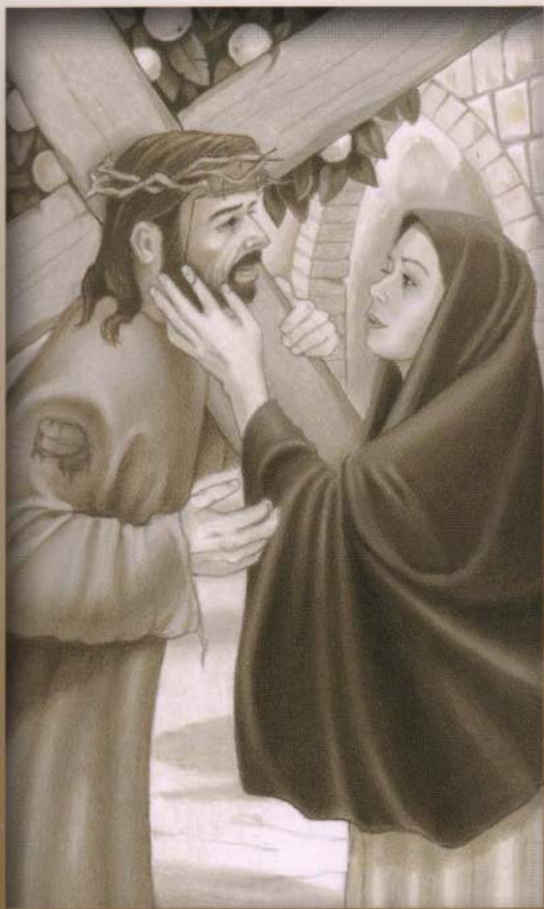


Mary's
WAY OF THE CROSS
WALKING WITH THE MOTHER OF JESUS



IRMA PFEIFER
TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY M. JEAN FRISK

✠ SECOND STATION ✠

YOUR SON TAKES THE CROSS



- V.* We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
R. Because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.

*H*e drags his cross for love of us. You are his Mother, but you cannot change a thing. You can only accompany him, be close to him even if only from a distance, and show that like him you are ready to fulfill the Father's will. Were you there when he told the strangers that his hour had come to be glorified? "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn 12:24). Did you hear when he told them, "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say?—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name" (Jn 12:27).

Mary, somehow he understood, he knew the Father's love like no other before him. But did you grasp it at this moment? After Jesus, you carry the heaviest cross ever placed on human shoulders, for you knew like no other that he, your child, came from God and was the Father's Son. Your love for him makes you able to bear this incredible pain in your own utter helplessness.

How often I try to make things easier for myself! Mary, won't you teach me to bear my cross with the inner joy that committed love brings? My cross is meant for me and for no one else. It is so hard to stick it out and endure the long haul. Walking here with you who are Mother and sister to me, the journey begins to make sense. Your quiet love, joined to my longing, helps me see his suffering face in my cross. It's almost as if you carry my cross for me. I trust that you will teach me to discover God's love directing my life in every situation, just as you found it so in yours. You expect from me only my readiness to continue the journey. Daily, hourly.