the encampment remained through several bitter months, until the mayor ordered that site "cleaned up," and the City Sanitation Department moved in with a front loader and demolished the tents. Sanctuary Village residents were literally stripped of the garments they had left inside the tents. This past year, after Spectrum tried to evict homeless persons from its property, the City negotiated to open an approved camping spot, Peace Village, on Industrial Street. In the past year, two men have died on the streets, one in Washington Square Park, the other in Peace Village.

LET US PRAY.

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

Leader: Jesus, Who Had Nowhere to Lay Your Head

People: Hear Our Prayer

Sing: Who will work for the thousands of homeless?  
Who will work in the ghettos and streets?  
Who will work so their voice will be heard?  
Who will work if we don't?



**NINTH STATION – JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME**  
**BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD WAR MEMORIAL**

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

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

Leader: Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The War Memorial. One and the same building. Health and War. Randolph Bourne once said “War is the Health of the State.” It is during War that the State expands, becomes healthier. But as War thrives, the Health of the People, even the Health of the Soldiers who fight the State’s wars, suffers. All lives, at all stages, have dignity and worth; let us be consistent when we promote life. Affordable housing is healthcare, quality education is healthcare, and safe communities are healthcare.

The Affordable Care Act has been under assault since Donald Trump became President. In 2017, the administration cut the period to sign up for insurance on the federal marketplace from 90 to 45 days and then closed the website every Sunday for twelve hours, citing maintenance. The uninsured rate had dropped to a record low of 10.9% in 2016, but has since risen to 12.3%. Our own war on the poor has taken lives; we know that homeless people die 20 years younger than the national average. Health care remains largely in private, profit-hungry hands. The more the health care and health insurance industries are profit driven, the less health care is available to the poor. Hospitals in the city have closed down or moved to the suburbs, where they are inaccessible to those who need them most. Yet we are still told that the “free market” will solve our health problems. Let us affirm the God of Jesus Christ, not the false god of the “free market.”

LET US PRAY.

People: Jesus, You fall the third time. So many in America fall with no health insurance to help them to rise again. We pray that we will come to see ***Universal Healthcare*** for all care as a right - not as a commodity to be bought and sold - but a RIGHT to which every human being is entitled, regardless of ability to pay. Pope Francis reminds us: “*Health is not a consumer good but a universal right, so access to health services cannot be a privilege*” Let us work and pray so that the Church will resurrect its commitment to hospitals which serve the poor in the city, like St. Mary’s did here in Rochester in the Twentieth Century.

Leader: Jesus, Healer of the Sick

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Your healing’s flowing like a river, Flowing out of you and me,  
Flowing out into the desert, Setting all the captives free.

**TENTH STATION – JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS**  
**COUNTY BUILDING**

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

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

Leader: It is fitting that we celebrate this station here, where so many poor persons are stripped – stripped of their income, stripped of their homes, stripped of their health care. Every year, the county’s brutal use of sanctions in their social programs leaves hundreds homeless for such offenses as missing a meeting or succumbing to the lure of alcohol or drugs. Are these offenses worth risking people’s lives by putting them on the streets? Sanctions effectively create two classes of homeless people – only those who are not sanctioned are eligible for DHS-funded shelters. Sanctioned homeless persons must rely on one of the few non-DHS-funded shelters or live on the streets. The City of Rochester has the third highest child poverty rate in the nation for a city of its size. Despite this horrific reality, Monroe County has dropped nearly 6,000 children from public assistance since 2014, a decrease of 32%. County leaders who deprive poor children of the means of subsistence would do well to listen to the prayer of an unwed mother – Mary, the Mother of God:

**LET US PRAY THE MAGNIFICAT.**

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

Leader: Jesus, Friend and Companion of the Poor

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women. And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

**ELEVENTH STATION – JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**  
**REYNOLDS ARCADE**

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

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

Leader: We stand before the Reynolds Arcade, site of the first tailor shop in Rochester. The garment industry in this city was an early site of oppression for women, who worked for long hours under harsh conditions. Emma Goldman was radicalized while working in a Rochester sweatshop. On Feb. 5, 1913, Ida Braiman, a 17 year old immigrant, was shot and killed by the owner of a tailor shop during a strike. The owner, Valentine Sauter, was not indicted. Today, women continue to suffer wage discrimination and sexual harassment on the job. Two of the nine Justices on the US Supreme Court were appointed despite credible public charges of sexual harassment, even attempted rape. America continues to be a “culture of rape,” where the ever present threat of rape functions to restrict women’s freedom. Oppression continues as women have been objectified and portrayed as being unfit, emotional, and unable to hold public office which inhibits women from having a voice in our government. While we applauded an influx of women to public office last year, that increase still represents less than 25% of elected positions.

LET US PRAY.

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

Leader: Jesus, Who Welcomes Women into Your Community

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Who will speak for the children of violence?  
Who will speak for the women abused?  
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?  
Oh! Who will speak if we don’t?

Who will speak if we don’t?  
Who will speak if we don’t?  
Who will speak so our voices will be heard?  
Who will speak if we don’t?

**TWELFTH STATION – JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**  
**M&T BANK**

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

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

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

LET US PRAY.

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

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

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Were you there when they cast lots for his clothes?  
Were you there when they cast lots for his clothes?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they cast lots for his clothes?

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

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

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

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

LET US PRAY.

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

Leader: Jesus, Through Whom All Things Were Created

People: Hear Our Prayer.

Sing: Who will care for the plants and the creatures?  
Who will care for the land and the sea?  
Who will care so their voice will be heard?  
Oh! Who will care if we don’t?

**FOURTEENTH STATION – JESUS IS BURIED**  
**FEDERAL BUILDING**

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

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

Leader: On April 4, 2018, the fiftieth anniversary of the murder of Dr. King, seven Catholics, including Martha Hennessy, the granddaughter of Dorothy Day, were arrested for a nonviolent action at the Kings' Bay Trident Submarine base in Georgia. Liz McAllister, 79, and Father Steve Kelly, 69, remain in jail over one year later, still awaiting trial. One Trident Submarine equipped with Trident II missiles can destroy around two hundred cities. The US Navy has fourteen such submarines. We pray for an end to such demonic weapons, and we pray in thanksgiving for the faithful witness of Liz McAllister, Martha Hennessy, Clare Grady, Steve Kelly, Marc Colville, Carmen Trotta, and Patrick O'Neill. In 2013, Pope Francis said: *"The Holy See shares the thoughts and sentiments of most men and women of good will who aspire to a total elimination of nuclear weapons."*

Locally, Hancock Airbase near Syracuse continues to host the 174<sup>th</sup> Attack Wing, which pilots armed Reaper drones in the Middle East. Recently, Hancock announced that it was adding four drones to its fleet. As of 2016, the US was bombing SEVEN countries: Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Libya, and this has not changed. In addition, the US has continued to support and supply the barbaric Saudi Arabian bombing campaign in Yemen, which has created what the UN has called the greatest humanitarian crisis in the world today.

LET US PRAY.

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

Leader: Jesus, Prince of Peace

People: Hear Our Prayer

Sing:

I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield,  
Down by the riverside  
Down by the riverside  
Down by the riverside

I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield  
Down by the riverside  
I ain't gonna study war no more

## SIGNS OF RESURRECTION

**LEADER:** The situation of our country, of our city, of our planet, is dire. Christ is crucified today in so many ways that we have only scratched the surface. And yet, in the past few years there have been signs of hope, signs of resurrection, as new movements for social change add their voices to the older movements which have struggled for justice for years, or decades, or even centuries. We lift up in prayer the Rochester City-Wide Tenant Union, the Community Land Trust, and the Rochester Homeless Union, as well as the anti-violence movement started by the Stoneman Douglass High School students in the wake of the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida. We also lift up the “Me Too” Movement, which may finally be making inroads into the problems of sexual harassment and sexual abuse. We welcome them into the community of those working for peace and justice. And this community includes those who have passed into eternal life.

## LITANY OF OUR SAINTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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