

stations of the CROSS

Volume 2:
I am the
TRUTH

By Brother Peter Huynh, LC

In collaboration with 14 seminarians and 14 KIDS

volume 2:

i am
the

TRUTH



a simple reflection to parents and teachers...

BY BROTHER PETER HUYNH, LC

When you browse through these pages, what do you make of these drawings? At first glance, these seem like a mess of clashing colors, thick rough lines, shocking shapes, disturbing disproportions and debris of crayons scattered randomly over the page.

Some of these make you either giggle, skew your eyebrows, or squeal: "Awww! That's adorable!" That's the way adults see things. Of course at-first-glance.

However, children see things a bit differently. Children see the same things adults do, but how they express what they perceive is totally unique. Their minds are like clean sponges. They soak up the colors, images, concepts, and feelings which they see. Their senses take in every new impulse, and their curiosity grows. Children's emotions are honest and sincere. They have no need to cover them with complicated prejudice or jealousy. When a little girl sees Christ carrying the cross, she simply perceives "a good man is getting hurt for something he didn't do. And that's not fair!"

A child may not know how to get a man on the moon, program in JavaScript, open a bank account, or make dinner without using the microwave. However, that same child can express in an illustration his deep feelings of what Christ endured on his way to Calvary. What you see is their unadulterated view of what Christ did for them. The boyish, melancholic grey and brown speak of a fight between love and hate. A girl chooses bright blue, cheerful canary, and floral fuchsia which convey the kindness and love with which Jesus embraces the cross.

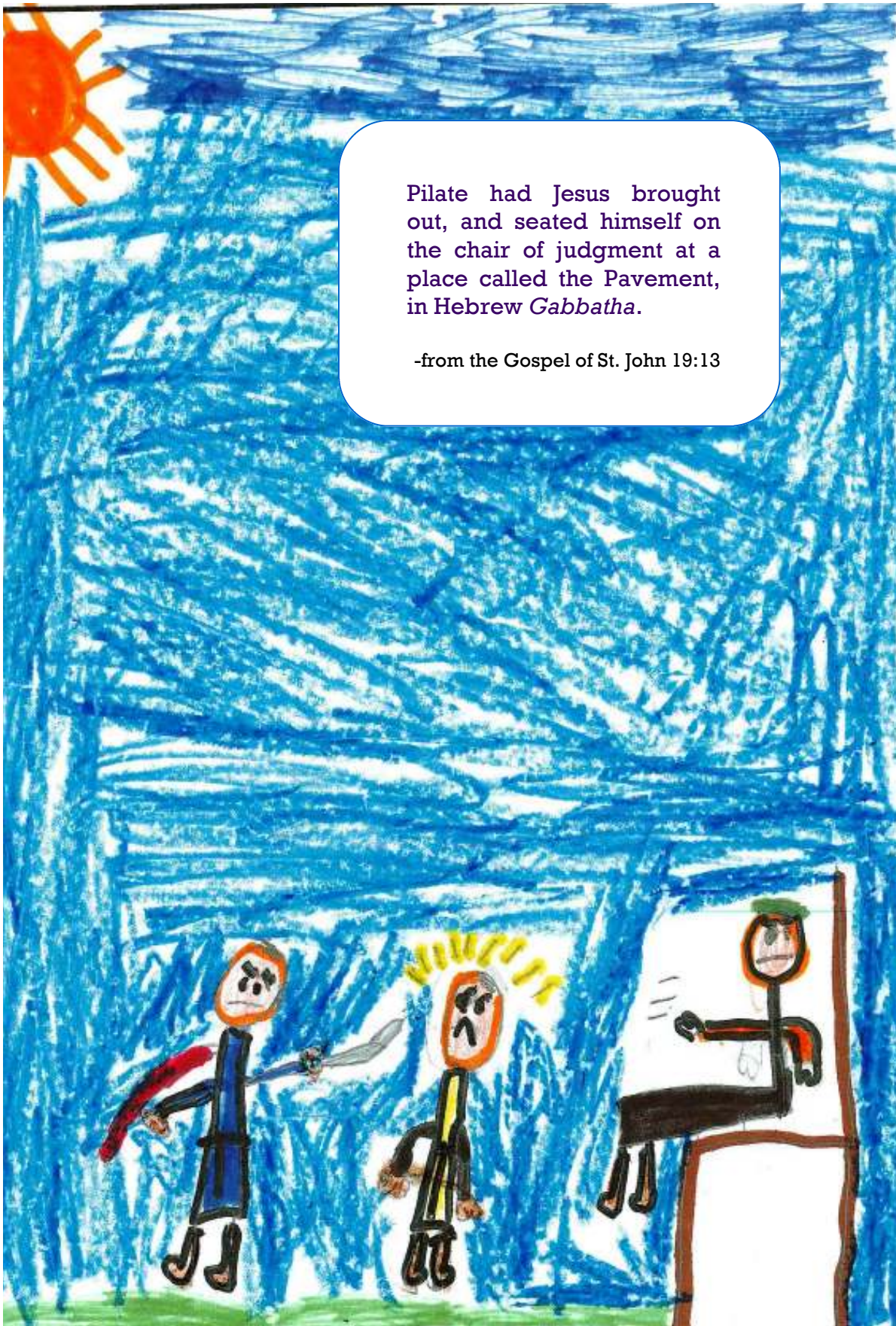
In this book, young men studying for the priesthood share their reflections on the Stations of the Cross. The seminarians wrap their reflections with such a simple and bite-size language that it is easy for the young readers to chew on. The winning artworks of the "2012 Stations of the Cross Drawing Contest" accompany these reflections. These young artists and young seminarians form quite a team! The best of creed, color, catechism, crayons, and creativity are all bound in this book to help young readers accompany Christ during Lent.

Adults have as much to learn from children as they, from us. The whole message of carrying the cross is one of total self-giving. From the cross, Christ beckons us to love as he loves. And this is my prayer: that all of us correspond generously to his Love this Lent by picking up our crosses and following him.

"Unless you are converted and become like children,
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

how to pray the stations of the CROSS

1. Pray the Stations of the Cross in a place where they are displayed, for instance in a Church, outside, or even in your classroom.
2. One person carries a cross and stops at each Station for a moment of reflection. An appropriate reading, like the ones presented in this booklet, may serve as a helpful guide.
3. One of the readers announces each Station, saying for example, "The Second Station: Jesus carries his cross."
3. Another reader says, "We adore you Christ, and we praise you."
4. To this invocation the whole assembly answers, "Because by you holy Cross, you have redeemed the world."
5. Different readers can read the three parts offered for each Station: the quote from the Bible, the reflection and the prayer written by a seminarian.



Pilate had Jesus brought out, and seated himself on the chair of judgment at a place called the Pavement, in Hebrew *Gabbatha*.

-from the Gospel of St. John 19:13

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

reflection by:

Brother Keith Gilbert, LC

artwork by:

Hood

Second-Place Winner

3rd grade

St. Thomas More School

Decatur, GA, USA



first station

reflection:

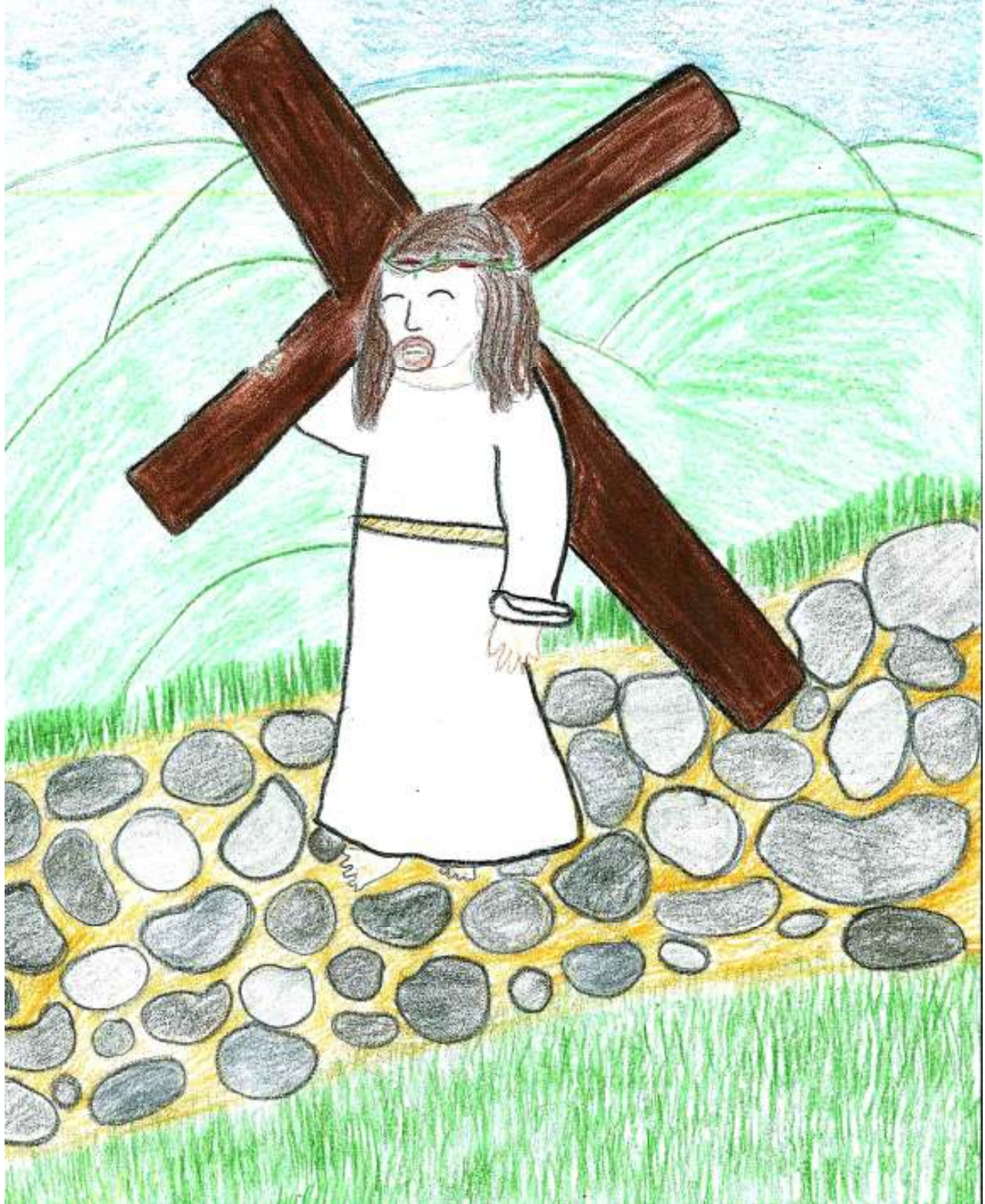
Jesus is found guilty, but what is his crime? He is sinless! However, we do sin, and deserve a just punishment. Jesus, seeing how helpless we are, loves us. He comes down from Heaven and offers to take our place. As he begins the way of the cross, his friends run away, but he does not have to suffer alone! Let us accompany him in his suffering! Whenever we hear our conscience speaking to us, we have the chance to talk to Jesus, and to tell him that we wish to remain at his side.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord Jesus, thank you for showing me your love. Help me to remain faithful to you as you have been faithful to me. Amen.

And when they had mocked him, they
stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his
own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

-from the Gospel of St. Matthew 27:31



JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

reflection by:

Brother Joseph Antonio, LC

artwork by:

Lauren

Second-place Winner

5th grade

Northwoods Catholic School

Spring, TX, USA

2

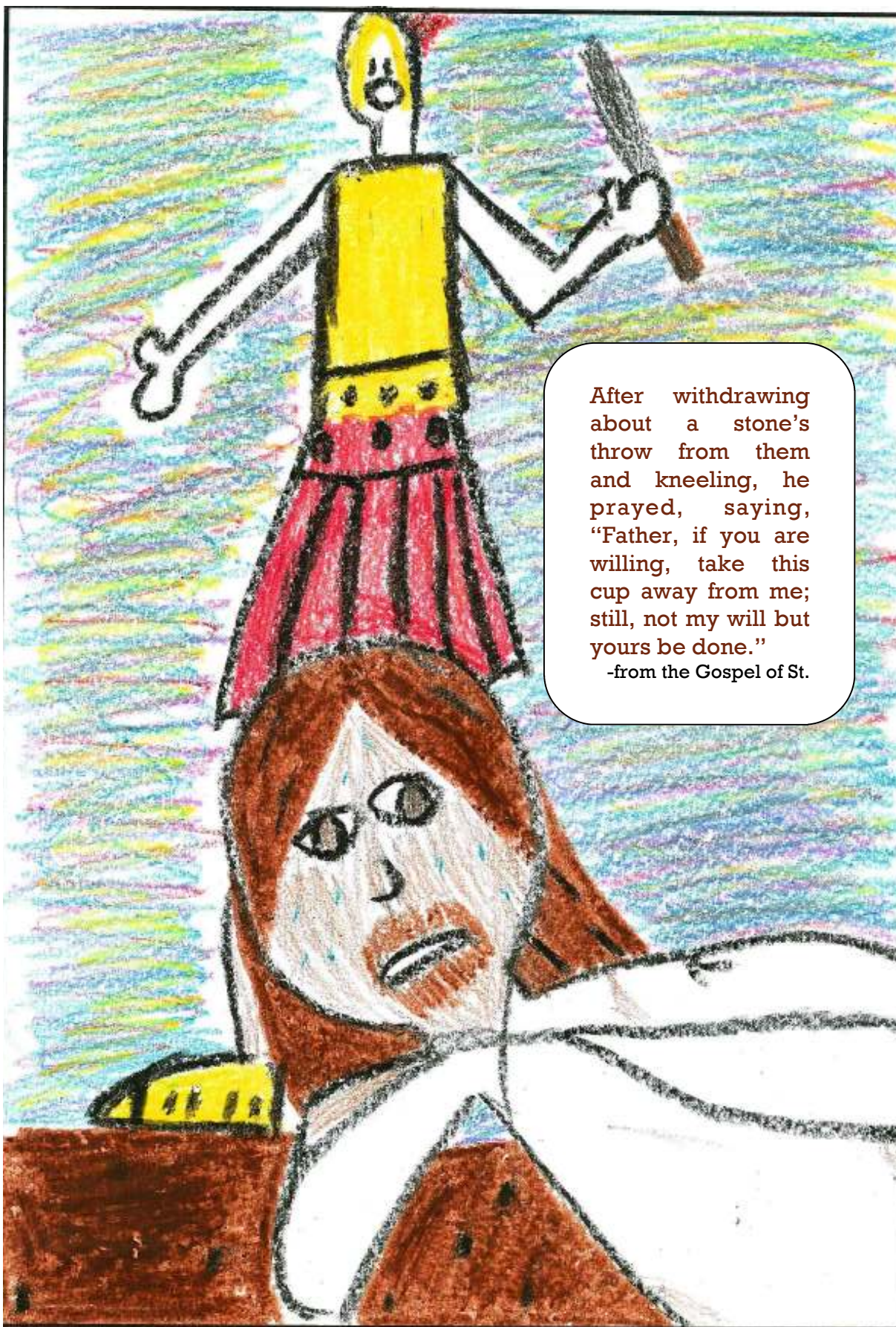
second station

reflection:

When I am asked to do something difficult, it's easy to forget that there are others who depend on me. As a kid, whenever my dad gave me a job to do—wash the dishes, vacuum the carpet—I always did it grudgingly. Really—deep down—I didn't want to do it. I had better things to do: read a book, play a game, watch TV. This attitude, however, does not reflect the attitude Christ had when he took up his cross. Christ suffered willingly; he wanted to. He chose to save us from our sins and to please his Father. We don't always get to do what we want to do, and these are moments to reflect on Jesus' example. Many people depend on our self-giving. Our family and friends gain from our fidelity. Like Jesus, let's show our love for the Father and for souls.

my prayer to Jesus:

Jesus, when I see a cross in church, on the wall at home, or on a chain around someone's neck, I don't want to be indifferent. I wish to remember that the cross is a sign of your love for me. Help me to be more aware of what you suffered in my place, so that I wouldn't have to. Amen.



After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done."

-from the Gospel of St.

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

reflection by:

Brother Drew Patterson, LC

artwork by:

Jennifer

Second-Place Winner

3rd grade

Blessed Sacrament School

Wichita, KS, USA



third station

reflection:

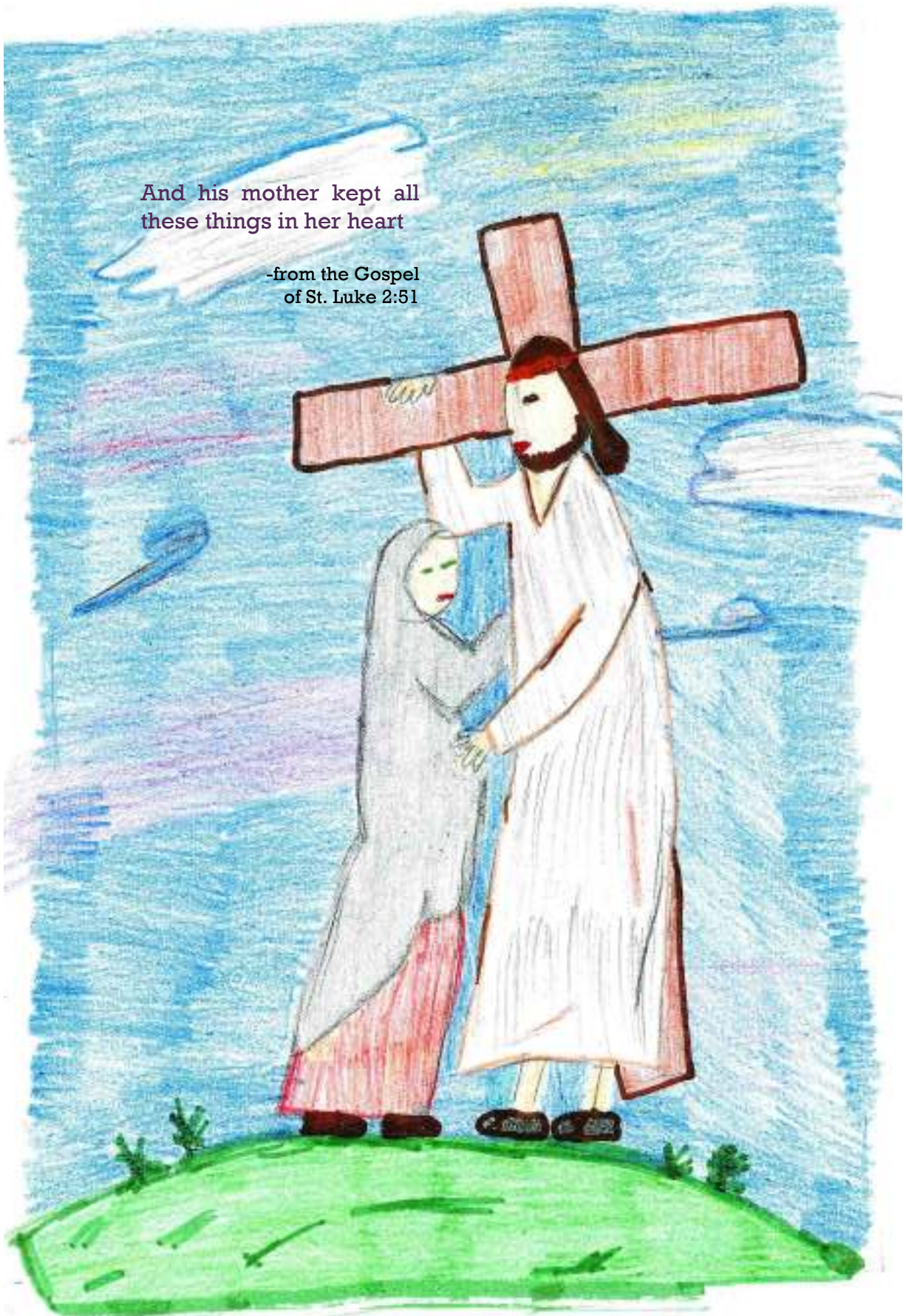
This is the first time Jesus falls. Amid the hustle-and-bustle of the crowds, the soldiers shove him along. Shouts and curses drown out Jesus' cries of pain and his quiet prayer: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Even in his pain he thinks of us! The cross is heavy and Jesus is tired. His sandal catches a stone on the uneven road, causing him to trip and fall under the weight of the cross. The guards scream and spit on him. He has no one to comfort him. God the Father looks down from heaven; he suffers to see his Son in pain, yet he allows it out of love for us. Sometimes when I fall and scrape my knee, I would like someone to suffer with me. Jesus didn't have any friends to be with him *then*, but I can be that friend for him *now*.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord, I don't want you to be alone in your suffering. I want to be your friend, comforting you at your side. There isn't much I can do, but at least I can be there. Father, thank you for letting your Son come to earth to save us. Help me, when I fall, to get up like Jesus did. Help me to love, but most of all, to be a friend for others!

And his mother kept all
these things in her heart

-from the Gospel
of St. Luke 2:51



JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

reflection by:

Brother Edward Pineda, LC

artwork by:

Marianne

First-Place Winner

5th grade

St. Thomas the Apostle

Miami, FL, USA

4

fourth station

reflection:

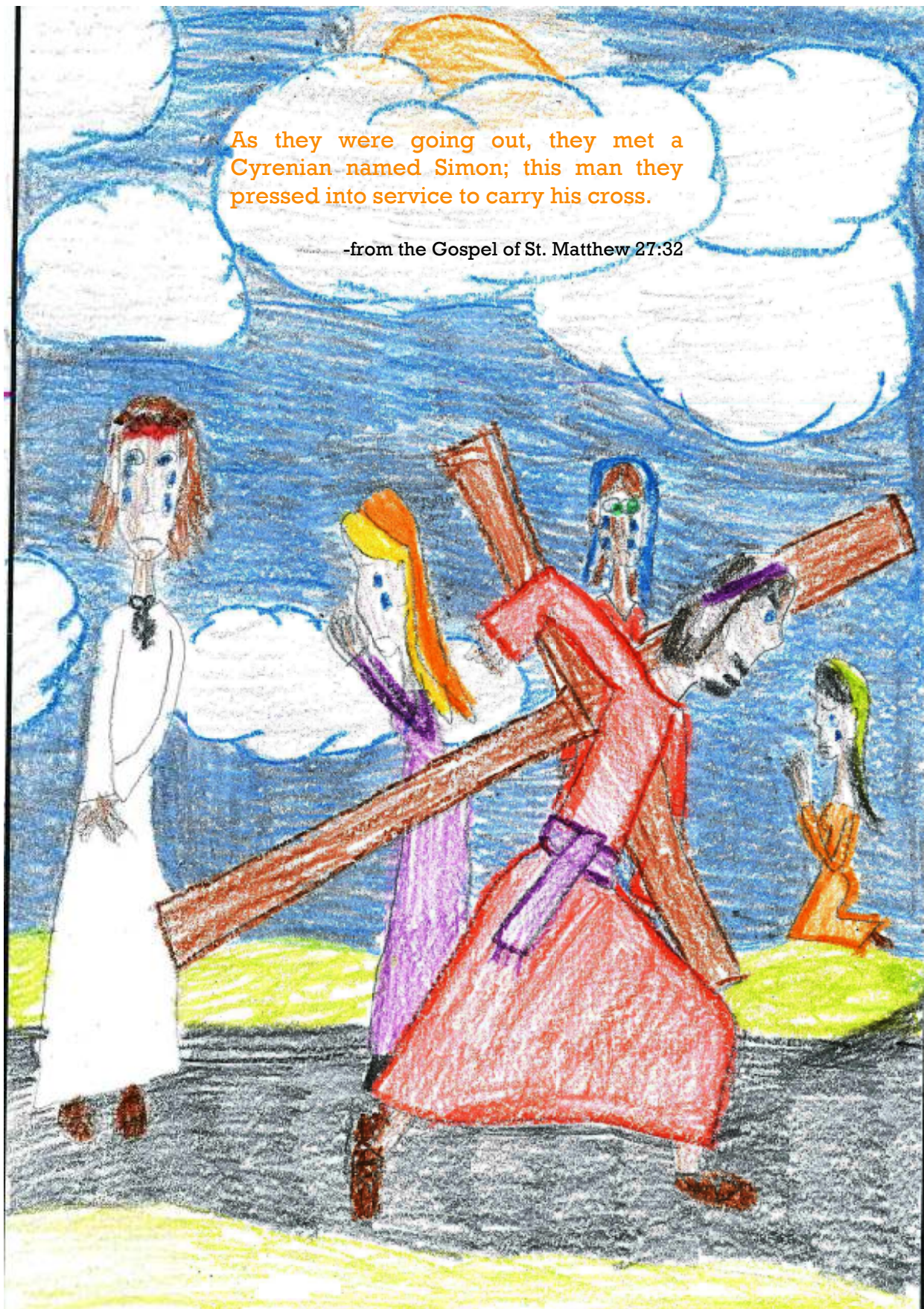
Christ is on the road towards Calvary. The cross is heavy. People jeer and spit at him. Suddenly, like a beam of light in the darkness, Jesus meets his Mother. Jesus sees in Mary the perfect creature made possible by the graces flowing from the sacrifice he is about to make, and from the victory of the Resurrection that will follow. In Mary, Jesus sees the motherly love he wants for his Church. In Mary, Jesus finds the strength to continue struggling, because he catches a glimpse of the final goal.

my prayer to Mary:

Mary, mother of Jesus and my mother, walk with me each day of my life and be near me in my moments of pain and fear. Watch over me and protect me, mother, from all harm, and lead me on the path to heaven. Amen.

As they were going out, they met a
Cyrenian named Simon; this man they
pressed into service to carry his cross.

-from the Gospel of St. Matthew 27:32



SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS

reflection by:

Br. Hoa Nguyen, LC

artwork by:

Roxanne

TIEB: First-place Winner

3rd grade

Blessed Sacrament School

Wichita, KS, USA

5
fifth station

reflection:

Jesus was condemned to death unjustly. He did nothing wrong; he was innocent. He could have escaped death by defending himself before pilot, but He knew that we needed Him. Our evil deeds—lies and hatred—have consequences. Yet it doesn't matter to Jesus because he came into the world "not to be served but to serve," and "to lay down his life for his friends."

my prayer to Jesus:

Jesus, help me to carry my cross together with you. I wish to accompany you to Calvary at your side. You are my friend. Teach me also, as I accompany you on this path of your cross, to love all my brothers and sisters so much that I would be willing to lay down my life for them; like you did for me.

Blessed are the merciful for
they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart
for they will see God.

-from the Gospel of St. Matthew
5:7,8



VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

reflection by:

Brother Kevin Gore, LC

artwork by:

Fatima

Second-Place Winner

4th grade

Northwoods Catholic School

Spring, TX, USA

6

sixth station

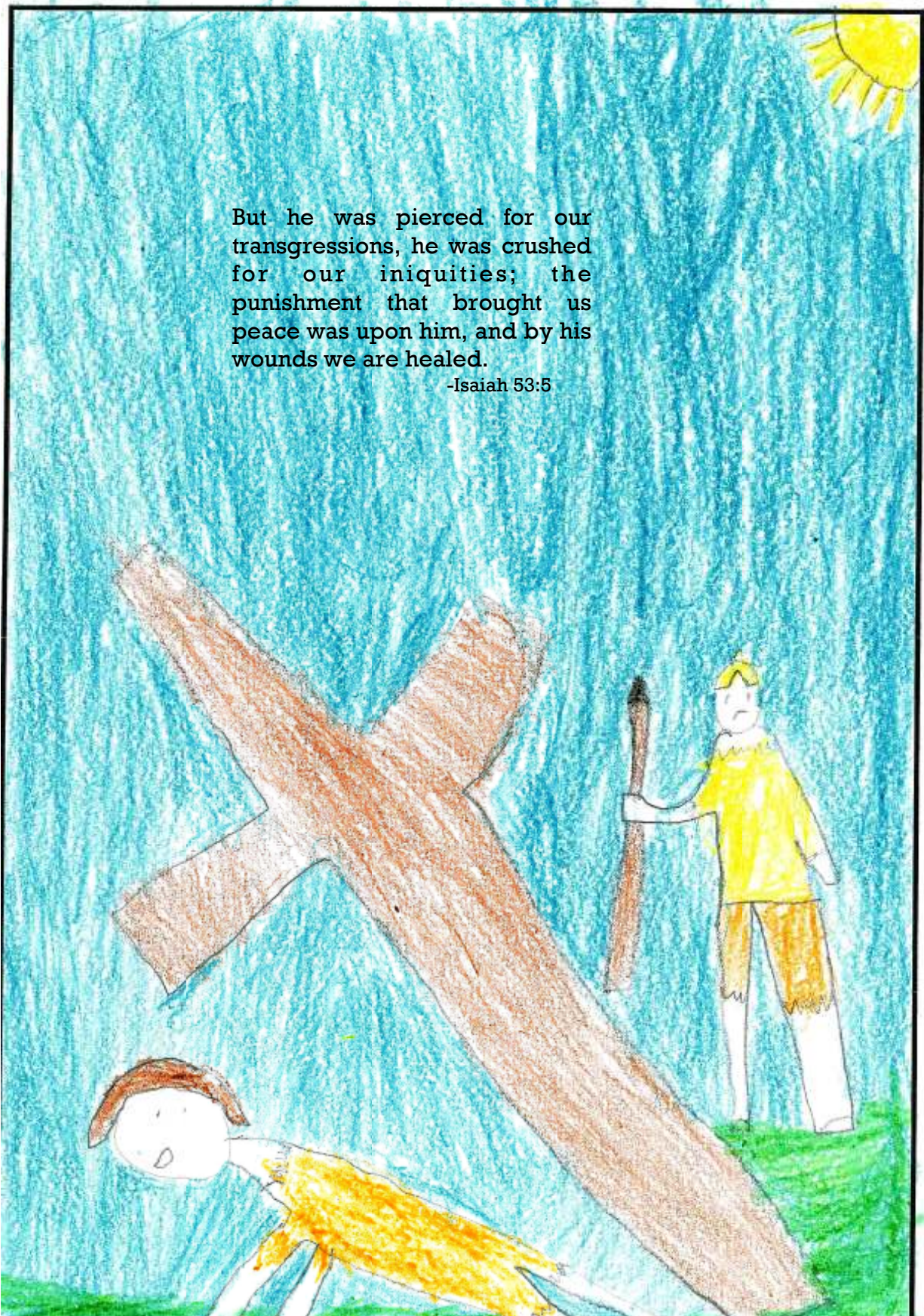
reflection:

Jesus is tired. For almost an entire day the soldiers have been mistreating him. One blow is so forceful that it dislocates his nose, swelling his cheek. The blood from the crown of thorns mingles with sweat and dust. He is hardly recognizable, and it seems that everyone is against him. Everyone, that is, except for one woman.

She takes pity on Christ's suffering and puts at his service what little she has. With her veil she clears away the dust and sweat and blood. She doesn't fend off the Roman executioners. She doesn't convince Pilate to reverse his sentence. Nor does she stand around waiting for bigger opportunities which will never come. Her greatness comes from her heart. This woman's small act, although not recorded in scripture, has impacted Christians so profoundly that her memory is kept alive, handed down through the generations: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

But he was pierced for our
transgressions, he was crushed
for our iniquities; the
punishment that brought us
peace was upon him, and by his
wounds we are healed.

-Isaiah 53:5



JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

reflection by:

Brother Frank Ahan, LC

artwork by:

Zak

Third-Place Winner

3rd grade

Blessed Sacrament School

Wichita, KS, USA

7

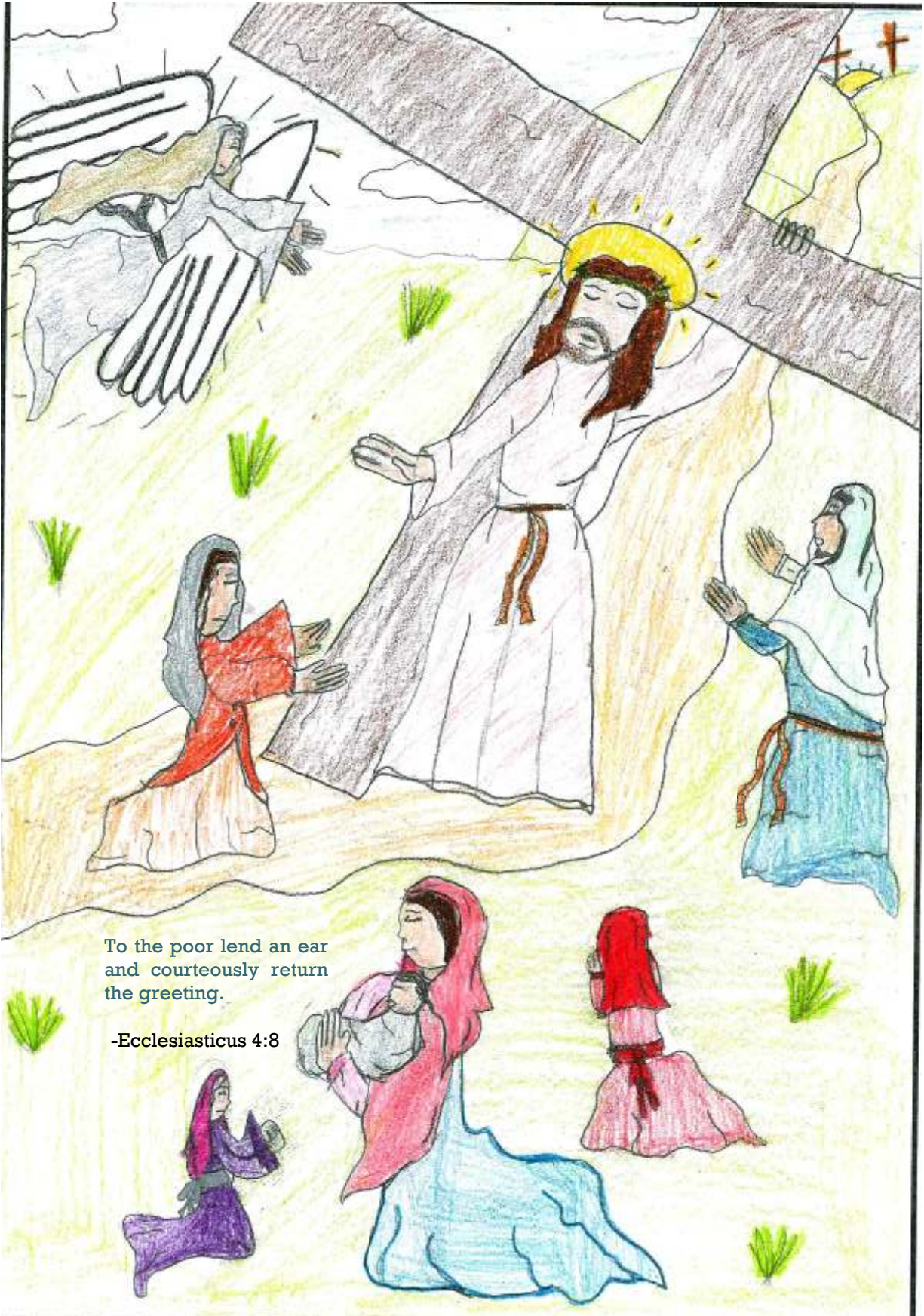
seventh station

reflection:

Trees shed their leaves only to flower again in the springtime. Christ was born so He could die and rise and give us new life. Our journey in this world is about constant ups and downs. Life goes from joy to sorrow, and back to joy. There is no sense in life without Christ. It helps us to constantly look towards the fallen Christ, because, after each fall, Christ got up and kept moving forward.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord, help me in life to remember that I am weak. Give me the grace to look to your example, to get up from my fall quickly and to keep moving forward, for I know that your outstretched arm will always raise me up.



To the poor lend an ear
and courteously return
the greeting.

-Ecclesiasticus 4:8

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

reflection by:

Brother John Yep, LC

artwork by:

Maddalen

First-Place Winner

4th grade

pinecrest Academy School

Cumming, GA, USA

8

eighth station

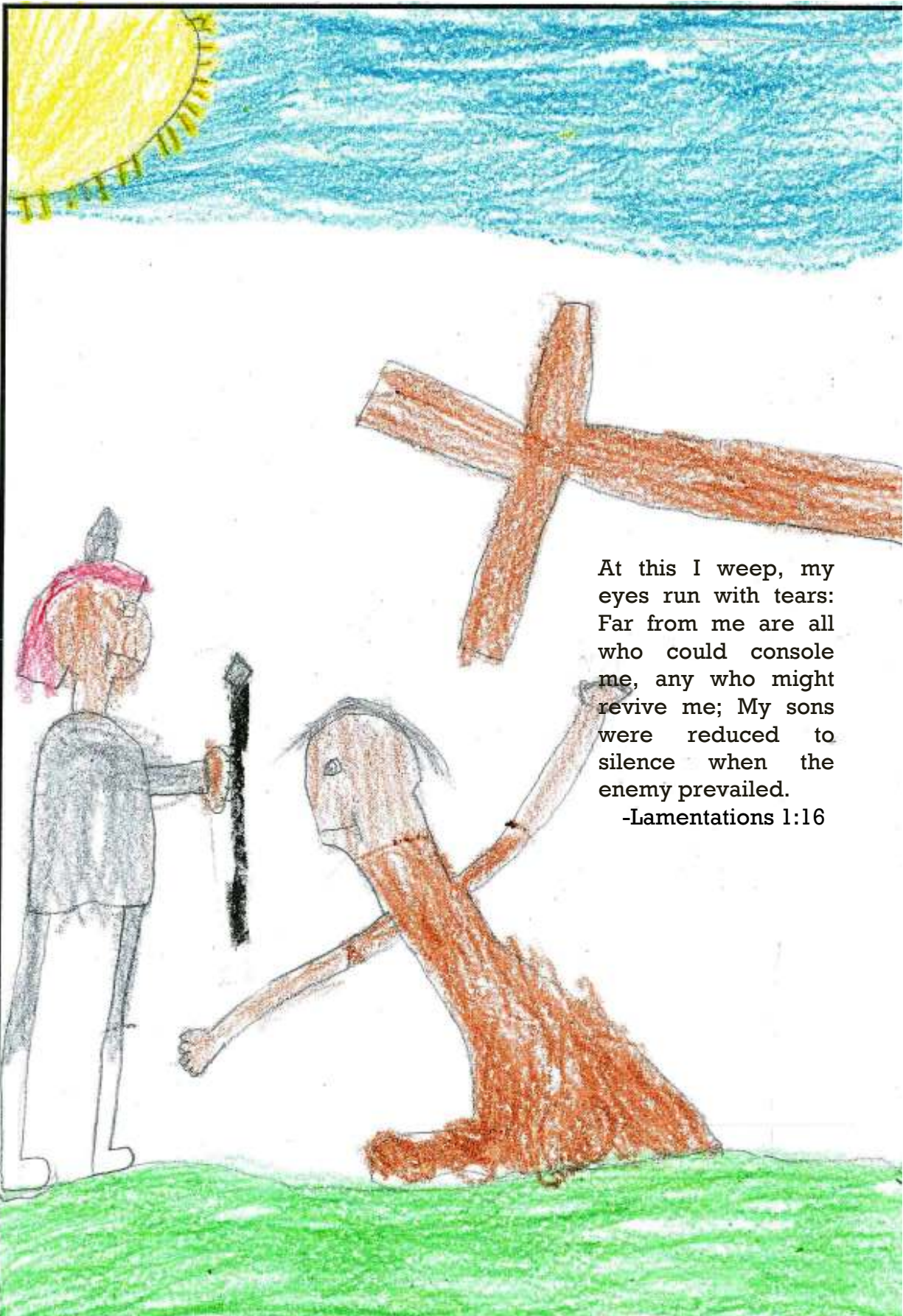
reflection:

Our Lord gets up from his second fall. He starts to walk again, or rather he drags his body along towards Calvary with the help of Simon. He aches to lie down and rest. As he looks ahead he sees a group of women standing on the side of the road. They are visibly moved by the sight, bleeding as he is and exhausted from the journey. Their hearts are broken and tears stream down their faces because they really do LOVE Jesus.

Jesus says to them: "Weep not for me but for yourselves and for your children." He takes the attention off himself and teaches them that it is their sinfulness which causes all of this. Jesus wants us to know that it is our sins which make Him suffer.

my prayer to Jesus:

Jesus, I will do anything to stop your suffering! Help me to do this by avoiding sin in my life. Thank you for the sacrament of confession which gives me the chance to stand along the side of the road like the women and to tell you, through the priest, that I am sorry for having caused you pain.



At this I weep, my
eyes run with tears:
Far from me are all
who could console
me, any who might
revive me; My sons
were reduced to
silence when the
enemy prevailed.

-Lamentations 1:16

JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

reflection by:

Brother Thomas Russell, LC

artwork by:

Cade

Third-Place Winner

3rd grade

Blessed Sacrament School

Wichita, KS, USA

9

ninth station

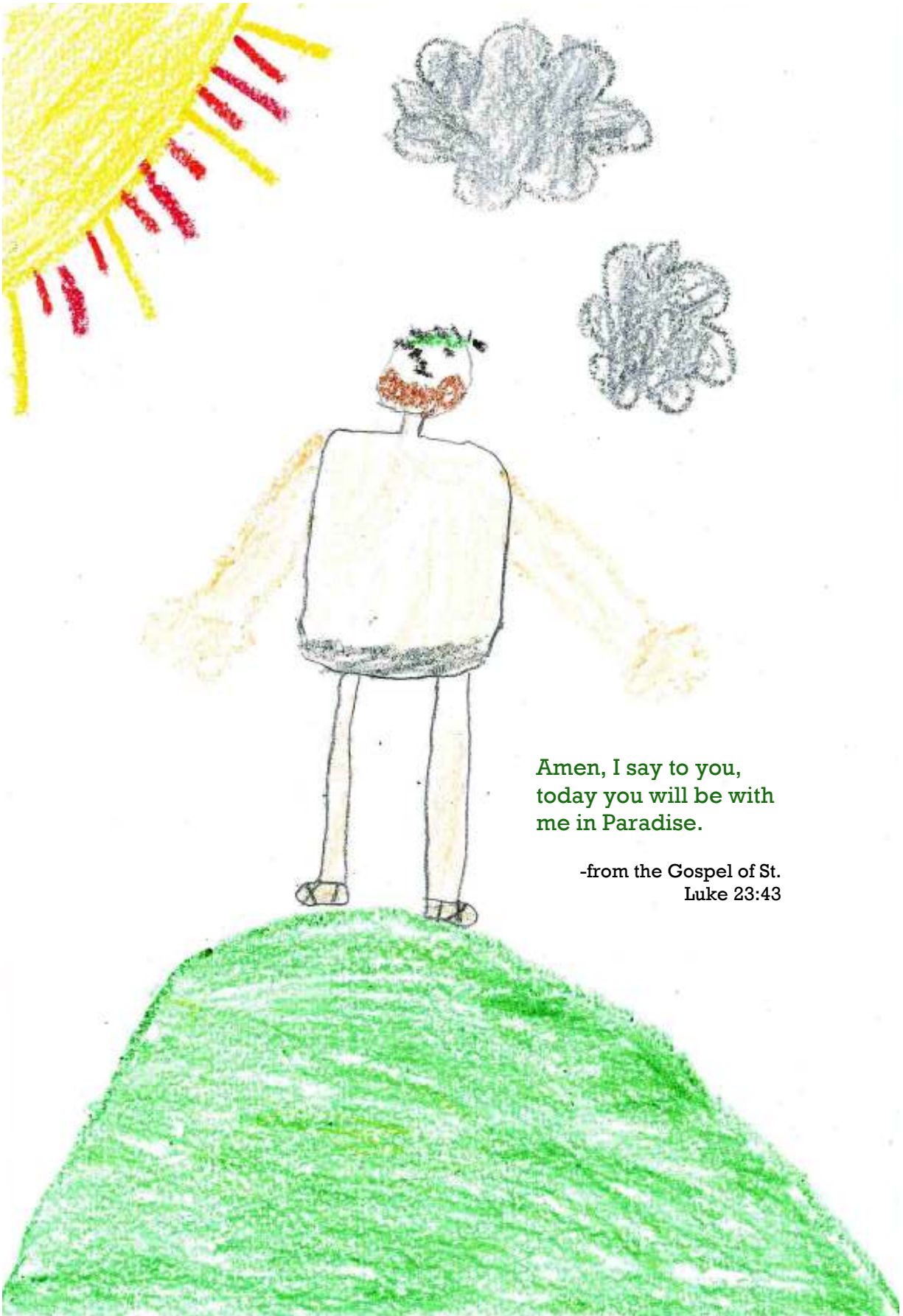
reflection:

Jesus is so weak from carrying the cross that he collapses to the ground. He finally arrives. Here he will die. The crowds that surround him haven't helped much; most of the people that welcomed him on Palm Sunday are now rejecting him, and even insulting him. He lies in the dust, broken, thirsty, and full of sorrow.

And yet he is the true King of Kings. His goal is to show God's power and love. So he falls to the ground—to be with us, because our sins are a falling away from him. And he does not escape, but shows his power on the third day, thus conquering sin and death by rising from the dead.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord Jesus, you have never abandoned me. Thank you for paying for my sins. Help me never to leave your side. Amen.



Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with
me in Paradise.

-from the Gospel of St.
Luke 23:43

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

reflection by:

Brother Benjamín Rodríguez, LC

artwork by:

Mark

Third-Place Winner

3rd grade

Blessed Sacrament School

Wichita, KS, USA

10

tenth station

reflection:

When someone takes a bandage off a half-healed wound, it hurts. That's what Christ felt when they ripped off his clothes, for his body was one big wound. Besides, they stripped off all his clothes. If someone were to do that to us we would be deeply ashamed. And yet Christ is proud to show his love for us through his humility.

However, despite the fact that we take back what we gave him at birth—clothes, love—he continues to loves us, no matter what!

my prayer to Jesus:

Christ,
Why do I so many times
Try to take back what I gave?
You gave your whole self in your prime,
Did it because of your love
For me. When it hurts, make me brave;
Show me your wounds from above.

There they crucified
him, and with him
two others, one on
either side, with
Jesus in the middle.

-from the Gospel of St.
John 19:18



JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

reflection by:

Brother John Kim, LC

artwork by:

Luis

First-place Winner

5th grade

St. Thomas the Apostle School

Miami, FL, USA



eleventh station

reflection:

“And I” he said, “when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself.” And to Pontius Pilate: “My kingdom does not belong to this world.”

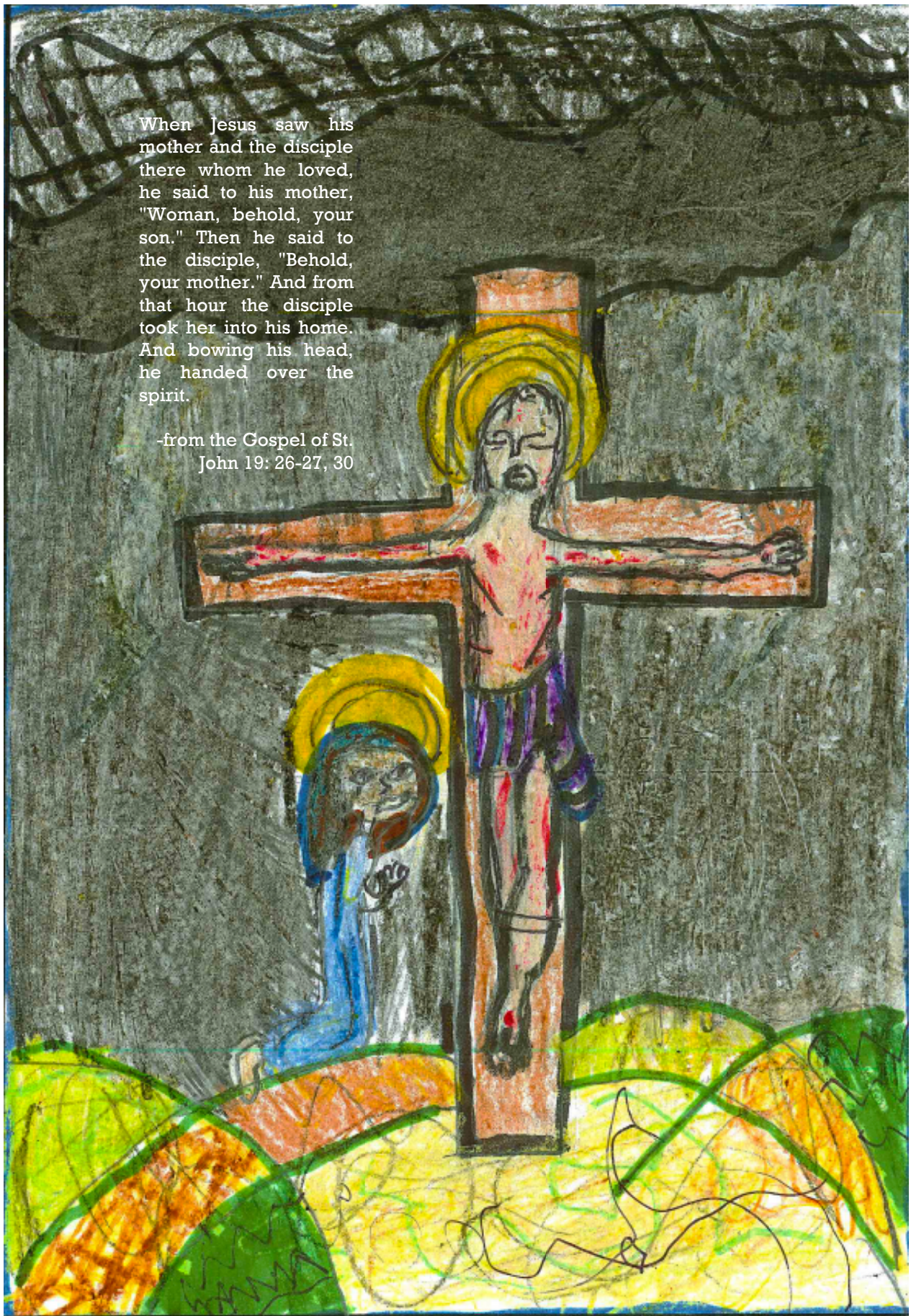
Above the crucified Christ there was an inscription placed that said “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” But where are his throne, crown, and scepter? His throne is the cross, His crown is the thorns on his head, and His scepter is the nail piercing His hand.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord, don't let me ever get used to seeing you nailed on the cross. On the contrary, let the crucifix be a constant reminder that you are there pouring out your precious blood so that one day I can join your kingdom of eternal happiness. Amen.

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." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

-from the Gospel of St.
John 19: 26-27, 30



JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

reflection by:

Brother David Parken LC

artwork by:

Amresh

TIED Second-place Winner

3rd grade

St. Thomas More School

Decatur, GA, USA

12

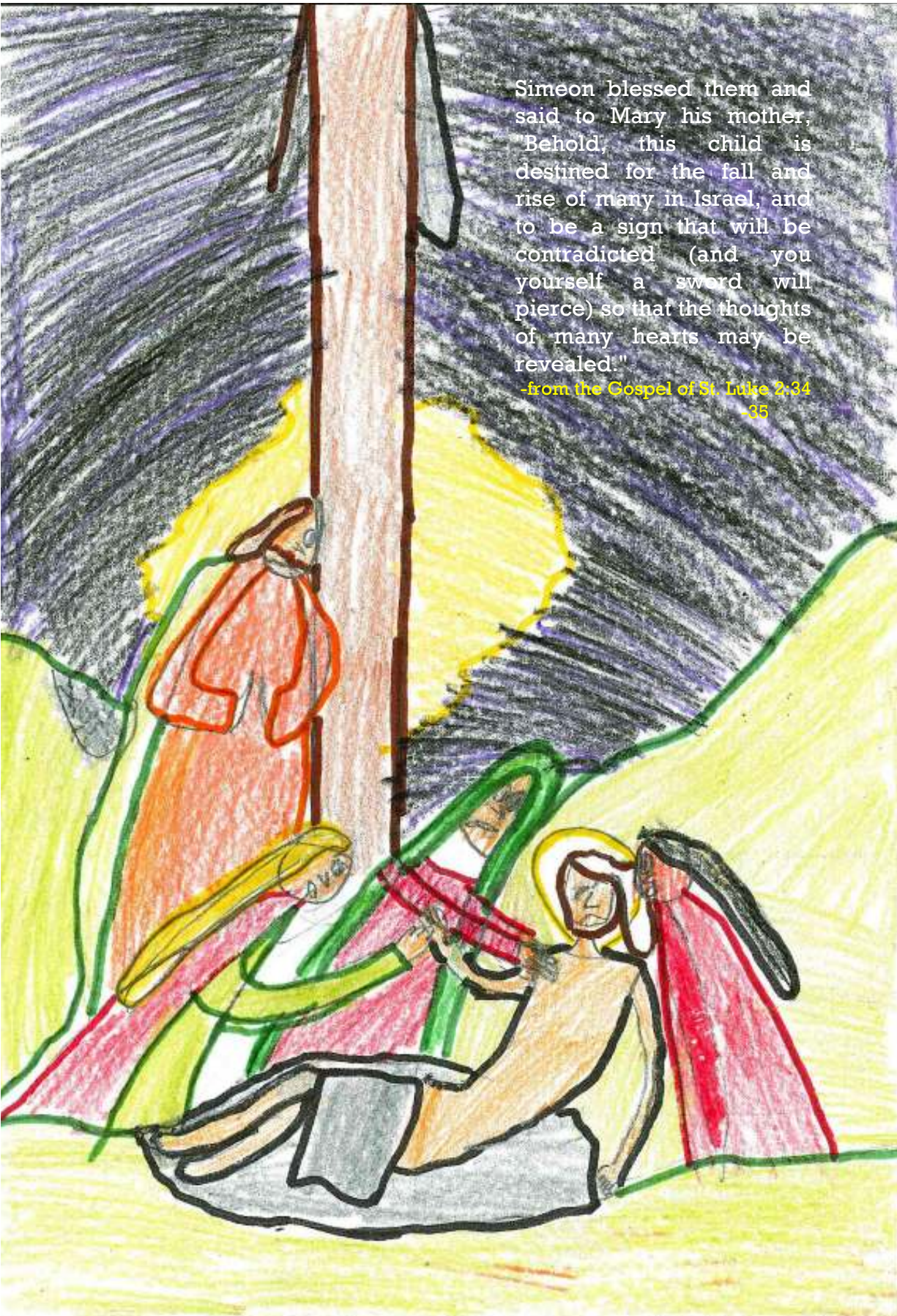
twelfth station

reflection:

Lord Jesus, why did you die for me? Why did you suffer so much for my sake? My lack of charity, my lack of patience, my bad thoughts and words were all reasons why you died on the cross. You wanted me to know that you forgive me, that you love me no matter how much I sin. You only ask one thing: that by seeing you on the cross, I may learn to imitate your love for others, even if sometimes I have to forget about myself.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me so much. Help me to follow your example.



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 Gospel of St. Luke 2:34

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

reflection by:

Brother Daniel Turski, LC

artwork by:

Jacob

Third-Place Winner

3rd grade

St. Thomas More School

Decatur, GA, USA

13

thirteenth station

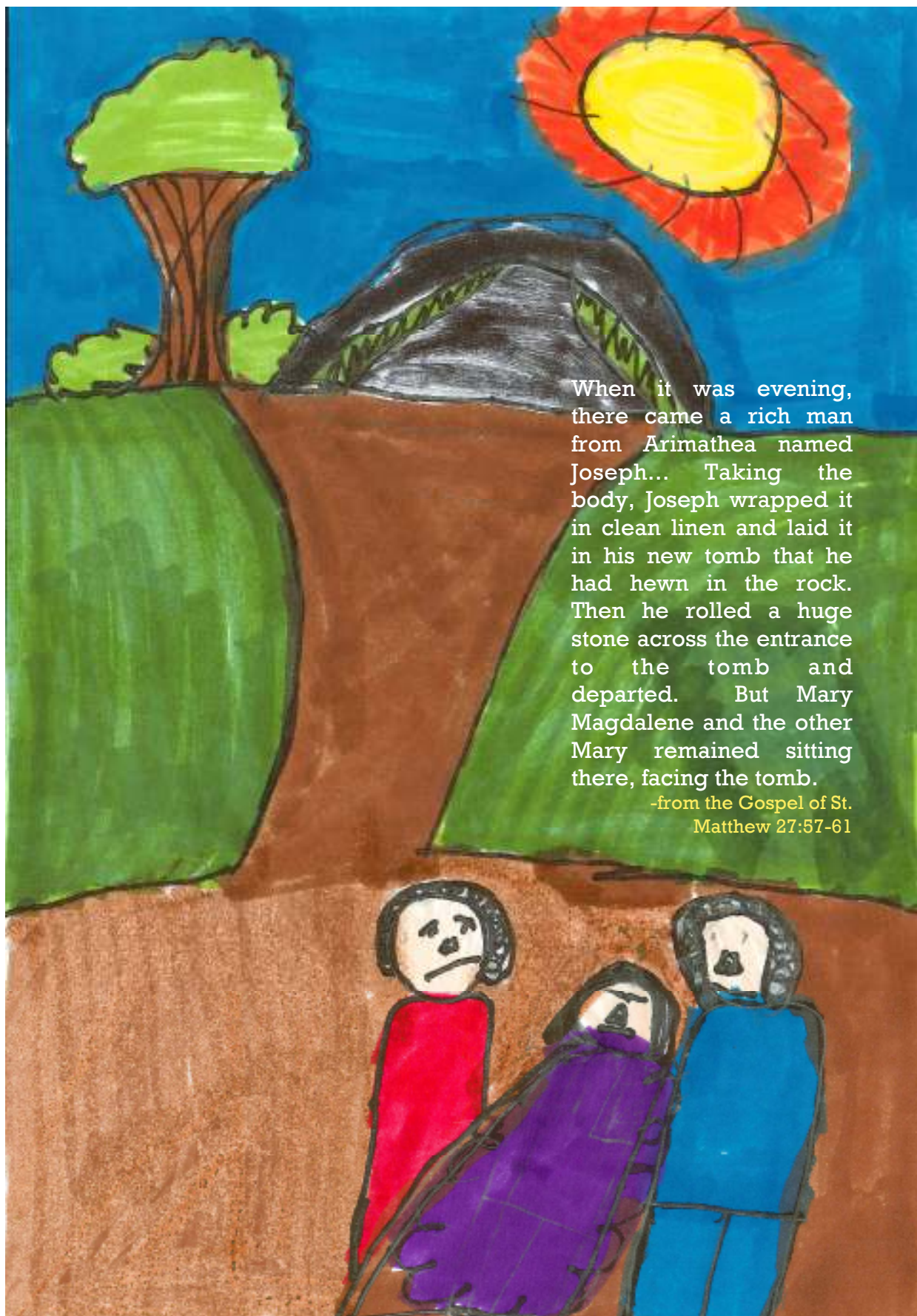
reflection:

Jesus cries out with one last breath, closes his eyes and dies. The earth trembles. The clouds cover the sun. Mary loses her only son. The crowds leave, but Mary stays. Jesus' disciples want to prepare his body for burial. Joseph of Arimathea helps them take Jesus down from the cross. They place the lifeless body in Mary's arms. She holds him and looks at his bruised face, tenderly remembering the years gone by: the night he was born, the day she patched his scratched knee, the meals she had prepared for him. Mary is confused; she is tremendously sad, because this, her precious son—God—has been hated and killed by men.

Yet even in darkness, Mary does not lose faith. She trusts in the Father. Her faith allows her to persevere until the day when she will once again be able to see her son, risen from the dead!

my prayer to Mary:

Mary, teach me how to trust God the Father, especially in the darkest moments when it seems God has completely forgotten me. Help me remember that it is impossible for Him to stop loving me. Mother, pray that God may give me the strength that you had, so that I may continue forward until the day I see him in His eternal glory. Amen



When it was evening,
there came a rich man
from Arimathea named
Joseph... Taking the
body, Joseph wrapped it
in clean linen and laid it
in his new tomb that he
had hewn in the rock.
Then he rolled a huge
stone across the entrance
to the tomb and
departed. But Mary
Magdalene and the other
Mary remained sitting
there, facing the tomb.

-from the Gospel of St.
Matthew 27:57-61

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

reflection by:

Brother Eric Wandrey, LC

artwork by:

Miles

Third-Place Winner

3rd grade

Northwoods Catholic School

Spring, TX, USA

14

fourteenth station

my prayer to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, thank you so much for all that you have done for me. When you were put in the tomb, your body was totally used up out of love for me. You spared no sacrifice. You were willing to bear any physical pain in order to bring me to salvation. Jesus, thank you. Please give me the strength to deny you nothing, just as you denied nothing to me.

i am
the
TRUTH

**Special
thanks
to those
who made
this book
possible:**

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Mrs. Lynn Dery
Ms. Mags Reilly
Mrs. Teri Marks
Mrs. Kerry Estes
Ms. Moira Gillott
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Mr. Oscar Tanaka
Mrs. Kristin Jessen
Mrs. Heather Kloer
Ms. Mary Degoede
Mrs. Carmelle Pilon
Ms. Anita Rittenburg
Mrs. Yamileth Rivera
Fr. Nathan Miller, LC
Mrs. Anne Holdsworth
Mrs. Romana Zia Khalaf
Br. Nicholas Sheehy, LC
Mrs. Stephanie DeRoche
Mrs. Seana Antee Tetzlaff
Br. Eduardo Quezada, LC
Mrs. Crystal Vanderbeek
Mrs. Mary Francis Skinner
Fourteen seminarians from
the Legionaries of Christ
143 boys and girls who
participated in the
2012 Stations of
the Cross
Drawing
Contest
Thank
You
!

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