

## **AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS**

*YEAR 1, 34th Sunday of Ordinary Time*

For setup, place an opaque container at the foot of the altar and fill a pitcher/bucket with water. You may want to place a mat under the container to avoid splashing and spilling on the floor. Hand out small stones to all participants, preferably something heavy but small enough to sit well within the palm of your hand.

Explain that the container represents the unwavering security of God's justice and that the water is a symbol of God's cleansing mercy. Pour the water into the opaque container, half full (leave room for the stones). Explain that God is always standing before us: He waits for our response. Sin is the rejection of God: wanting to look the other way.

Then ask participants to consider the ugliness of sin (especially their own sin) and how it affects their lives and trickles into the whole world. Explain that our selfishness clouds the world and destroys our ability to know and see God here with us.

Ask the participants to let go of their sin and their dealings with the sin of the world. Ask participants to take off all their dealings with sin, all their compromises, regrets, fears and place all their sin and the sin of the world figuratively into that rock. Be done with sin and one by one (as ready) come drop that sin into the eager justice and mercy of our living God. Then after everyone has dropped their rocks into the water explain that Christ was that rock for us. He became that sacrifice, that offering. Briefly describe His Passion. Invite everyone to make confession a regular activity in their lives and explain the dire need for the sacrament.