



For immediate release

## MATER DOLOROSA ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF 2020 GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

April 1, 2020 – The Passionists of Holy Cross Province will not open the grounds of the Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center in Sierra Madre to worshippers this Good Friday, April 10, in keeping with California’s Stay at Home order.

In recent years, up to 3,500 worshippers have attended Good Friday Services at Mater Dolorosa and prayed and meditated at the Retreat Center’s Stations of the Cross and gardens. However, the Retreat Center closed its gates last month in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will not open them on Good Friday.

“We deeply regret having to take this unprecedented action, especially since it is hard to imagine a time when prayer and meditation is needed more,” said Michael Cunningham, Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center Director. “We ask our regular visitors, and everyone, to use this Good Friday as a time to pray for a rapid end to this pandemic and healing for all who have been impacted by this tragic turn of events.”

The Retreat Center will provide online Good Friday services. For information on the services, visit the Retreat Center’s website, [www.MaterDolorosa.org](http://www.MaterDolorosa.org) and our Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/MaterDolorosaRetreatCenter](https://www.facebook.com/MaterDolorosaRetreatCenter) Thank you for your understanding.

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Contact: Michael Cunningham, Retreat Center Director  
626/355-7188  
[mcunningham@materdolorosa.org](mailto:mcunningham@materdolorosa.org)

*The Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center is a ministry of the Passionists of Holy Cross Province. The Passionists purchased the 88-acre Retreat Center property in northwest Sierra Madre in 1924 and have offered spiritual retreats there since 1926.*