



## HANDOUT SAINT STATIONS

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

#### **Biography**

In 1531, Mary appeared to a poor man, Juan Diego, on Tepeyac Hill and told him to ask the bishop to build a church there. This was during a time in Mexico when the majority of people were still worshipping false gods and sacrificing tens of thousands of people every year. Juan Diego did as Mary instructed, but the bishop did not believe him and asked him for a sign. Mary appeared to Juan Diego again and told him to go pick roses to take to the bishop as a sign, even though it was December, a time when roses did not normally grow. Juan Diego did as Mary asked and when he opened his tilma to show the bishop the roses, the image of the Lady of Guadalupe was on his tilma. The bishop had the church built and because of this miracle, millions of Mexicans converted to the Catholic faith. Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of the unborn and the Americas. The tilma, although made of a poor material and not properly preserved, has not deteriorated in over 450 years. There are numerous other amazing facts about the tilma: photo imaging has shown that the eyes of Mary reflect what she saw that day when she appeared to Juan Diego; in 1921, a bomb was hidden in a vase and placed at the foot of the tilma and although the the bomb destroyed part of the church, the tilma was not harmed; the stars on the tilma show the constellations that would have been present in the sky on the exact day of the apparition.

#### **Quote**

“Am I not here, I, who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, the crossing of my arms? Am I not the source of all your joy? What more do you need? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you.”

#### **Prayer**

Dear Mother, we love you. We thank you for your promise to help us in our need. We trust in your love that dries our tears and comforts us. Teach us to find our peace in your Son, Jesus, and bless us every day of our lives. Help us build a shrine in our hearts. Make it as beautiful as the one built for you on the mount of Tepeyac, a shrine full of trust, hope, and love for Jesus that grows stronger each day. Holy Mary, you have chosen to remain with us by giving us your most wonderful and holy image on Juan Diego’s cloak. May we feel your loving presence as we look upon your face. Like Juan Diego, give us the courage to bring your message of hope to everyone. You are our mother and inspiration. Hear our prayers and answer us. Amen.



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### BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

#### **Biography**

Blessed Solanus Casey was born on a farm in Wisconsin in 1870. He was the sixth child in a family of ten boys and six girls. At the age of 21, after working a few jobs, Solanus entered the seminary in Milwaukee. His studies were very difficult, so he left and joined the Capuchins in Detroit in 1896. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1904, but was not allowed to hear confessions or preach due to his lack of theological knowledge. Solanus served as porter and sacristan at different parishes in New York and was able to give spiritual talks. People were impressed by his spiritual fire. Every week, 150 to 200 people would come to the services he conducted for the sick. Many came for a blessing while others came for a consultation. Solanus was always willing to listen, no matter who the person was. He would always show love and concern for non-Catholics. One of the main attributes of his spirituality was that of gratitude. He would say “thanks be to God” many times throughout the day. During the Great Depression, his deep concern for the poor inspired the Capuchins to start a soup kitchen that is still open today.

#### **Quote**

“I’m offering my sufferings that all might be one. If only I could see the conversion of the whole world.”

#### **Prayer**

Thank you, Jesus, for the witness of Blessed Solanus Casey. Help us imitate his humility and love of neighbor, especially of the sick among us. Help us always have a spirit of gratitude and awareness that every good and perfect gift comes from you. Amen.

**ST. JOSE SANCHEZ DEL RIO****Biography**

Saint Jose Sanchez del Rio was born in Mexico in 1913. When he was 14 years old, a revolution broke out in his country. The Catholic Church was greatly persecuted — many bishops, priests, and members of the laity were tortured and killed. Jose begged his mother to allow him to join the Catholic group that was fighting for their religious freedom, known as the Cristeros. His mother reluctantly agreed. When Jose approached the general of the Cristeros, he was told he was too young to fight but after much insistence, the general agreed to let him carry the flag. One day, Jose gave his horse to the general when the general's horse was shot. Jose was captured and placed in a church sacristy that had been turned into a prison. The enemy soldiers were keeping prize-fighting roosters in the church for safekeeping. Jose, being deeply disturbed by the sacrilege, snapped all of the roosters' necks. He was found guilty of being an enemy of the state and was sentenced to execution. Jose was given the opportunity to deny his faith and be released, but he refused. He always replied, "I will never give in. Viva Cristo Rey, long live Christ the King." He prayed the rosary and sang praises to God while imprisoned. Jose was tortured while walking to his execution. The soldiers told him that if he said, "death to Christ the King," the painful walk would stop. Jose's faith did not falter and he continued to respond, "Viva Cristo Rey." He even told the soldiers he forgave them. Jose's last words before he was shot were, "Viva Cristo Rey."

**Quote**

"I am resigned to the will of God. I die happy because I die beside our Lord. Do not afflict yourselves because of my death, since to die for God gives me joy."

**Prayer**

Thank you, Jesus, for the witness of St. Jose Sanchez del Rio. Help us to have the same incredible courage that Jose had in the midst of persecution. Give us strength to stand up for the truth when we are tempted to deny you in little and big ways throughout the day, even though it may be difficult. May our battle cry be the same as Jose's: long live Christ the King! Amen.



## HANDOUT SAINT STATIONS

### ST. GIANNA MOLLA

#### **Biography**

Gianna was born in Italy on October 4, 1922. Throughout her life, she continually helped others and inspired them with her faith. She was part of Catholic Action, a lay movement that focuses on prayer, service, and sacrifice. In 1952, she completed her degree in pediatrics and committed to caring for the bodies and souls of her patients. In 1955, she married Pietro Molla and they had three children. After suffering two miscarriages, Gianna became pregnant again. During the second month of her pregnancy, Gianna developed a fibroma on her uterus. After examination, the doctors gave her three choices: have an abortion, which would save her life and allow her to continue to have children; have a complete hysterectomy, which would preserve her life, but take the unborn child's life and prevent future pregnancy; or remove only the fibroma with the potential of further complications. Roman Catholic teaching would have allowed her to obtain a hysterectomy, but forbid an abortion. Wanting to preserve her child's life, she opted for the removal of the fibroma. After the operation, she experienced many complications. Gianna was quite clear about her wishes, expressing to her family, "This time it will be a difficult delivery, and they may have to save one or the other — I want them to save my baby." Her practice of self-gift as a part of Catholic Action and as a wife and mother led to the ultimate self-gift: giving her life so her child might live.

#### **Quote**

"We cannot love without suffering and we cannot suffer without love."

#### **Prayer**

Thank you, Jesus, for the witness of St. Gianna Molla. Help us have a radical love like hers. Show us how to lay down our lives for those around us, both in our homes and at our schools. Help us have the courage to sacrifice for the good of those we encounter every day and show us how to keep our gaze fixed on heaven. Amen.



## HANDOUT SAINT STATIONS

### ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

#### **Biography**

Edith Stein was born to Jewish parents in Germany in 1891. Even as a young child, Edith showed great intellectual ability. She received her doctorate in philosophy *summa cum laude* from the University of Freiburg. In her pursuit of truth — particularly after reading the biography of St. Teresa of Avila — Edith was led to the Catholic Church. She devoted her time to teaching, lecturing, writing, and translating and quickly became a renowned philosopher and author. Edith had a strong devotion to St. John of the Cross and wrote a lot about the cross and suffering in humanity. She had a longing to join the Carmelite order and with the onset of World War II, her spiritual director gave her permission to enter. She took the name Sr. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. As the Jewish persecution continued, Sr. Teresa secretly moved to Holland and it was there that she wrote her last work, “The Science of the Cross.” Soon, however, the Nazis invaded Holland and Sr. Teresa was taken to the Auschwitz death camp. She died in the gas chambers in 1942. Saint Teresa’s writings continue to influence many philosophers and theologians today.

#### **Quote**

“Things were in God’s plan which I had not planned at all. I am coming to the living faith and conviction that — from God’s point of view — there is no chance and that the whole of my life, down to every detail, has been mapped out in God’s divine providence and makes complete and perfect sense in God’s all-seeing eyes.”

#### **Prayer**

Thank you, Jesus, for the witness of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Help us to never tire of seeking truth. Give us the courage to stand up for our convictions, even in the midst of persecution and suffering. Help us embrace our cross daily. Amen.