

The *Via Lucis* was born in the summer of 1988 within the Salesian Family Group the “Testimoni del Risorto” (the “Witnesses of the Risen Lord”). It was the first formulation and realization of a celebration centered on the Resurrection. The formula was and is that of an itinerant devotion to participate in the life and the joy of the Risen Lord.

In 1989, the *Via Lucis* was presented to Don Bosco’s 7th successor, Don Egidio Viganò, SDB, who became involved and named a theological commission to study diversified criteria and formularies. In the 1990s, Fr. Sabino Palumbieri, a Salesian priest in Rome, helped develop the idea to combine the events inscribed on the wall of the Catacombs of St. Callixtus with other post-Resurrection events to create this new set of stations, the Stations of the Resurrection. Some were created for parish communities, others for committed groups and for the youth and consecrated people. Also, there exists a text for children for whom there is a dramatized version with music by Anna Benassi of the Rai television and the maestro Di Maio. The publication of the *Via lucis* for the suffering has also been prepared.



These stations emphasize the positive, hopeful aspect of the Christian story that, though not absent from the *Via Crucis*, is not as evident because of its tortuous side. This devotion has received formal recognition by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

The *Via Lucis*, born in a simple way in and for the Movement, which was searching for a prayer to express their particular charism, was spread quickly thanks to the work and grace of the Holy Spirit, so that in April 1990, the first *Via Lucis* was solemnly celebrated by Don Bosco’s successor, Don Egidio Viganò, in Rome, at the Catacombs of St. Callixtus, for the General Chapter of the Salesians. It was significant that it was celebrated for the first time there where the martyrs, perennial witnesses of an unfaltering faith in the Risen Lord, are laid to rest.

Following this, then Rector Major Viganò shared it with John Paul II. Some Bishops immediately introduced into their dioceses the *Via Lucis* as a milestone along the *sequela Christi* and as a testament to the joy of Christian life, after the painful experience of the *Via Crucis*. The local groups of the *Testimoni del Risorto* are all active promoters and animators of the various celebrations of the *Via Lucis*. In September 1992, and in various years afterwards, the *Via Lucis* was celebrated in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre under the rock of Calvary in the chapel of Saint Elena, during the pilgrimage of the *Testimoni* in the Holy Land, aimed at thanking the Risen Lord for this gem given to them for the entire Church.



Resurrexit sicut dixit  
Alleluia!



## *The Via Lucis (the Way of the Light)*

The *Via Lucis* celebrates the most joyful time in the Christian liturgical year, the 50 days from Easter to Pentecost. It is a devotion created intentionally to mirror and complement the *Via Crucis*, which follows the course of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Burial. The idea for depicting the *Via Lucis* was inspired by an ancient inscription found on a wall of the Catacombs of St. Callixtus, a cemetery on the Via Appia in Rome, named for Callixtus, a slave who eventually became the 16th pope (217-222). That inscription comes from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (c. 56 A.D.), as a response to a report that some members were denying the Resurrection.

*For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. (15:3-8)*

The images of the Stations of the *Via Lucis* used in this booklet were sculpted in wood by Giovanni Dragoni. They were blessed on Easter Sunday 1994, in the church in his honor on the hill of Becchi, Castelnuovo Don Bosco, the birthplace of Saint John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Order.

For centuries the *Via Crucis* involved the faithful in the first moment of the Easter event, namely Christ's Passion and Death, and helped to fix in their minds its most important aspects. Analogously, the *Via Lucis*, when celebrated in fidelity to the Gospel text, can effectively convey a living understanding to the faithful of the second moment of the Paschal event, namely the Lord's Resurrection.

The *Via Lucis* is the culmination of the *Via Crucis*. It is a continuation of the spiritual path of the Apostles and the first disciples who passed from utter disillusionment at Christ's passion and death to the breath-taking amazement of meeting the Risen Savior, from the experience of suffering, which in God's plan is part of life, to the hope of arriving at man's true end: liberation, joy, and peace. It is an excellent pedagogical tool of instruction in our Faith.

It seeks to restore a "culture of life" which is open to the hope and certitude offered by faith, in a society often characterized by a "culture of death", despair, and nihilism. It is a quintessentially Easter prayer. Finally, as the Way of the Cross proceeds in the company of Mary, full of sorrow because of her Suffering Son, so along the Way of the Light, Mary continues to accompany us, as our Mother who rejoices in the resurrection of her Son.

## *Praying the Via Lucis*

### *Renewal of the Baptismal Promises (Presider)*

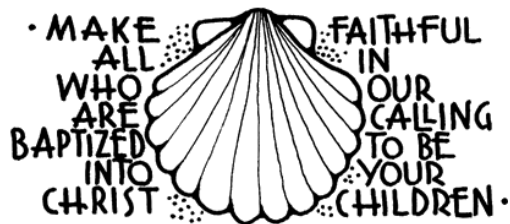
- ◆ Do you renounce Satan, and all his works and empty promises? **I do.**
- ◆ Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**
- ◆ Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**
- ◆ Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation is given to you in a special way just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost? **I do.**
- ◆ Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **I do.**

**This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### *Closing prayer*

**P:** God, all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and forgiven all our sins. May You also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Take the light of the Risen Christ to the brothers and sisters you meet.*



The devotion employs the familiar pattern of the *Via Crucis*: 14 stations, with corresponding New Testament passages from the empty tomb to the day of Pentecost, with contemporary commentary and reflections.

The parts are shared by 4 Readers; the presider (P), assembly (A), and two lectors (L1 & L2). Those parts that are for the Assembly are in **bold font**.

As in the communal praying of the *Via Crucis*:

*The Presider opens the prayer with The Sign of the Cross and introduction, below. At each Station, he/she announces the number and title, followed by:*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ, and we bless You.

*The Assembly responds with:*

**A: Because by Your Resurrection, You have given new life to the world.**

The conclusion of each Station also follows the pattern of the *Via Crucis*, with the recitation of common Christian prayers (the Our Father and the Glory Be) and the chanting or recitation of the Marian refrain for the Easter Season:

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia! Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***

### *Introduction*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**P:** Life is an unending journey. We do not travel this road alone. The Risen Christ has promised us: "I am with you always, to the end of time." (Mt. 28:20) Life must be a process of continuous resurrection. We are called to realize that our life is an Easter journey with the Risen Jesus who guides our footsteps. Once a scribe said to him: "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." (Mt 8:19) Everywhere: to Calvary and along the Way of the Light. Let us rediscover the resurrection as the source of our peace, as the source of our joy, as a new insight into history. We will hear it as it is proclaimed in the Biblical texts.

Father, send forth Your Holy Spirit of light upon us that we may enter into the Easter Mystery of Your only-begotten Son - the Mystery that marks the true destiny of Man. This isn't the end of everything, but the renewal of everything. Father, the last word belongs to You who lead us, your daughters and sons, from death into life. Give us the Spirit of the Risen Christ and make us able to love as You love. In this way, we will become witnesses of His Resurrection. **Amen.**



### *Station I*

#### *Jesus Rises from the Dead*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (Matthew 28:1-7)*

**L1:** 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.”

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting? The risen Jesus, victorious over death, has triumphed over every earthly power. He is a light unto our path. In him, there is no darkness.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** Lord Jesus, Risen One, you are the radiant sun that never sets. In the storms of life, may our hopes turn to you, the dawning day that dispels every darkness. Grant us living hope that in your light, we will overcome every battle against evil, temptation and even death itself. Help us to think as you think, to love as you love, to serve as you serve, and in this way to bear witness to your Resurrection. **Amen.**

Our Father... Glory be... *Marian Verse:*

*“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”*



### *Station XIV*

#### *The Risen Lord Sends the Promised Holy Spirit*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (Acts 2:1-6)*

**L1:** When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** The apostles were touched by the fire of God’s love. Everyone who saw them was amazed, because they had been transformed and manifested extraordinary abilities. The apostles were full of God; the Spirit had taken possession of them!

#### *Prayer*

**P:** O Spirit of the living God, gift of the Risen Lord, illuminate our hearts and minds. May our daily lives be a continuous Pentecost as we receive the gifts you bestow upon us and share them in loving service of others. In every encounter, may our brothers and sisters see not just us, but the spirit of Jesus shining through us, even as we reverence his presence in them. Make us credible witnesses of Easter hope and joy. **Amen.**

Our Father... Glory be... *Marian Verse:*

*“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”*



### *Station XIII*

#### *Awaiting the Holy Spirit in Union with Mary*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (Acts 1:12-14)*

**L1:** 12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of[a] James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** Jesus tells us, "It is to your advantage that I should leave, because only when I return to my Father will I send you the Teacher who will instruct you, strengthen you and enlighten you in the Truth". Mary, at the foot of the Cross, became the mother of John and mother of the Church, the mother of the redeemed because she is the mother of the Redeemer. She kept the disciples close to her maternal heart and united to Jesus, so that they could receive the Spirit of her Son.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** O Wisdom that guides the world, teach us to recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit and to respond to his promptings, that our lives may redound to the greater glory of the Father. Grant us patience, perseverance, courage and humility as you purify us of all foolishness and set our hearts on the things of heaven. Fill us, that we may desire nothing more than to align our wills to the will of the Father, and so, as stewards and witnesses of the Easter promise, build up of the Body of Christ on earth. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***"Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!"***



### *Station II*

#### *The Disciples Find the Tomb Empty*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (John 20:1-9)*

**L1:** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** The empty tomb is the womb of our faith. The Risen Jesus transforms emptiness into fullness, darkness into light, the silence of God into Beautiful News! Mary Magdalene and the disciples are stopped in their tracks as they behold the empty tomb, speechless and confused: their world is about to be shaken by the mysterious truth that is beyond human understanding.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** Eternal Fullness that transforms all emptiness, flood into our minds and hearts, that we may believe the truth proclaimed by the empty tomb. Help us to distinguish what is permanent from what is temporary, and to understand the difference between them. May we choose wisely how to live as disciples renewed by Jesus' Passover. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***"Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!"***



### *Station III*

#### *The Risen Lord Appears to Mary Magdalene*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ, and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection, You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (John 20:11-18)*

**L1:** 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look[a] into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” 16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew,[b] “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** The silence of the tomb is broken by a resounding voice: "Mary". He whom she believed to be the gardener was in fact her beloved Teacher, risen from the dead! But Mary could not recognize him yet. Her stumbling faith had yet to blossom into bold conviction: Jesus is truly risen and he reveals his love to those who hope in him, bringing to fulfillment the reality which even now we possess in faith.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** Jesus our Teacher, may our preoccupations and disappointments never blind us to your presence among us. May we always live in awe of your goodness and majesty, our source of strength in times of trial. Open our eyes to recognize you in every moment of our lives, offering us courage and confidence. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia! Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***



### *Station XII*

#### *The Risen Lord Ascends to Heaven*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ, and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection, You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (Acts 1:6-11)*

**L1:** 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** The apostles gazed up towards heaven, from where Jesus, the Light of the world, had come and to where he ascended. Christ returned to the Father not to distance himself from us – who had abandoned him while he gave his life for us - but to precede us to that house of many rooms where he is preparing a place for us even as he guides our earthly journey and draws us to himself.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** O Divine Light, your return to your Father opens the way to our eternal dwelling place with you. Let your light illuminate our journey, that we may walk and never grow weary, run the good race and never lose our way. Give us confidence to proclaim with every step that we are your Paschal people forever. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia! Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***



### *Station XI*

#### *The Risen Lord Mandates the Universal Mission*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (Matthew 28:16-20)*

**L1:** The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached them and said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** The Church does not have a mission; the Mission has a church: "Go and proclaim the Good News, be my witnesses to the ends of the earth". This is the bold mission that Jesus entrusted to his apostles while they were still trying to make sense of his resurrection. They set out with an uncertain step, but returned invigorated by the Light of the Risen Christ! Today, Jesus sends us to follow in their footsteps by proclaiming him with boldness.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** Risen Jesus, make us ready and willing to bring the light of the Gospel even to the ends of the earth. Grant us spiritual boldness for the mission and confidence that you will provide what we need to accomplish what you ask of us. May our example identify us as an Easter people, following you, the Lord of history. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***"Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!"***



### *Station IV*

#### *The Risen Lord on the Road to Emmaus*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (Luke 24:13-19, 25-27)*

**L1:** 13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. [b] 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people... 25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

#### *Reflection*

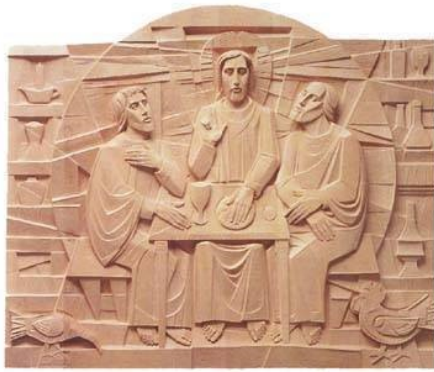
**L2:** The disciples were broken-hearted. Their spirits were shattered. Discouraged and afraid, they returned home, dazed by the recent events. They tried to resume their daily routine as if nothing had happened. But indeed, something had happened. Everything had changed. The Risen Jesus walked among them with deep compassion.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** Lord of the living, when our hopes are dashed and our dreams fail, let us never forget that you walk with us on our pilgrim way. Stay with us Lord, when doubt and anxiety choke our spirit. As our good shepherd, rescue us from our fears and frustrations. Allow us to walk in faith and acknowledge you by our side, guiding us with new strength to persevere daily in Easter joy. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***"Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!"***



### *Station V*

#### *They Recognize Him In the Breaking of the Bread*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (Luke 24:28-35)*

**L1:** 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us[a] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

#### *Reflection*

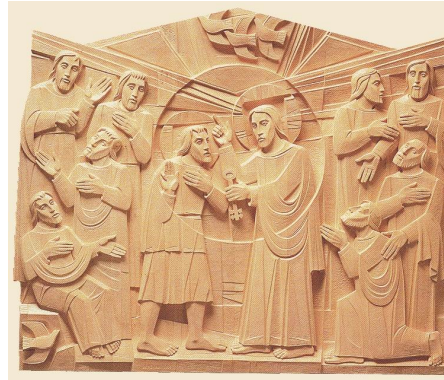
**L2:** “Stay with us!” They invited their travel companion without knowing who he was or what would happen. Their invitation became an opportunity – an opportunity of their own making - to receive an unexpected blessing. The breaking of bread revealed the stranger as their teacher and friend, who would never leave them abandoned.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** O Lord, your words penetrate our hearts and burn within us. They prepare us to receive your life-giving Bread. Your love inspires our faith: you are with us until the end of days, in your church, in your sacraments, in our brothers and sisters, in our friends and neighbors, especially those who are in need. With your seal on our hearts and your words on our lips, we share you with others as an “Easter people”. Make us spirit-filled heralds of your resurrection. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***



### *Station X*

#### *The Risen Lord Bestows the Primacy on Peter*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (John 21:15-17)*

**L1:** 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 A: second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.

#### *Reflection*

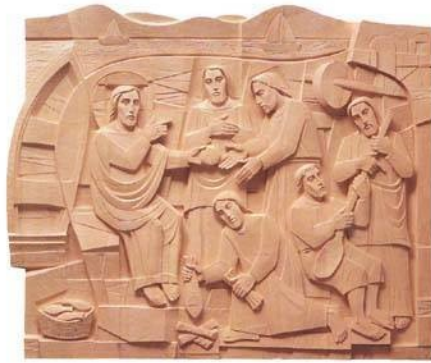
**L2:** Jesus asked Peter not one, not twice, but three times, “Do you love me?” It was not so much the question, but the triple repetition that grieved Peter so much. Dismayed, humbled and hopeful, he replied: “Lord, you know how much I love you.” In response, Jesus made him the principal shepherd of his flock.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** O Jesus, you are the sacrificial lamb who became our Good Shepherd. Fill us with love for our Pope, the Successor of Peter, to whom you have entrusted your flock. May he teach and lead your disciples in the ways of faith and holiness. May he strengthen them as one people born of your Passover and united by the bonds of charity. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***



### *Station IX*

#### *The Risen Lord at Lake Tiberias*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (John 21:1-13)*

**L1:** After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. 2 Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin,[a] Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” 6 He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish.

7 That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards[b] off. 9 When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

#### *Reflection*

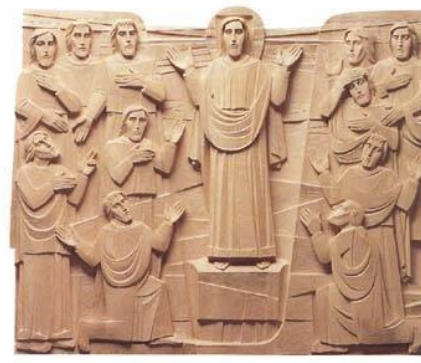
**L2:** Confused, frightened and seemingly defeated, the disciples returned to their former lives, having no idea what the next day would bring, presuming it would continue as it was before encountering Jesus. But Jesus awaits them on the beach of their lives. He invites them to put out into the deep and to throw out their fishing nets one more time in obedience to his word. At Jesus’ word, everything old is made new. They begin to see what is invisible to human eyes, and to understand in the light of faith!

#### *Prayer*

**P:** O Lord, your light illuminates our understanding of reality and challenges us to see beyond external things. Remind us that wherever we go, you are already there, waiting for us. May we, like you, trust that our projects will come to fulfillment only through obedience to the Father’s will, a lesson you taught with your life, your death and your resurrection. Help us to follow your example and become true followers of you, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***



### *Station VI*

#### *The Risen Lord Appears to His Disciples*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ,  
and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection,  
You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (Luke 24:36-43)*

**L1:** 36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”[a] 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.[b] 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** Afraid and confused, the disciples hid themselves behind the false security of stone walls and locked doors. They felt vulnerable, convinced that all their dreams had died with Jesus on Calvary. But no walls can block Jesus from fulfilling his mission. Jesus is there, a friend and brother, a risen Savior, standing in their midst. His word and his presence announce peace, regenerate life and communicate love.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** O Lord, Son of the living God, inspire our confidence that everything we are going through is known to you, our Master. Remind us that the Father has a loving plan for each of us, and that all things work for good for those who trust in you. May we find in your word the light to see beyond every obstacle. Free us from every false image we have of You so that nothing will separate us from your Easter grace. You are the risen Lord. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia!  
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***



### *Station VII*

#### *The Risen Lord Confers the Power to Forgive Sins*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ, and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection, You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (John 20:19-23)*

**L1:** 19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** The Son of Man came as our brother for a singular purpose: to reconcile all peoples with the Father and to one another. With his death, Jesus reconciled humanity with the Father; in his resurrection, he extended this gift to all ages through the ministry of reconciliation he entrusted to the apostles and their successors.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** Risen Jesus, forgiveness of the Father, reveal to us God’s merciful love that heals and restores us day by day, no matter how often we fall. May we never lose heart when we falter, but grow more resolved to open our lives fully to the Father’s steadfast love. May we experience the sacrament of reconciliation frequently and sincerely, as a powerful means of transforming our lives into a song of Easter joy. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia! Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***



### *Station VIII*

#### *The Risen Lord Strengthens Thomas’ Faith*

**P:** We adore You, O Risen Christ, and we bless You.

**A:** *Because by Your Resurrection, You have given new life to the world.*

#### *Scripture (John 20:24-29)*

**L1:** 24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin[a]), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

26 **A:** week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

#### *Reflection*

**L2:** Thomas is burdened by doubts and confusion. His spirit is restless. He demands proof that Jesus is truly risen, seeking for himself the same certainty that already fills the hearts of the other apostles. Finally, his moment for a personal encounter with the Master has come. He sees resurrection light, and is able to profess his faith in Jesus: “My Lord and my God”. Thomas’ testimony reminds us that each of us bears personal responsibility for deepening our faith; it is a responsibility and privilege not to be neglected. The Spirit assists those who sincerely commit themselves to this pursuit. Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe.

#### *Prayer*

**P:** O Lord, resurrected Truth, illumine our minds, that we may humbly accept God’s awesome designs even when we struggle to believe. Help us to trust your guiding light, especially in the nuanced and perplexing situations of our lives. Grant that we may never doubt your abiding love and constant accompaniment. Empower us to strengthen each other’s faith as “Easter people”. **Amen.**

**Our Father... Glory be... Marian Verse:**

***“Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia! Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia! Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia!”***