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## From the Clergy Assistant

### Walking with Jesus

One of the most meaningful Holy Week experiences for me last year occurred at our Good Friday Children's Service with the Stations of the Cross. First of all, I was struck by the time, effort, and commitment of so many people that went into creating the service. There were costumes made; roles of Jesus, Pontius Pilate, Simon, and Veronica enacted; stations arranged; and prayers and hymns offered—and the full participation of all those who came and joined in the service as we moved from station to station; walked with Jesus in his final earthly hours.

However, truth be told, I had overlooked asking anyone to serve in the role of Simon of Cyrene, who we are told *"was pulled from the crowds to help Jesus with his heavy burden. Simon did not volunteer to help, but he did not turn away when he was asked, even when the crowds were so against Jesus..."* (excerpt of a prayer from Good Friday Children's Service). So when we came to that station, there was a pause as everyone waited for Simon to step forward... And then Lucas Veca, one of the members of last year's Confirmation program, quietly, perhaps a bit nervously, stepped forward and helped Jesus carry his cross to the end of his human journey. It was truly a "Holy Spirit moment"... As the prayer continues, *"Sometimes I do not like the problems that come my way. Sometimes I try to get others to take care of them, or solve them for me... God, help me notice the needs of people around me. Help me to do more than just watch. Help me to be like Simon, who was nervous but did the right thing by helping Jesus..."*

This year we hope to take better advantage of the marvelous space that we have here at St. Elizabeth's by expanding the path of our journey with Jesus—creating more space between each station and allowing all participants an opportunity to experience a bit of Jesus' final journey of Good Friday. We will begin the service in the church and then process into the courtyard to stand with Jesus before Pontius Pilate—our first station. And our walk with Jesus will continue...

It is so valuable to make that difficult and lonely journey with Jesus through the valley of the shadow of death on Good Friday in order to "come out the other side" and more fully appreciate and enter into the awe of the Resurrection and New Life with Christ on Easter Sunday.

We hope you can join us at the Children's Good Friday service at 4:30 pm. Again, as I read through the prayers of this service, I am struck by how these prayers and actions strike a chord with **all** ages, not only children. Yes, it has been created especially for the participation of children, but *all* are welcome to share in this journey.

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