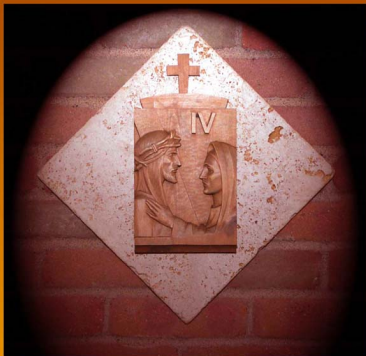


The 4th Station:

Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother



Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister. Jn 19:25

Fortitude

The meeting of Jesus and his mother is so deeply troubling because we instinctively know a parent should never have to suffer the loss of a child to an untimely death. We contemplate the fortitude of Mary, sorrowful mother. From what source does she draw her strength to be a loving, caring mother to her son, even in the hour of his death?

Mary, Mother of us all, give fortitude to those who parent young people today. I pray especially for mothers whose children cry with hunger, for mothers whose children starve spiritually and take their own lives. Be with parents of children in hospital and cancer wards. Grant courage to those whose children are slain in wars and on ghetto streets. Bless all parents with your consolation and fortitude. Amen.