

A Coffee with Alessio



The Seventh Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time.

I know that I normally focus on the readings for the upcoming Sunday or feast in my column. As I mentioned in last week's column, now that we are in this time of Lent, I am resuming my series of reflections on the Stations of the Cross. The return of this series on the Stations is a bit like a return of a tv program after the summer break, for example, *Midsomer Murders* or *Death in Paradise*. (Speaking of *Death in Paradise*, there is a new actor who will replace Ardal O'Hanlon as the Detective Inspector for the remainder of series 9 and will continue on into series 10.)

You will recall that during Lent last year, after my introduction to the Lenten Season, we meditated upon the first six Stations of the Cross from "Everyone's Way of the Cross" and we finished up with Veronica wiping the face of Jesus. At the end of each station, I suggested a verse from the *Stabat Mater (At the Cross)* that you could sing after that particular station. In last week's column, I wrote about Lent being a pilgrimage. In the Introduction to these fourteen stations Christ speaks to us:

These fourteen steps
That you are now about to take
You do not take alone.

Yes, the Stations of the Cross are part of our Lenten pilgrimage and Christ walks with us every step of the way during this pilgrimage, as we accompany Him to His death on the Cross.

This week we continue our meditation beginning with the seventh station.

Christ speaks:

This seventh step, my other self,
is one that tests your will.

from this fall learn to persevere
in doing good.

The people reply to this station by saying:

I know I must not cease,
but persevere in doing good.

Yes, our liturgical music ministry should be a good work and a charitable one. This week we can think of someone in our choir who really tests our patience, but their presence in the choir is doing them a lot of good, because it could be getting them out of the house and the only time they have contact with someone else this week. Yes, our music ministry can be a cure for loneliness as well.

Now, the verse of the hymn "At the Cross her station keeping" that follows the seventh station is as follows:

For the sins of his own nation,
saw him hang in desolation,
till his spirit forth he sent.

Yes, for all of the sins of the world, past, present and future, Jesus died on the Cross. He didn't give up, and neither should we. As we will shortly begin our Holy Week music preparations, let's remember that we might have new people who were not in our choir last year. We need to help them learn that same music that the majority of the choir are already familiar with, which can be a challenge when they are new to the group, but there was a time when we were new to the group.

So, as we continue our Lenten journey walking with Christ, may we do so walking with others in this journey of faith.

Now for a coffee place this week. Dome is a good place for this week. Yes, it's a bit familiar, but that is also a reminder to us to make sure we include some familiar music in our liturgies this Lent.

Enjoy your coffee!

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