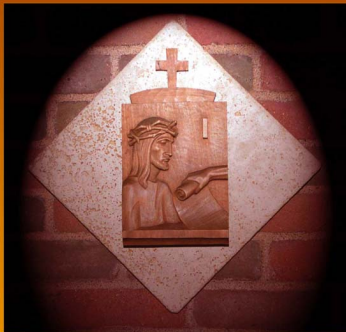


The 1st Station:

Jesus is Condemned to Death



... but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified. Mt 27,26

Integrity

For three years Jesus walked the roads and byways, healing and proclaiming God's forgiveness. Crowds stood awestruck by the signs he worked and spellbound at his words, his honesty and his authority. For this he now must die. We think of an innocent man jealously condemned. But the tragedy is deeper. Here is one with an integrity so uncompromising that worldly forces must destroy him at all cost. This man must die.

Jesus I contemplate your compassion for the poor and for sinners. Because you reject evil in every form, you must now die. I pray for justice for the poor and the neglected. I pray for sorrow for my sins and I ask for strength to resist evil. But above all I praise you for accepting death itself, thus winning redemption for us all. Amen.