

Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith Together
Session #5: Stations of the Cross
03 April 2022
Rev. Sergio Rodriguez

Via Crucis

“Ever new suffering of Jesus is a seed of future joy for humanity...along that way of suffering Jesus’ every meeting-with friends, with enemies, with the indifferent-is a chance for one final lesson, one last look, one supreme offer of reconciliation and peace (Piero Marini, Titular Archbishop of Martirano, Master of the Liturgical Celebrations of the Supreme Pontiff).”

2nd Century evidence: evidence of worship in burial grounds where Christ’s tomb was attributed

4th Century: Aetheria’ account of three “holy” buildings on Golgotha: the Anastasis, and the Martyrium. Procession from one place to the next.

Middle ages: reproduction of the holy places in Jerusalem in Medieval Europe, e.g. 7 churches of Santo Stefano.

Way of the Cross (Late Middle Ages)

Theological/Spiritual Foundation: Franciscan

Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Francis, Bonaventure

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land during the Crusades

1233 Presence of the Franciscans in the Holy places

Spiritual Practice: Three-fold Fusion (15th Century German/Dutch practices)

Devotion to Christ’s Fall (7 Stations)

Devotion to the Way of Sorrow (7+ church visits, each marking an event in the passion)

Devotion to the “stations of Christ”

St. Leonardo da Porto Maurizio (1751)- Traditional way of the Cross

Erected more than 572 Via Crucis

Key One: 27 December 1750, Colosseum by request of Benedict XIV

St. John Paul II (Good Friday, 1991)- Scriptural Stations of the Cross

Takes up the work of Jubilee Year 1975’s Pilgrim Book that has alternative texts

Omits the Lord’s three falls (III, V, VII), Jesus’ encounter with his Mother (IV) and Veronica (VI)

Adds Jesus’ agony in the Garden of Olives (I), Pilate’s Sentence (V), The Good Thief (XI), the beloved disciple and Mary at the cross (XIII).

The Traditional Stations

Jesus is condemned to death

Jesus takes up his Cross

Jesus falls for the first time*

Jesus meets his Mother*

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus*

Jesus falls for the second time*

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Jesus falls for the third time*

Jesus is stripped of his garments (sometimes called the "Division of Robes")

Jesus is nailed to the Cross

Jesus dies on the Cross

Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Jesus is laid in the tomb

The Scriptural Stations

Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane; (Matt 26:36-41)

Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested; (Mk 14:43-46)

Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin; (Lk 22:66-71)

Jesus is denied by Peter; (Matt 26:69-75)

Jesus is judged by Pilate; (Mk 15:1-5, 15)

Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns; (Jn 19:1-3)

Jesus takes up his cross; (Jn 19:6, 15-17)

Jesus is helped by Simon of Cyrene to carry his cross; (Mk 15:21)

Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem; (Lk 23:27-31)

Jesus is crucified; (Lk 23:33-34)

Jesus promises his kingdom to the repentant thief; (Lk 23:39-43)

Jesus entrusts Mary and John to each other; (Jn 19:25-27)

Jesus dies on the cross; (Lk 23:44-46)

Jesus is laid in the tomb. (Matt 27:57-60)

Spiritual Emphases among various offerings

Stations of the Cross by St. Alphonsus Liguori

Walk with Jesus: Stations of the Cross, Henri Nouwen

Way of the Cross: The Passion of Christ in the Americas, Edited by Virgil Elizondo

Stations of the Cross: Montrose. Kindred +

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dhKUmR_3UqcgSxDoJEI_1PqV3mLV5O9C/view

Via Crucis para la Paz. Mesa Latinex of the TX-LA Synod. 01 April 2022

Chapel of St. Basil. St. Thomas University: <https://www.stthom.edu/About/Chapel-of-St-Basil.aqf>
Via Matris

“This Seven Sorrows devotion has served as a way to deepen our appreciation of Christ’s love for us, and also Mary’s courage throughout her life as she listened to the word of God and acted on it, living out her response to the Angel Gabriel (The Seven Sorrows of Mary, Kevin O’Neil, CSsR. Liguori Publications).”

13th Century Franciscan Practice adopted by the order, Servants of Mary.

Present form dates from the 19th Century

Popular in the United States in 1937 at the adoption of the Sorrowful Mother Novena

Patterned after the Way of the Cross.

Fundamental Reflection on the prophesy of Simeon about Mary (Lk 2:34-35)

Read in Conjunction with the Stabat Mater

The Seven Sorrows of Mary

1. Mary embraces in faith the prophecy of Simeon (Lk 2:22-35)

2. Mary flees with Jesus and St. Joseph to Egypt (Matt 2:13-15)

3. Mary and St. Joseph search for their lost son in the temple (Lk 2:41-52)

4. Mary meets Jesus on the road to Calvary (Lk 23:26-32)
5. Jesus dies on the cross (Jn 19:25-27)
6. Jesus is taken down from the cross and Mary receives his body in her arms (Matt 27:57)
7. Jesus is laid in the tomb (Jn 19:40)

Via Lucis

Per crucem, ad lucem

“The Via Lucis is a potential stimulus for the restoration of a “culture of life” which is open to the hope and certitude offered by faith, in a society often characterized by a “culture of death,” despair and nihilism (Directory of Popular Piety and Liturgy, December 2001).”

Summer 1988, Salesian Family Group (“Testimoni del Risorto”)- formulated a celebration centered on the Resurrection

1990, Fr. Sabino Palumbieri, Salesian priest and professor combined the events of the Catacombs of St. Callixtus (16th Pope of Rome) with other post-resurrection events to make the “Stations of the Resurrection.”

Based on the following scriptural inscription on a tomb in the catacomb: (1 Cor 15:3-8)

April 1990: first Via Lucis celebrated by Don Egidio Vigano, SDB, in Rome at the Catacombs of St. Callixtus for the General Chapter of the Salesians.

December 2001, Directory on Popular Piety and Liturgy. Via Lucis Commended.

From Jesus’ resurrection to the descent of the Holy Spirit

The Stations of Light

Jesus is raised from the dead (Matt 28:1-7)

The finding of the empty tomb (Jn 20:1-9)

Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus (Jn 20:11-18)

Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-19, 25-27)

Jesus is known in the breaking of bread (Lk 24:28-35)

Jesus appears to the disciples in Jerusalem (Lk 24:36-43)

Jesus gives the disciples his peace and the power to forgive sins (Jn 20:19-23)

Jesus strengthens the faith of Thomas (Jn 20:24-29)

Jesus appears by the Sea of Tiberias (Jn 21:1-13)

Jesus forgives Peter and commands him to feed his sheep (Jn 21:15-17)

Jesus commissions the disciples upon the mountain (Matt 28:16-20)

The Ascension of Jesus (Acts 1:6-11)

Mary and the disciples wait in prayer (Acts 1:12-14)

The Holy Spirit descends at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-6)

Can also include the following:

The earthquake

The angel appears to the women

Jesus meets the women

Mary Magdalene proclaims the Resurrection to the disciples

Jesus and the beloved disciple

Jesus appears to over five hundred at once

Jesus appears to Saul

Sources:

<https://donboscosalesianportal.org/wp-content/uploads/Via-Lucis-FULL-BOOKLET.pdf>

Christ the King West Campus