

stations of the cross

Volume 3:
I am the
LIFE

By Brother Peter Huynh, LC

In collaboration with 13 seminarians and 14 KIDS

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volume 3:

i am the
LIFE



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.

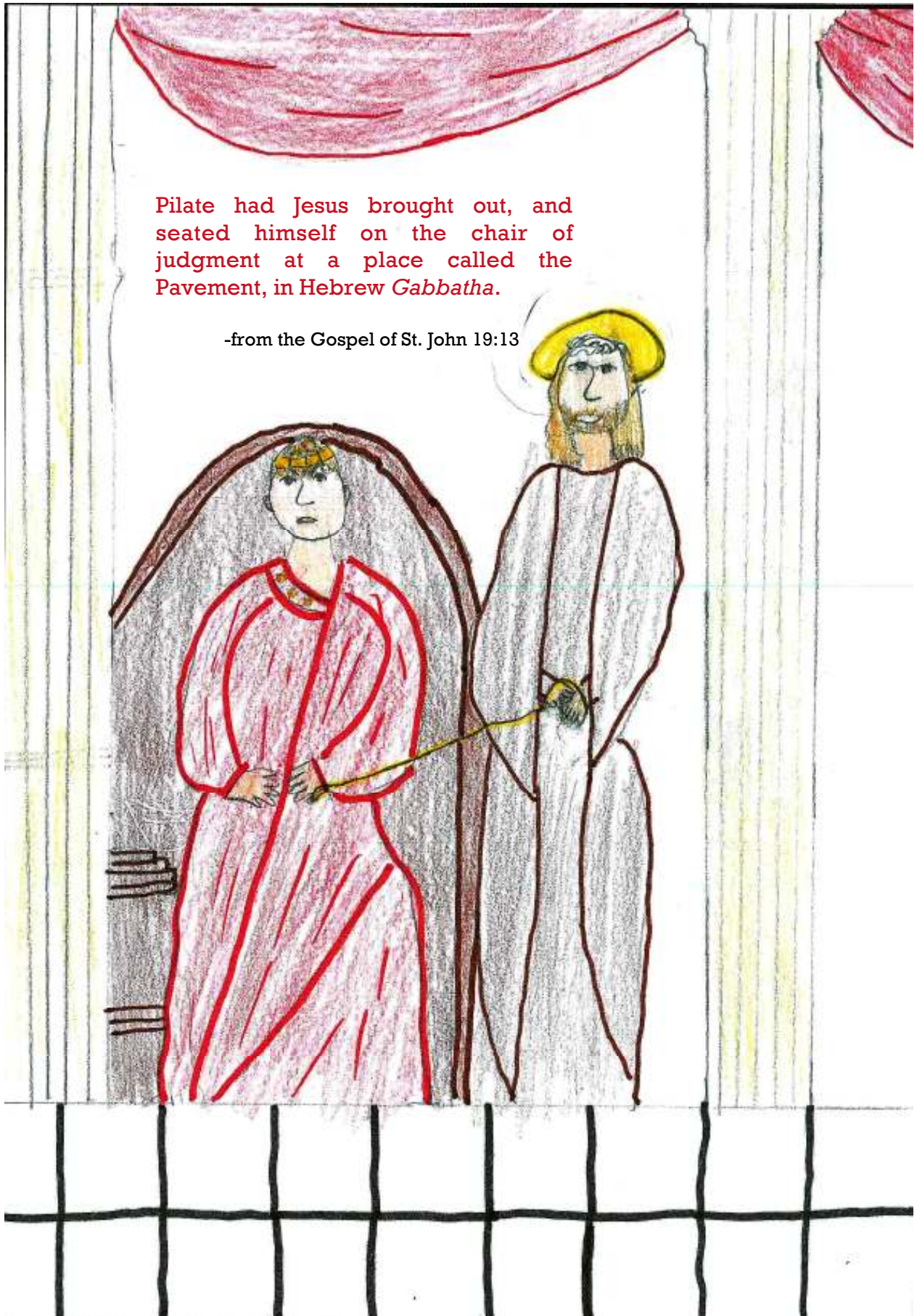
"Unless you are converted and become like children,
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3

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 Frederick Keiser , LC

artwork by:

Charlotte

First-Place Winner

4th grade

Pincrest Academy

Cumming, GA, USA



first station

reflection:

Jesus is standing before angry people who are yelling and saying mean, hurtful things to him. They scream at him. Some of them tell lies about him, saying that he did bad things.

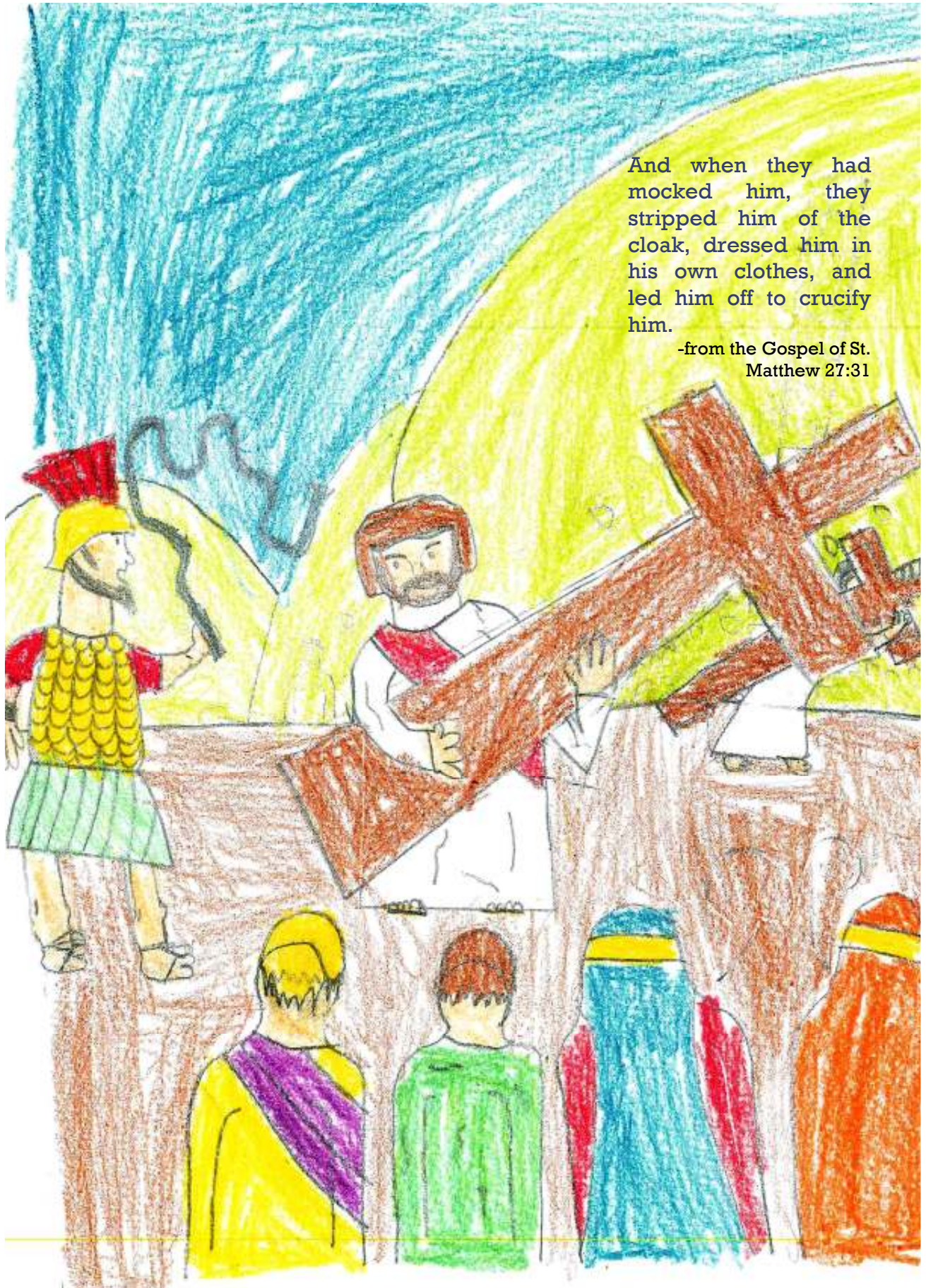
But Jesus stays quiet, even though he knows that he will be hurt. He knows that God is with him. He even asks God to help him forgive the people who are yelling and telling lies about him.

my prayer to Jesus:

Jesus, help me be grateful for what you did for me. Help me to accept criticism and unfairness as you did, and not complain. Help me pray for those who have hurt me.

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 Zachary Dominguez, LC

artwork by:

Juan Carlos

Third-Place Winner

5th grade

St. Thomas the Apostle School

Miami, FL, USA

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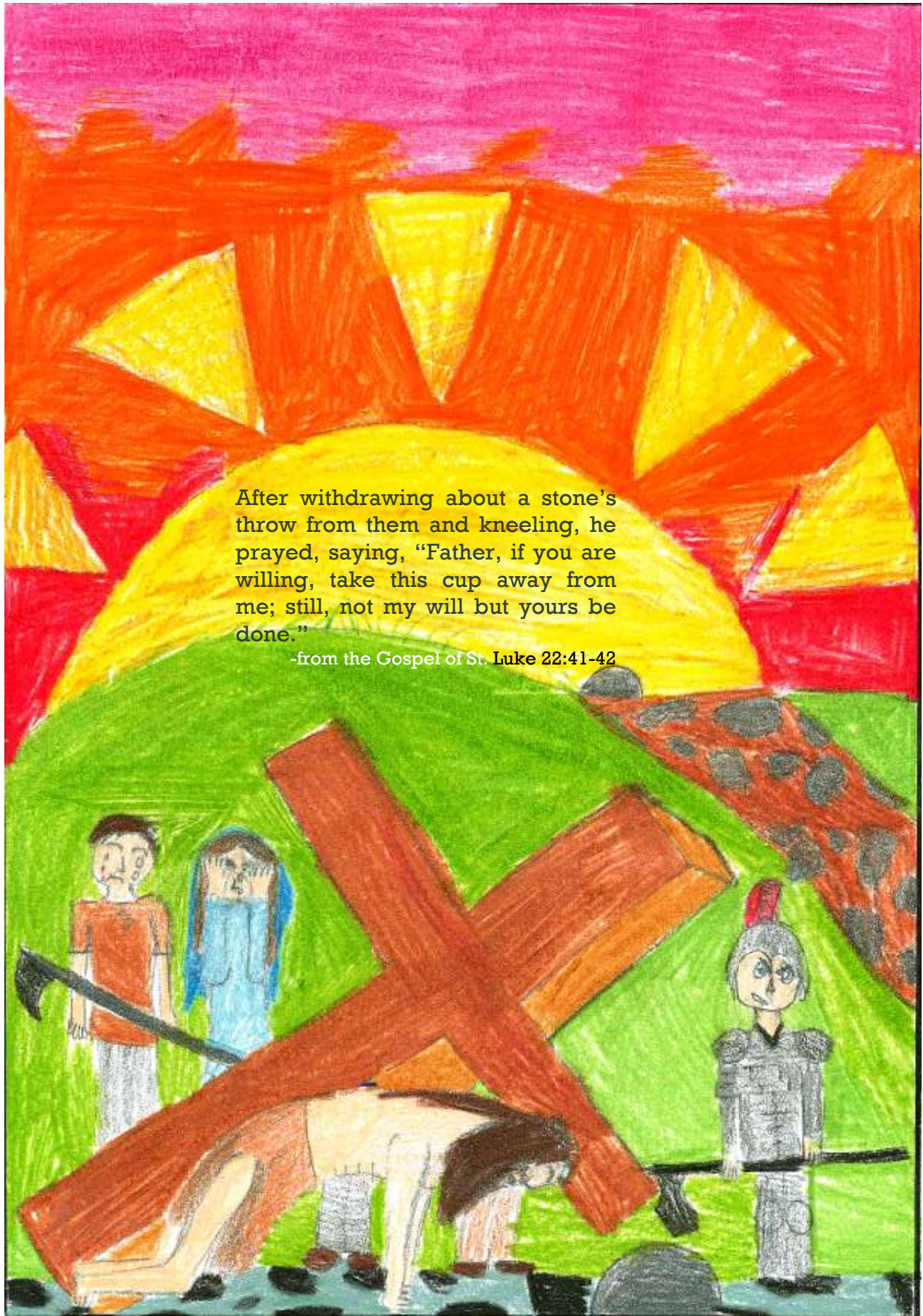
second station

reflection:

One day my friends came over to my house and invited me to have a potato war with them in a field close to my house. There were these small wild growing potato type plants, which were perfect for throwing at each other and not causing too much pain when being hit by them. We would build forts in a small forest close to my house and play "capture the flag" and "storm the castle" using the wild growing potatoes for defense and attack. Well, the very same day that the field was ready and my friends were ready to play was the same day that my parents were going out. I was going to have to babysit my 6-year-old sister as my friends went out to start the potato wars! I was not too happy about the situation, but I had to do it. I was having a tea party with my little sister and her dolls, while my friends were running around in the forest playing. I was complaining and saying in my mind, *this isn't fair!!! I should be out playing with my friends!*

By the time my parents got back home, the potato war was over, and I could see my friends going back home. I had missed all the fun. I was angry inside. As usual, my family did prayers together just before going to bed. Each of us would thank God for something that he did for us, and then we would pray for someone in particular. When it was my turn to thank God, I looked at the cross and for the first time I understood what it meant for Christ to suffer for me. I had experienced a small cross of having to babysit, and I thought, *what is that compared to suffering on the cross?* When it was my little sister's turn she thanked God for having the best older brother in the world. All my feelings of sadness and anger went away.

When he takes up the cross, Jesus carries it for us. He endures pain and suffering so that we can be happy forever. Let us truly thank Jesus for being the best God in the world!



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. Luke 22:41-42

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

reflection by:

Brother Matthew Schneden, LC

artwork by:

Sophie

First-place Winner

4th grade

St. John the Baptist Catholic School
Longmont, CO, USA



third station

reflection:

Do you have a gravel path or alleyway near your house? Imagine falling into the gravel, face-first. When Jesus carried his cross, he fell face-first on a road like that and his big heavy cross fell on top of him. It wasn't just a scratched knee; his body was already sore and now bled some more. The cruel guards started kicking him. He could have just laid there, but he found the strength to get up and carry his cross further along the path and then up the hill to Calvary where he was killed.

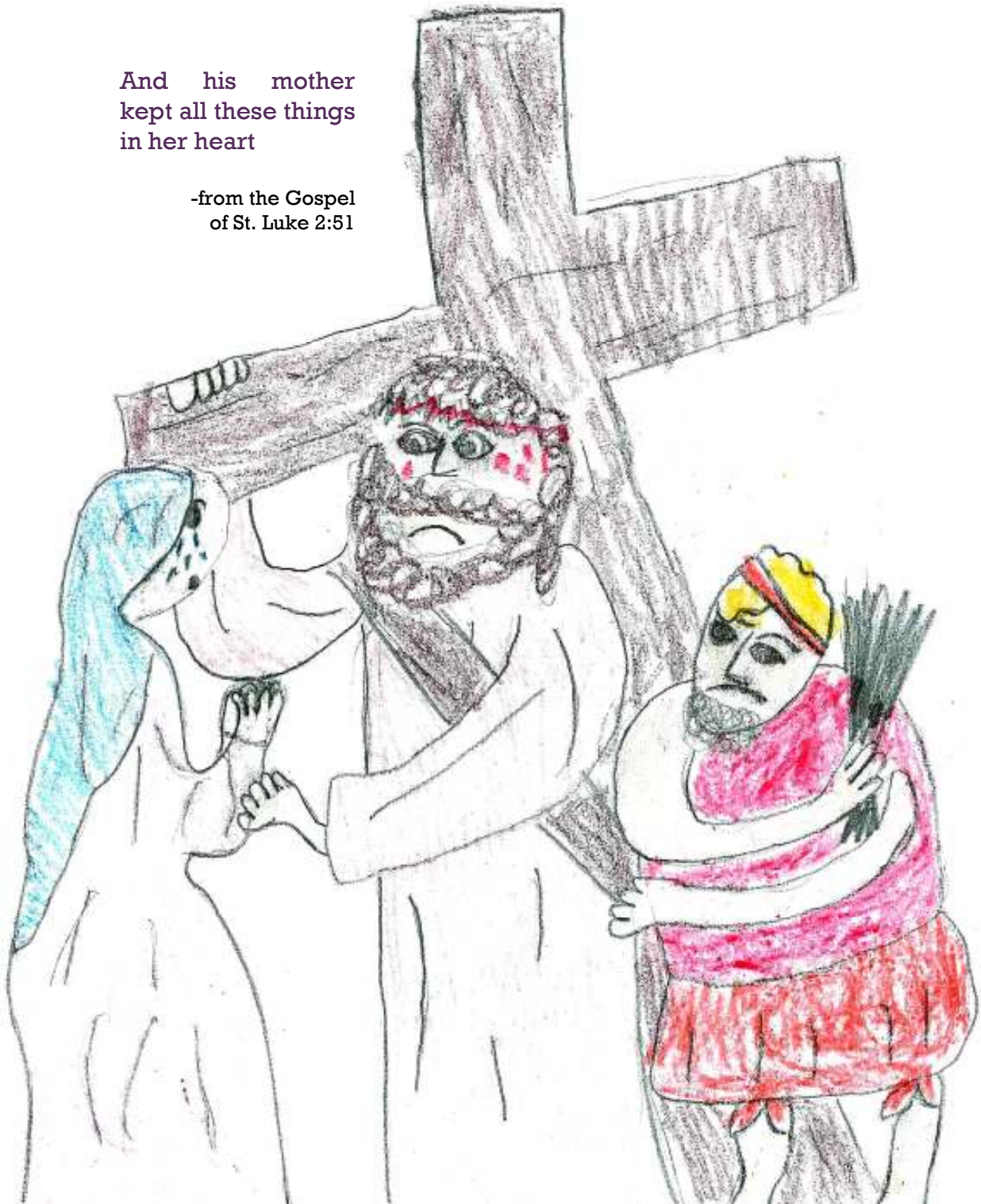
Each of us falls so often: we say bad words, we forget our chores, or we start fights. After we fall, we need to get back up. Jesus offers us the strength to get back up; as he got up after this first fall and continued on, he can help us continue on.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord Jesus, how many times do people around me fall down—at school, during a game, at home—and I laugh at them, or point my finger at them, or I walk by without helping them up. Help me Lord to be more like you, who never ignored anyone who was in need. Teach me to love like you; teach me to help others. I love you Jesus, thank you for loving me.

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 Jason Huynh, LC

artwork by:

Vanessa

Thirteenth-Place Winner

4th grade

pinecrest Academy

Cumming, GA, USA



fourth station

Mother and Son is always a sight,
So cherish the moment like diamond in the light.
She shows love for her child without a word,
For there is much between them, never heard.

But here we have an awkward scene, true to say,
Of mother encountering her son who is about to lay
On a cross, left to die accused as a criminal,
Bruised and with no friends; to a minimal.

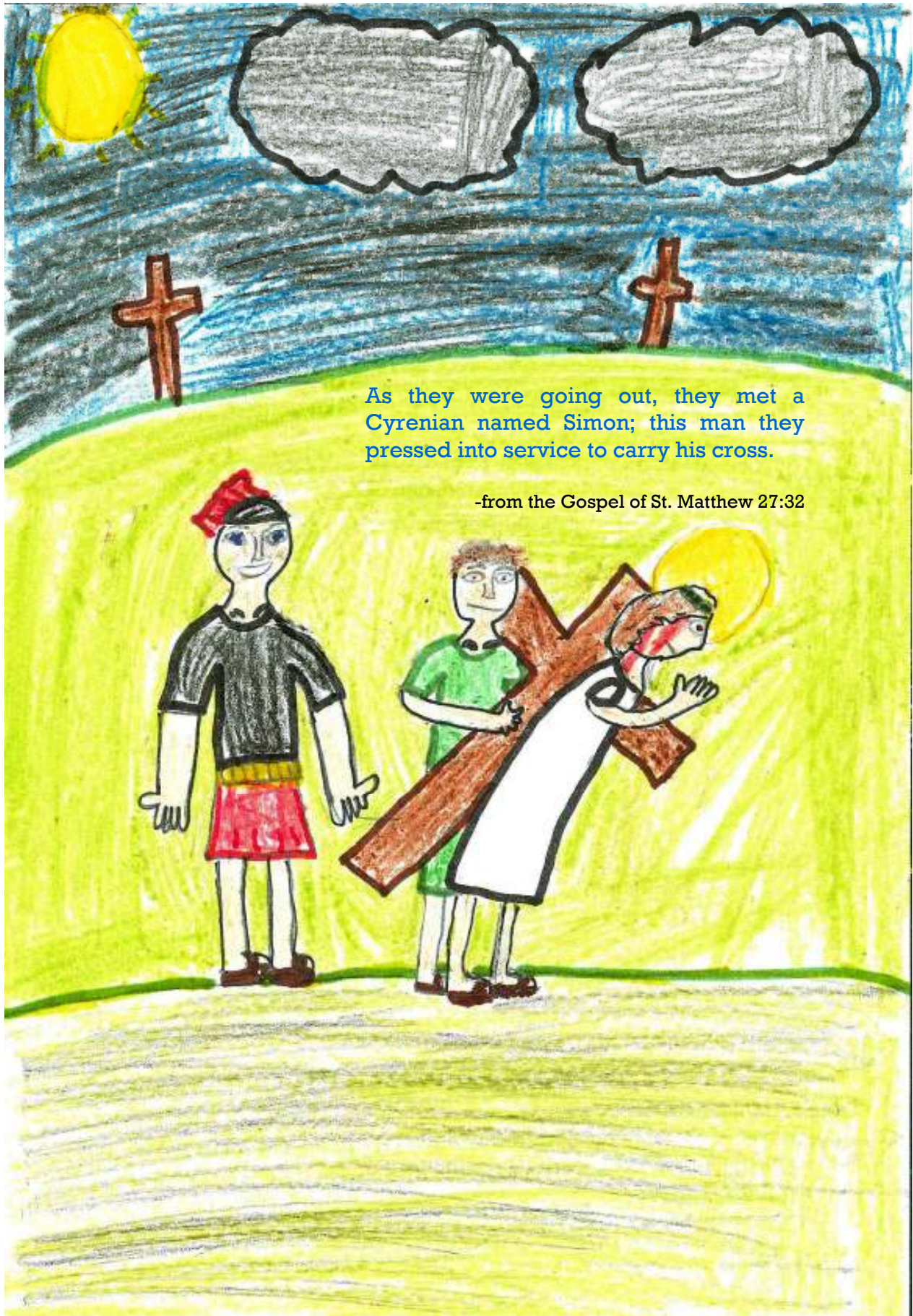
Sad as it might be,
Jesus tells us not to flee,
But to watch him encounter our Blessed Mother in fact,
To learn that between them, there is nothing they lack.

So let us unite and rise with Christ and Mary,
And be brave with the cross we carry.

Up, up, up to the hill we go,
Joyful and with a smile as to show
We are like a wise man who knows,
To the meek and the humble, a Kingdom God bestows.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord, give me the strength to carry my cross as you did, trusting in your grace and in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. May I be meek and humble not so that others take advantage of me, but to be courageous like your mother who said to all difficult things, "Fiat. Let it be done according to your word."



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. Matthew Schmitz LC

artwork by:

Ceara

Second-place Winner

3th grade

Saint Thomas More School

Decatur, GA, USA

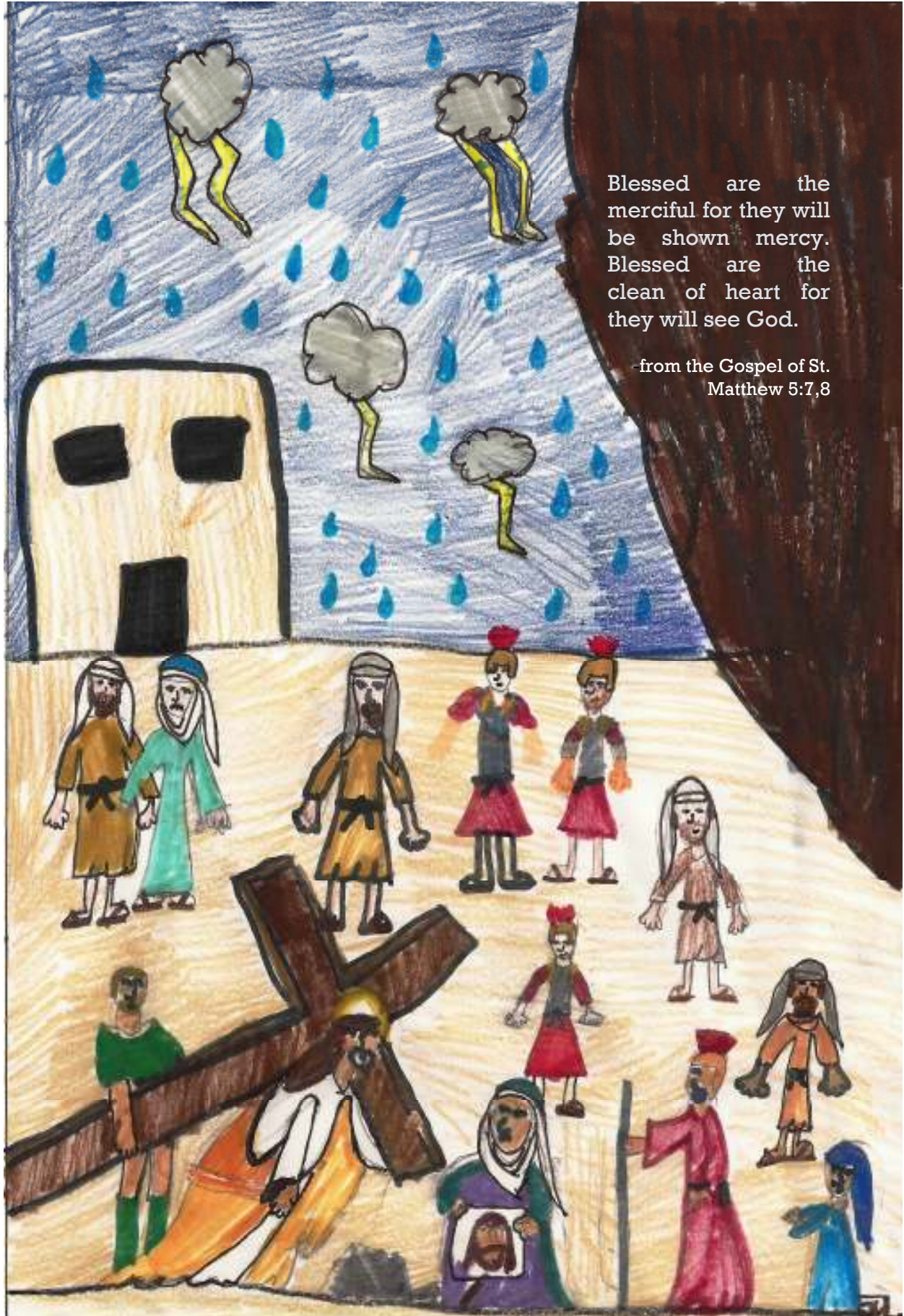
5
fifth station

reflection:

The cross is heavy and Jesus is too exhausted to go much further. The soldiers see that he is not going to make it all the way to Calvary. They grab a man named Simon out of the crowd as he is going home from work and force him to help Jesus carry the heavy cross. At first, Simon doesn't want to help; he just wants to go home. But when he looks into Jesus' eyes and hears him whisper, "Thank you," his life is changed forever.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord Jesus, thank you for being there whenever I need you. I want to pay you back and help you somehow. Help me to see you in others. When I see others that need help, give me courage to be like Simon and help you in them.



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 Fernando Muñoz, LC

artwork by:

Sarah

First-place Winner

3rd grade

Queen of Angels Catholic School

Roswell, GA, USA

6

sixth station

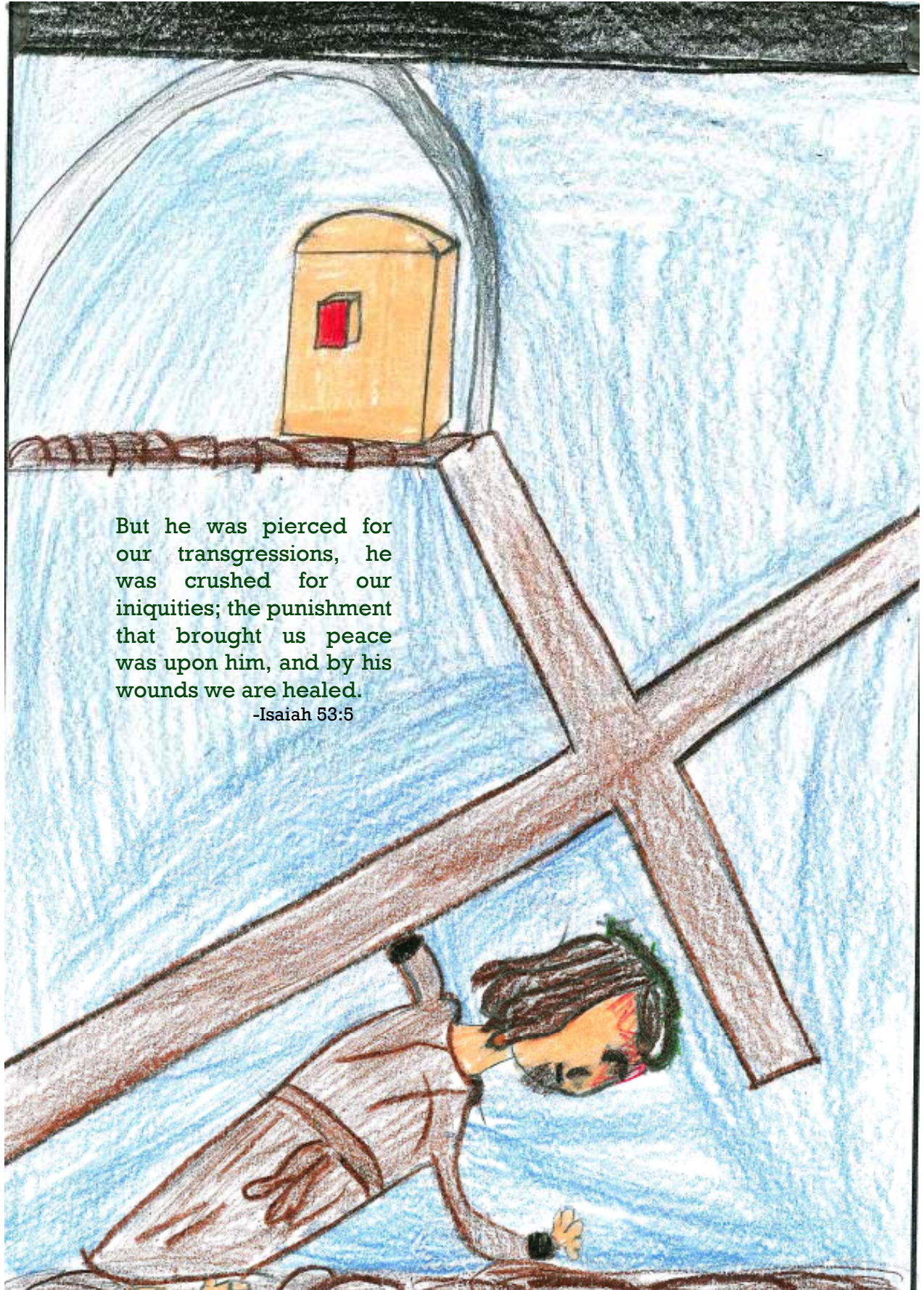
reflection:

Poor Jesus! After all he suffered he was very dirty not a pretty sight. He was stained with mud all over, like when you go to play football on a rainy day. He was stained with blood as well. His body ached and his soul was also full of suffering. He needed somebody to comfort him, like when you want your mom after falling down and getting hurt. 2000 years ago Jesus was consoled by a woman. Her name was Veronica. She was very brave to go and wipe the face of Jesus. She was his friend.

Today, Jesus wants to be consoled by me. He is waiting for me. I must put my name on the list of his friends.

my prayer to Jesus:

Jesus, I also want to console your soul in these moments of suffering and sorrow. I want to do as your friend Veronica did: take my cloth and wipe away the mud and blood on your face. I want to clean it and see you better. It's my small act of love towards you to make you happier. Then, you will be able to see me better: together with you.



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 Kevin McKenzie , LC

artwork by:

Gretchen

Second-Place Winner

4th grade

pinecrest Academy

Cumming, GA, USA

7

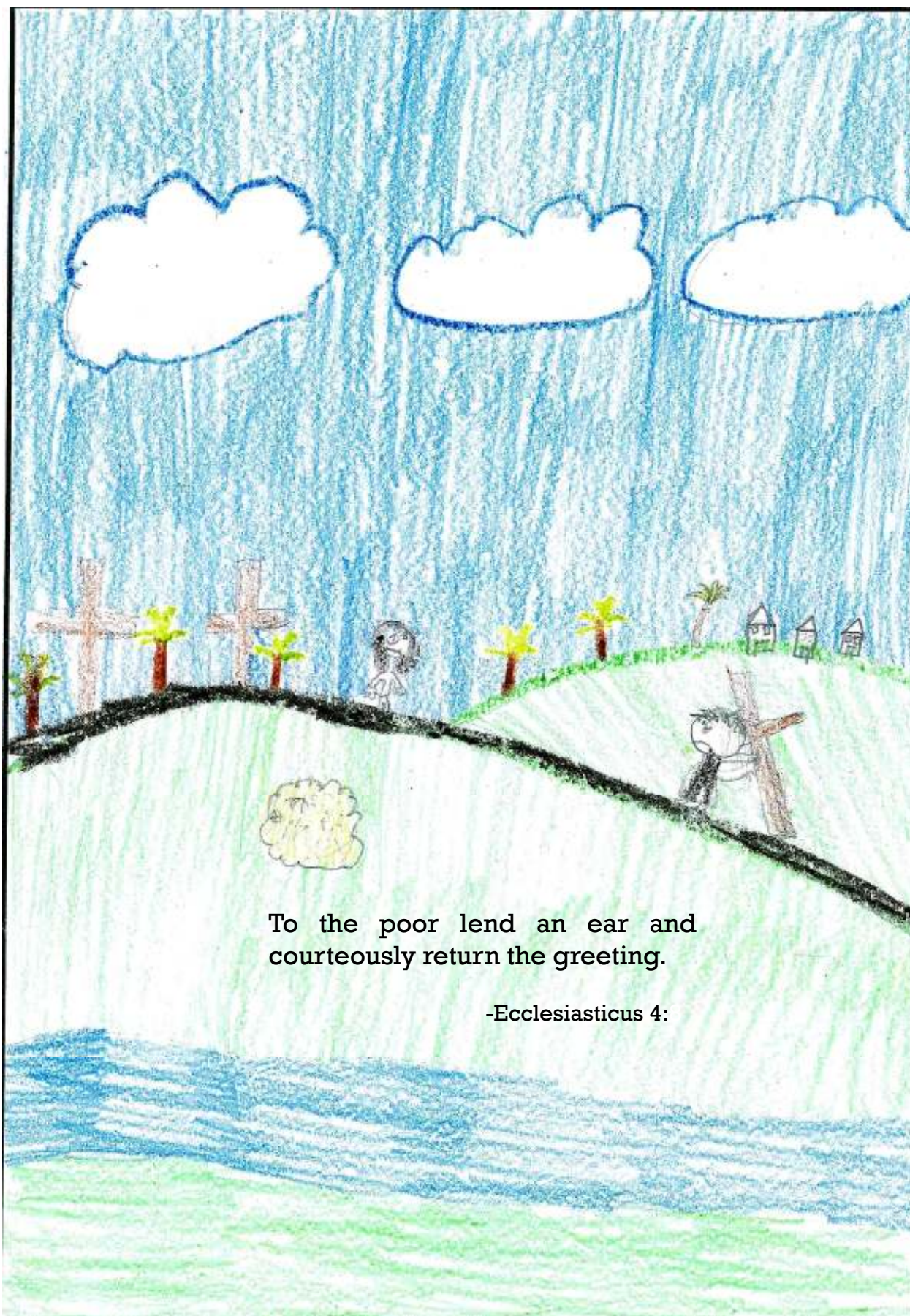
seventh station

reflection:

Jesus has already walked far down the hot and dusty street. He's thirsty, sweaty, and tired, and now his legs start to cramp up under the weight of the heavy wood. He'd like to set the cross down and take a break, but the cruel Roman soldier cracks his whip and shouts for him to keep going. Jesus takes a step forward, then another. But the next time he reaches his foot out, it touches only air. He hadn't seen the step down in the path. Just as his foot finally touches the ground, he loses his balance and tumbles forward. As he falls, the rough wood scrapes across his back and leaves some splinters. The soldier shouts and curses. But no rough words escape Jesus' mouth. He slowly picks himself up again, dusts himself off, and picks up the cross.

my prayer to Jesus:

Jesus, if you didn't get worried when things didn't go your way, it means I don't have to get worried either. Please help me to never give up, to try to always keep going. May the words I speak be words that make you smile. Bless me with your smile, Jesus!



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

-Ecclesiasticus 4:

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

reflection by:

Brother Felipe Quezada, LC

artwork by:

Charlie

Third-Place Winner

3rd grade

Blessed Sacrament School

Wichita, KS, USA

8

eighth station

reflection:

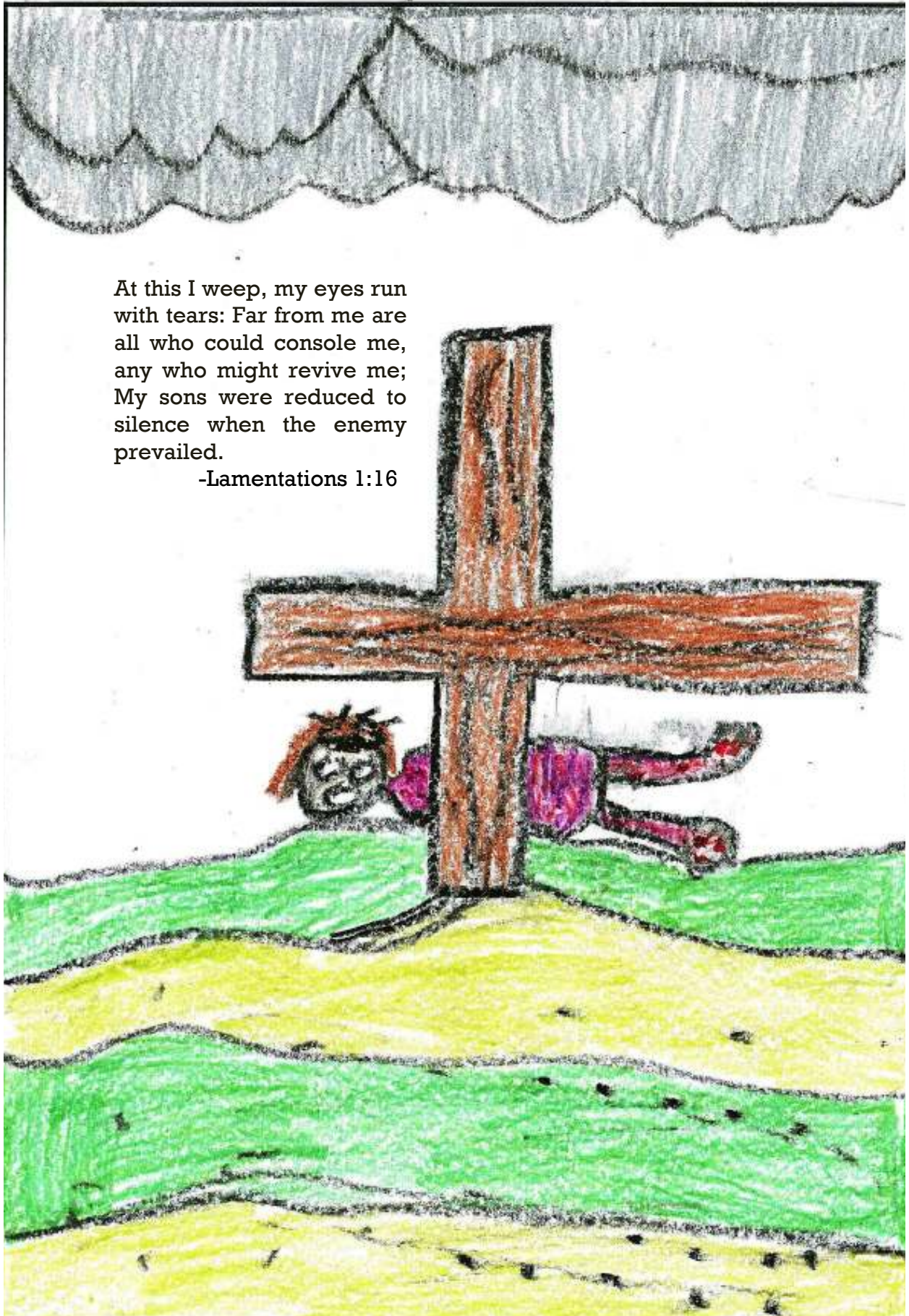
Jesus meets holy women from Jerusalem who are very sad because they see Jesus suffering. Sometimes, when we have a bad day we appreciate when people recognize our pains and offer some words of consolation. Jesus on Good Friday was having a pretty bad day. He had been scourged, beaten, made fun of, and now he is carrying a huge, heavy cross. Despite all this, he does not utter a word of complaint. He tells others not to cry for him. In spite of his pain, he knows that they will have our own troubles of their own. Instead, he says to them, "Do not weep for me," and continues to carry his burdens with courage.

my prayer to Jesus:

Jesus, thank you for your example of not complaining. I complain a whole lot when things are hard or uncomfortable. When I look at how you carry your cross, I am speechless.

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 Stephen Howe, LC

artwork by:

Jude

First-Place Winner

3rd grade

Blessed Sacrament School

Wichita, KS, USA

9

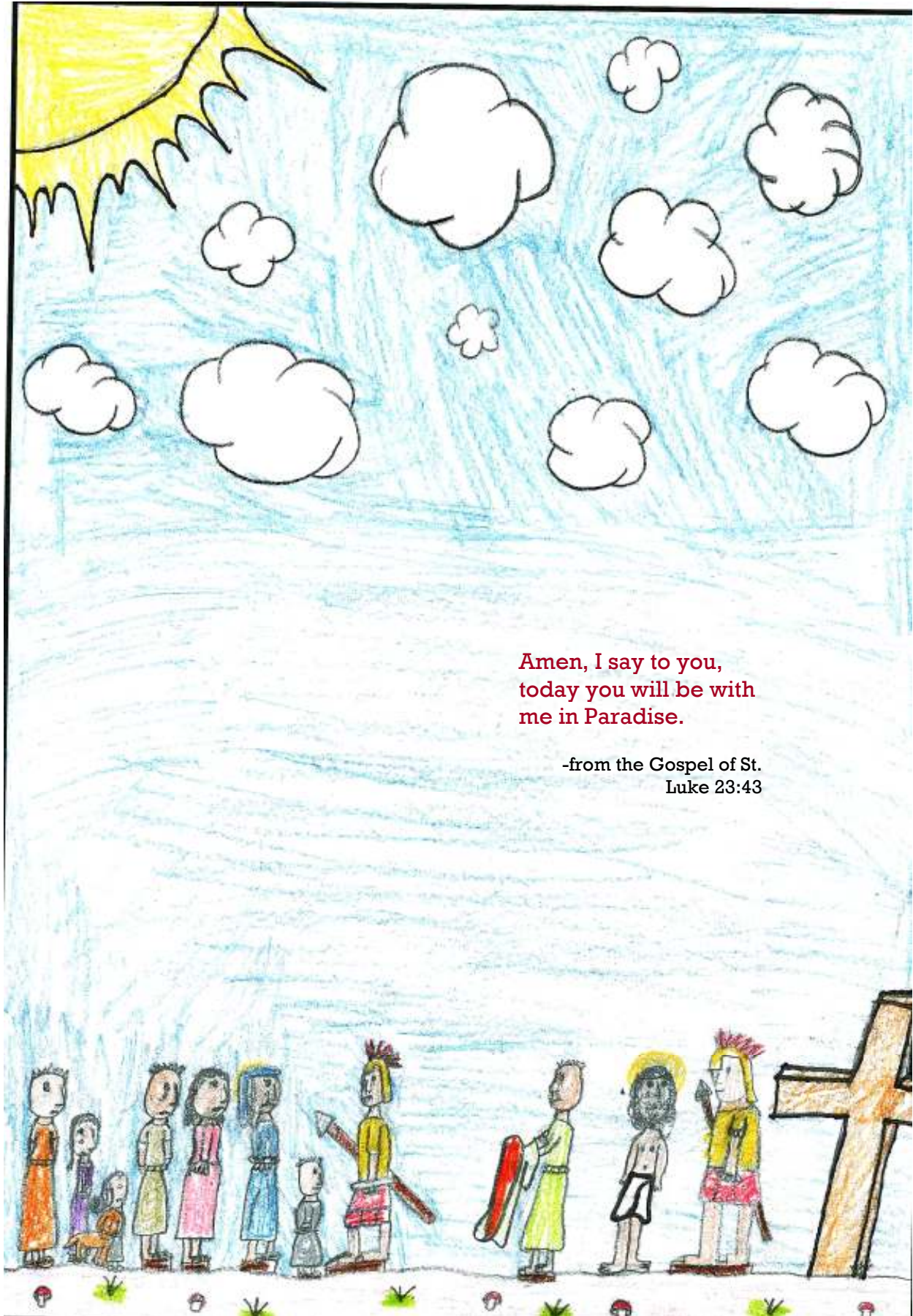
ninth station

reflection:

Have you ever made a mistake at school and the other kids laughed at you? Maybe you got an answer wrong on a test or maybe you said something they thought was silly. Remember how embarrassed you felt? How would you feel afterwards if you found out that you were right and everybody else had been wrong? Wouldn't you be angry? Jesus had made no mistakes. He was God, so everything he did was perfect. But here everybody is laughing at him and calling him "stupid" and lots of worse names, for no reason at all. It's so unfair. As he lies embarrassed and hurting on the road, they call him weak and some people spit on him and hit him. They don't realize that he is the strongest person they've ever seen; strong enough to shove mountains into the sea, calm storms, and cast out devils. Now he chooses to be weak so that he can die for us and we will see how much he loves us. Instead of getting angry, he forgives them, pushes himself up on his elbows, picks up his cross and keeps going.

my prayer to Jesus:

Dear Jesus, help me to use my imagination so that as I look down on you lying crushed beneath your cross in the dust, I will clearly see the smears of blood and dirt on your face, your messy hair mixed with thorns and your brown eyes looking into mine and saying: *I did all this for you and I would do it all over again just for you if I could die twice.* Help me to love other people even when it's hard, so I can do my part to lift the cross off of you and pick you up.



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 Peter Huynh, LC

artwork by:

Claire

Second-Place Winner

4th grade

Pincrest Academy

Cumming, GA, USA

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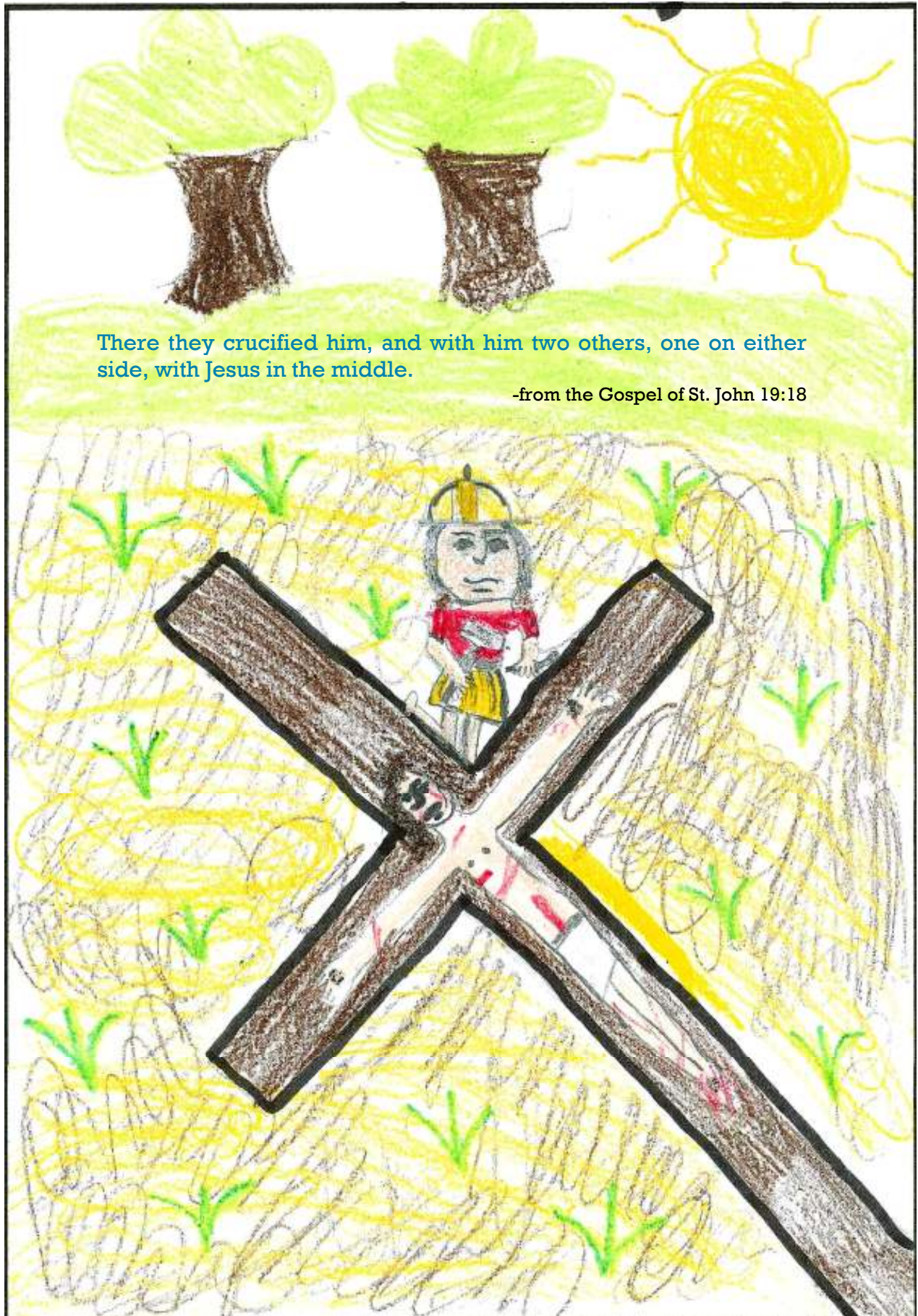
tenth station

reflection:

When you eat an orange, you don't just pick it up and bite into it. Well... you can, but it will taste bitter with a hint of something sweet and citric. The juicy goodness is inside the thick orange peel. Unless violence is done to the orange peel, you can't get to the heart of the fruit. It's the same with your birthday present. The bow, ribbons, wrapping paper, and the nice note from your Auntie all have to be removed to reveal the gift. On Calvary, Christ gives himself to us as a gift. This is the greatest gift we can ever receive. The Romans stripped Jesus like an orange or a birthday present, but they did not appreciate the fruit or the offering. When Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist as food and present, do we appreciate his friendship and the gift of himself?

my prayer to Jesus:

Jesus, help me to appreciate your gift of you. I want to make my love a gift to you. But at times there is so much pride and selfishness caked onto my heart. Help me strip and peel away these sins that separate me from you. Amen.



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 Colin Gore, LC

artwork by:

Marguerite

Third-place Winner

4th grade

John Paul Preparatory School

Ballwin, MO, USA



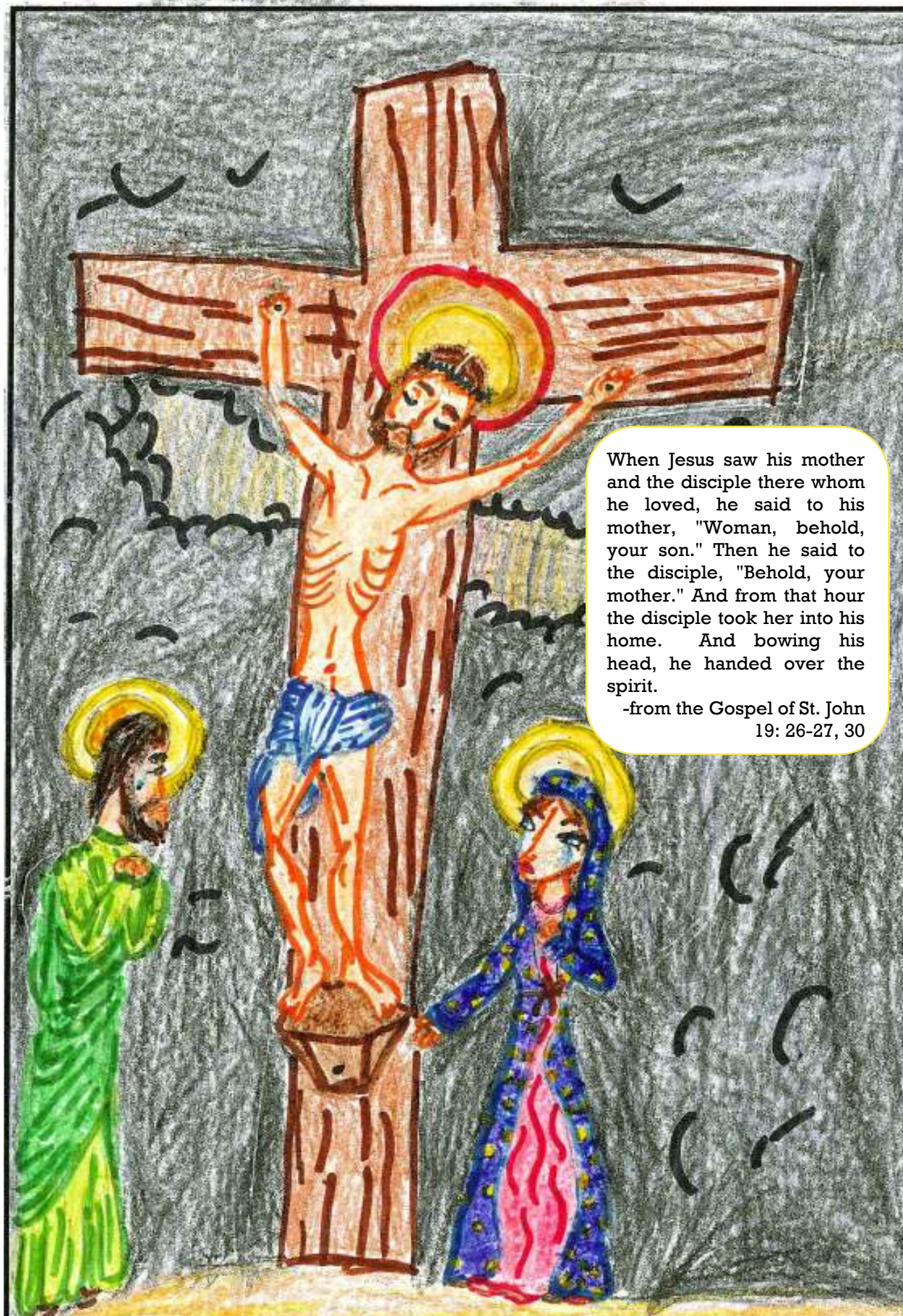
eleventh station

reflection:

It usually took two soldiers to nail a man to the cross: one to hold the criminal's arm down and to keep him from moving, and another to hammer the nail. One soldier is enough this time – Jesus doesn't put up any resistance, and he even holds his hand open so that the soldier can do the job cleanly. The soldier is shocked: this has never happened before! He looks into Christ's eyes and wonders, *Why are you unafraid of the cross? Who are you?*

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord Jesus, you showed true courage when you were being put to death; teach me to be brave like you when I suffer.



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 Stephen Dardis, LC

artwork by:

Mary

First-place Winner

3rd grade

St. Thomas More School

Dacula, GA, USA

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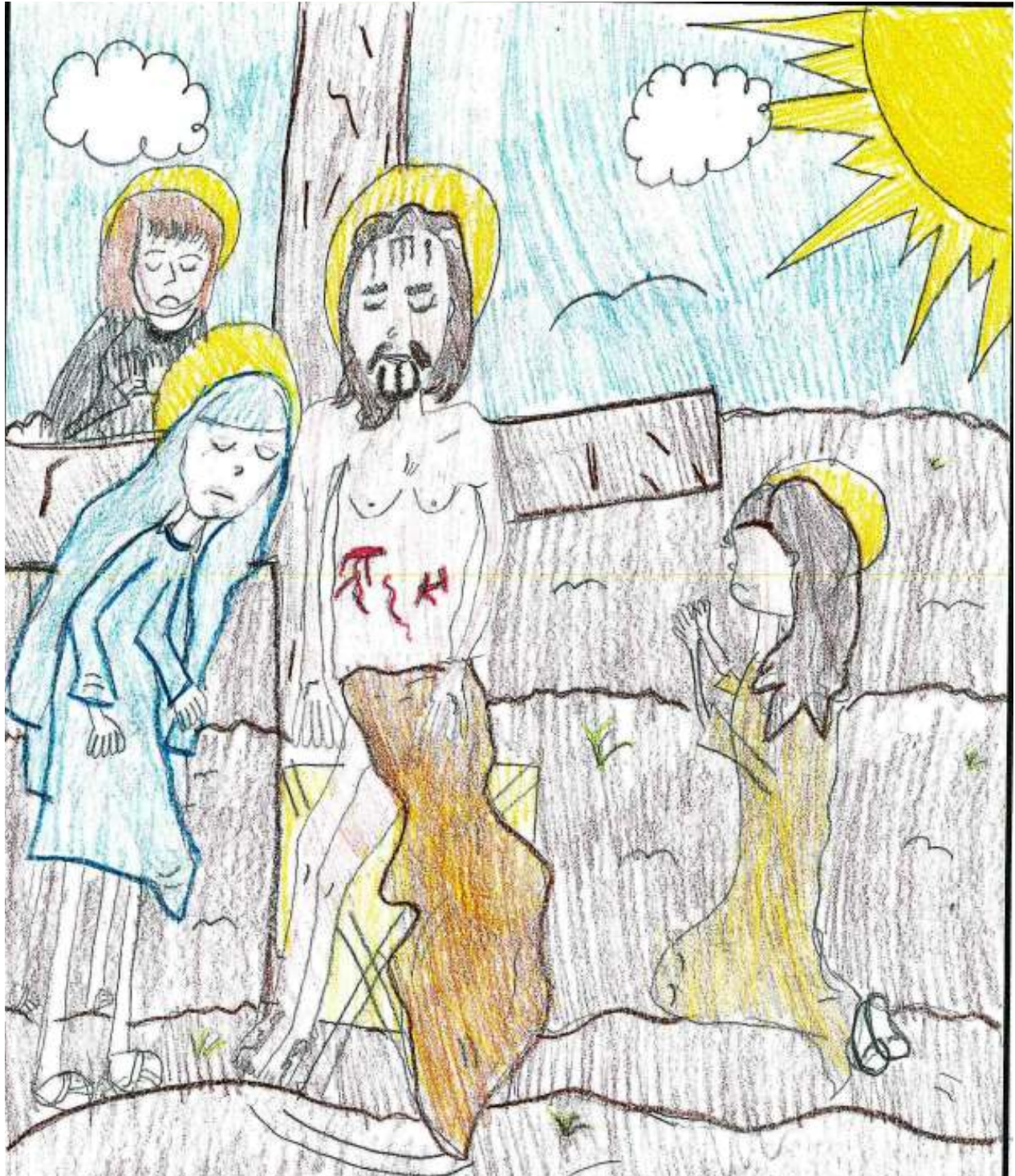
twelfth station

reflection:

Now crucified above the crowds below, Jesus hung in agony during the final hours of life. His body screamed from the deep wounds in his hands and feet, from the thorns piercing his brow like needles, and from every gash, blow, and bruise he'd received since his arrest the night before. In his heart and will, however, Jesus strove to ignore all of this, including the mockery from below. Instead, he fixed his mind on the souls of his friends, and even on those who were doing this to him. This sacrifice was not about him; it was for them. For this he embraced it, and with love he endured it. "Father, forgive them. They know not what they do." His torturous fate was not misery; it was his triumph for our redemption.

my prayer to Jesus:

Lord, grant me faith to see how much you loved me in those darkest moments of your life. It was all for me, Jesus; there was nothing in it for you! I want to thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Mother Mary, teach me to love him in return. Help me to embrace the unfairness and the pains that God allows me to face, and to offer them up with him.



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 2:34-35

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

reflection by:

Brother Adrián Canal, LC

artwork by:

Kira

First-Place Winner

4th grade

Pincrest Academy

Cumming, GA, USA

13

thirteenth station

reflection:

Some of Jesus' friends took him down from the cross. They laid him down on the stony ground. Immediately, Mary came and gave him a big embrace. In a few seconds her mind went back to those first moments of Christmas when she carried him in her arms and kissed his forehead. It was too hard to believe. That baby was now bleeding, wounded, and lifeless. Yet Mary believed that Jesus couldn't end like this. He was too great to finish in death. She trusted in Jesus and hoped in his resurrection.

my prayer to Mary:

Dearest of Mothers, help me to imitate you trusting in Jesus even when life is hard. I place myself in your hands.



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 David Joyce, LC

artwork by:

Claudia

First-place Winner

2nd grade

Northwoods Catholic School

USA

14

fourteenth station

reflection:

Jesus' suffering is finally finished. His mission was to do all God the Father wanted, even to die for our sins instead in our place. Jesus died like a true hero, his mission completed. Now his mother is left with his body. They carry Jesus to the tomb and anoint his body. Mary, our mother, still felt the pain of Jesus, looking down at the body of her son. But Mary also believed the promise Jesus made her: that he would rise from the dead. We pray to have a faith like Mary, to believe even when it seems that there is no hope.

my prayer to Mary:

Dear Mary my mother, you suffered to see how much your son suffered for me, watching him die. Please give me the courage to believe even when it seems things are dark and make no sense. To believe like you did that he loves me and has some plan in mind. Might I too have the joy to see your son risen from the dead in his glory.

i am the
LIFE

**Special
thanks
to those
who made
this book
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Mrs. Heather Kloer
Ms. Mary Degoeede
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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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