

6: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

We Remember the Cross of Jesus:

Veronica was so moved by the sight of Jesus suffering that she courageously moved out from the crowd to wipe the blood and sweat from his face with a towel. She was rewarded when the image of his face was transferred to the towel. It is a suffering face, disfigured with wounds. Yet this is the only image of himself that Jesus chose to leave with us.



Response: *We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world*

We Name the Crosses of Today: Today the visible face of Christ, the Church, stands before us still wounded and disfigured; disfigured by its own sins of abuse of children and power, and creased with the wounds of hurt and betrayal. Bearing the scars of the Murphy and Ryan reports, the face of Christ calls us to look upon and heal the sin of our Church.

We Pray: Jesus, give your wounded Church the courage of Veronica so that we may wash the face of Christ clean from the disfigurements of our sin. Help us to bring healing to the scars that hide the beauty of your face to our world. Give us the faith to continue to build your Church as a visible sign of your love and compassion.

Spoken Response: *Glory be to the Father...*

Sung Response: *Were you there when the woman wiped his face?*