

ST. JOAN OF ARC

presents

MARILYN MASON

PERFORMING

**THE STATIONS OF THE
CROSS**

BY

MARCEL DUPRE´

the poetry of

PAUL CLAUDEL

read by

MSGR. RICARDO BASS

Good Friday, April 1, 1994

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971): French organist, composer, and teacher. His grandfathers, his father, and his mother were all musicians. His father was the organist at St. Ouen in Rouen. Dupré was a student of Guilmant, Vierne, and Widor at the Paris Conservatory. At St Sulpice in Paris, Dupré served as an assistant to Widor; subsequently becoming his successor in 1934. In 1926 he became professor at the Paris Conservatory where he remained until 1954. His pupils include Alain and Messiaen. Pierre Toucheque, former Music Director at St. Joan of Arc also studied improvisation with Dupré as a result of winning a competition in improvisation in Belgium.

Dupré helped to establish his reputation as a performer in 1920 with his memorized performances of the organ works of Bach. He also published his own edition of the Bach organ works.

The Stations of the Cross: Dupré first conceived the idea for *The Stations of the Cross* at a Lenten concert on February 13, 1931 at the Brussels Conservatoire in Belgium. The first part of the program consisted of a short Bach recital. For the second part, Madame Madeleine Renaud, a professor at the Conservatoire, read Paul Claudel's *Le Chemin de la Croix*. Marcel Dupré improvised a musical commentary on each station after it was read. The audience reaction was such that Dupré decided to compose *The Stations of the Cross*, basing the movements on his improvisations. The following year he gave the Paris premiere on the organ at the Tracadero.

-Program notes by Ronald Prowse, Music Director of St. Joan of Arc.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The First Station

Jesus is condemned to death

The Second Station

Jesus takes up his cross

The Third Station

Jesus Falls for the first time

The Fourth Station

Jesus meets his mother

The Fifth Station

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus bear the cross

The Sixth Station

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

The Seventh Station

Jesus falls for the second time

The Eighth Station

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

The Ninth Station

Jesus Falls for the third time

The Tenth Station

Jesus is stripped of his garments

The Eleventh Station

Jesus is nailed to the cross

The Twelfth Station

Jesus dies on the cross

The Thirteenth Station

Jesus is taken down from the cross

The Fourteenth Station

Jesus is laid in the tomb

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Sr. Margaret Moran, O.P.
Deacon Robert Busch
Deacon Gene DiCresce
Mr. Donald Ancypa
Sr. Marie Houle, O.P.
Ronald Prowse

PROGRAM NOTES

Marilyn Mason: University Organist and Chairperson of the organ department at the University of Michigan. Professor Mason is known internationally as a lecturer, adjudicator, teacher, performer and recording artist. She was the first woman to play in Westminster Abbey and in Latin America, and the first American organist to play in Egypt. Her historical organ tours are now legendary. This year alone she is taking groups to Spain, France and Germany. Included in Marilyn Mason's extensive discography is Dupré's *Stations of the Cross* which she recorded at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

Msgr. Ricardo Bass: Pastor of St. Joan of Arc and the President of the Canon Law Society of America. Former faculty member at St. John's Provincial Seminary and Sacred Heart Major Seminary, past Judicial Vicar for the Tribunal in the Archdiocese of Detroit, Msgr. Bass has served the Archdiocese of Detroit as a priest for twenty years. He was elevated to Monsignor in 1990 by Cardinal Edmund Szoka.

Paul Claudel (1868-1955): French Catholic dramatist, poet, essayist, theologian and diplomat, Ambassador to Washington D.C. from 1927-1933. The concept of redemptive suffering is manifest in many of his literary works. *Le Chemin de la Crois* (The Stations of the Cross) was written in 1911 as part of his *Corona Benignitatis Anni Dei* (Crown of the Indulgences of the Year of God), a cycle of 56 poems on the liturgical year, and reflects Claudel's verse form which was inspired by the French symbolists.