

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



MEDIA CONTACT
RYAN LILYENGREN
714-282-3075
RYANL@RCBO.ORG

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LATINO AND VIETNAMESE COMMUNITIES UNITE IN THE SPIRIT OF GOOD FRIDAY TO PROMOTE IMMIGRATION REFORM

They will celebrate the traditional Stations of the Cross that depicts the Passion and death of Christ

ORANGE, Calif., (April 11, 2006) – Several hundred Vietnamese, Latino and other Catholics are expected to attend the Good Friday Stations of the Cross ceremony at St. Callistus Church, Garden Grove, April 14 at 3:00 p.m. The Most Rev. Dominic Luong, auxiliary bishop of Orange, and The Most Rev. Jaime Soto, auxiliary bishop of Orange, will both preside over this ceremony that seeks to highlight the plight of immigrants and refugees. “Bishop Soto and I are both committed to promoting equitable immigration reform that focuses on humane and respectful treatment of those seeking to make the United States their home. We hope to promote unity of mind and solidarity of heart within our immigrant communities through the celebration of the Passion and death of Jesus, our Lord and Savior,” said Bishop Luong.

The Stations of the Cross is a popular Catholic devotion that depicts the final hours of Jesus, which commemorates His Passion and death. The Stations of the Cross began many centuries ago when devout pilgrims began to follow the route of Christ's way to Calvary. This devotion spread throughout Europe and was promulgated by the Franciscan friars in the 14th and 15th centuries. Today, the Stations of the Cross is also a gesture of Christian solidarity by which Christians, meditating on the Passion and death of Christ, come to recognize His presence in those among us who suffer.

In the 1500's, villages all over Europe started creating replicas of the way of the cross, with small shrines commemorating the places along the route in Jerusalem. Eventually, these shrines became a set of the now-familiar 14 stations and were placed in nearly every Catholic Church in the world. Each of the 14 stations depicts an event which occurred during Jesus' Passion and death at Calvary on Good Friday. At each station, one is to stop, pray and meditate on the Passion.

The 14 stations include:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus receives the cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. He meets his Blessed Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene is made to bear the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls the second time
8. Jesus speaks to the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross (crucifixion)
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

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THE MARYWOOD CENTER
2811 E. VILLA REAL DRIVE
P. O. BOX 14195
ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92863-1595
PHONE: (714) 282-3000
FAX: (714) 282-3029