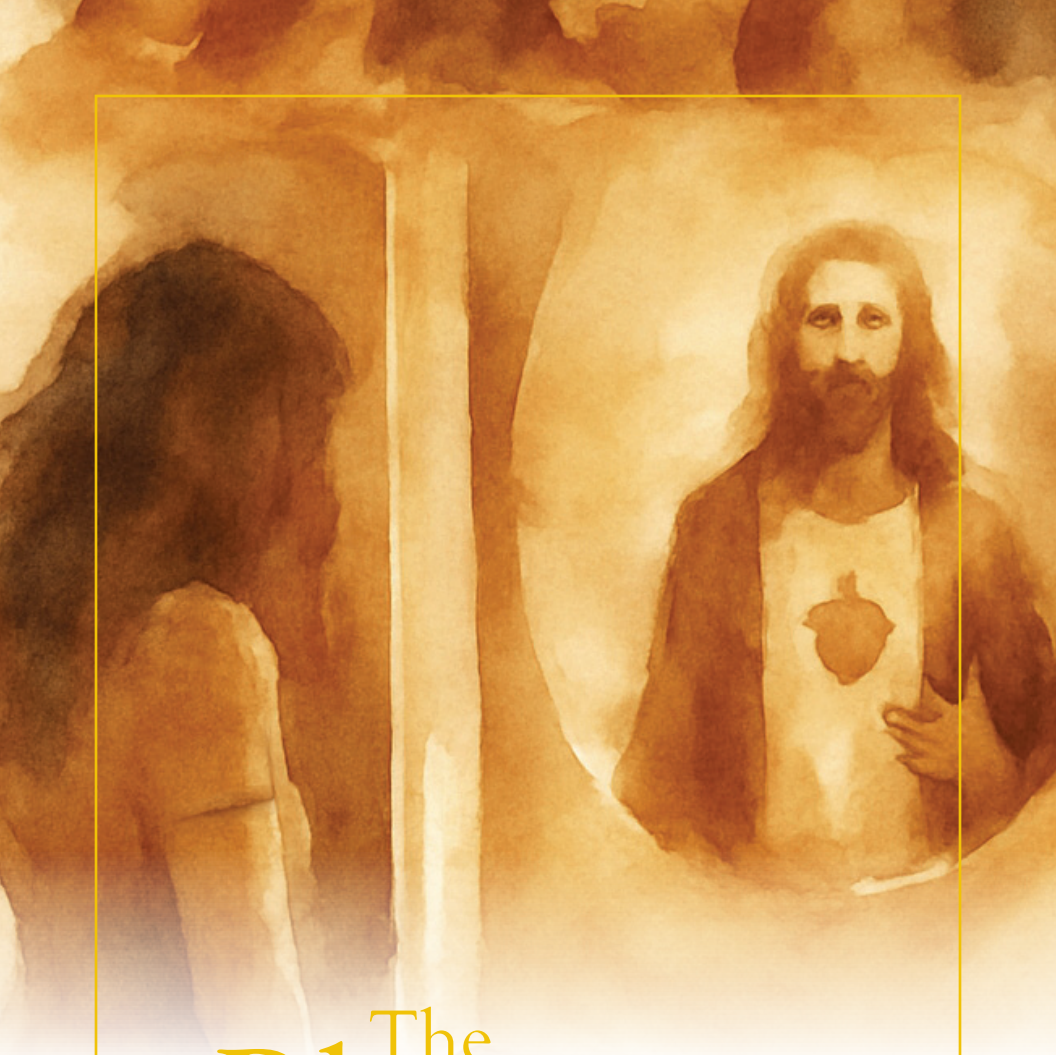




# The Blooming Way of the Cross

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*Reflections on the Passion with Hope Anew*

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*by Vanessa Joy*

## Station 1:

### Jesus Condemned to Death

v/ We adore you, O Christ,  
and we bless you.

r/ Because by your Holy Cross,  
you have redeemed the world.

The trauma of psychological, physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial abuse deeply wounds the soul of a woman living with an abusive partner, creating an environment of cognitive dissonance. Walking on eggshells, avoiding topics that might cause tension, and trying not to upset the perpetrator are all symptoms of abuse. It might stop temporarily, but the patterns of manipulation and control always return, feeding a toxic atmosphere of fear and uncertainty. In her trepidation, the woman rationalizes his behavior: *He might change if I just try harder, pray more, and become more patient.*

At the same time, she downplays the emotional chaos inside and promises herself, *I won't do or say that again.*

This denial fosters terror as her spirit, already broken, hides the invisible bruises behind the well-worn platitude: *It will get better soon.*

PRAYER: My beloved and wounded Jesus, I am whipped by cutting words. Each blow feels like death by a thousand invisible wounds. I want to believe you are with me, but I struggle to trust. How will I trust you?

*By faith, my daughter, I hear you whisper into my bleeding heart. My dearest Jesus, I unite my pain with yours—your excruciating Passion, born of love for me and for the one who continues to betray me.*

*“The blow of a whip raises a welt, but a blow of the tongue crushes the bones.”*

Sirach 28:17

