

The Fourth Station of the Cross

Norberto Jimenez, Coalition of Immokalee Workers

[Then Simeon said to Mary] ...and you yourself a sword will pierce, so that the thoughts of many hearts might be revealed. (Luke 2:35).

Lord, for the immense pain that our Virgin Mother suffered, we ask you to bless all the mothers that suffer for their children and husbands that abandoned them because they are forced to immigrate to this country because of political and economic pressure, searching for a better life for their families. Forced to risk their lives crossing the desert.



Thousands of mothers and wives suffer often for their children and husbands because of the separation and knowing the situation those us immigrants live in this country. Our Lady suffered seeing her son carrying that heavy cross. In this same way, as workers we carry our own cross. In our case, as farmworkers in Florida we face abuses, stagnant wages, since 1978, 40 to 50 cents that they keep paying us for each bucket that we pick, and in the most extreme cases, modern day slavery. While we suffer this, corporations like Subway, which demand cheap tomatoes without worrying about the human cost, make large profits from our sweat and poverty.

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty’” (Luke 1: 46-47, 51-53).

May the encounter of Jesus and Mary, Our Lady, serve us as a reflection. It is our sacrifice as workers that makes it possible for there to be food on the tables and fast-food restaurants of this country. Working with the land and harvesting the food is dignified work, but every day we see so many abuses, discrimination and slavery in the fields. Lord, we know and believe that you can move the hearts of consumers so that we may work together to transform the fast food industry. We want to live with dignity and justice.

Lord, thank you for listening to our plea and our following petitions. We will all respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

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For the immigrant workers that carry the cross, finding themselves in foreign lands, far from their families, and are exploited.

For justice for all workers.

For an end to slavery.

For a fair wage.

For the consumers, so that they may join the call for justice

To move the hearts of those that exploit us.

For a penny more per pound of tomatoes that we pick.

For a code of conduct that guarantees our rights and involves us in its monitoring.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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