

focused on all three individually. What I have come to understand is that we do not remember his falls in a special way because they were different, but rather because they were the same. Jesus' falls show us that we too will fall as we carry our cross. And often our falls will not look all that different. We will fall under the same cross, onto the same ground, in front of the same crowd, just as he did. As we continue to fall in the same ways, it can be quite tempting to lose patience and become frustrated. What we need to focus on is not the fall, but the rising. Every time Jesus falls, he gets back up. He is the one we follow, he implores and encourages us to get back up not once, not twice, but every time we fall. And we do not need our own strength to rise again, but rather we need to trust in him and lean on him to get back up, continuing on to the end that he has promised us, a promise of peace with him forever.

The Stations are powerful depictions of Jesus' Passion, and it is easy to imagine how easy it would have been for him to give up at any point along that horrendous journey. But he did not. He continued on. He got up for us. He reassures and forgives us even as he bears the sins of the world. He comforts us even as we try and enter into his sorrow and comfort him. Let us always strive to open our hearts to Jesus and his journey, inviting him to share ours. May the remaining days of this Lent bring peace to your heart and hope in his Cross. Ave Crux Spes Unica.

Fr. Tim Mouton, C.S.C., was ordained on April 19, 2015 after entering the Holy Cross formation program in 2006. He is a third generation Holy Cross priest, following in the footsteps of his Great-Uncle Fr. Daniel Panchot, C.S.C. (ordained in 1965), and his uncle Fr. Jeffrey Allison, C.S.C. (ordained in 1996). Following his Ordination, Fr. Tim began his ministry at Stonehill College in Easton, Massachusetts. Founded in 1948 by the Congregation of Holy Cross, Stonehill is a Catholic Liberal Arts College that strives to educate students to be able to "think, act, and lead with courage towards the creation of a more just and compassionate world." He served at Stonehill as the Campus Minister for Faith Formation, the Athletic Chaplain and served on the coaching staff for the Varsity Baseball team. In 2017, Fr. Tim assumed a new role with the Office of Vocations for the United States Province.



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Jesus' Falls

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One of my favorite things about the Lenten season is the devotion of the Stations of the Cross. We see them depicted everywhere in our parishes and chapels, but we tend to limit the actual praying of them for the season of Lent. I love the Stations. They are an opportunity to embrace Christ as he walks that hardest of roads out of love for us. At his birth he was cradled and cared for by his parents; now as he prepares for his death, he looks to us to hold him in our hearts, to cradle and care for him, even as he saves us. It always amazes me that God, who became one of us, entered and left this world in the most vulnerable of states - in his birth that cold night in a Bethlehem stable and in his death on the cruel wood of the cross.

Last July, I moved back to the University of Notre Dame and took up residence in Fisher Hall. It is a vibrant community of fellowship and faith led by a man named Rick Mazzei. Mazz (as he is affectionately known) is a great man who is both respected and loved by his residents. He is a man of great faith who easily invites others to share in his love and practice of the faith. One of my favorite traditions in our hall is the Thursday night Stations of the Cross during Lent. Mazz designates fourteen places around the hall as Stations and puts simple images of each Station there. Most of these are simply placed on the bulletin boards outside different rooms of the men in the hall. Every Thursday night, Mazz leads the group through the hall carrying a cross

and stopping at each station. There are many of the men that pray all the Stations with him, and still others that will join in when the group reaches their hall or passes by their room, it is a great witness of faith and communal prayer.



The images we have around the hall are relatively simple depictions of the events of Jesus' Passion, but they have great power to call the residents back to the heart of Christ on a daily basis. There are all different kinds of images and reflections that we associate with the Stations of the Cross. I am sure each one of us has been struck with the beauty of the depiction of a certain station or has been touched by a meaningful reflection. For me, the first station that ever stuck out was the fourth Station - Jesus meeting his mother. This Station really came to life for me when I first saw The Passion of the Christ. Jesus falls for the first time and his blessed mother is watching him from a distance weeping. As she

sees him fall, her mind flashes back to Jesus as a boy tripping and falling down. She remembers how she ran to her son, helped him back up, nursed his scrapes, and sent him back to play. She then snaps back to her current situation and can no longer contain herself - she rushes to her son and holds him, unable to control her sorrow. In this moment of her trying to comfort her son, Jesus looks into her eyes and says simply, "See Mother, I make all things new." Then he gets back up and continues on his way. The sorrow of Mary depicted in that moment and the strength of Jesus are overwhelming and always leaves me in the depths of wonder and awe.

**“ See Mother,
I make all
things new. ”**

Recently, I have come to appreciate another Station, well, technically another three Stations - the three falls of Jesus. Growing up, I had a hard time understanding why there were three separate falls of Jesus. I never doubted that he did, or that he may have fallen more, but I was never satisfied with the answers given to me as to why we