MAY 23 TO JUNE 2 2025 HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

Daily Mass in the Traditional Latin Rite, a strong Focus on Prayer, and a focus on the Jewish roots of the Catholic Church make this pilgrimage very different. We stay *only* in pilgrimage houses run by Religious. The group is limited to 25 pilgrims, ensuring a prayerful, recollected and intimate atmosphere. We accompanied by a reverent TLM Priest. In all aspects the pilgrimage is designed to maximize prayer.

DETAILED ITINERARY

<u>Sunday May 23:</u>
Most pilgrims will depart this day from their home airports, on flights scheduled to arrive on Monday, May 24.

<u>Monday May 24:</u>
Arrangements have been made to transport pilgrims from the airport to the Sisters of Nazareth pilgrimage house in Nazareth where we will be staying our first two nights, just a block from the Basilica of the Annunciation where "the Word was made flesh". Our proximity allows for prayer at the Grotto of the Annunciation in the early mornings and evenings when we will frequently be the only ones there.

<u>Tuesday May 25:</u>
We have a full day in Nazareth to pray at the Holy sites there. Before breakfast, those who wish will be able to go to the Basilica in the early morning silence and stillness for private prayer at the Grotto where the Annunciation took place. After returning for breakfast, we have the whole day in Nazareth to visit and pray at:

- **The Tomb of St. Joseph**
- **Mary's Well, where she went to draw water each day**
- **St. Joseph's workshop**
- **The synagogue in Nazareth where Jesus read from the Scriptures, saying "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (Lk 4:16)**
- **The garden of the Poor Clare convent where St. Charles de Foucauld lived as gardener.**

If there is sufficient interest, there will also be a trip this afternoon to the Wedding Church in Cana, where pilgrims will be able to pray and renew their wedding vows.

<u>Wednesday May 26 to Friday, May 28</u>

After breakfast we leave Nazareth for the Sea of Galilee. On the way we will mount Mt. Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration (Mt 17, Mk 9, Lk 9), and, if the altar is available, celebrate our Traditional Latin Mass (TLM) in the Basilica there. Then on to the Sea of Galilee, where we will stay two nights at the luxurious Benedictine "Pilgerhaus" pilgrimage house on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (with a private beach).

During our time by the Sea of Galilee, we will visit and pray at the sites around the Sea of Galilee sanctified by the presence, miracles, and teaching of Jesus, including:

- **Capernaum, the town where Jesus lived during much of His public ministry (Mt 4 and 8, Mk 1-2, Lk 4 and 7), praying at the home of Peter (where Jesus stayed) and in the Synagogue there where Jesus gave the "Bread of Life" discourse (Jn 6), and will see the ruins of the ancient town.**
- **Tabgha, the spot where Jesus multiplied the Loaves and Fishes prefiguring the miracle of the Eucharist. The property is actually a part of the Pilgerhaus where we will be staying, allowing an opportunity to pray there when the shrine is closed to outsiders.**
- **Kursi on the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus cast the "Legion of Demons" out of the demoniac and into the swine who ran into the Sea (Mk 5, Lk 8). We will visit and pray at the cave where the demoniac lived, with some deliverance prayer if our Chaplain wishes.**
- **The "Primacy of Peter" (aka "Mensa Christi"), where Jesus appeared after the Resurrection, prepared breakfast for the Apostles who were fishing, and told Peter "feed my lambs… tend my sheep (Jn 21).**
- **The Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-6)**
- **Chorazin, the town Jesus cursed for its unbelief (Mt 11, Lk 10)**
- **Caesaria Phillipi (circumstances permitting) where Jesus said "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church"**

We will also visit the ancient village of Safed, the world center of Jewish mysticism since the 15th century, and visit one of the medieval synagogues there and a grave of one of the famous Jewish wonder-worker Rabbis. The day finishes with a late afternoon sail on the Sea of Galilee in a boat modeled after the ones of Jesus' day.

<u>Friday, May 28:</u>

We leave the Sea of Galilee for our final 5 days in Jerusalem, stopping on the way at Jericho (local conditions permitting) where we will:

- **visit and pray at the very spot on the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized by John (Mt 3). Not coincidentally, it is also the very same spot where the Jewish people first entered into the Promised Land led by Joshua (which is the name "Jesus" in Hebrew), and where Elijah crossed over and was taken up to Heaven in the fiery chariot. Pilgrims who wish may be immersed in the Jordan there and renew their baptismal vows.**
- **ascend the Mount of Temptation by cable car, to the cave where Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days in preparation of His public ministry (Mt 4, Mk 1, Lk 4). It is now an Orthodox monastery and church.**
- **There we will be able to pray at the very stone on which He sat while Satan tempted Him.**
- **have a panoramic lunch while still on top of the Mount of Temptation, overlooking the Jordan valley.**

After Jericho we will head to where we will stay our final 5 nights in the Old City of Jerusalem. Time and circumstances permitting, on the way we may be able to

- **stop to view the dramatic Monastery of Saint George, built in the 5th century over the cave where Elijah hid from Jezebel and was fed by ravens (1 Ki 17)**
- **stop at Bethany, visiting the house of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary Magdalene where Jesus often stayed, including during Holy Week, and descend to Lazarus' tomb and pray there.**

Arriving in Jerusalem, we will check in for the final 5 nights at the Maronite Pilgrimage House (*Foyer Mar Maroun*) in the heart of the Old City, a 5 minute walk from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre! After checking in we may have time for the first of many visits there, where Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead!

<u>Saturday May 29 to Tuesday June 1:</u>

Our proximity to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre enables those who wish to walk there for prayer each morning before breakfast, as well as in the late afternoon before dinner. There one can pray at:

- **at the tomb from which Jesus Resurrected,**
- **the literal Foot of the Cross**
- **the stone of the Anointing**
- **the stone on which Jesus was crowned with Thorns, etc.**
- **the pillar of the Scourging**

We are usually able to get permission for those who wish spend overnight in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (locked in from 7pm to 5am), praying there almost alone at the foot of the Cross and inside Jesus' tomb.

During our stay in Jerusalem, places we will visit and pray at also will include:

- **praying the Stations of the Cross at the original stations**
- **St. Anne's house (birthplace of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**
- **the Pool of Bethzatha (John 5) where Jesus healed the man ill for 38 years**
- **the Church of the Flagellation, where Jesus was whipped under orders of Pontius Pilate**
- **Ecce Homo, where Pontius Pilate displayed the scourged Jesus to the crowd**
- **Gabbatha, the pavement in front of Pontius Pilate's Palace where the crowd was gathered when Jesus was condemned**
- **the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (where we are often able to have Mass)**
- **the Jewish quarter and pray at the Western Wall**
- **the Church of the Dormition, where according to Catholic tradition the Blessed Virgin Mary fell asleep and was assumed into heaven**
- **St. Stephen's Priory, where St. Stephen was stoned shortly after the Crucifixion (Acts 6 and 7)**

- **the site of Jesus' Ascension (Acts 1) on the top of the Mount of Olives**
- **the Pater Noster Cave (Lk 11) where Jesus taught the disciples the Our Father**
- **Dominus Flevit (Lk 13) where Jesus wept over the destruction of Jerusalem**
- **the Church of the Agony, over the very stone on which Jesus prayed the night before His crucifixion, and sweat blood (Lk 22)**
  the Cave of Betrayal, where Peter, James and John slept while Jesus was undergoing the agony
- **the tomb where, according the Orthodox tradition Mary was entombed before the Assumption.**
- **Gallicantu, praying in the very prison cell under Caiaphas' house (Jn 18) where Jesus was taken right after the Agony in the Garden, and at and on the very steps in front of the palace that Jesus was dragged up that night.**

Each day we will have a Traditional Latin Mass. In the past, altars we have been able to reserve have included at the foot of the Cross on Calvary, inside Jesus' Tomb itself, and on the stone where Jesus sweat blood during His agony. (I always request these altars, but it is up to the shrine whether they are granted to us.) Each day can also begin and end with quiet prayer in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

One of our days in Jerusalem, we will travel to Bethlehem and Ein Karem. In Bethlehem, we will visit and pray at:

- **the Birth Cave (in the Basilica of the Nativity) where Jesus was born**
- **the Milk Cave where he was nursed by the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- **Shepherd's Field where the shepherds heard the angels announce the birth of the Messiah.**

After Bethlehem we proceed to Ein Karem, where we will visit and pray at:

- **the home of Elizabeth and Zachariah (now a Church) where John the Baptist was born**
  the location where Mary encountered Elizabeth and the Visitation took place

and as time permits,

- **the "hideout" of John the Baptist in the wilderness and**
- **the Tomb of the noted Catholic convert Alphonse Ratisbonne.**

<u>Tuesday June 1:</u>

Our final day in Jerusalem the pilgrims will be free to spend their time as they wish, with return visits to various shrines for additional prayer, visits to additional sites, and/or shopping.

<u>Wednesday June 2:</u>

Our last night in Jerusalem will have been Tuesday June 1. Transportation will be arranged for pilgrims from our Pilgrimage House to Tel Aviv airport for their return trips today.

Itinerary details subject to change.

Lodging Dates and Contact Information

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