

The Way of the Cross

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Tom and Kathy Gust





- The Stations of the Cross
- Via Crucis (The Way of the Cross)
- Via Dolorosa (The Way of Sorrow/Suffering)

What is a devotion?

- A personal way of expressing our love for God
- Practices through which Catholics find life in God
- Practices through which Catholics express that life in God and their love of God
- Rosary, novenas, pilgrimages, retreats, Way of the Cross



Object of the Way of the Cross

- To make a pilgrimage, in spirit, to the main scenes of Christ's suffering and death
- Each station presents a picture or image representing one of the events of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection



Object of the Way of the Cross

"People can relate to a crucified Christ displayed in Catholic Churches, as each one of us has a cross to carry. None of us can relate to a risen Christ, as none of us has ever risen from the dead."

Fr. Groeschel...



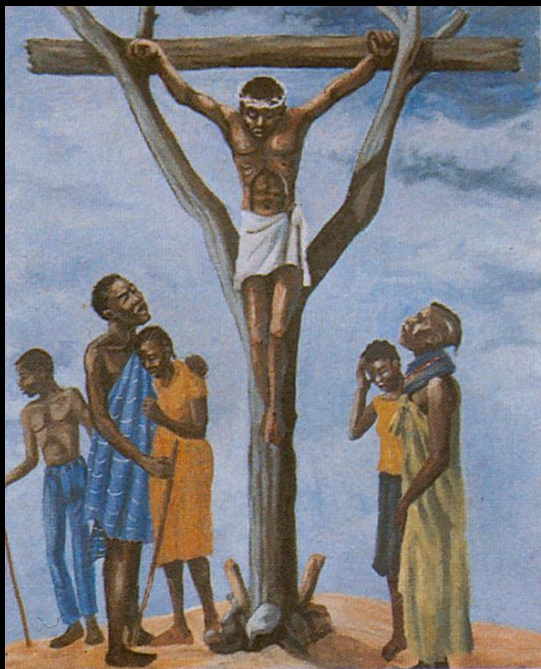
St. Joseph's
Cemetery Stations
of the Cross -
Circleville, OH



Saint Charles Borromeo
Church, Saint Charles,
Missouri

Mississauga ON
Assumption
Catholic Cemetery





Outdoor Stations of the Cross



Monte Serrat Stations of the Cross – Santos, Brazil

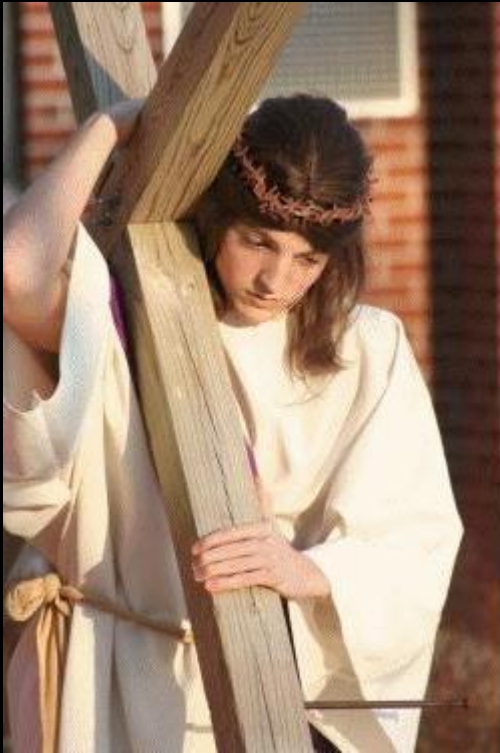


The Shrine of Our
Lady of Peace
Stations of the Cross -
Santa Clara, CA

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Elba, NY



Living Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross or Way of the Cross

- Traditional - Most likely to see the stations as presented in your handouts (L5)
- Biblical - Here at St. Thomas More

Goal of the Biblical Stations: To emphasize that together the sufferings and resurrection of Christ are one redemptive mystery

The Way of the Cross— Many Ways to Practice

- Many different prayers can be used
- Many different ways to focus the devotion
 - Mary's journey with Jesus through His Passion
 - Plight of the Poor
 - Scripturally based
 - The devotion as written for children, etc. etc.
- Pray without words—meditate on the images
- New prayers commissioned annually for Pope

Origin of the Stations of the Cross



- Tradition tells us that Mary retraced the way of the Cross, everyday
- Pilgrims flocked to Holy Land to retrace Christ's steps
- When visiting the Holy Land became dangerous, Christians began building replicas of the holy places closer to home

Growth of the Devotion

- Middle ages—Christians were captivated by Christ's suffering and humanity. They connected his suffering with their own.
- 1686 Pope Innocent XI granted the Franciscans the exclusive right to build stations
- Pope Clement XII extended the right to non-Franciscan churches in 1731



Growth of the Devotion

- 18th Century—St. Leonard of Port-Maurice, a Franciscan, erected stations and promoted the devotion in over 500 churches in Italy
- Over time the number of stations has ranged from 5 to 42
- 18th Century the devotion became fixed at 14 stations



Traditional Stations of the Cross

(from L5 handout, p. 594 Sunday Missal)



1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus bears his Cross
3. Jesus falls for the 1st time
4. Jesus meets his Mother
5. Simon helps Jesus carry the Cross

Traditional Stations of the Cross

(from L5 handout, p. 594 Sunday Missal)

6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

7. Jesus falls for a 2nd time

8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

9. Jesus falls a 3rd time

10. Jesus is stripped of his garments

Traditional Stations of the Cross

(from L5 handout, p. 594 Sunday Missal)



11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross

12. Jesus dies on the Cross

13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross

14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

Biblical Stations of the Cross

(at St. Thomas More)



1. Last Supper
2. Garden of Gethsemane
3. Before the Sanhedrin (the Council of Jewish Leaders—High Priest Caiaphas)
4. Before Pontius Pilate (The Roman Prefect of Judea)
5. Scourging (whipping) and Crowning with thorns

Biblical Stations of the Cross

(at St. Thomas More)

6. The Carrying of the Cross

7. Simon of Cyrene

8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

9. Stripping of Jesus' garments and crucifixion

10. The Good (Penitent) Thief

Biblical Stations of the Cross

(at St. Thomas More)



- 11. Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other
- 12. Death on the Cross (the spear-thrust)
- 13. The New Tomb (Sepulcher)
- 14. Resurrection and appearance to Mary Magdalene

Stabat Mater

- The title “Stabat Mater” is an abbreviation of the first line of the hymn—Stabat Mater dolorosa—“at the cross her station keeping”
- 13th Century hymn attributed to St. Bonaventure
- The 3 line verses form a prayer that take us through Mary’s sufferings to the sufferings of Christ by whose mercy we hope to attain the glory of Paradise.

Praying through the Via Dolorosa in the Holy Land

Pictures by Jackie De Bruin



Traditional Rock of the Agony surrounded by a wrought iron Crown of Thorns in front of the altar in the Basilica of the Agony



Garden of Gethsemane—has 8 ancient olive trees



4th Station: The Armenian-Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Spasm—marks the place where Mary encountered Jesus



Carrying the cross through the streets



5th Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross



6th Station: the Church of St. Veronica

Probably the site of the house of Veronica who wiped the face of Jesus with her veil

Carrying the
cross up
some stairs





9th Station: the column built into the door of the Coptic Church of St. Helen

It marks the site where Jesus fell for the 3rd time



Entrance to the
Church of the Holy
Sepulchre

(the last five
stations are in the
Basilica)

Courtyard of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre

The stone
stairway leads to
the Chapel of the
Disvestiture at
the 10th station





11th Station: Mosaic above the altar—Jesus is nailed to the cross



12th Station: Greek Orthodox Chapel marks the site of the crucifixion

Below the altar, on either side is a fissure in the rock believe to have been caused by an earthquake at the time of Jesus' death



Silver Icon of Mary
stands on glass
covering the
fissure in the rock



13th Station: the Stone of Unction where Jesus' body was laid for anointing. Rose oil is poured on it