- The Stations of the Cross
- Via Crucis (The Way of Suffering)
- Via Dolorosa (The Way of Sorrow)
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 love of God
- Rosary, novenas, pilgrimages, retreats, 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

Mississauga ON Assumption Catholic Cemetery

Saint Charles Borromeo Church, Saint Charles, Missouri
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/Way of the Cross

- The Stations of the Cross—Traditional p. 574 Sunday Missal

- The Way of the Cross—developed by the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship 1975—not to replace the Traditional Stations of the Cross (p. 577 Sunday Missal)

Goal: To emphasize that together the sufferings and resurrection of Christ are one redemptive mystery
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
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Stations of the Cross</th>
<th>(New) Way of the Cross</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Jesus is condemned to death</td>
<td>1. Last Supper</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Jesus bears his Cross</td>
<td>2. Garden of Gethsemane</td>
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<td>3. Jesus falls for the 1st time</td>
<td>3. Before the Sanhedrin</td>
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<td>4. Jesus meets his Mother</td>
<td>4. Before Pontius Pilate</td>
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<td>5. Simon helps Jesus carry the Cross</td>
<td>5. Scourging (whipping) and Crowning with thorns</td>
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<td>6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus</td>
<td>6. The Carrying of the Cross</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Jesus falls for a 2\textsuperscript{nd} time</td>
<td>7. Simon of Cyrene</td>
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<td>8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem</td>
<td>8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Jesus falls a 3\textsuperscript{rd} time</td>
<td>9. Stripping of Jesus’ garments and crucifixion</td>
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<td>10. Jesus is stripped of his garments</td>
<td>10. The Good Thief</td>
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<td>11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross</td>
<td>11. Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other</td>
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<td>13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross</td>
<td>13. The New Tomb (Sepulcher)</td>
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<td>14. Jesus is laid in the tomb</td>
<td>14. Resurrection and appearance to Mary Magdalene</td>
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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

- Jackie De Bruin
- Marcella Cloran
- Rita Kantor
- Delores Mitchell

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 believed 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