



**SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO
THE HOLY LAND
& ROME**

with the Pilgrim Center of Hope
a Catholic Evangelization Ministry

Pilgrimage organized by Deacon Tom & Mary Jane Fox, directors,

The Pilgrim Center of Hope

A Catholic Evangelization Ministry

in the Archdiocese of San Antonio

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Directions: Read through today’s slides until you conclude with the prayer for the day. Here’s a calendar to help you.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				16 JUN	17 JUN	18 JUN
19 JUN	20 JUN	21 JUN	22 JUN	23 JUN	24 JUN	25 JUN
26 JUN	27 JUN	28 JUN	29 JUN	30 JUN	1 JUL	

16
JUN

← EXIT →

Departure



16
JUN

Excitement, anticipation, joy and wonder accompany the pilgrims in their thoughts and conversation as they travel half-way across the world to the land sanctified by our Lord. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv airport, we will travel on a road called Via Maris used since 1950 B.C. It was traveled by Abraham and centuries later by St. Paul. We'll spend our first night in the Holy Land by the mountains of Carmel at the Stella Maris Carmelite Monastery in Haifa.

16
JUN
PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you call us each by name. Thank you! We ask your blessing upon each pilgrim. May their journey of faith bring them closer to your heart. May they have a safe journey to the Holy Land. *Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Mount Carmel

17
JUN



17
JUN

Elijah was one of the important Biblical prophets, who lived in the 9th century BC during the times of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel (1 Kings 18). Elijah is regarded by all faiths of the Holy Land (Jews, Christians, Muslims and Druze) as a miracle maker, and a great hero who stood against the might of Kings and false prophets. In the 12th century, during the Crusader occupation of the region, groups of religious hermits began to inhabit the caves of this area in imitation of Elijah the Prophet. The Carmelite Order was founded on Mt. Carmel. Today, the Stella Maris Carmelite Monastery welcomes pilgrim groups to stay overnight and pray at this holy site where Elijah spent time and where hermits spent hours in prayer. We will have Mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel upon arrival.

17
JUN
PRAYER

Elijah, you were a prophet with courage and zeal for God's truth, I ask your intercession for a courageous & zealous heart and to live and share my faith! Our Lady of Carmel; you gave us the Brown Scapular as a sign of your love and presence among us. Intercede for the pilgrims, for us, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ, your Son! *Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

House of Mary in Nazareth

18
JUN



18
JUN

We drive to Nazareth where the Basilica of the Annunciation is built over ancient Nazareth and the House/Grotto of Mary. It is here that the Angel Gabriel came to Mary (Luke 1). Nearby is a church named after St. Joseph, built over the home of the Holy Family. Mass will be at the Basilica of the Annunciation, by Mary's home.

18
JUN
PRAYER

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee! Blessed Mother, pray for us to have the grace to say “YES” to God’s will in our lives. St. Joseph pray, that our families and our households will remain in God’s protection and peace!

Sea of Galilee



19
JUN

19
JUN

The Lord Jesus spent three years of His Apostolic life in this area. We will spend three nights by the Sea of Galilee. We'll visit the House of St. Peter in Capernaum, Mount of Beatitudes, the site of the Multiplication of the Fishes and Loaves, and take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. Mass will be at the Church of St. Peter in Capernaum, built over the home of St. Peter.

19
JUN
PRAYER

That voice from the Sea of Galilee is still calling...

“Whatever you are involved in, whatever you work at, no matter how unlikely you may think you are; follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men!”

Cana



20
JUN

20
JUN

On Mt. Tabor, the Lord Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James and John on Mt. Tabor. The Father said, “This is my Son, my Chosen one, listen to him” (Luke 9:36). Mass today is at the Church of the Transfiguration.

In Cana, the site of the First Miracle, the changing of water into wine, the servants obeyed Mary’s request, “Do whatever He tells you.” (John 2:5) Couples in our group that have received the Sacrament of Matrimony will renew their wedding vows in Cana. Later, they will celebrate with wine from Cana!

20
JUN
PRAYER

“Lord, slow us down. Sometimes we get so busy that many distractions challenge our values and priorities. Take us apart with Your Son so that we may listen to Him and not become confused or empty.

Speak, Lord, we desire to listen to Your voice!

Mary, pray for us to, “Do whatever He tells us.” *Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

21
JUN

Walking to the River Jordan



River Jordan

21
JUN

21
JUN

Today we will have an early outdoor Mass on the Mt. of Beatitudes, which overlooks the Sea of Galilee. Leaving the Galilee area traveling southward along the River Jordan Valley; we'll renew our baptismal vows at the River Jordan. The journey continues through the Judean Desert to the area of Jericho and the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth below sea level. After lunch in Jericho, we will experience floating in the Dead Sea. The Judean Desert is nearby; our Lord spent 40 days and 40 nights in prayer and fasting in the Judean Desert. We'll end the day by visiting Ein Karem, outside Jerusalem in the Judean Hill country, where St. John the Baptist was born. It is the home of Elizabeth and the site of the Visitation of Mary.

21
JUN
PRAYER

Because of the Holy Spirit who has been poured forth in our hearts, we are no longer slaves, but children of God and can praise our Heavenly Father! *Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*



Site of our Lord's scourging
in Jerusalem

22
JUN

22 JUN

The morning will be spent at an area called St. Peter Gallicantu, not far from the location of the Upper Room. Here is where Jesus spent Holy Thursday evening in prison, awaiting the trial on Good Friday. We will have Mass at this Church. In the afternoon, we'll spend time in the ancient city of Jerusalem visiting the Chapel of Flagellation and the Palace of Pontius Pilate, today called the Lithostrotos (stone pavement). It is here where our Lord was scourged by the Roman soldiers. Today, a Chapel is built over this area and we will have Mass at this holy site. Nearby is the Church of St. Ann, built over the Birthplace of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

22
JUN
PRAYER

Jesus, you came to tell us of the Father's love, have mercy on us! We pray for the spiritual renewal of our families and for the sanctity of life. Thank you for the gift of salvation; we pray that many will experience a desire to know you and love you. Amen.

Bethlehem



23
JUN



23
JUN

The day will be spent at the Basilica of the Nativity—the site of our Lord’s birthplace, the Milk Grotto—the home of the Holy Family before their exile to Egypt, and Shepherd’s Field where the shepherds received the angels’ announcement of the birth of Christ. We will have Christmas Liturgy in the Basilica of the Nativity. This is the only place in the world where the Christmas Mass may be celebrated outside of the Christmas Season, because it is here where it began!

23
JUN
PRAYER

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us! He shared our humanity that we might share His divinity. Thank you for the overflowing love which burst forth and is found in the arms of Mary. May you Lord be born again in our hearts! *Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

24
JUN



Jerusalem
Ancient City

24
JUN

Very early in the morning, we will walk the Via Dolorosa, carrying a large wooden cross, ending with Mass in the Tomb of Christ located in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

After some rest, our day continues to visit the Upper Room, and Dormition Abbey (a beautiful Benedictine church to commemorate Blessed Virgin Mary's assumption).

Then, a visit to the Western Wall or 'Wailing Wall.'



Holy Sepulcher Church
in Jerusalem



The Tomb of our Lord Jesus

24
JUN
PRAYER

Lord of Life, we are Easter Christians and Alleluia is our song! May the light of your Resurrection shine through us! He is truly risen! Alleluia!

Garden of Gethsemani



25
JUN

25
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Today, we will spend the entire day on the Mount of Olives. Beginning at the top, we see where our Lord ascended. Walking down to Dominus Flevit, we look out over Jerusalem at the place where He wept over the city. We end in the Garden of Gethsemani, spending time with Jesus in silent prayer, praying for God's will in our lives. Mass today will be in the Basilica of Agony, the site where the rock upon which our Lord spent his hour of agony is located.

25
JUN
PRAYER

How many times Lord do we cry out: “What is life about? Or, in which direction shall I go?” Lord, by your example of praying for the Father’s will, give us the courage and patience to persevere in our pilgrimage of life. We ask forgiveness for the many times we have failed to reconcile with others or have failed to love!
Our Father who art in Heaven... Amen.

Holy Shroud Exhibit

26
JUN



26
JUN

Today, we join a local Catholic parish for Sunday morning Mass. The parish is in Beit Jala, a small Catholic village outside Bethlehem. As an act of prayer and solidarity, we can be united with our Palestinian Catholic brothers and sisters through prayer. The afternoon will spent in Jerusalem visiting a Holy Shroud Exhibition called 'Who is the Man on the Shroud?' located at the Pontifical Notre Dame Institute.

26
JUN
PRAYER

Lord Jesus, through your Baptism, we are given the gift of our own Baptism. In becoming members of the Church; we belong to the family of God. Give us the grace to live our baptismal call as sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father. Lord Jesus, we thank you for the gift of faith, for the gift of learning more about you. Please give us your guidance & the grace to live as your disciple. Thank you Jesus. Thank you for the Holy Spirit!

27
JUN



Latin Patriarchate

27
JUN

This morning, we will have a private audience with Bishop William Shomali, Auxiliary Bishop for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. He will briefly speak about the Mother Church of the Holy Land and bestow his blessing upon the pilgrims. He will also present the 'Pilgrim Shell' to pilgrims who are members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher.

We'll close our time in Holy Land in the afternoon with a Holy Hour before departing to the airport for a flight to Rome!

27
JUN
PRAYER

O Mary Immaculate, gracious Queen of Heaven and Earth, we beseech you to turn a pitying glance on the Holy Land, which more than any other land belongs to you, and from there you have given the Redeemer to the world. Watch, therefore, with special protection over your native country. Bring peace and justice to the people of the Holy Land.

Obtain for us the grace to serve the Lord in sanctity and justice during all the days of our life, so that by the merits of Jesus and with your motherly aid we may pass at last from this earthly Jerusalem to the splendors of the heavenly one. Our Lady of Jerusalem, pray for us!



28
JUN

St. Callixtus Catacombs

28
JUN

The day will begin by visiting St. Callixtus Catacombs. “These Catacombs are the most important and imposing of the sixty catacombs of Rome. They may be considered as ‘the cradle of Christianity and the archives of the primitive Church,’ because they illustrate the usage and customs of the early Christians, the Credo (the religious beliefs) they professed, and the history of martyrdom. The sepulchers, now empty, once contained the remains of nine popes and of eight bishops of the 3rd century. You can still see the original inscriptions on the wall—though broken and incomplete—regarding five of the popes. Their names are written in Greek, following the official usage of the Church in that time.” (www.catacombe.roma.it)

St. Mary Major Basilica



28
JUN

Traveling along the Appian Way, we will break for lunch nearby.

The afternoon will be spent visiting two Papal Basilicas: the Basilica of St. Mary Major & the Basilica of St. John Lateran. This Basilica of St. Mary Major is the most ancient Christian basilica dedicated to the Virgin Mary, one of the most important shrines in the world dedicated to our Blessed Mother. Its Pauline Chapel has an icon painted by St. Luke the Evangelist; it is also believed to be a miraculous one. Our daily Mass will be celebrated here.



St. John Lateran Basilica

28
JUN

The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the Cathedral of Rome. It is dedicated to both St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. The Altar of the Holy Sacrament contains a cedar table that is said to be the one used by Christ at the Last Supper. The Pope gives his benediction from this Basilica on Holy Thursday. Large statues of Christ and the saints, dating from the 18th century are found along the side.

Scala Santa



28
JUN

Nearby, the Scala Santa (Holy Staircase) is believed to be a staircase from Pontius Pilate's palace in Jerusalem and brought to Rome in the 4th century by St. Helen. It is a practice for the faithful to climb the staircase on their knees in memory of Christ's Passion. There will be time for pilgrims to purchase religious items in the Vatican area to have blessed by Pope Benedict XVI during Papal Mass on June 29th!

28
JUN
PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of the Catholic Church, for the witness and courage of St. Peter and the many Christians who gave their lives for love of you and the Church. May the Holy Spirit help us in moments of doubt and of conflict to turn to you and have hope!
Amen.



29
JUN

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JUN

Today marks a historical moment in the life of Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and of the Archdiocese of San Antonio! We will join Archbishop Gustavo in the Basilica of St. Peter for Mass with Pope Benedict XVI during which our Archbishop will receive the Pallium from the Holy Father.

29
JUN

Symbolic of the office of an Archbishop, the pallium is a vestment proper to the Pope, who confers it on archbishops as a sign of their union with and obedience to him. The pallium itself is a band of woolen cloth worn around the neck, with short pendants of the same material hanging down in the front and back, and decorated with six black crosses. It is woven of wool from two lambs that are presented to the pope each year at the Basilica of St. Agnes in Rome on the saint's feast day (January 21). After Mass, the group is invited to the Pontifical North American College (NAC) located near St. Peter's Basilica. NAC, a seminary for American seminarians from various dioceses, will host a reception for the Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller and Archbishop Jose Gomez in celebration of their palliums.

29 JUN PRAYER

Lord, thank you for the gift of the priesthood! Through the priest, also called “in persona Christi,” we receive the Eucharist and their vocation of service in love, faith and charity. Lord, thank you for Archbishop Gustavo. May the Holy Spirit inspire him to shepherd the flock you have bestowed upon him! Thank you for the priests in our lives that have led us to live a life of faith! Bless the pilgrims and all of us baptized in the faith, that the Holy Spirit will stir within all of us a desire to learn more about the history and riches of the Catholic Church. We praise you Father in Heaven! Thank you Lord Jesus! Come Holy Spirit and ignite us with the fire of your love! Amen.

St. Peter's Basilica

30
JUN



30
JUN

The morning will be in the Vatican area. The first stop is the Vatican Museum, which will include the famous Sistine Chapel, then to St. Peter's Basilica where we will receive a private tour of St. Peter's Basilica. As we approach the Basilica, pilgrims are filled with excitement as they anticipate entering the most recognized Church in the world! How many Christians long to walk through these doors to see the richness of the faith displayed in sacred art, and to pray at the site where Peter—an Apostle and the first pope—is buried? St. Peter was crucified upside down in Rome; his tomb is located under the main altar. The blood of martyrs is the seed of the faith.



St. Paul Outside the Walls

30
JUN

After lunch, we will visit the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls for Mass in the reserved chapel. This Basilica is the second largest in Rome after St. Peter's, and houses the Tomb of St. Paul under the main altar. The Basilica also offers: mosaics of the popes, Chapel of the Crucifix (where St. Brigid prayed often), Chapel of St. Benedict, and a reliquary room with relics of Saints.

30
JUN
PRAYER

“Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all we bow before thee! All in Heaven above adore thee. Infinite thy vast domain, everlasting is thy reign!” Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Your servants and witnesses of faith & hope that lived through the centuries. May we be reminded of their example to desire to grow in faith, hope and charity! *Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen.*

01
JUL

We depart from the Holy Land and Rome filled with many good memories, trusting that many blessings and graces were bestowed upon all!

O Lord, guide Your servants safely home and in the path of Your salvation, that amid all the changes and chances of this life they may ever be sheltered by Your help. Bless us, Lord, with your protection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

01
JUL

Our pilgrimage continues! Thank you Lord for walking with us, for your Presence in our lives!

Thank you, Blessed Virgin Mary, for your intercession!

St. Joseph, pray for us!

St. Peter, pray for us!

St. Paul, pray for us!

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

St. Clare of Assisi, pray for us!

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:1-2)