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CNS documentary service

Stations of the Cross Reflection

Pope Francis

On Easter and throughout the Holy Week liturgies that preceded it, Pope Francis showed special concern for the fate of refugees and migrants fleeing violence and poverty, and for Christians facing persecution in the Middle East and other parts of the world. At the Roman Colosseum on Good Friday, after presiding over the Stations of the Cross, the pope offered a meditation on how Christ continues to be scorned, tortured and crucified in suffering people around the world. "O cross of Christ," he said March 25, "today too we see you raised up in our sisters and brothers killed, burned alive, throats slit and decapitated by barbarous blades amid cowardly silence. O cross of Christ, today too we see you in the faces of children, of women and people worn out and

"O cross of Christ, teach us that the apparent victory of evil vanishes before the empty tomb and before the certainty of the Resurrection."

fearful, who flee from war and violence and who often only find death and many Pilates who wash their hands." The pope added, "O cross of Christ, today too we see you in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas, which have become insatiable cemeteries, reflections of our indifferent and anesthetized conscience." The pope spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his reflection follows, copyright © 2016 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

O cross of Christ! O cross of Christ, symbol of divine love and of human injustice, icon of the supreme sacrifice for love and of boundless selfishness even unto madness, instrument of death and the way of resurrection, sign of obedience and emblem of betrayal, the gallows of persecution and the banner of victory.

O cross of Christ, today too we see you raised up in our sisters and brothers killed, burned alive, throats slit and decapitated by barbarous blades amid cowardly silence.

O cross of Christ, today too we see you in the faces of children, of women and people worn out and fearful, who flee from war and violence and who often only find death and many Pilates who wash their hands.

O cross of Christ, today too we see you in those filled with knowledge and not with the spirit, scholars of death and not of life, who instead of teaching mercy and life, threaten with punishment and death, and who condemn the just.

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