



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

St. John/Isidore

“If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the cross. Great patience occurs in two ways: either when one patiently suffers much, or when one suffers things which one is able to avoid and yet does not avoid. Christ endured much on the cross, and did so patiently, because when he suffered, he did not threaten; he was led like a sheep to the slaughter and he did not open his mouth.” (St. Thomas Aquinas)

MARY’S MODEL OF CHRISTIAN FAITHFULNESS



In the traditional Stations of the Cross, Mary appears in the fourth, twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth stations, where she demonstrates her faithful discipleship and motherhood to her son, who chose an excruciating, but profound means to deliver humanity. Consider Mary in the following scenarios: she is a sorrowful mother who decides to meet with her agonizing son, stands under the foot of her son's murder weapon, the Cross, then takes his disfigured body into her lap for a while, and finally places him in the tomb.

In all of Mary's life and experiences with Jesus, particularly during the Stations of the Cross, she comes out as a faithful model of Christian discipleship and a mother. Honestly, when Jesus uttered the words, "Behold your son," "behold your mother," Mary became a teacher of patience and caring to all disciples of her son.

Life can be hard sometimes even for the innocent. We all know pain and sorrow directly or indirectly. But as Mary showed us during the Stations of the Cross, being there for someone now of pain and difficulty is a Christian calling. It is common knowledge for humanity to question God, hoping to receive answers for why difficult and challenging phenomena occur to us. Most of us ask the hard question, "why?" I learned from a friend quite recently that someone asked God the why question about some misfortune that happened to a close friend. The answer God gave to the person was quite unusual and unexpected. God said, "I was about to ask you the same question: why did the misfortune happen to your friend?" I believe what God wanted to communicate to the person is that somebody could have helped the friend, but no one did. We often expect answers from God, if not to blame him for what we fail to do for one another.

For the most part, there is always something somebody can do about another person's situation. But we don't. We wait till it's too late. We fail to do it, and when the misfortune occurs, we question God. Mary's actions during the Stations of the Cross show her faithfulness to her son and an example for us. May Mary intercede for us to learn from her profound example.

