

# The Way of the Cross

with Mother Frances Streitel



**Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother**  
*Third Order Regular of Saint Francis of Assisi*



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**The Way of the Cross**  
**with Mother Frances Streitl**

**FOUNDRESS OF THE CONGREGATION**  
**of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother**



Rome 2025

The Stations of the Cross reproduced here are the work of the Tyrolean artist Ferdinand Stuffer, from St. Hlrik (Ortisei), who had served as a papal supplier since 1875.

The fourteen bas-relief wooden sculptures were installed in the Chapel of the General House (Rome) of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother on March 15, 1925, when the construction of the Congregation's new headquarters was completed.

SISTERS OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER  
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# INTRODUCTION

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***Sr. Samuela Maria Rigon***  
**General Superior**

The Way of the Cross was established to retrace the Passion of Jesus and the last events of His earthly life. This gesture celebrates Emmanuel, God with us. In His love for us He chose to partake in the ordinariness of our lives and experience hardship, suffering, and fragility. God is with us in the storms of life and history.

The Way of the Cross speaks to us of the courage of compassion as seen in the gesture of Veronica, Simon of Cyrene, and the tenderness of Mary. The Way of the Cross invites us to stand in solidarity with those who suffer pain today and introduces us to hope in all its manifestations. Human pain remains a mystery to us, but with God, suffering does not have the last word.

The last word is the resurrection: *“My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete”* (Jn 15:11). This is what Ven. Mother Frances also felt and experienced: *“The cross is truly a precious jewel, the key to the holiest Heart of Jesus in which are locked all the treasures and riches of the Eternal Father”* (Letter to her sister, 24:1).



“We, too, desire to embrace the  
Cross with LOVE and JOY”

*Mother Frances Streitl*



# INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

We journey along the *Via Dolorosa* of the Lord Jesus with Mary, Mother of Sorrows, meditating on the mysteries of salvation through Scripture and the *writings* of the Venerable Servant of God Frances Streitel of the Cross.

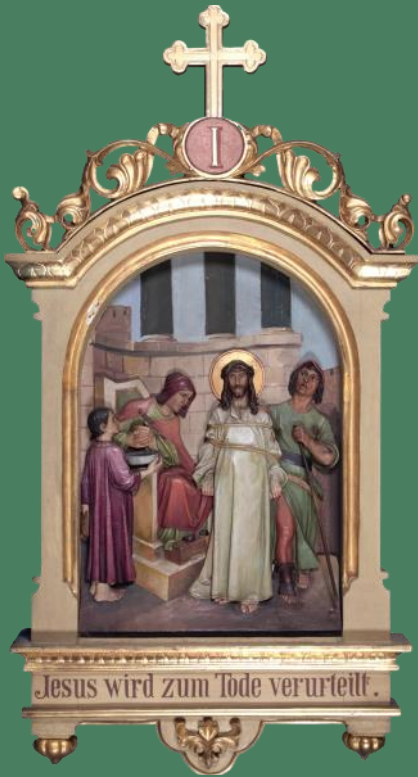
“Walk unflinching on the path that leads to Calvary,” Mother Frances writes, also inviting us to see beyond: “The morning of the resurrection will dawn for you; it will also dawn for me, and then we will rejoice over the suffering we have borne.” (Letter to Fr. Joseph Joch, May 9, 1894)

*Let us pray*

**Tear away, O Lord,  
the ardent and sweet power of Your love  
my mind from all things  
that are under heaven,  
so that I may die for Your love’s sake,  
just as You deigned to die  
for my love’s sake.**

*Absorbeat*

**FIRST STATION**  
Jesus is condemned  
to death



*Stabat Mater dolorosa  
iuxta crucem lacrimosa,  
dum pendebat Filius.*

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

**From the Gospel  
according to Matthew**

(27:1-2)

“When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*What a flood of pain and suffering,  
of harshness and humiliation followed  
me. No thought was given to my  
defense. I was condemned without  
being heard. Of merciful charity there  
was no thought.*

(Letter to Pankratus von Dinkel, September 5,  
1881)

*Reflect in silence*

**Let us pray for those  
in the world who suffer  
discrimination and unjust conviction.**

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

**From the Gospel  
according to John**

(19:17-18)

“And carrying the cross himself,  
he went out to what is called  
the Place of the Skull,  
in Hebrew, Golgotha.  
There they crucified him.”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*We ... desire ...to embrace  
the Cross with love and joy  
and to seek all our delight  
in being deemed worthy  
to suffer for so good a God.*  
(Letter to Fr. Jordan, February, 1883)

*Reflect in silence*

**Let us pray for those families  
challenged by poverty  
and illness.**

## SECOND STATION

Jesus carries  
his Cross



**Cuius animam gementem,  
contristatam et dolentem  
pertransivit gladius.**

**THIRD STATION**  
Jesus falls  
the first time



*O quam tristis et afflicta  
fuit illa benedicta  
Mater Unigeniti!*

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

**From the Book  
of the Prophet Isaiah**

(53:4-5)

“Yet it was our infirmities  
that he bore,  
our sufferings that he endured,  
While we thought of him as stricken,  
as one smitten by God and afflicted  
But he was pierced for our offenses,  
crushed for our sins, upon him  
was the chastisement that makes us  
whole, by his stripes we were healed.”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*How I thank God for the humiliations,  
for all the sufferings which I have  
endured.*

(Letter to Mother Salesia Ellersdorfer,  
May 28, 1879)

*Reflect in silence*

*Let us pray for the young people  
who have fallen into the trap  
of addictions.*

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

**From the Gospel  
according to Luke**

(2:33-35)

“The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*The Lord drew my heart to a life of renunciation of a higher order, for He taught me not to desire divine consolation even if the heart were almost bursting with sorrow and pain.*

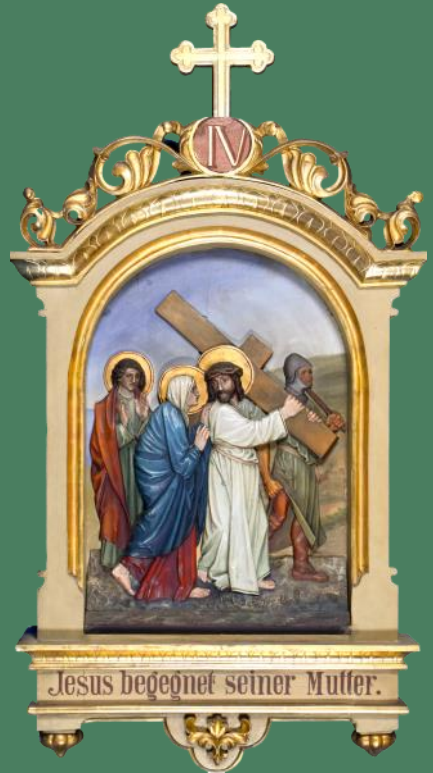
(Letter to Fr. Jordan, March 25, 1883 )

*Reflect in silence*

**Let us pray for all mothers  
who suffer and strive  
for their children.**

## FOURTH STATION

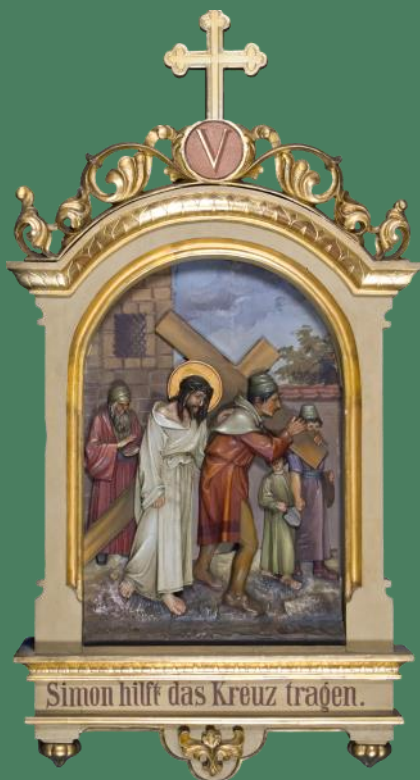
Jesus meets  
his Mother



*Quae maerébat et dolébat,  
Pia Mater dum videbat  
nati poenas íncliti.*

## FIFTH STATION

Jesus is helped  
by Simon of Cyrene



**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

### **From the Gospel according to Luke**

(23:26)

“As they led him away they took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country; and after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it behind Jesus.”

### **From the Writings of Mother Frances Streitel**

*The Lord demands much  
from those whom He has chosen  
as His special instruments.*

(Letter to Fr. Jordan, December, 1883)

### **Reflect in silence**

***Let us pray for pastoral workers  
who generously participate in the  
struggles and sufferings of others.***

***Quis est homo, qui non fletet,  
Matrem Christi si vidéret  
in tanto supplicio?***

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

**From the Book of Psalms**

(27:8-9)

“‘Come,’ says my heart,  
‘seek his face’;  
your face, Lord, do I seek!  
Do not hide your face from me;  
do not repel your servant in anger.  
You are my salvation;  
do not cast me off;  
do not forsake me,  
God my savior!”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*Let us always seek the countenance  
of the Lord and this sweet Face  
will turn to us in mercy.*

*May He be our help,  
[our] light in the darkness of storms.*

(Letter to her sister, July 11, 1898)

**Reflect in silence**

**Let us pray for consecrated persons  
who are going through difficult times  
in their lives.**

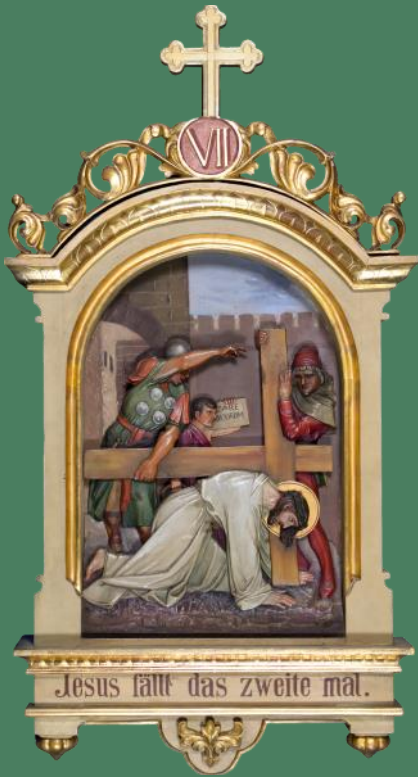
**SIXTH STATION**

**Veronica wipes  
the face of Jesus**



**Quis non posset contristári,  
Christi Matrem contemplári  
doléntem cum Filio?**

**SEVENTH STATION**  
**Jesus falls**  
**for the second time**



*Pro peccātis suae gentis  
vidit Jesum in torméntis  
et flagéllis sùbditum.*

**V. *Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.***

**R. *Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.***

**From the Book  
of the Prophet Isaiah**

(53:2-3)

“There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*When pain and sorrow plague you,  
look confidently  
at the “Man of Sorrows”.  
Unite your sufferings with His  
and you will have comfort  
and relief.*

(Letter to her parents, February 5, 1869)

*Reflect in silence*

***Let us pray for the victims of human  
trafficking, exposed to abuse,  
exploitation and violence.***

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

**From the Gospel according to Luke**

(23:27-28)

“A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children.’”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*In the wound of the Heart of our Redeemer, we will stand firm in faith, in hope and in love. And may His Heart give us especially the grace of constant sorrow for our sins.*

(Letter to Fr. Jordan, November 20, 1883)

*Reflect in silence*

**Let us pray for those who are tempted to withdraw into selfishness that leads to the loneliness of sin.**

**EIGHTH STATION**

**Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem**



**Vidit suum dulcem natum  
moriendo desolatum,  
dum emisit spiritum.**

**NINTH STATION**  
**Jesus falls**  
**for the third time**



*Eia, mater, fons amóris,  
me sentire vim dolóris  
fac, ut tecum lúgeam.*

**V. *Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.***

**R. *Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.***

**From the Gospel  
according to Luke**

(22:28-30)

“It is you who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*Persevere in prayer and suffering.  
Persevere in the love of Jesus and  
Mary, and for all eternity you will enjoy  
the fruits of your life of sacrifice  
in jubilation and delight.  
Let us remain very faithful to the  
tabernacle and, embracing the  
Crucified Savior and Mary our only  
Mother, nothing can then separate us  
from the love of God.*  
(Letter to her sister, May 30, 1898)

*Reflect in silence*

***Let us pray for the elderly  
and those who live  
in loneliness and abandonment.***

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

**From the Gospel  
according to John**

(19:23-24)

“When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, ‘Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be.’”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

When I see how God annihilates Himself, oh, then my soul can hardly do otherwise than strive toward self-annihilation.

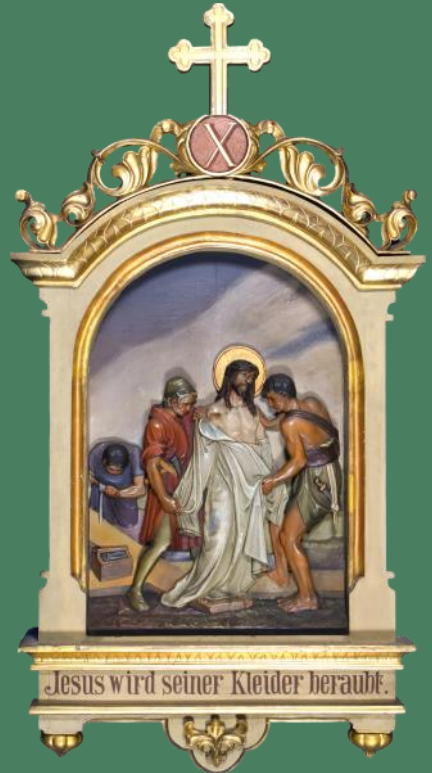
(Letter to Fr. Jordan, March 4, 1883)

**Reflect in silence**

**Let us pray for those rulers  
who oppress their people  
depriving them of rights and dignity.**

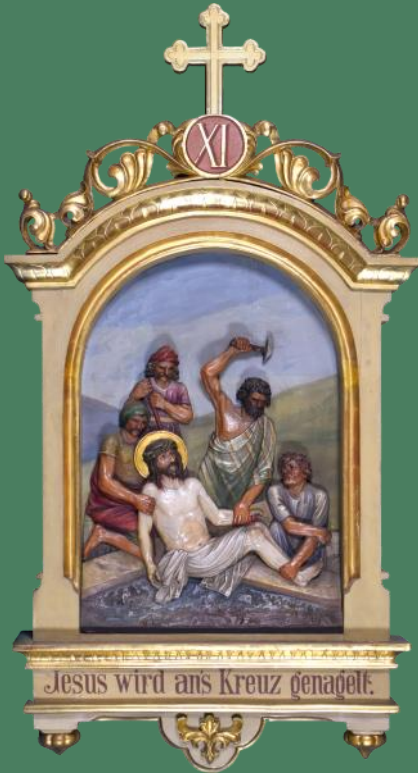
**TENTH STATION**

**Jesus is stripped  
of his garments**



**Fac, ut árdeat cor meum  
in amándo Christum Deum,  
ut sibi compláceam.**

**ELEVENTH STATION**  
**Jesus is nailed**  
**to the Cross**



***Sancta Mater, istud agas,  
crucifíxi fige plagas  
cordi meo válide.***

**V. *Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.***

**R. *Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.***

**From the Gospel according to Mark**  
(15:25-28)

“It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, ‘The King of the Jews.’ With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left.”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*The book from which I draw my spiritual exercises is the Cross. With, through, and in the same I shall learn what is so necessary for my dying to self. He should let me die to all that is not of God and to live, suffer, and operate only in Him, the Source of all good.*

(Letter to Msgr. A. De Waal, March 30, 1885)

***Reflect in silence***

***Let us pray for all the crucified  
of our time,  
especially for migrants.***

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

### **From the Gospel according to John**

(19:25-27.30)

“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ ... When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.”

### **From the Writings of Mother Frances Streitel**

*Let us look at the Mother of the Seven Dolors. She stood under the Cross. She stood upright. That which should have crushed her held her upright – the wounds and the blood of Jesus. There for the first time we see the truth fulfilled that we are healed and strengthened in the wounds of the Redeemer”.*

(Letter to Fr. Jordan, March 28, 1883)

### **Reflect in silence**

**Let us pray for those  
who are guilty  
of crimes against life.**

## TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies  
on the Cross



*Tui Nati vulneráti,  
tam dignáti pro me pati,  
poenas mecum dívide.*

## THIRTEENTH STATION

Jesus is taken down  
from the Cross



*Fac me tecum pie flere,  
Crucifixo condolere  
donec ego vixero.*

**V. *Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.***

**R. *Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.***

**From the Gospel according to John  
(12:24-25 and 27)**

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*In whatever way the Lord will let Himself be glorified, we His creatures must give ourselves entirely to Him, saying: “Lord, Thy will be done in us. May it be evident in us at all times.”*

(Letter to Fr. Jordan, December 7, 1883)

***Reflect in silence***

***Let us pray for all humanity  
who bravely dream of a future  
of hope, peace and reconciliation.***

**V. Adoramus te, Christe,  
et benedicimus tibi.**

**R. Quia per sanctam crucem tuam  
redemisti mundum.**

**From the Gospel according to Luke**

(23:54-56)

“It was the day of preparation, and the sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come from Galilee with him followed behind, and when they had seen the tomb and the way in which his body was laid in it, they returned and prepared spices and perfumed oils. Then they rested on the sabbath according to the commandment.”

**From the Writings  
of Mother Frances Streitel**

*Walk unflinching on the path  
that leads to Calvary; the morning of  
the resurrection will dawn for you;  
it will also dawn for me,  
and then we will rejoice  
over the suffering we have borne.*

(Letter to Fr. Joseph Joch, May 9, 1894)

*Reflect in silence*

**Let us pray for the doubtful  
and unbelieving who do not live  
in hope of the resurrection.**

**FOURTEENTH  
STATION**

**Jesus is placed  
in the tomb**



*luxta crucem tecum stare,  
Et me tibi sociare  
in planctu desidero.*

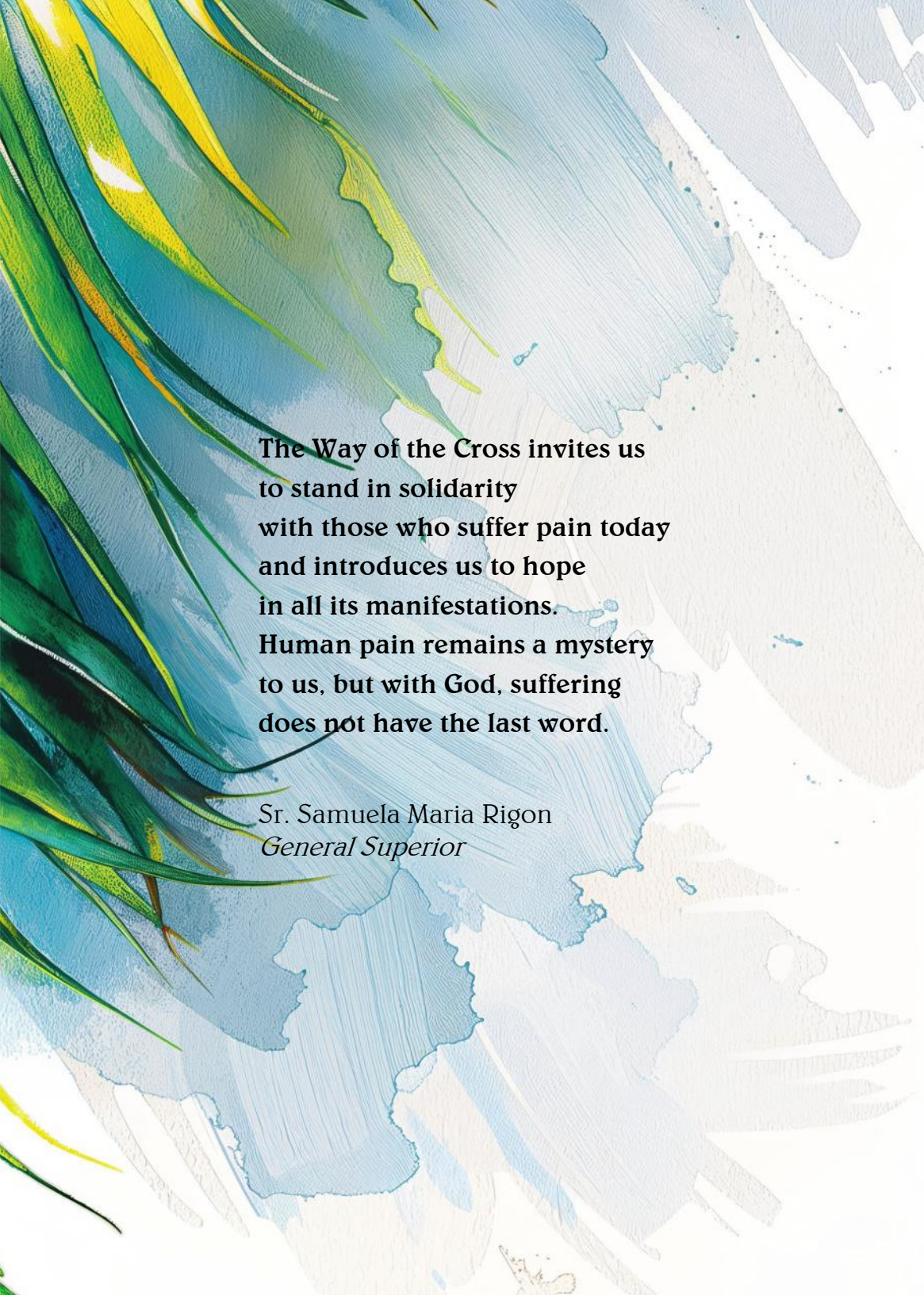
## CLOSING PRAYER

*Pater noster, qui es in cælis:  
sanctificetur nomen tuum:  
adveniat regnum tuum:  
fiat voluntas tua,  
sicut in cælo, et in terra.  
Panem nostrum cotidianum  
da nobis hodie,  
et dimitte nobis debita nostra,  
sicut et nos dimittimus  
debitoribus nostris;  
et ne nos inducas in tentationem;  
sed libera nos a malo. Amen.*

**“May the Lord be with you always  
and, wherever you are,  
may you be with Him always.  
Amen.”**

*Saint Clare of Assisi*



An abstract painting featuring vibrant green and yellow brushstrokes on the left side, transitioning into soft, layered blue and light purple washes on the right. The overall composition is dynamic and textured, with visible brushwork and a sense of movement.

**The Way of the Cross invites us  
to stand in solidarity  
with those who suffer pain today  
and introduces us to hope  
in all its manifestations.  
Human pain remains a mystery  
to us, but with God, suffering  
does not have the last word.**

**Sr. Samuela Maria Rigon**  
*General Superior*