

Magdalene is very beautiful with its oriental head-dress. One can easily imagine the parted lips uttering the endearing term « Rabboni, » as the glad eyes look their surprised delight. The Holy Stairs and chapel are the prototype of the world famed Scala Santa, at Rome. The twenty eight steps represent the original steps of Pilate's Judgement Hall, up which, crowned and bleeding, Our Savior walked so often. Relics of the Holy Land are bedded in every stair. At the top of the steps is the Pilate group « Behold the Man, » and at either side, the « Flagellation » and the « Veronica » group. The walls are frescoed in excellent copies of Palestinian scenes, painted by gifted Brother Ildefonse.

We visit the Calvary Chapel in the cemetery, next, and finally return to the basilica for another and a longer look at the most interesting and eloquent testimonials to the powers and pity of Good St. Ann: the two pyramids of crutches on either side of the main entrance.

Eloquent tongues and devout souls may proclaim the glories of the Saint; churches may be built in her honor and enriched with gold and gems; pens may eulogize her greatness, and hymns be composed in her honor: but neither eloquence, nor music, nor grandeur, nor even piety so exalt her as those towering testimonials of her compassion on the suffering and her power with God. In the presence of those mutely eloquent preachers of her goodness, the proud minds of men are humbled, their hard hearts are softened, and barren souls are flooded with the wondrous gift of Faith. There they hang, pitiful reminders of sufferings and afflictions long endured, — every kind of mechanical contrivance for the alleviation of crippled and distorted humanity, which, here at St. Ann's Shrine, have been healed of their ills for the glory of God. You will find all sizes and shapes of crutches, canes, braces, boots, plaster cases for nerveless and deformed bodies and limbs, showing that every kind of deformity has been healed. In all St. Ann's, these pyramids of crutches are the most unique and touchingly eloquent things to be found. — We must mention that the relic at the base of Saint Ann's statue is not a part of her person, but a portion of stone from her home in Jerusalem.