

Evening Mass at 5:10,  
Monday through Friday,  
in Sacred Heart Church.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 10, 1957  
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Holy Week Missals (25¢)  
available at Dillon pam-  
phlet rack, and chaplain's  
offices.

A Devotion For Passioneide

On the walls of each chapel on campus, you find 14 pictures of scenes from the Passion and Death of Christ. Each picture is placed below a wooden cross. The crosses are known as the Stations. We walk about the chapel, visiting each of these stations, meditating for a moment on the event it recalls. The pictures are there to help us in this meditation. And the whole devotion constitutes a miniature pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and the actual Via Dolorosa located there.

This "Way of the Cross" at Jerusalem was reverently marked out from the earliest times, and has been the goal of pious pilgrims ever since the days of Constantine in the fourth century. Tradition asserts that the Blessed Virgin used to visit daily the scenes of Christ's Passion. St. Jerome speaks of the crowds of pilgrims who used to visit the Holy Places in his day (340-420).

A desire to reproduce the Holy Places in other lands, in order to satisfy the devotion of those who were hindered from making the actual pilgrimage, seems to have manifested itself at quite an early date. At the Monastery of San Stefano at Bologna, St. Petronius reproduced many of the important shrines, so that the monastery became familiarly known as "Hierusalem," in the fifth century.

About the same time, we hear of shrines being created elsewhere in Europe, intended to represent the holy places in Jerusalem. By the year 1000, the practice was fairly common. Encouraged by the Church, priests began to introduce the "Way of the Cross," as we know it, about the end of the 17th century -- largely through the inspiration of the great Franciscan preacher, St. Leonard of Port Maurice.

Very probably it was not until the 14th century (1342), when the Franciscans were entrusted with the guardianship of the Holy Land, that the Popes began to attach indulgences to various shrines associated with the Passion and Death of Our Lord. These indulgenced "stations" must, after all, be considered to be the true origin of the devotion as now practiced. In 1462 an Englishman, William Wey, described his visit to Jerusalem, and mentioned the various halting places, and the manner in which pilgrims were accustomed to follow the footsteps of Our Lord in His sorrowful journey. In Wey's time, these shrines were called "Stations."

Today, the Way of the Cross and the Rosary are probably the most richly indulgenced devotions we have.

The manner of making the Way of the Cross is quite optional; and the greatest possible freedom is allowed where personal and private devotions are concerned. What suits one may not suit another. No one could possibly take up all the devotions which different people have found helpful, and which are approved by the Church. Yet, all agree that the Way of the Cross is particularly recommended for the season of Lent. Furthermore, it brings to our chapels the spirit of those who, throughout the ages, have actually, or in desire, visited the Holy Land and the places particularly associated with the sufferings of Christ.

Sorrow for sin comes easily to anyone who makes the Way of the Cross devoutly.

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PRAYERS -- Deceased: Russell Downey, '16; John Luttrell; son of Jack Leadbetter, '38; Rev. Vincent Cavanaugh (President of Carroll College); mother of Jerome Hendel, '47; mother of Ted Abel, '30. Ill: friend of Fred Maslankowski; grandchildren of Mrs. Hoffman (Confraternity Office). 2 special intentions.  
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Tonight at 6:45. The Lenten Series with Father Joseph Barry, C.S.C. preaching.