

Stations of the Cross

High School Lenten Celebration

Original: “The Stations of the Cross” by Jeff Krantz

Found at www.preachingpeace.org

Adapted from the original, with permission, by Barb Fabijan-Waddell.

About this Adaptation

I am thankful to the good people responsible for www.preachingpeace.org, especially Jeff Krantz. It is their generous spirit that has allowed me to adapt Jeff's powerful setting of "The Stations of the Cross" for use in a high school gymnasium with approximately 800 students (grades 10 to 12) and 100 members of staff. Our celebration was held during the Lenten season.

When I came across Jeff's work, I was immediately attracted to its strong message regarding our complicity in violence. This is a timely message in the 21st century, a time when violence in thought, word and action is pervasive and, unfortunately, normalized.

It is my observation that all of us, but in particular our young people, are bombarded and influenced by ideas and images found in media, games, computer sites, social settings, and so on. Our young people need tools for self-reflection that will allow them to acknowledge the violence around and in them. They need the encouragement and support to make non-violent decisions and act in non-violent ways. They need mentors to guide them to peace. And they are searching for all of these.

Those of us who work in high schools are ideally poised to respond to some of these needs in our young people. In my own professional setting, I saw our upcoming Stations of the Cross Celebration as a wonderful opportunity to provide reflective tools, encouragement and mentoring in some small way so as to augment the already phenomenal work being done to nurture and support a positive, caring and faith-filled school culture.

I wanted to keep the structure and much of the language Jeff used in my own adaptation of his work. At the same time, I wanted to adjust some of the language and examples to make them more accessible and relevant to a teen audience, many of whom have little or no interaction with faith communities outside of the Catholic school setting. I have done the script in a word document, formatting it for easy copying, reading and editing.

I have worked with the high school music department and changed Jeff's music selections to make use of the repertoire and talent of our choir. I encourage you to do the same.

The staging directions are fairly simple but extremely effective in setting the tone for the celebration. I have included them, but feel free to adapt them and make use of your local talent pool. For example, the Stations of the Cross could be done simply as a reader's theatre (as written in this adaptation) or the use of dramatic tableau could augment the script.

Finally, this adaptation is designed to involve students as much as possible in the planning, preparation and presentation of the Stations of the Cross, from designing the PowerPoint to narrating the prayers. The students I work with concurred that their peers were much more receptive and attentive to the message when they heard it from other students.

I am honoured by the request to include my adaptation of the Stations of the Cross on www.preachingpeace.org. I encourage you to begin by familiarizing yourself with Jeff Krantz' work should you decide to use my adaptation.

I wish you many blessings as you pray through both scripts and work to build peace in our world.

Barb Fabijan-Waddell

Stations of the Cross

Music:	Provided by choir or music ministry at the school
S #:	Student readers, one for each station (15 readers in total)
Narrator:	student narrator
Leader:	student leader
Chaplain:	school chaplain, visiting pastor, administrator or teacher
Gong:	music student
PowerPoint:	design students

Staging Notes:

A large wooden cross is placed in the center of the gym or at a visual focal point. Boxes draped in purple are placed at the base of the cross. The gym lighting is low. If spotlights are available, focus them on the cross. Two podiums and microphones can be placed on either side of the cross with plenty of space between them so the cross is not crowded. The leader and narrator speak from one podium, while the student reader for each station speaks at the other podium. This reduces the traffic and people juggling at each podium.

Large votive candles are placed on the covered boxes below the cross after each station (thirteen purple, red for Jesus' death in the 12th station, white for Jesus' resurrection in the 15th station). The placement of the purple candles is done so they are spaced somewhat evenly around the cross, but at varying heights. The red candle is on a raised box immediately below the cross, and the white candle is placed at the highest point just above the red candle. This provides a simple but striking visual reminder of the journey the community has taken together.

If spotlights are available, they can be focused on the cross. The rest of the gym is in low lighting.

The PowerPoint images of the Stations of the Cross are used for the celebration. Using images familiar to the school community works well (e.g. photos of stations from a school chapel or neighbourhood church). Other images of real people reflecting the theme of that station can also be used – these would be the second image for each station referred to in the script. Congregation responses and music selections could also be included in the PowerPoint. Developing the PowerPoint is an opportunity for great creativity. As much as possible, have students develop the PowerPoint.

A dramatic tableau can be used for each station as well if the drama department is able to accommodate such an addition. The opening comments by the chaplain should be changed to reflect the addition of a dramatic element.

The gong used to signify the beginning of a new station is the big one used in bands and orchestras. It can be sounded once, or can be used to count out the number of the station. Either is very effective.

Order of Service

(First PowerPoint image projected: Title and credits)

Chaplain: Welcome to our celebration of the Stations of the Cross. This devotional prayer has its roots in the experiences of the earliest pilgrims to Jerusalem, who would walk the “Via Dolorosa” (Latin for “Way of Grief” or “Way of Suffering”). During the Middle Ages, it became impossible for pilgrims to make the journey to Jerusalem, and a “spiritual” Way of the Cross became increasingly popular.

The Stations were followed in different forms at different times, but by the 18th century, the fourteen stations we know today became the standard. The fifteenth station, “Jesus rises from the dead” is a fairly recent addition. You can see the fifteen stations depicted in our chapel, and you will see photos of them today on the PowerPoint accompanying our celebration.

Our celebration has been adapted, with permission, from a setting of the Stations of the Cross written by Jeff Krantz. This original setting can be found on the website “www.preachingpeace.org”.

Our celebration takes the form of a reader’s theatre. We will not be dramatizing the Stations, but the script, images, responses, and music will lead us into prayer and reflection on how we follow Jesus.

You are encouraged to listen reverently, participate in the responses, and pray.

(Second PowerPoint image projected: Title and Cover image)

Leader: In our profession of faith during a Eucharistic Celebration, we recite the creed. Part of the creed, referring to Jesus, goes as follows: “He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.”

This is a central tenet of our Christian faith, yet many of us recite these lines fairly blandly without much thought.

Praying the Stations of the Cross is a way of slowing down those lines from our creed, and journeying with Jesus during his last hours of human life and through to the amazing Easter morning of his resurrection.

Our celebration today is a way of reacquainting ourselves with the incredible mystery of God’s transforming love and mercy in our lives.

Our celebration today is also a challenge. We will be taken right into the minds and hearts of the many people who watched Jesus being condemned, watched Jesus carry the cross, watched Jesus die, and did nothing to stop the violence.

We will be asked to reflect on our own lives. We will be challenged to question our own thoughts, words and actions. And we will pray for help to be people of peace.

Let us begin, then, by allowing our choir to lead us into our celebration of the Stations of the Cross.

Choir: “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”
From Thy Will Be Done: A Holy Week Cantata by Lani Smith
Narration by the Rev. William H. Privette, Lorenz Publishing Co.
(1993)

Gong: One

Leader: Jesus is condemned to die.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the first station)

Narrator: Pilate found no fault with Jesus, but when the crowd grew loud, he grew silent. "I wash my hands. You deal with it." Pilate had the knowledge and the power to stand and say "No!" to the world as it sought to crush the Lord of Life, but he chose not to act on his knowledge nor use his power.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 1: How many times do I have the power and the knowledge to say "No!" yet stay silent? When I see an injustice, hear an insult, witness bullying, do I think, "It's not my problem!" and walk away? How many times do I participate, by my silence, in the Passion of Jesus? Who will be hurt because I do not say "No!"?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 1: Dear Jesus, you hear my silence and you still love me. Because you say "No!" to evil and violence in the world, the world says "No!" to you. Give me the courage to stand and say "No!" with you. Help me to take up my cross and follow you.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Two

Leader: Jesus takes up his cross.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the second station)

Narrator: This cross has now been thousands of years in the making. Its weight still grows greater each time I look for someone to blame for the pain in my world. Each time I insist that sin must be punished, I add an ounce to the burden Jesus carries for me. This is the cross Jesus carries; it is the cross of blame, of vengeance.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 2: When have I said, “Well, he certainly deserved that!” or “She had that coming to her!”? When have I failed to forgive as I have been forgiven? When have I laid more weight on Jesus’ cross?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 2: Dear Jesus, each step you take today is made harder by my hardness of heart. You carry this weight so that no one else ever will, not even me. Please give me the desire and the strength to forgive, to lighten your cross.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Three

Leader: Jesus falls the first time.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the third station)

Narrator: Jesus, they watched you fall, and nervously laughed together. The laughter transformed them from individuals to a collective, and gave them a sense of belonging. Their laughter reduced you to a joke, to something less than a man. They became a mob, and relinquished their individual sense of right and wrong.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 3: How many times, Lord, have I sacrificed my values as I joined the crowd to take satisfaction and pleasure in the fall of another? How many acts of unkindness or violence have been supported by my laughter?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 3: Dear Jesus, laying there on the ground you feel my laughter, our laughter, as a slap in the face. In your innocence, you cause me to question my desire to laugh at anyone else. Give me the courage to stop laughing at the pain of others, to see the human person beneath the joke we have made of them.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Four

Leader: Jesus meets his mother.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the fourth station)

Narrator: Jesus, they wanted to make you an object of laughter to isolate you completely, but your mother's loving presence got in the way. She withstood the blows of taunt and sorrow to be present for you along the way. She alone remained to give you courage, to remind us that you are someone's child, just like we are.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 4: How many times, Lord, have I watched another suffer, but from a safe distance? How many times have you looked out at me through the eyes of another for comfort, but were unable to find it?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 4: Dear Jesus, your mother stood with you to give you strength, and hold up your humanity in the face of my indifference. Help me to see the humanity of those whom the world wants to erase, and give me courage to stand with them, to strengthen them, and to claim them as brother or sister.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Five

Leader: Simon helps Jesus carry the Cross.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the fifth station)

Narrator: They needed you to die, Jesus, but their rage had gone too far. You were beaten so severely, not able to go on, so they looked for a solution that wouldn't involve them too closely or have them touch the cross themselves. The answer – find a stranger who had no idea who you were to carry the cross. Simon knew nothing of your innocence.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 5: How many times have I called on others to do my violence for me? To deliver a hateful note, to spread rumours, to damage property, to cause pain? When have I ignored those around me who are taunted, downtrodden, in need?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 5: Dear Jesus, Simon knew nothing of the reason for your execution, but in experiencing your courage and love, he became your friend, and a witness for us. Help me to see my own reluctance to act for what it is – a sign that something very wrong is happening. Give me the courage to step forward and say “Enough!”

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Six

Leader: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the sixth station)

Narrator: Jesus, you had been beaten so badly that you were “marred beyond human semblance.” As you walked along, you were almost unrecognizable. It was so much easier to hate you, to jeer you, to wish you dead when they couldn’t see your face. Veronica did not permit that luxury. She stepped forward and wiped away the blood and sweat, revealing your human face to all the onlookers.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 6: How many times have I missed your humanity, Jesus? How many times has it been easier to deal with your suffering because your face is marred beyond recognition? Do I have it in me to see your face clearly when I look into the eyes of another person?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 6: Dear Jesus, your suffering is the suffering of one who is truly human, and it is suffering I often try to avoid seeing. I want to make your suffering something divine, or something less than human. I don’t want to connect too closely to you. Help me to see what Veronica reveals. Help me to see clearly the suffering around me, and to see clearly your humanity there.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Seven

Leader: Jesus falls the second time.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the seventh station)

Narrator: The first time you fell, Jesus, the onlookers laughed. Your fall made their hatred well up even more powerfully. Even though Simon was forced to help you, you fell again and showed weakness, so the mob screamed all the louder, “Get up! Get up!” desperate to find an outlet for their rage. They recognized that life was not the way they wanted it to be and someone had to be blamed, and so they taunted you. “Get up, Jesus! Hurry up!”

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 7: How many times have I added my voice to the mob? How many times have I kicked someone when he or she is down? How many times have I picked on someone in order to fit in with the crowd? It’s not just easier to attack someone who is weakened; I sometimes sense that it is necessary in order to prove that they are different, disappointing, and worthy of my disdain and even hatred.

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 7: Jesus, what wondrous love you have shown me. You fell to earth so that I might rise. You endured hatred so that I might be freed of it. Open my eyes to recognize when I need to find someone to blame and even hate when things are not going the way I want. Help me remember that you were willing to be hated, for my sake!

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Eight

Leader: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the eighth station)

Narrator: Jesus, you told them, “Weep not for me, but for yourselves and for your children.” The women of Jerusalem, standing at a distance, wanted to weep for you as though your fate were unrelated to theirs, as though the violence you suffered did not affect them as well. You turned their sympathy back on to them; to remind them that your fate was their fate, too.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 8: How many times have I contemplated your Passion, Lord, feeling sad, even to the point of tears? How many times have I wanted to weep because of your pain, without recognizing that humanity caused it? How often, Lord, have I blinded myself to my complicity in violence, and kept my distance, by feeling sorry for the victims without actually doing anything for them?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 8: Dear Jesus, I don't just want to feel sorry for victims of violence, I want to acknowledge my part in their suffering. I know that you love me too much to leave me wallowing in pity. Open my eyes to the ways I benefit from the suffering of others so that I might weep for myself, my family, and those who will come after me, and ultimately work to eliminate violence from my life.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Nine

Leader: Jesus falls the third time.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the ninth station)

Narrator: Jesus, you did all you could do. You were utterly beaten, defeated, with not an ounce of strength left, so the remainder of what was to happen was left to the mob. They were not finished watching, taunting, hating. Like the potter's clay, they fashioned you into what they needed you to be.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 9: How many times have I seen another's weakness as an opportunity to shape them, to change them into what I need them to be? How many times do I blame the weak or downtrodden for their condition, to justify my distain? I find it easy to say, "He's homeless because he's lazy." "She has no friends because she's quiet." How many times do I nail Jesus to the cross?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 9: Dear Jesus, I continue to assign blame and guilt in order to justify continued persecution. When I do that to another person, I do that to you! Jesus, teach me the real meaning of mercy. Deliver me from the need for a guilty victim, lest I make one.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Ten

Leader: Jesus is stripped before the crowd.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the tenth station)

Narrator: Physical humiliation wasn't enough. Spitting wasn't enough. Whipping wasn't enough. Crucifixion wasn't enough. The mob needed to shame Jesus, to strip away from him any shred of human dignity. They were blind to the dignity in which his heavenly Father, our heavenly Father clothed Jesus. Unable to see his deeper dignity, they took sadistic pleasure in the shame they poured out on him.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 10: How many times have I branded someone negatively? Nerd, lazy, drunk, homeless, weakling? How many times have I labeled my brother or sister, using shame, so as to set them apart and reduce them to nothing?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 10: Dear Jesus, as you stood there, stripped before the crowd, you were even more dignified than anyone present. Help me to see the dignity that you have, that every child of God, every person has; a dignity that nobody, including me, can ever take away.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Eleven

Leader: Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the eleventh station)

Narrator: Hanging on the cross was not cruel enough, Jesus. Watching you suffocate would not satisfy the rage of the mob. So instead of using the traditional ropes, they needed to use nails to cut through your human flesh, to help the rage bleed away.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 11: How many times have I allowed my anger to turn, unchecked, into rage? How many times have I allowed my rage to drive me to cruelty? Cruel acts? Cruel speech? How many times has another person borne the scars of my rage?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 11: Dear Jesus, I cannot, by my own strength, free myself from the pain of frustration that sometimes becomes fury. But I know that you are able to. Free me. Help me choose not to act out of anger and rage, lest someone else be made to suffer because of my pain.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Twelve

Leader: Jesus dies on the Cross.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the twelfth station)

Narrator: The mob stood in stunned silence as they surveyed the result of their sin. The Lord of Life, Jesus, hung dead on the cross. The peace they pursued as they chased him up the hill refused to come. As they gazed upon Jesus, their victim, the realization dawned – violence would never bring peace. They were terrified and alone even as they stood with one another.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 12: I am horrified. The foundation beneath my feet seems to crumble as I contemplate a world without violence. How can I talk to others without blame, without gossip, without slander, without insult? How can I laugh without putting down? How can I build without destroying? How can I use without abusing? What will be my foundation for relationships with others and with the world?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 12: Dear Jesus, keep my eyes fastened on you, remembering your lifeless figure on the cross. Not only today, but every day, remind me of the cost of my old ways of relating to others. Invite me into silence so that you might speak love in me and through me.

*(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one **red** candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)*

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Thirteen

Leader: Jesus is taken down from the Cross.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the thirteenth station)

Narrator: Once the spectacle ended, the mob felt compelled to leave. There had been something both horrible and fascinating about Jesus as he hung there, and it was frightening to them. The task of dealing with his lifeless body, of touching Jesus, was left to those who were already unclean, so the mob had all departed by the time the guards permitted those who loved Jesus to bring him down from the cross.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 13: How often, Lord, have I fled my own horror? How often have I left the wounded in body or spirit in the care of others? How often have I walked away from those in pain because of my own fear? How often have I hidden from my own fear of pain, of dying, of death, afraid of what I might discover about others or myself?

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 13: Dear Jesus, your mother and your friends cared for your dead body, unafraid to touch you because of their love for you. Help me to see that my own fear of closeness is misguided. Cleanse me by opening me up to being loving and caring in all my relationships.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Fourteen

Leader: Jesus is laid in the tomb.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the fourteenth station)

Narrator: Those who did not abandon Jesus, those who refused to join the mob, laid his body to rest with great tenderness into the empty tomb donated by a rich man. At that moment, they saw nothing divine in the torn flesh, nothing holy in the bloodied brow. They knew only sorrow, deeper than the greatest trenches of the oceans. Deep sorrow.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 14: Jesus, I know you will breathe life again into my deadened spirit, but at this moment I am deeply saddened. I have a sense of hopelessness about my own complicity in the violence against others that is pervasive in the world; the same violence that led to your death. It is as if I am in the tomb with you.

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 14: Dear Jesus, I have seen myself as I truly am, reflected in the eyes of those I laugh at, abuse, hurt. Their eyes, I now know, are your eyes. I wait now, for your redemption. I am hungry now for a life that doesn't need the blood of victims to sustain itself. Keep this hunger alive in me. Help me never again to be satisfied with the status quo.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one purple candle and places it at the foot of the cross. Note at this point there are thirteen purple candles and one red candle at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Gong: Fifteen

Leader: Jesus is raised from the dead.

All: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

(PowerPoint image changes to the fifteenth station)

Narrator: The guards and the disciples of Jesus stood aghast as the women ran behind the stone into the tomb, seeing the linens that once shrouded him in death folded neatly in the corner. Jesus was gone. The women ran out screaming in delight and terror, recognizing that the life Jesus had promised them had now dawned.

(PowerPoint changes to the second image for this station.)

S 15: Jesus, I am beginning to understand what it means to be a resurrection people. Like the first women to the tomb, like your original disciples, I am overjoyed and terrified. Overjoyed because I, one of your 21st century disciples, know that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Terrified because I know I have been violent in thought, word or deed with others and therefore with you. By declaring my discipleship, the world may do the same to me as it did to you.

Silence *(10 seconds)*

S 15: Dear Jesus, today I begin anew my journey toward eternal life, to that time and space where I will meet you face to face. Open my eyes to see your face now in the faces of all those I meet. Open my heart to allow your love to flow through me into the world in all of my thoughts, words and deeds. Give me the strength to live my life in peace, speaking your Truth every step of the Way.

(The choir sings while the student speaker takes one white candle and places it at the foot of the cross. Now there is one red candle, thirteen purple candles and one white candle at the foot of the cross.)

Choir: “Thy Will be Done”
From Thy Will Be Done: A Holy Week Cantata by Lani Smith,
narration by the Rev. William H. Privette, Lorenz Publishing Co.
(1993)

(While the choir sings, the PowerPoint changes to the final image(s), a collage of positive student activities. For example: volunteer work including such activities as ministry in nursing homes, food banks, or homeless shelters; peer tutoring; cheering on the sports teams; club days; motivational speakers; classes doing group work; neighbourhood cleanup; liturgical celebrations; school plays; music concerts; and so on.)

Chaplain: Thank you for your reverence during our Stations of the Cross celebration.

Today, we have been through much more than a simple recounting of Jesus’ condemnation, crucifixion, death and resurrection. We have been invited to journey together. We have entered into the minds and hearts of those who watched Jesus on the road to Calvary. We have made connections with how we live our lives. We have been challenged to eliminate violence from our thoughts, words and actions.

Every time we see the face of Christ in those we meet, every time we think, speak and act lovingly, every time we seek mercy and forgiveness, every time we pray, we have removed ourselves from the violent mob and declared our discipleship. We have said “Yes” to God’s invitation to be creative partners in the unfolding of salvation history.

We are able to do this because Jesus has redeemed us. I pray that each of us is granted the strength, courage and faith to continue following Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In so doing, we will build a world of justice and peace.

Finally, I invite each of you to continue celebrating the mystery of our redemption and the hope of eternal life, by taking part in the Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter celebrations in your own parishes.