

## Why I Am Catholic

### Stations of the Cross

As was mentioned in a previous note about devotions, the re-enacting/reliving of the last hours of Jesus' earthly life began in Jerusalem along the *Via Dolorosa* (Way of Sorrows or Suffering) that Christ walked. According to *Wikipedia*, "the tradition as chapel devotion began with St. Francis of Assisi and extended throughout the Roman Catholic Church in the medieval period."

The Stations of the Cross is a type of "spiritual pilgrimage." On a pilgrimage, we can visit holy sites or we can through our imagination, prayer, and the help of the Holy Spirit, be spiritually there (a kind of spiritual virtual reality). Through meditation and contemplation: We are walking with Jesus, we are standing at the foot of the cross, we are at the tomb—and then at Easter—we return to see the empty tomb and to celebrate His Resurrection.

Our Hispanic Community is already practicing for their annual Living Stations on Good Friday. They have over 40 participants, but would love to have volunteers from the rest of the parish. The Living Stations will be presented March 21 at the Fairgrounds at 5:00 p.m.

The Stations of the Cross help us realize more and more each time Christ's sacrifice, His courage, His love, and how precious is the gift of our salvation.