

# THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

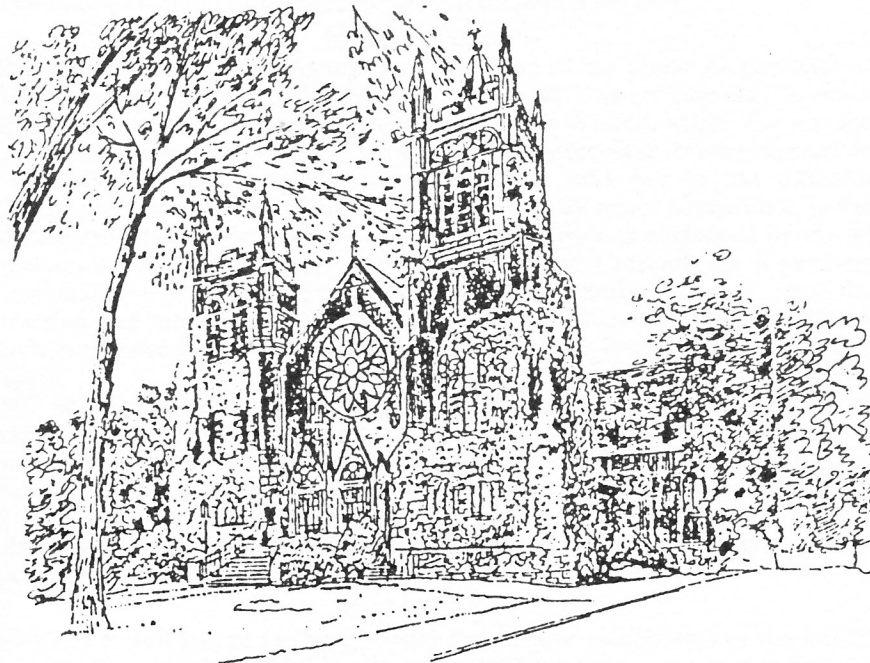
MUSIC  
Marcel Dupre  
Opus 29  
1931

TEXT  
Paul Claudel  
1911

translated by Gail Kramer & Sr. Judith Schweiss

Marilyn Mason  
Organ

Pat McElroy  
Narrator



Good Friday  
April 17th, 1992  
1:30 P.M.

St. Paul Church  
Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan  
Monsignor F. Gerald Martin, Pastor

Paul Claudel (1868-1955)

Poet, dramatist, essayist, theologian and diplomat, Paul Claudel served France as its official representative in embassies in Europe, the Orient, and North and South America. He was ambassador to Washington, D.C. from 1927 to 1933. His *Stations of the Cross* was first published as part of a cycle of 56 poems on the liturgical year in 1911.

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

The son of a distinguished organist, Marcel Dupre emerged on the French organ scene with meteoric effect. His performance from memory of the complete organ works of Bach in 1920 marked the first time the feat had been accomplished and catapulted Dupre to world-wide fame. He played many concerts in Michigan including the dedication of the original pipe organ in Orchestra Hall in Detroit in 1924. On February 13, 1931, he improvised 14 pieces on the organ at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels between readings of Claudel's poems on *The Stations of the Cross*. Dupre published these pieces as his Opus 29 and gave the first performance of his completed work at the Trocadero in Paris on March 29, 1932.

Marilyn Mason

Marilyn Mason is University Organist and Chairman of the Organ Department of the University of Michigan. Her extensive career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator and teacher has carried her throughout the Western world. She was the first American woman to play in Westminster Abbey, the first woman organist to play in Egypt. During one single year, invitations took her to five different continents. She has served as adjudicator at almost every major competition in the world. Marilyn Mason's dedication to contemporary music is evidenced by the 40 organ works which she has commissioned and premiered. Currently she is pursuing her commitment to stylistic integrity through scholarly research into the construction and tonal design of historic European instruments. Recently sixteen research tours have focused on historic organs in France, North Germany, Saxony and Spain.

In 1987 she was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music by the University of Nebraska, where she had served as consultant for the Casavant mechanical action organ. Recently, she was chosen Performer of the Year by the New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and presented a concert of commissioned works at the Riverside Church, New York City.

Her discography includes music of Bach, Handel, Mondonville, and contemporary composers on Columbia and Musical Heritage labels.

Pat McElroy

Pat McElroy is well known to Detroit radio and theatre audiences. For the last 25 years he has been "on the air" in Detroit, first at WDTM, then as the host of the very popular "Folk Show" on WQRS. For a decade Pat McElroy was host of "Night Flight 76, the Great Weekend" on powerhouse WJR, and for the last three years he has been back on WQRS radio as host of the weekend morning programs.

As an actor, Pat McElroy has won critical acclaim. A founding member of the Hillberry Theatre, he has appeared in over 200 dramas and musicals. Local credits include starring roles in productions at the Hillberry, the University of Michigan, the University of Detroit, Northwestern University, the Fisher Theatre and the Bonstelle Theatre. Pat McElroy played Jesus in the award winning film *Divine Mercy, No Escape* with Helen Hayes.

Pat McElroy was the Fine Arts Coordinator for the City of Dearborn for ten years, and currently teaches performance for the Dearborn Board of Education, and at Henry Ford Community College.

## THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross are a series of pictures or tableaux representing certain scenes in the Passion and Death of Christ. They are arranged at intervals around the walls of many churches. They depict the route Christ traveled from the place of sentencing to Calvary which has been marked since the earliest years of Christianity, and has been the object of pilgrimage since the days of Constantine. When pilgrims returned to Europe from the Holy Land they built and painted the stations to show their friends what they had visited. Pope Pius IX established the tradition of 14 stations in 1741.

## THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- I. **Jesus is Condemned to Death**  
The tumult of the crowd and their angry cries for Barabbas can be heard. The name of Barabbas is depicted by one of the rhythmic motifs.
- II. **Jesus Receives the Cross**  
Heavy, plodding figures as Jesus begins the journey toward Golgotha. The cross is symbolized by ascending fourths.
- III. **Jesus Falls the First Time**  
Jesus' suffering is depicted by the descending triplet figure. Reflecting the heavy burden, the music is heard again.
- IV. **Jesus Meets His Mother**  
A peaceful scene as Jesus comforts his mother. The motif of the Virgin Mary is a descending, arpeggiated major chord.
- V. **Simon the Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross**  
Jesus' load is lightened by Simon. The canon symbolizes following and sharing. The cross motif is heard again.
- VI. **Jesus and Veronica**  
The compassion motif (2 thirds ascending) is combined with the cross motif. The movement closes with the redemptive motif in "harmonies mysterieuses".
- VII. **Jesus Falls a Second Time**  
The weariness of Jesus is shown by the descending seconds in the soprano.

- VIII. **Jesus Comforts the Women of Jerusalem**  
The motif of pity is heard first. The voice of Jesus (on the trumpet) is then combined with the pity motif.
- IX. **Jesus Falls a Third Time**  
A French Toccata. The persecution of Jesus is depicted by a three-note figure in the left hand accompanied by an ascending, diminished arpeggiated chord in the right hand.
- X. **Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes**  
The flogging of Jesus is expressed through a constant, driving rhythm. The movement concludes with the incarnation motif of ascending minor third dyads.
- XI. **Jesus is Nailed to the Cross**  
The hammer blows of the crucifixion motif (descending fourths) are heard throughout the movement. The motif of suffering returns near the end.
- XII. **Jesus Dies Upon the Cross**  
Jesus' agony is expressed by a quiet four-note motif which fills in a tritone. Suddenly, there is an earthquake and Jesus dies.
- XIII. **The Body of Jesus is Taken from the Cross and Laid in the Arms of His Mother**  
The theme of the Virgin Mary returns as Mary beholds His face.
- XIV. **The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**  
The motifs of pity and suffering are combined. Jesus' redemption is depicted in a "final" section by a transformation of the motif of suffering, to a rising motif.

## UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Holy Saturday, April 18  
No Communion Service or Confessions this day.  
Blessing of Food Baskets 10:00 am  
Easter Mass 5:00 pm  
Easter Vigil Mass with Choir 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 19th  
Masses: (no 7:00 am Mass this day)  
Sunrise Mass in front of Church at approximately 6:30 pm  
8:30 am, 10:00 am (Choir), 11:30 am (Choir), and 1:00 pm  
Additional Mass at 11:45 am in cafeteria.  
It is advised that you arrive a little early for seating in the Church on Easter Sunday.