

Special Feature

Fourteen Stations Recall Our Lord's Way Of The Cross

By FATHER LINCOLN WHELAN
(Reprinted from the CATHOLIC HERALD
CITIZEN of Milwaukee)

A modern mystical-minded person arrived at the fourteenth Station of the Cross and came to this holy and wholesome conclusion: I learned they suffer most who have no cross at all. This is true, but here is little truth in the complaint that the people in the pews are given seldom and scant opportunity to take active part and participation in the parish devotions.

References are made to the congregational praying and singing in Non-Catholic churches. Our ancient answer to such statements is the Way of the Cross. This deep-rooted devotion has become so much a part of our latter life that we are apt to overlook the biblical and historical basis of the Stations.

AMONG MANY other items there is the fact that the Stations are an ever present lesson in the Bible history.

Maybe that is why the Church insists that we walk from scene to scene whenever the devotion is done privately. The standing, kneeling and the praying are designed and combined by the Church to make us mindful of the why, who, and when the journey was made.

The 14 Stations are just that many pages lifted from the history of the Church in medieval days, when Europe was Catholic. There was a deep desire and determination in many hearts to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and walk in meditation along the Via Dolorosa made sacred by the footsteps of the Saviour.

THESE WERE NOT conducted tours such as pious travelers make today. At that time any journey was a test of endurance and the long trip to the Holy Land was literally a crucial test of faith and courage. The pilgrims faced the dangers of hunger, sickness and highwaymen.

Many pilgrims never came back because they became unsung martyrs along the way.



Station photos are from St. Margaret Mary Church, Rochester.

Those who did manage to succeed and sanctify the adventure were called Palmers. It was their ever after privilege to wear a small bit of palm as a sign that the holy journey had been made.

Such were the overseas service ribbons of other days. The stern and sometimes sarcastic author of the medieval masterpiece, The Vision of Piers Plowman, saved his best praise for these brave souls.

THERE IS A great deal of distance and difference between those medieval pilgrims and the modern devotees at midweek lenten devotions.

These devotions, the Way of the Cross as we know it, may be said to have originated after the capture of Jerusalem by the fanatical Moslems.

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land ceased and in many parts of Europe the custom arose of placing pictures in churches, pictures representing the journey of Our Lord to Calvary.

SOME OF THE scenes shown in the pictures

Lenten Devotion Teaches This Lesson: 'They Suffer Most Who Have No Cross'

are described in the Gospels. Others are not. There is no mention of the Saviour's falls beneath the cross, nor of His meeting with His Mother, nor of the story of Veronica.

The saints and others have left us a variety of Station books. Many parishes use the community method of saying the Stations, but the fact remains that the Church would have each of us employ our own meditation as a conclusion to each scene.

Many a devout person associates each Station with a Commandment and draws therefrom a soul saving conclusion.

THE CONDITIONS and regulations that the Church sets down about the making of the Way of the Cross are quite fully understood by our people. Unfortunately, we are not so carefully schooled in the matter of gaining the indulgences.

We overlook the fact that this devotion has been indulged by the Church and we must be earnestly mindful about gaining these spiritual treasures for our own souls and the souls in purgatory.

The four conditions necessary for gaining these indulgences are: 1 the state of grace; 2 meditation on the Passion of Our Lord; 3 moving from one Station to another (this is not necessary in a public devotion led by the priest who moves from one Station to another) and 4 no long interruption in completing the Stations once begun.

EVERY YEAR in any parish we find families making the Way of the Cross in bitter reality. It seems the evil characters in the Good Friday scenes somehow come down from the wall of the parish church and walk into our homes like grey ghosts chanting that it can happen here.

Sometimes it is fatal sickness or an unexpected death that darkens the home with the gloom of a Good Friday afternoon.

Delinquency and the scandal and gossip that comes and goes with publicity upturn the quiet Catholic home into a heartbreak house.

THERE ARE times when an evil way of the cross is launched when some member of the household decides to solve one domestic problem by creating countless other complications via the divorce court.

Weep not for me but for your children when some member of the Catholic family circle deserts the faith of their fathers by marrying outside the Church.

Such are the worldly ways of the cross that



have no happy Easter morning ending. Under the heavy weight of such common crosses about all we can say is: Lord Jesus crucified, have mercy on us.

BEING KEEPERS of Lent we should find comfort in the ancient Way of the Cross as countless others have done before us and our hectic times.

The Stations are truly a pause in the day's occupation designed to give us peace and rest in the high fashion of the mystic Sister Miriam whose statement started this article.

Our thoughts are translated into her words when:

Scorned, mocked and spurned I've been,
Derided and defied,
And I have been betrayed by one,
For whom I would have died.
One cross I thought so bitter,
No greater could befall,
Until I learned they suffer most
Who have no cross at all.

BOOK SHELF

Pages For Prayer

St. Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

"Life does not demand much more than constancy and truth... The stage is largely set for us. In the last analysis our success lies not in the quality of our performance but in our sincerity as performers. What God wants of us is not that we should win our way to the top of the hill but that we should be true to the type in which He has cast us. Though our names be in the smallest print, we can yet be true.

"What God wants is not the career that helped to develop character but the character that has helped to develop the career. I am a person before I am a profession... I must be true to myself as a man before I can be true to anything at all...

"A man loses himself in bitterness in alienation, in uncharity, in disintegration; he finds himself in charity and unity. If I feel at variance with my life, my fellowmen, my vocation, my very self, I must rediscover my true nature not by changing the changeable contingencies but by trying to deepen the deeper qualities of my soul.

"I must draw into the single desire—the desire for God who is love and truth—all of what I conceive to be my essential self. Truth itself, love itself, will do the rest... From THE INNER SEARCH, by Dom Hubert VanZeller, O.S.B. Sheed 56. Available at Trant's Tuckers' and other Catholic bookstores.

"WE ARE NOT giving ourselves only to an ideal, however great; we are not giving ourselves only to the pursuit of perfection, however true; we are giving ourselves to a person, a living Person who is a God, and a God who is our brother in the most absolute sense of the word, because He is also a man... Our deepest aim is to live in real and total friendship with Him, in the midst of the world.

"It is for the sake of Him—Him, our first born—that we work and struggle like ordinary men; it is in order to meet the call of His love upon us that we are so often upon our knees, at His feet, trying to learn to love Him as our God, to love him as our Friend, to love him as our

From SEEDS OF THE DESERT: The Legacy of Charles de Foucauld, by R. Vollaume. With a Preface by John La Farge, S.J. 368 pp. Price \$5. Available through Catholic bookstores.

"Let us awaken in our heart a love that is absolute, disinterested, apostolic, a following of Christ's pattern; let us draw near to Him, and seek Him in the Blessed Sacrament ever more often.

"Let us return to him, again and again, like a bee to flowers; through the spirit, by constantly thinking of Him amid our occupations; through the heart, by keeping on telling Him that we love Him, that we are His now and forever; through the will, by making His desires, wishes, and purposes ours also.

"One of the most classical forms of the interior life is to go down into the innermost sanctuary of the soul, there to find the Saviour dwelling.

"Let us make the loving visit often every day, to adore, thank, console, and love Him, to ask His forgiveness, to give ourselves up to the influence of His sanctifying power; and to whisper in His ear, 'Let us live one life together, Jesus; strive together, suffer together, pray together, love together.

"TO BECOME ever greater friends with Jesus; that ought to be the sole object of our daily resolves and efforts until our last breath." —From LOVE THE LORD THY GOD, by Louis Collin, O.S.B. Newman—56. Available at Trant's, Tuckers' and other Catholic bookstores.

Italian Aid

Chicago — (NC) — A check in the amount of \$11,077 for the American Committee on Italian Immigration was presented here to Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago.

Prelate Defends Symbol On State Emblem

Foes Of Cross Seen 'Fighting Bogeymen'

St. Paul — (NC) — The Archbishop of St. Paul said opponents to the inclusion of a cross on the Minnesota statehood centennial emblem are waging a campaign against "imaginary bogeymen in the dark."

Archbishop William O. Brady's comment on the complaints over the cross appeared in his latest weekly column which appears in the Catholic Bulletin, St. Paul archdiocesan newspaper.

THE STATE centennial commission there has been requested to remove the cross by representatives of the state branch of the American Civil Liberties Union and spokesmen for Seventh Day Adventist, Lutheran, Unitarian, Jewish, Episcopal and Universalist churches.

The charges made about display of the cross are that it "violates separation of church and state" will give "serious offense" to "humanists, Jews, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists and other groups of citizens" and will be offensive to many Christians because the emblem will be used "on our stickers, highball glasses, and beer mugs."

Archbishop Brady said "we would be false to our citizenship in Minnesota if we did not say frankly that we think that those who have agitated to have this 'cross' removed have blundered badly."

THE PRELATE declared that "surely no affront was intended to non-Christians" by the cross. "I am erasing from history the part the Cross of

Christ played in Minnesota's beginnings."

"Can we change the name of St. Paul to Saultdown? What shall we do with St. Peter, St. James, St. Anthony Falls and Hennepin and Marquette? Was it an affront that such names were given? Is it an affront if they are retained? Facts are facts. To try to deny them one hundred years later by ignoring them or by excluding them in a centennial celebration would be a falsification of local history," the Archbishop wrote.

THE PRELATE said it is "like throwing out the baby with the bath water" to complain about the use of the emblems on automobiles and beverage containers.

"If there be a conflict of con-

science, let's throw out the beer mugs, dinner plates and all the rest, but keep the 'cross'."

Archbishop Brady concluded: "If today's pressure removes the 'cross' from the emblem that marks the past, tomorrow's pressure will attempt to tear it from our churches and our homes."

Aircraft Carrier Has Special Chapel

Washington — (NC) — The modernized USS Kearsarge, one of the U. S. Navy's largest aircraft carriers, has rejoined the fleet with a new chapel built into her structure. It was announced here by the chaplains' division of the Navy



YOU can buy MORE PROTECTION for Your Family NOW with Rochester Savings Bank Life Insurance

See How You Save on this \$5,000 "TERM" Policy

ILLUSTRATION FIGURED AT AGE 30	
Annual premium	\$44.75
First Year Dividend	22.00
NET COST	ONLY \$22.75

*Based on current (1957) dividend scale.

USE IT To provide immediate, low-cost protection as your family grows. To insure the mortgage on your home. To insure a personal or business loan.

All this for only \$3.85 a month! RENEWABLE AND CONVERTIBLE TO AGE 65 Premiums may be paid automatically from your Savings Account Step in, Call MAker 5-4400, or

MAIL THIS COUPON NOW

ROCHESTER SAVINGS BANK
40 Franklin St., Rochester 4, N. Y.

Please mail me a free booklet and full details. I have checked the policy below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Straight Life	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 Payment Life	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-Year Term
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Paid Up at 65	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 Year Endowment	<input type="checkbox"/> 2-Way Savings Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Endowment at 65		

Age _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____

Save the Life Insurance Way at
ROCHESTER Savings Bank
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Exclusively designed for the YOUNGER SET!

"IVY CORDING"

New crisp blend of cotton-rayon

"DUO-COLOR" ETON SUIT \$7.95

Smart Eton jacket in duo-color cording... mono-color cording shorts with elasticized back.

"Ivy Cording" Slack Set \$7.95

Ivy cording shirt with matching slacks... back-belted in the ivy manner... blue or grey.

"Ivy Cord" Short Set \$6.95

Ivy cording shirt, button-down collar... matching walking shorts, ivy stripe belt, blue or grey.

Striped Cord Sport Coat \$8.95

Three-button ivy styled sport coat with center vent, fully lined, smart duo-stripe, blue or grey.

Boys Shop Third Floor

For the Finest Meal of the Year... Bring YOUR Family Easter Sunday To --

Easter Dinner at RUND'S

Children Under 10 yrs. - Half Price

COMPLETE EASTER MENU!

—FULL COURSE DINNERS—
SERVED EASTER SUNDAY 11 A.M. TO 11 P.M.

This is one trip every member of the family will be on hand for, and rightly so, because RUND'S is a favorite family spot... to eat your fill of the finest foods in a relaxed, home-like atmosphere. Don't miss it. Easter Sunday or anytime!

For Reservations, if you wish, HAmilton 6-1750

RUND'S STEAK and SEA FOOD RESTAURANT

48 South Avenue A STEP FROM MAIN STREET