

TREASURES of OUR FAITH
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Greetings brothers and sisters. As we go through this 'Year of Faith', each week we will take a journey together to deepen and rediscover our faith as Catholic Christians. We will take time to look at the rich traditions of our Church, we'll look at what certain things signify and their symbolism, take time to answer some frequently asked questions and look at why we do certain things as Catholics. This week we'll look at the Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross is a Catholic devotion which commemorates the Passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Each of the stations represents a specific event which occurred during Jesus' Passion and death. The Stations of the Cross are also called, the Way of the Cross; which in Latin, translates to Via Crucis; and they're also called, Via Dolorosa, which translates to the Way of Sorrows. Tradition holds that our Blessed Mother would visit the sites of Jesus' Passion and death daily while she was in the Holy Land. Saint Jerome attested to the crowds of pilgrims from various countries that visited these holy places and followed the Way of the Cross in the late 3rd and early 4th centuries. This is how the devotion originated; Christian pilgrims would travel to the Holy Land from all parts of the world to visit the 'land of Jesus'.

Heading up the list of places that the pilgrims would visit was the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which was built by the Emperor Constantine in the year 335 AD atop the site of Calvary and the tomb of Jesus.

Just like those early Christian's making their pilgrimage, the object of the stations is to help us, make in spirit, a pilgrimage of our own. It is a powerful way to contemplate and enter into the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to all of us. When we pray the stations, we are tracing the footsteps of Jesus, leading up to His death and his ultimate resurrection for all of us. In knowing that our Lord died such a death, for love of us all, meditating on the Stations of the Cross becomes an experience where we can unite with and encounter Christ.