



366th Station — Stations of the Cross from Ukraine

RE-SOURCE: Session #1 — February 2, 2023

Lent 2023: Probing the mystery of the Incarnation through the lens of Jesus' sufferings and ours

Tobie Tondi, SHCJ comments on looking at life and events through an incarnational lens: *"We often try to make sense of our own suffering as well as that of others by viewing the events through the lens of Jesus' sufferings. In these reflections (Stations of the Cross) young adult Ukrainians, on the one-year anniversary of the war in their country, have painted a collage of war images in their own country viewed through the lens of the last days of Jesus."*

On the first Friday of Lent, February 24th, **Caritas Internationalis** broadcast these stations of the cross. They are posted on **YouTube** so that people can continue to join in this prayer as we walk with Jesus throughout the Lenten season; the service in English is available here — <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7Phl17LY0M&t=113s>

The written text of the service can be accessed as a PDF file at — https://www.caritas.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Way-of-the-Cross_ENGLISH.pdf

Here is the reflection offered for the second station:

Jesus puts the cross on his shoulders (Pavlo Loskutov, Economist)

Mom... Dad... Son... Daughter... Wake up... A full-scale invasion of our country has begun. The war... These were the words we heard from our relatives, friends and close ones in that early morning... Sirens and explosions are already heard in the cities. The son quickly packs his things, hugs and calms his parents, wife, children and goes to the armed forces to defend his country. He realizes that it will be his Way of the Cross with its trials and sufferings. But he accepts it and is ready to carry it for the sake of peace ... Each of us realizes that



it will be a difficult Way of the Cross, where rage, contempt, pain, humiliation will reign. We stand together around the Cross. We hear the words of Jesus, where He speaks to us: "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

Lord, we trust you and pray for your help and presence at the time when each of us takes up and carries our cross.