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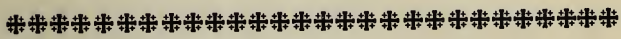
A VISIT  TO THE

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Franciscan Monastery

MEMORIAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY LAND

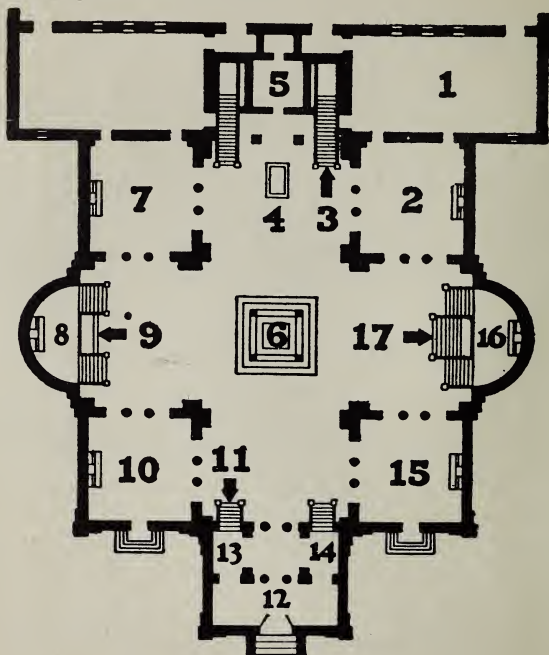
MOUNT ST. SEPULCHRE, WASHINGTON 17, D. C.



OPEN TO VISITORS every day, 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. All are requested to respect the House of God, to refrain from loud talking and from walking about during Divine Service.

ORDER OF SERVICES: *Sundays and Holy Days:* Mass at 6 and 9 a. m. Benediction at 3:30 p. m. *Week Days:* Mass at 6, 7 and 8 a. m. *Tuesdays:* Devotions in honor of St. Anthony at 9 a. m. and 8 p. m. *Confessions* are heard daily on request.

This leaflet is intended to serve as a guide and brief explanation of the Monastery and its Shrines. More detailed descriptive and historical information will be found in the Guide Book, on sale at the Monastery entrance.



Key to Plan of Church

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| 1 · SACRISTY. | 10 · LADY CHAPEL. |
| 2 · CHAPEL OF ST. JOSEPH. | 11 · STAIRS TO ALTAR OF CALVARY. |
| 3 · STAIRS TO ALTAR OF THABOR. | 12 · MAIN ENTRANCE. |
| 4 · STONE OF ANOINTING. | 13 · SHRINE OF THE CROWNING WITH THORNS. |
| 5 · THE HOLY SEPULCHRE. | 14 · SHRINE OF THE SCOURGING. |
| 6 · CENTER ALTAR. | 15 · CHAPEL OF ST. ANTHONY. |
| 7 · CHAPEL OF ST. FRANCIS. | 16 · ALTAR OF THE SACRED HEART. |
| 8 · ALTAR OF THE HOLY GHOST. | 17 · ENTRANCE TO GROTTOS. |
| 9 · EXIT FROM BETHLEHEM GROTTOS. | |

The Monastery

Surrounding the stately Church is the graceful colonnade of the **Rosary Portico**. This bit of old Monastic architecture commemorates the Fifteen Decades of the Rosary. Tablets of the LORD'S PRAYER and the AVE MARIA, in many ancient and modern languages, are enshrined within the Chapels of the Portico.

The building reminiscent of the early Franciscan Missions in California, seen by the visitor before entering the Monastery Garden, is known as the **Pilgrimage Hall**.

At the left of the Church is the quaint stone **Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels**, a copy of the renowned Portiuncula Shrine near Assisi in Italy, where St. Francis founded the Order which bears his name.

Two statues adorn the garden enclosed by the Rosary Portico: one in bronze of St. Francis and the doves, and the other of St. Christopher, Patron of motorists and travelers.

Purpose of the Monastery

The Franciscan Monastery is known also as the COMMISSARIAT OF THE HOLY LAND FOR THE UNITED STATES, which has for its object the preservation and maintenance of the Holy Shrines of Palestine, the support of many Churches, Missions and schools there and in Egypt, Syria, and Cyprus, and the education of Missionaries for those distant places. To aid this work, there is here established an association called THE CRUSADE FOR THE HOLY LAND, the members of which contribute 25 cents yearly for the Sacred Places. Further information will be furnished on request.

The Church and its Significance

The architecture of the Church is Byzantine, modified to accord with Franciscan simplicity. The ground plan is built on the lines of the Five-fold Cross of the Holy Land, this emblem being carried out in large proportions in the mosaic of the floor.

While itself not a copy of any other edifice, within the Church are reproduced a number of the Sacred Shrines of the Holy Land. To these replicas (each designated by a bronze Cross, and marked thus ✠ in this booklet) the Holy See has accorded the same Indulgences that may be obtained at the Holy Places in Palestine, whereby one in the state of grace may gain a plenary indulgence, applicable to



the faithful departed, by reciting once the *Our Father* and *Hail Mary* at the shrines so privileged. (Indulgences take the place of the long public penances of the Early Church, and are the remission, not of sins, but of the temporal punishment due to sins after their guilt has been forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance or Confession.)

Visit to the Church

The large room at the left of the entrance is the Sacristy (*No. 1 on Plan*), where the Community assembles in preparation for the ceremonies of the Church. Passing through the door at the left is the

Chapel of St. Joseph (2 ^{see} plan)

The Altar here is erected to God in commemoration of St. Joseph, foster-father of the Child Jesus. The statue above the Altar represents the Saint holding the Divine Infant. The bas-reliefs depict the Espousal of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, and the Flight of the Holy Family into Egypt. A painting representing the Death of St. Joseph is at the left of the Altar.

Votive lamps burn in silent vigil before this and other Shrines of the Church, lights having been used in the Divine Service from earliest times. These memorial lamps, whose varied colors have no significance, may be likened to wreaths placed at the Nation's historical shrines.

PRAYER

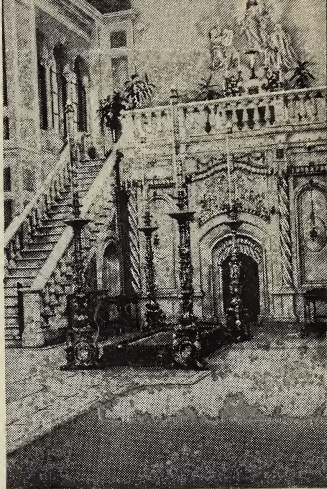
O God, Who in Thy ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy Mother, grant we beseech Thee that we may have him for our advocate in Heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy protector. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Passing from this chapel, a full view of the Church is obtained. At the east (right), occupying the place of honor, is the

✠ Holy Sepulchre (5)

This reproduction shows Our Divine Saviour's Tomb as it is at the present day in Jerusalem, where a little Chapel encloses the rock in which the primitive Tomb was hewn. In the vestibule, known as the Chapel of the Angel, is a pedestal containing a stone from Jerusalem, like that which in the Holy City enshrines a fragment of the stone with which the entrance of the Sacred Tomb was closed. Another low doorway gives access to the sepulchral chamber, a replica of that in which the body of Christ reposed from Good Friday evening until Easter Sunday morning, and which was the scene of His Glorious Resurrection.



The Fourteen Stations of the Cross (see "Way of the Cross" on page 16) adorning the walls of the Church are executed in alabaster and mosaic from specially sculptured designs. The small olive-wood cross from Gethsemane at the top of each Station contains a fragment of stone from the site of the respective Station in Jerusalem.

PRAYER

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.
(*Our Father and Hail Mary for Holy Land Indulgence*)

Above the Holy Sepulchre is the

Altar of Thabor (3)

dedicated to the Mystery of Our Lord's Transfiguration. The marble Altar is surrounded by a large relief-panel representing that glorious event in Christ's life when He bestowed upon three of His Apostles a glimpse of His celestial glory.

PRAYER

O God, Who in the glorious Transfiguration of Thine only-begotten Son, didst signify to man the perfect adoption of sons that was to come: establish us, we beseech Thee, as coheirs with Him Who is the King of Glory. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

In front of the Holy Sepulchre is seen the

✦ Stone of Anointing (4)

This is a copy of the Shrine in Jerusalem which covers the place where the body of Our Lord was anointed and prepared for burial, after the manner of the Jews of that period. This facsimile was constructed in Palestine of native marble.

(*Our Father* and *Hail Mary* for Holy Land Indulgence)

Standing majestically beneath the lofty dome of the Church is the

Center Altar (6)

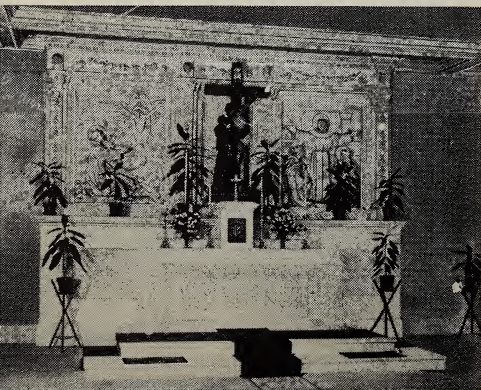
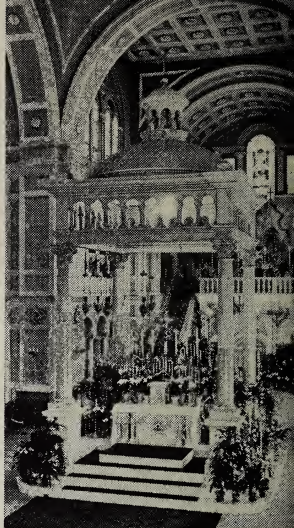
At this great Altar, dedicated to the Most Holy Trinity, the Eucharistic Sacrifice of the Mass is offered with solemn liturgy on the festival days of the Church. The lofty canopy over the Altar reminds the visitor of the Papal Altar in St. Peter's at Rome.

Continuing, one arrives at the

Altar of St. Francis of Assisi (7)

St. Francis is esteemed by Catholics and non-Catholics as

one of the most lovable characters in history. Members of the Order of Friars Minor, which he founded in 1209, care for this Monastery. St. Francis established his Mission of the Holy Land in 1219, since which



time the Sacred Places have been entrusted to the guardianship of the Franciscan Order by the Church, who has ever regarded those hallowed spots as her most precious heritage.

The statue over the Altar represents the Saint in the embrace of Our Lord Crucified, after a painting by Murillo. The relief panel at the right represents St. Francis blessing Saints Louis of France and Elizabeth of Hungary, royal members of the Third Order of St. Francis; the panel at the left represents the Saint receiving the Stigmata or marks of the Five Wounds of Christ.

PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, Who when the world grew cold didst renew the sacred marks of Thy Passion in the flesh of the Most Blessed Francis to inflame our hearts with the fire of Thy love, graciously grant that by his merits and prayers we may continually bear the Cross and bring forth worthy fruits of penance. Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

On the right side of the Chapel is a group of statuary, artistically carved of wood, representing Our Lord meeting His Blessed Mother as He carried the Cross to Calvary.

At the left of the St. Francis Chapel is the

Altar of the Holy Ghost (8)

The bas-relief panel above this Altar represents the Holy Ghost as a Dove, adored by angels, and surrounded by rays of celestial glory. At the sides are depicted Our Lord sending His Apostles forth to preach the Gospel, and St. Francis of Assisi sending his first disciples on their missions of mercy and evangelization.

PRAYER

O God, Who hast taught the hearts of Thy Faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant that we may be truly wise in the same Spirit, and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

[7]



Continuing to the left we find the

Mary Chapel (10)

This Altar commemorates the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Mother of Our Saviour. The panels represent the Presentation of the Child Mary in the Temple, and her Coronation in Heaven by her Divine Son and the Eternal Father. Catholics do not adore the Blessed Virgin, nor any of the Saints. They honor her because Almighty God honored her in choosing her to be the Mother of His Divine Son. "Henceforth all generations shall call me blessed." (*St. Luke 1:48.*)

PRAYER

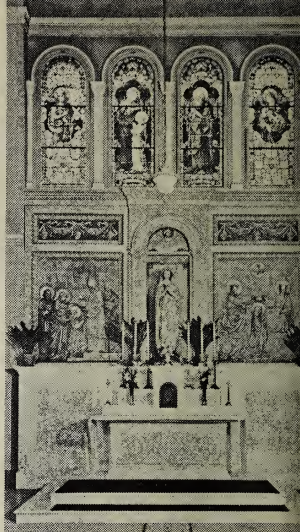
O God, Who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin didst prepare a worthy dwelling-place for Thy Son, we beseech Thee that as in view of the Death of that Son Thou didst preserve her from all stain of sin, so Thou wouldst enable us, being made pure by her intercession, to come unto Thee. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Passing from this Chapel, the visitor comes to the stairway (*No. 11*) leading up to the

✱ Altar of Calvary

This marble Altar is a replica of the one which stands over the place where the Cross was set in the sacred rock of Calvary.

At the right an opening in the marble indicates the place of a fissure caused in the rock by the earthquake at the time of Christ's death on the Cross. The realistic relief-panel depicts in a striking manner the



tragic scene of Our Lord's Crucifixion. On His left, overshadowed by the approaching darkness, are His enemies; at His right His Blessed Mother, His Disciples, and the Repentant Thief, while the sorrowing Magdalen kneels at the foot of the Cross. In the background is depicted the city of Jerusalem.

PRAYER

Look down, O Lord, upon this Thy people for which Our Lord Jesus Christ vouchsafed to be delivered into the hands of wicked men and to suffer the agony and death of the Cross. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(Our Father and Hail Mary for Holy Land Indulgence)

Descending the stairway, two small Shrines beneath this Sanctuary are visited. The one at the left on entering is the

Shrine of the Scourging (14)

where a statue touchingly represents Our Blessed Lord after His cruel scourging. The one on the opposite side is the

Coronation Shrine (13)

The statue here portrays Our Lord after His sacred brow was torn by the Crown of Thorns. Coming again to the nave and continuing to the right we see the

Chapel of St. Anthony (15)

This Saint, through his innocence of life and his great love of God and man, brought back many erring souls to Christ. God saw fit to adorn him even in life with the gift of miracles. The statue represents the Saint embracing the Infant Jesus Who once appeared to him while at prayer. The panel at the left of the Altar depicts the Saint healing the sick, while the one on the right shows him giving bread to the poor, of whom he was





ever a special friend.

PRAYER

O God, grant that the votive commemoration of Blessed Anthony, Thy Confessor, may be a source of joy to Thy Church, that ever fortified with spiritual assistance, she may deserve to possess eternal joy. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Adjacent to this Chapel is the

Sacred Heart Altar (16)

This is dedicated to the veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, regarded as the symbol of Our Divine Lord's love for mankind.

Above the Altar, Christ is represented enthroned as the "King and Center of All Hearts," adored by Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi. The panel depicts also the conversion of the unbelieving Thomas upon seeing the Wounds of the Risen Saviour; and a nobleman venerating the Stigmata of the Wounds of St. Francis.

PRAYER

O Almighty and Eternal God, look upon the Heart of Thy dearly beloved Son and upon the praise and satisfaction He offers Thee in the name of sinners and for those who seek Thy mercy; be Thou appeased and grant us pardon in the Name of the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end. Amen.

In front of this Altar is the entrance to the Grottoes (No. 17), the broad stairway leading down to the

✱ Grotto of Nazareth

This is a reproduction of the Shrine of the Annunciation, as it is today in the little village of Nazareth in Galilee. In the

first part are two Altars, while that in the center is a replica of the Altar of the Annunciation, which commemorates the place where God's Angelic Messenger announced to the Virgin Mary that she was to be the Mother of the Redeemer of the World.

In the circle beneath the Altar is a stone from Nazareth.

PRAYER
"THE AVE MARIA"

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (See *St. Luke* 1:28, 42, 43.)

(*Our Father* and *Hail Mary* for Holy Land Indulgence)

Suspended from the ceiling at the left of the Sanctuary is a copy of a broken **column**, the original of which, still embedded in the masonry of the roof, was partially destroyed by looting tribesmen. The doorway at the right of the Altar leads into a small **Chapel** dedicated to **St. Joseph**.

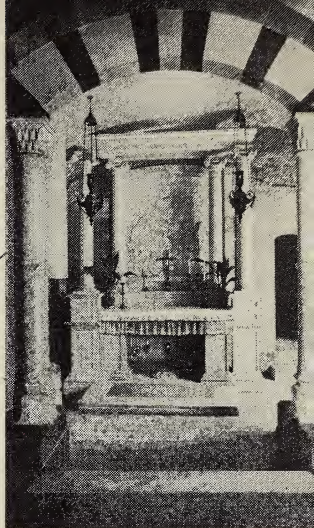
Retracing a few steps, we come to a narrow door at the right of the broad stairway leading to

The Catacombs

from which the visitor may form an accurate idea of those in Rome. It was in these subterranean passages that the Divine Services were celebrated during the ages of persecution, as is evident from the numerous altars found there today. There, too, in niches like those seen here, millions of Christian dead were buried.

The Catacombs of ancient Rome, the combined length of which is estimated to be 600 to 900 miles, are an enduring monument to the continuity of the Church's teachings and faith in "Jesus Christ, yesterday, and today, and the same forever." (*Hebrews XIII:8.*)

The passageway leads on to a small circular Chapel, called



The Martyr's Crypt

This resembles numerous chapels found in the Catacombs, where ancient Altars were erected over the relics of the Martyrs. Beneath this Altar repose the remains of St. Benignus, a Roman Martyr, formerly buried in the Catacombs of the Eternal City, and now enshrined in the wax figure here. The monograms and symbols of the Church's doctrines are copied from the original frescoes in the Roman Catacombs.

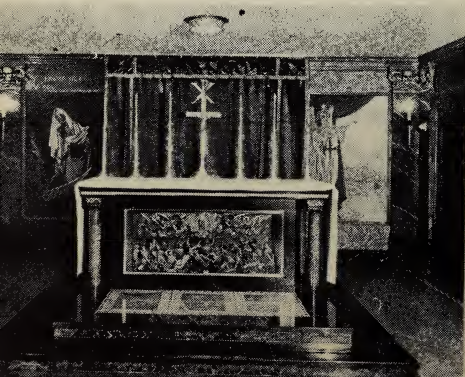
The Catacombs lead to the

Purgatory Chapel

In this Memorial Chapel of All Souls the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered to God in behalf of the Faithful Departed. The paintings, decorations, and other characteristics of the Chapel are remindful of death and resurrection, and of those detained in "Heaven's vestibule."

ANCIENT PRAYER FROM THE CANON OF THE MASS

Be mindful, O Lord, of Thy servants who are gone before us with the Sign of Faith and who sleep in the sleep of peace. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, we beseech Thee grant a place of refreshment, light and peace. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Catacomb Chapels

Behind the Altar is a continuation of the Catacombs, where mural paintings in the stairways on either side of the passage rep-

resent Martyrs consigned to beasts in the arena. Beyond a narrow passageway are two larger Catacomb chapels.

That at the left on entering is dedicated to **St. Cecilia**, Virgin-Martyr. The statue beneath the Altar is a copy of one by Maderno, representing the Saint's body as it was found incorrupt many years after her martyrdom. The chapel opposite is dedicated to **St. Sebastian**, Soldier-Martyr. The figure here is a copy of Bernini's statue in the Church of St. Sebastian on the Appian Way near Rome, where the Saint shed his blood for his faith.

Returning through the Purgatory Chapel and the Martyr's Crypt, a short portion of Catacombs at the right leads into



✦ The Grotto of Bethlehem

This Shrine is a faithful copy of the Grotto of the Nativity as it is at the present day in Bethlehem. In the arched recess between the two stairways is a copy of the ✦ **Altar of the Nativity**, beneath which is a facsimile of the silver star commemorating the place where the Saviour came into the world as a little Child born in a poor stable-cave, nineteen centuries ago.

At the right is the ✦ **Place of the Manger**, where the Holy Child was placed by His Virgin Mother on the First Christmas. ✦ The near-by **Altar of the Magi** commemorates the adoration of the Divine Infant by the Three Wise Men.



A PRAYER RECITED IN BETHLEHEM

O God, Who in this little Grotto of Bethlehem didst make known Thy only-begotten Son to the Gentile nations by means of a star, mercifully grant that we who already know Thee by Faith may in time be admitted to the beauty of Thy Heavenly bliss. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
(Three times *Our Father* and *Hail Mary* for the Holy Land Indulgences)

Return to the Upper Church

Ascent of either stairway leads once more to the Church, and through the Sacristy to the Monastery door, where **The Guide Book**, views of the Monastery, books explaining Catholic doctrine, etc., may be obtained.

The Gethsemane Valley

In this beautiful dale, accessible through the Rosary Portico near the Monastery entrance, are a number of outdoor Shrines erected to the greater honor and glory of God. Midway down the hillside is the

✠ Grotto of Gethsemane

This Grotto is a replica of the one near the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem, dedicated to Our Lord's Agony on the eve of His Crucifixion. In Palestine this Shrine is but little changed since it was frequented by Our Lord and His Apostles.

PRAYER

O most merciful Jesus, lover of souls, I pray Thee by the agony of Thy Sacred Heart and by the sorrows of Thy Immaculate Mother, cleanse in Thine own blood the sinners of the whole world, who are now in their agony and are to die this day. Amen.



(*Our Father* and *Hail Mary* for Holy Land Indulgences)



A short distance from the Grotto of the Agony is the

✠ Tomb of the Blessed Virgin

as it is now in the Valley of Gethsemane. In Jerusalem this Shrine is revered even by the Moham-medans, who also hold that Mary as the Mother of Christ is deserving of our veneration.

(*Our Father and Hail Mary for Holy Land Indulgence*)

Opposite is the

Grotto of Lourdes

This is an accurate copy of that world-famous shrine in southern France where in 1858 the Immaculate Virgin appeared to a peasant girl. The Grotto has since been the scene of countless miraculous cures, of which thousands have been officially authenticated by the medical authorities as beyond human understanding.

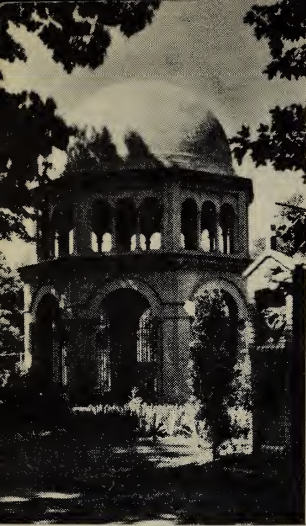
At the lower end of the grounds is the

Chapel of St. Anne

in memory of the mother of the Blessed Virgin. Beneath this Sanctuary is a reproduction of the **Home of the Holy Family in Egypt.**

The original of this Shrine marks the place in Babylon (Old Cairo) where the Child Jesus, together with Mary and Joseph, remained during the exile in Egypt, until after the death of Herod.





ASCENSION CHAPEL

Way of the Cross

Along the path wending its way up the hill are the Stations of the Cross. These representations of Our Lord's sufferings call to mind the words of the Prophet Jeremias: "All ye that pass by the way, attend and see if there be any sorrow like to my sorrow." (*Lamentations I:12.*)

The Stations of the Way of the Cross commemorate: 1, the Condemnation of Christ; 2, the Carrying of the Cross; 3, Christ's fall under the Cross; 4, Our Lord meeting His Mother; 5, Simon assisting Jesus; 6, Veronica consoling Christ; 7, the second fall; 8, Christ speaking to the daughters of Jerusalem; 9, the third fall; 10, Christ deprived of His garments; 11, Our Lord nailed to the Cross; 12, Christ's death on the Cross; 13, Christ taken down from the Cross; 14, the burial of Jesus in the Holy Sepulchre.

Crowning the hilltop is the

✠ Chapel of the Ascension

This graceful Chapel is like the one built by the Crusaders in the 12th century over the place on Mount Olivet made sacred by the Ascension of the Divine Redeemer into Heaven. Beneath the marble Altar is a stone from Jerusalem.

(*Our Father and Hail Mary for Holy Land Indulgence*)

Farewell

As the Pilgrim is about to leave this spot of holiness and peace for the city with its cares and distractions, a lingering gaze bids farewell to the stately Church and its beautiful surroundings, and the heart seems to cry out: "Behold the tabernacle of God with men!" (*Apoc. XXI:3.*)