

## **Artist Robert Lobdell**

### **Comments on the Saint Luke Stations**



The germ of the need to do the stations first came to me while I walked the Via Dolorosa, the “Way of Sorrows”, on a hot August day in Jerusalem some years ago. The tiny shrines along the narrow way in the ancient city gives one the feeling of immediacy; of being there on that day when Christ made that awful walk. The heat, the crowds of pilgrims and jeering, drum beating Arab women in their colorful costumes attempting to disturb our devotion all contributed to a scene that may have been much as our Lord witnessed so long ago.

In the stations I have attempted to show Christ as he wept, not for Himself, but for the people as quoted in Matthew 23:38 and Luke 13:34 - O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Each station is meant to be a small shrine exhibiting my impression of a particular event, whether historical or traditional, that occurred along the way to His death and vicarious atonement for us. The style is mine, but the mood is based on the early Spanish Missions in New Mexico and California. The colors are the colors of the Indians as adopted to their use by the Padres. The style is simple: first, in keeping with the style of the primitive artists, the devout Indian converts and the mostly unschooled Padres; and second, so as not to obscure with much busyness the story being told.

All is secondary to the figure of Christ and the large ugly brown cross. Christ, because He is the only person that has relevance as the center of our devotion. The cross, as the cruelest form of execution ever devised by man, a brutal instrument of death used by an occupying force to terrorize a conquered people into submission. All other figures in each station are secondary and, while necessary to the action, shrink in size and into the background in relation to Christ and the Cross. Note that all of the action moves from left to right as does the sun overhead.

My thanks to Bishop McMannes and Saint Luke’s for the opportunity to present these humble stations to the church to be used to the Glory of God. May they and Saint Luke’s long stand as a testimony to the mercy and love of God towards us in the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ in atonement for our sins.”

Robert Lobdell (1925 - 2010)