



The Holy See

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO THE PARISH OF THE "DUE PALAZZI" DETENTION CENTRE IN PADUA**

Good Friday, 10 April 2020

Dear friends of the Due Palazzi parish in Padua,

I have read the meditations for the *Via Crucis* that you donated. I dwelt amid your words and I felt welcomed, at home. Thank you for sharing part of your history with me. God tells of himself and speaks to us within a story; he invites us to listen attentively and mercifully. I want to thank you also because you have scattered your names not into a sea of anonymity, but rather into that of the many people linked to the world of penitentiaries. Thus in the *Via Crucis*, you will lend your story to all those who share your same situation throughout the world. It is comforting to read a story in which there are also other stories, not only of detainees, but of all those who are passionate about the world of prisons. Together it is possible. Together. I embrace you. Even though I am sure that Don Marco always reminds you, I ask you: pray for me. I carry you always in my heart. Thank you.