

## **Station 2: Jesus meets his Mother and Simon helps Jesus**

**John 19: 25-27** - Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple 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.

**Luke 23:26** - As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

### **Reflection:**

When Jesus and his mother meet they just look at each other. Words cannot express how they feel. What he saw in his mother's eyes must have hurt him more than the raw pain of his wounds.

This, for Jesus is the most painful time of all. This is his burden. This was not of his making. The violence inflicted upon him is etched into the heart of his mother, as she watched the agony of her son.

Simon the Cyrene was a stranger in the city. He did not know Jesus, but that did not matter. What mattered was that in this moment of need Simon was able to lend his shoulders to one whose own had given out. He offered his strength to one who had none left. Simon took on the cross Jesus could no longer carry.

## **Prayer:**

Jesus, we remember the gaze that rested between you and your mother. In that moment of pain there was also a moment of deep and enduring love. Jesus, give us the courage to bring that love into the deepest recesses of our souls, to our families, to those places of fracture and disharmony in our community and our world.

Help us to be open to opportunities to be a Simon in our world. In those times when we can help, let us have the generosity and courage to do so.

May we have the humility to accept all the Simons we meet along the way who reach out to help us in our times of need.

Take a few moments, here at our community prayer chalkboard, to think about the crosses you have had to bear. Have you experiences deep and painful loss? Was there someone who acted as Simon for you? Have you been Simon to someone struggling to bear a cross of their own? Write a prayer or name the person or situation on the chalkboard, a piece of paper or simply pray.