

MAGNIFICENT JOURNEYS



MAGNIFICAT
TRAVEL

HOLYTRAVELS.ORG

*Taking Pilgrims
to Holy Places™*

SPRING 2020

VOL. 13

FLORENCE

ROME

MONTRÉAL

JERUSALEM

Dear Pilgrim Family,

Another amazing year has come to an end. It is crazy to think that the second decade of the third millennium has come to completion. As I reflect on the many blessings of the past year, I am reminded of Luke 17:11-19. In this passage Jesus healed 10 lepers, and only one, the Samaritan, comes back to thank Jesus. We should never be one of the nine who failed to express gratitude. My husband, Ray, and I are so thankful for the many blessings and miracles with which God continues to grace our family, Magnificat Travel, and you, our pilgrim family.

A pilgrim who traveled to France with Immaculate Conception Church in Denham Springs, Louisiana, wrote to us saying, "Words cannot adequately express what this pilgrimage meant to my husband and me. We learned so much about the saints and realized what great examples of faith they are to us. The sites were beautiful and the experience wonderful."

In 2019, we partnered with 44 Spiritual Directors and Leaders as we coordinated and led 34 pilgrimages and missions around the world. Our 1,232 pilgrims and missionaries were inspired as they traveled to holy places in Israel, Italy, France, Portugal, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Ireland, England, Poland, Mexico, Lithuania, Puerto Rico, California, Alabama, and New Mexico. It is such a privilege to walk with our brothers and sisters as they grow closer to God through pilgrimages and missions. Special thanks to our staff and the Magnificat Travel Escort Team who help make every journey possible.

Magnificat Travel will celebrate its 20th Anniversary in 2021, and there are many exciting plans for the year. Our first Pilgrimage River Cruise will set sail in October 2021 (see page 10 for details).



The Tregre Family gathers for the holidays (from top left): Andrew Tregre, Matthew Tregre, Evelyn Tregre, Brandon Marin and Mike Templet. Front row: Alexis Tregre, Caroline Tregre, Ray Tregre, Amelia Tregre, Maria Tregre, Katie Templet and Charlotte Templet.



Charlotte Rose



Caroline Rae

The year 2019 was a very special year to our family. We welcomed two granddaughters into this world: Charlotte Rose Templet, born Feb. 28; and Caroline Rae Tregre on Oct. 25.

Our youngest daughter, Evelyn, announced her engagement to Brandon Marin. We pray for a beautiful time of engagement as they prepare for marriage in April 2021.



Brandon Marin and Evelyn Tregre

Please join us in this Year of Grace as we continue to walk together and build the body of Christ through pilgrimages and missions.

Maria
MARIA TREGRE

CONTENTS

- 5 PILGRIM FEELS CALL TO CHRIST IN ITALY
- 8 ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH
- 14 PREPARE YOUR HEART (AND BODY) FOR PILGRIMAGE
- 15 PILGRIMS FIND MERCY, LOVE IN POLAND
- 16 MARCH FOR LIFE GIVES HOPE FOR CHANGE
- 17 THEN I LEARNED
- 18 MAGNIFICAT TRAVEL SUPPORTS LOCAL NONPROFITS
- 19 SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPIRITUAL AND GROUP LEADERS

MAGNIFICENT JOURNEYS 13TH EDITION

Maria Tregre, *Publisher*
Elizabeth Hebert, *Editor*
Bonnie Bollich, *Editor*
Brenda Cooper, *Cooper 8
Editor, Designer*

CONTRIBUTORS

Jori Bercier
Camille A. Domingue
Mary Dupre
Anne-Christine Jagneaux
Dcn. Leon R. Murphy Jr.
Gene Schwanbeck
Lance Strother

COPYRIGHT © 2020
MAGNIFICAT TRAVEL, LLC

ON THE COVER

Churches around the world share a unique architectural feature symbolizing the greatness of God. From Florence to Rome, Montréal to Jerusalem, domes create majestic and iconic churches.



THE ETERNAL CITY: ROME SHATTERS EXPECTATIONS

Camille Domingue and her fellow pilgrims find the journey to Rome to be more fulfilling and inspirational than they could have imagined.



A TRULY HOLY LAND: THE LAND THAT JESUS WALKED

Deacon Leon Murphy feels the presence of God and a deep connection to his faith while on pilgrimage in the Holy Land.



20TH ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE RIVER CRUISE TO SOUTH FRANCE

Magnificat Travel has big plans for its 20th anniversary year, with a Pilgrimage River Cruise in South France with excursions to Paris and Lourdes.



DOMES AROUND THE WORLD CELEBRATE THE GREATNESS OF GOD

Circles represent perfection, eternity, and the heavens; therefore, many churches are adorned with domes representing the greatness of God.



The Eternal City

Rome Shatters Expectations



Pilgrims attend Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, celebrated by Cardinal James Michael Harvey, archpriest of the Basilica.



“The community of believers was of one heart and mind” - Acts 4:32.

That line of Scripture, describing the earliest Christians, played through my mind on the long plane ride from Rome back to Lafayette.

In the preceding nine days, I had been privileged to travel to Rome with about 40 other pilgrims, under the spiritual direction of Fr. Bryce Sibley and with the assistance of Magnificat Travel’s Deacon Juan Pagán. As I looked around the plane at my weary fellow travelers, I thought about the many ways in which our pilgrimage to the Eternal City had shattered all my expectations.

I had expected to see beautiful churches; I saw churches and basilicas of such stunning grandeur that I was humbled by their builders’ desire to magnify God’s glory.

I had expected to see famous works of art; I saw mo-

saics, paintings, frescoes, and sculptures that not only took my breath away but offered nuanced lessons in theology.

I had expected to learn a little about Church history; I was astounded at the encyclopedic knowledge of our two Italian guides, Francesca and Vittorio, both of whom hold advanced degrees in art history.

I had expected to attend daily Mass; I was uplifted each day by intimate, beautiful Masses, both the ones Fr. Sibley celebrated for us in small chapels in churches and catacombs, and in a glorious Mass celebrated by Pope Francis at St. Peter’s Basilica, the most awe-inspiring church.

I had expected to sample classic Italian cuisine; in addition to delicious pizza, pasta, and gelato, I feasted daily on joy and laughter at meals with fellow pilgrims.

I had expected to bring back a few religious trinkets;

I brought back a lifetime of memories and graces, and a treasury of new friends who were truly “of one heart and mind.”

And in shattering my expectations, my Rome pilgrimage reminded me of two things I sometimes forget as a Lafayette Catholic.

First, I was reminded of the universality of the Church. At the papal audience we attended, I sat next to a woman from Venice. After experiencing the event in its multi-lingual glory, we parted with a hug and a kiss on each cheek (as the Italians do), each recognizing that our shared love for the Church and the Holy Father surmounted all language barriers.

Second, my pilgrimage reminded me of the durability of the Church. Touring the catacombs and hearing the stories of the persecuted fathers and mothers of the Church, I could not help but remember all the Church has endured in her 2,000 years: martyrdom, corruption, schism, scandal, a lot of bad liturgy in the 1970s, but even so, she has survived. And that is because God lives in Truth, and the Catholic Church continues—in spite of the frequent failings of its mortal members—to teach that Truth. Viva la Roma!

Camille A. Domingue
Our Lady of Wisdom Church
Lafayette, Louisiana



TOP LEFT: Camille Domingue and fellow pilgrims take in the Eternal City by night. **MIDDLE LEFT:** Pilgrims sample Italy’s celebrated cuisine and enjoy fellowship that comes from sharing a delicious meal on pilgrimage. **LEFT:** Pilgrims experience a memorable Mass celebrated by Pope Francis.

PILGRIM FEELS CALL TO CHRIST IN ITALY

The pilgrimage to Rome, Italy, was more than I could have imagined. The Biblical stories of Jesus came to life in endless paintings and frescoes from St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel and many other churches and chapels.



Gene Schwanbeck views the stunning dome of St. Peter's Basilica.

The first stop of our pilgrimage was Assisi, Italy, the home of St. Francis. While there we visited the Basilica of St. Clare, where the miraculous crucifix that spoke to St. Francis is displayed. Mass was celebrated every day with Msgr. Ted Bertagni and Fr. Fabian Hevi, and we had the honor of celebrating one Mass at the tomb of St. Francis.

After visiting Assisi, we headed to Rome, where we went to a Papal Audience. There, I was a mere 8-10 feet away from Pope Francis! Seeing the Pope was the highlight of the pilgrimage. I feel blessed to have experienced a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be close to our Church's leader.

I mentioned to Msgr. Ted my desire to see a painting, "The Calling of Saint Matthew," by Caravaggio, located in the Church of St. Louis of the French. He assured me we would see it because it wasn't far from a planned stop. In the painting, Jesus points at St. Matthew, a tax collector, who is counting coins. I interpret this as Jesus pointing at any of us. He is asking us to stop what we are doing and follow Him.

In Rome we were able to see so many architectural wonders, from the top of St. Peter's Basilica to the Catacombs and the Pantheon. It is fascinating to think some of these buildings were built before the birth of Christ. We also visited the Holy Steps in Rome. To crawl up the same



Pilgrims take a moment to reflect and pray in the Choir Chapel of St. John Lateran.

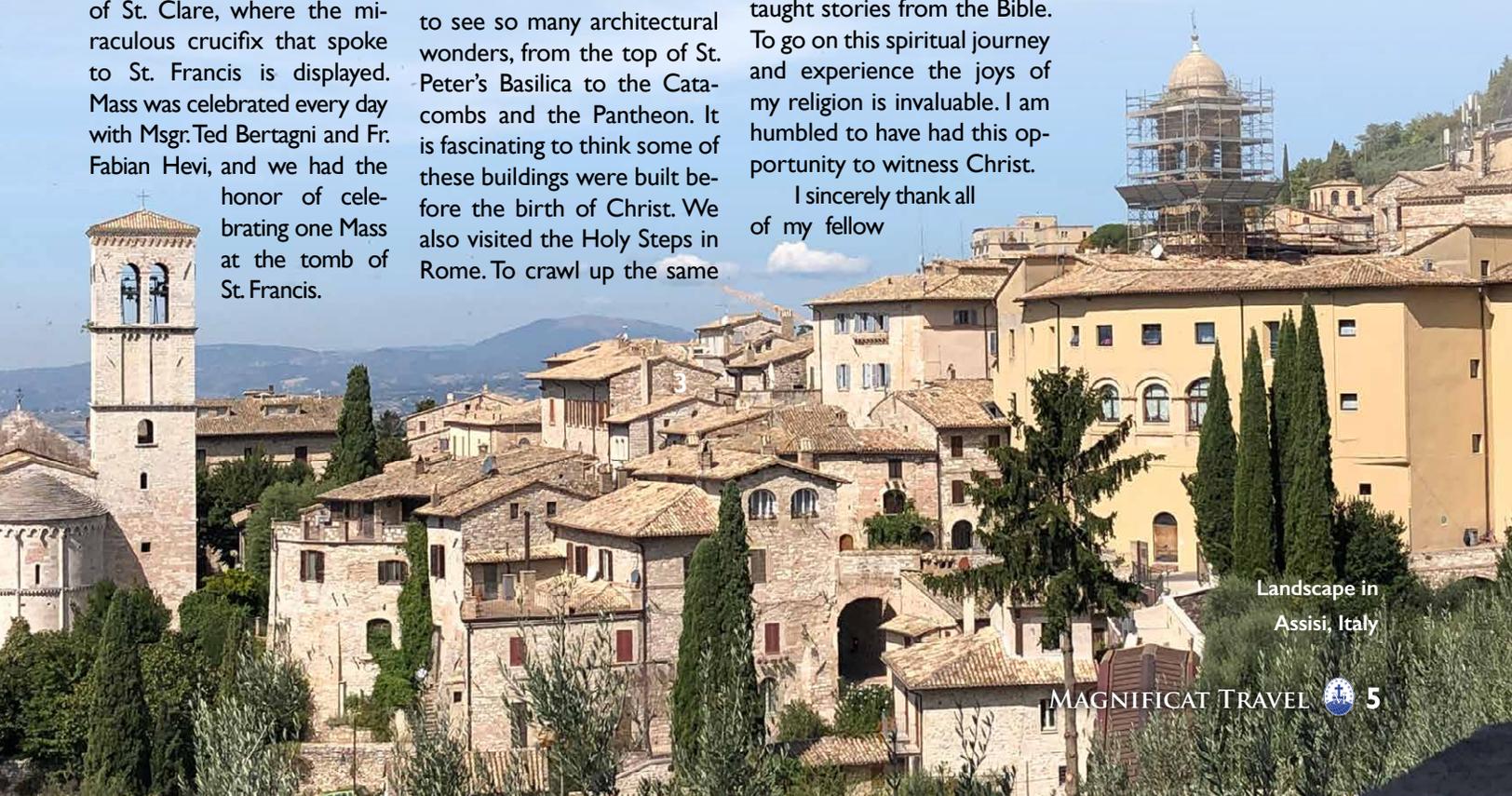
33 steps that Jesus walked up when sentenced by Pontius Pilate—and to see a drop of Jesus' actual blood—was an unforgettable experience.

This pilgrimage exceeded my expectations and shifted my perspective on my faith. It's a vastly different experience to see everything with my own eyes than it is to be taught stories from the Bible. To go on this spiritual journey and experience the joys of my religion is invaluable. I am humbled to have had this opportunity to witness Christ.

I sincerely thank all of my fellow

pilgrims and the people of Cross Catholic Outreach. As in the words of the prayer of St. Francis: Loving God, help me to love more, forgive always and be an instrument of your peace.

Gene Schwanbeck
Rochester, Minnesota



Landscape in Assisi, Italy

A TRULY HOLY LAND: The Land that Jesus Walked

Going on this pilgrimage was more than I could have ever imagined. People would ask if I was scared to travel in the Middle East, but I wasn't. In fact, I found people there were quite welcoming. I never worried about my safety. The only thing I felt was the presence of God all around me.

Upon arrival, we met our guide Amer, a very knowledgeable, Catholic man. His native language is Aramaic, just like Jesus. As we left Tel Aviv that first day, we traveled the west coast to Haifa and saw the beautiful port city on the Mediterranean Sea. We went to Mount Carmel at the Cave of Elijah, where he heard the whisper of God and defeated the prophets of Baal.

Then we headed to our hotel by the Sea of Galilee. I watched boats out

on the water and imagined Jesus in the boat with Peter. It seemed every place we went was so special to our Catholic faith. Trying to soak everything in was a sensory overload.

One of the most memorable places was the Mount of the Beatitudes. We were able to have Mass on the Mount, under a small structure with room for about 40 people and an altar. In the Holy Land, if you are at a major site mentioned in the Gospels, there are small changes in text. Here as I was reading the Gospel on the Beatitudes, instead of Jesus telling people to go up the mountain and sit, the Gospel read "Jesus had the people go up this Mountain." When I finished and sat for the homily, it hit me: "You fool, you read the Beatitudes on the Mount of the Beati-

tudes," and I began to cry.

Other places I visited had the same effect. The Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth, the place of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, Mass on the Mount of Olives in Gethsemane, walking the Via Dolorosa, Mass in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Golgotha, and going into the Tomb to witness its emptiness—all touched the group in a special way.

This pilgrimage gave me more understanding of the places written about in the Gospels. I can picture in my mind where and how far Jesus traveled. This is one trip I hope to make again and I believe all Christians should make.

Dcn. Leon R. Murphy Jr.
St. Joseph's Church
French Settlement, Louisiana



LEFT: Deacon Leon Murphy takes a scenic boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. **ABOVE:** Fr. Jason Palermo, left, celebrates the Holy Mass at Golgotha, assisted by Deacon Murphy, center.

St. Bernard Catholic Church

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



October 12-21, 2020

Fr. Garrett McIntyre
Spiritual Director

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS:

Join us for the journey of a lifetime on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Scriptures will come alive as you visit Our Lord's homeland. This pilgrimage is an act of faith and prayer, and the encounter has changed the lives of many pilgrims.

- Peter's Primacy
- Nazareth
- Capernaum
- Stella Maris
- Holy Sepulchre
- Gethsemane
- Via Dolorosa
- St. Anne's Church
- Mount Tabor
- Caesarea Philippi
- St. Peter in Gallicantu
- Mount of the Beatitudes
- Church of the Nativity
- Qumran & Dead Sea Scrolls
- Grotto of the Annunciation
- Boat Ride on Sea of Galilee
- Tabgha, Site of the Miracle of Multiplication



MAGNIFICAT
TRAVEL
HOLYTRAVELS.ORG

Request More Information:

337-291-1933

www.holytravels.org/stbernardchurchholyland



LEFT: Magnificat Travel pilgrims and others from around the world participate in the traditional candlelight rosary procession at the Sanctuary of Fatima in Portugal. **RIGHT:** Pilgrims from Texas and Louisiana take a journey together through Portugal, Spain, and France in June 2019.

ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

We profess our faith in the Four Marks of the Church every time we pray the Nicene Creed at Mass. But sometimes those descriptions can feel rote and without meaning. It is true that the Church is “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.” But how? And what difference does it make?

My trip to Portugal drove home each Mark in a visceral way and forever changed how I view the Church. Although this is the case with all Magnificat Travel pilgrimages, the trip to Portugal showed me the Marks are true and must be experienced to be understood.

The first stop on our journey was to see the famous Eucharistic Miracle in Santarém, Portugal. We were excited, but after traveling for hours, we were also tired. That all changed when the bus dropped us off at the narrow street leading to the Church of St. Stephen.

Every step down the cobblestone lane prepared mind and soul for the mystical experience. We could feel God’s presence growing stronger as we made our way to the doors of the church, a feeling of being enveloped in holiness. There is a holiness that radiates out from the Presence of Christ that revives

the soul. When we walked into the sanctuary, any doubt about its sanctity was dispelled. We were able to celebrate Mass and adore Jesus in the Miracle. This first stop was the perfect opportunity to prepare ourselves for the rest of the pilgrimage.

Rejuvenated, I was eager to get to Fátima. The entire ambiance of the site exuded a spiritual calm. A new element was added to the experience: catholicity. Pilgrims of every tongue and race converge at the location. I had the true understanding of what we mean when we say the Church is “universal.”

I know the Church has members worldwide. But, my experience is with people who speak my language, look like me and worship the same way. At Fátima, during the international rosary, reality hit me. Christ came to save everyone. As we prayed “Our Fathers” and “Hail Marys” in various languages, it was a “holy noise.” My soul felt joined to the words of prayer and to all pilgrims praying them.

One of the Marks of the Church is that it is apostolic—Church teachings go back to the apostles, making it apostolic. When we visited Santiago de

Compostela, this meaning was revealed in a deeper way. The Cathedral is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in the world, because it is the shrine of the apostle St. James the Great, who walked, talked and ate with Jesus during His lifetime. He received directly from Jesus the Great Commission to evangelize the world. That connection from 2,000 years ago is still kept alive today, not only in the Faith, but in places where Faith is practiced.

Overall, the pilgrimage points out the greatest of the Four Marks: The Church is one, “one body and one spirit,” as St. Paul writes, with “one Lord, one Faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all,” giving us “one hope” (Eph. 4:4-5). The Church is holy, because her founder is the All-Holy; the Church is catholic, because Christ commanded the Good News of His salvation be shared with everyone; and the Church is apostolic because she maintains her connection to Christ through spiritual truth and the physical markers of where the apostles spread the Faith.

**Anne-Christine Jagneaux
Magnificat Travel Escort
Ville Platte, Louisiana**



TAKE A MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

Portugal, Spain & France

JUNE 8-19, 2020

On a pilgrimage to Portugal, visit sites related to the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima to St. Jacinta, St. Francisco and Lucia. In Spain, visit the birthplace and convent of St. Teresa in Avila. Then, travel to France to experience the Grotto and Way of the Cross in Lourdes.

Spiritual Directors:

**Msgr. Jace Eskind
& Msgr. Ken Hedrick**

LEARN MORE:

www.holytravels.org/portugalspainfrance

Portugal & France

FEBRUARY 4-15, 2021

In Portugal, visit sites related to the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima to St. Jacinta, St. Francisco and Lucia. Then, travel to France to experience the Grotto and Way of the Cross in Lourdes.

Spiritual Directors:

**Fr. Bill Melancon
& Fr. Clint Trahan**

LEARN MORE:

www.holytravels.org/portugalfrance

**Request More Information:
337-291-1933**

Magnificat Travel's 20th Anniversary

Pilgrimage River Cruise

with excursions to Paris and Lourdes

SAILING
OCTOBER 2021

Join your Magnificat Travel family
on a special journey through France
as we celebrate 20 years of pilgrimage!

Avignon

TAKE A RIVER CRUISE TO SOUTH FRANCE

LOURDES • PARIS • LYON • ARS • AVIGNON

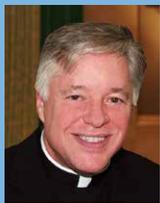
PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS*

- Notre Dame and Sacré-Cœur
- Miraculous Medal Chapel
- Shrine of St. Vincent de Paul
- Lyon Cathedral
- Lourdes Shrine and Grotto
- Footsteps of St. Bernadette
- Palace of the Popes in Avignon
- Home of St. John Vianney
- Vineyard Tour
- And Much More!

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS



Fr. James Burkart
Pastor
Christ the Good Shepherd
Catholic Church
Spring, Texas



Fr. Norbert Maduzia
Pastor
St. Ignatius of Loyola
Catholic Church
Spring, Texas



Fr. Keith Pellerin
Pastor
St. Philip Neri
Catholic Church
Kinder, Louisiana

Take a Unique Journey with Magnificat Travel:

VISIT HOLY SITES

Optional excursions at select ports give you time to pray, reflect, and explore

FIND A SPIRITUAL FOCUS

Mass will be offered daily, either at port or on the ship, and priests serve as spiritual directors

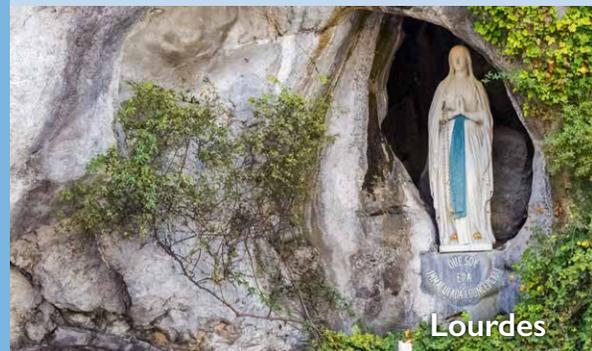
MAGNIFICAT TRAVEL ESCORTS

Your journey is fully escorted by Magnificat Travel staff members who coordinate all the planning and details for stress-free travel

* Cruise, destinations, pilgrimage programs, and any other inclusions can change. Look for details in the official brochure provided at the Orientation Meeting. Spaces are limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis.



Paris



Lourdes



Vineyard Tour



Balcony Stateroom

Learn More at an Orientation Meeting:

- **LAFAYETTE: SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020 • 10 A.M.**
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 848 St. John St., Lafayette, Louisiana
- **HOUSTON: SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2020 • 11 A.M.**
St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church, 7810 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, Texas

SPACE IS LIMITED

RSVP TODAY



MAGNIFICAT TRAVEL
HOLYTRAVELS.ORG

337-291-1933
www.holytravels.org/rivercruise

DOMES AROUND

celebrate the Greatness of God



FRANCE

Sacré-Cœur

After the French defeat by the Prussian army in 1870, Alexandre Legentil commissioned a church to protect the French people and as penance for their sins.



ITALY

St. Peter's Basilica

St. Peter's Basilica is built over the tomb of St. Peter, the first pope. After the original basilica was torn down, the basilica we know today took over 100 years to rebuild.



HOLY LAND

Church of the Beatitudes

The Church of the Beatitudes rests in the area where it is believed Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount. The octagonal structure symbolizes the eight Beatitudes.



CANADA

St. Joseph's Oratory

Completed in 1967, stained glass windows throughout the Italian Renaissance-styled structure depict St. Joseph in Canadian history.



GERMANY

Munich Cathedral

Located in Munich's Old Town, construction was completed in 1488. Legend has it, the devil left his footprint at the entrance of the cathedral, protesting its dedication to God.



POLAND

Wawel Cathedral

Wawel Cathedral was consecrated in 1364, after the first two cathedrals burned down, and it has been the scene of the crowning of almost every Polish king and queen.



CZECH REPUBLIC

St. Nicholas Church

It took about 100 years to build St. Nicholas Church. It was founded by the Jesuits and is considered to be the most beautiful building of the Czech Baroque period.



ITALY

Santa Maria del Fiore

The third largest cathedral in the world, this church is dedicated to the Virgin of the Flower, an allusion to the lily, the symbol of the city of Florence.

THE WORLD

Circles represent perfection, eternity, and the heavens; therefore, many churches are adorned with domes representing the greatness of God.



MEXICO

Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica

The basilica is known as the national shrine of Mexico and hosts approximately 5 million visitors each year.



PORTUGAL

Santa Engracia

Known as the national pantheon of Portugal, Santa Engracia is also the final burial location for many important Portuguese. It was inaugurated in 1966.



SPAIN

Sanctuary of Loyola

The sanctuary is built around the tower house where St. Ignatius of Loyola was born in 1491. The basilica is located in the center of the sanctuary and dates back to 1738.



AUSTRIA

Salzburg Churches

Out of all the churches, the Salzburg Cathedral is the most important sacred building in Salzburg. The cathedral houses a chest containing the relics of St. Rupert and St. Virgil.



IRELAND

Mary Immaculate Refuge of Sinners

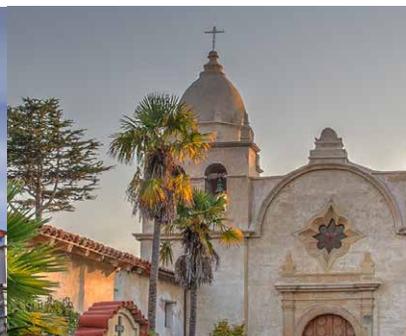
Originally built in 1854, the church was reconstructed after a fire in 1920. The dome we see today was added during the reconstruction.



PUERTO RICO

San Juan Bautista Cathedral

Originally built in 1521, much of what we see today follows a reconstruction effort in 1540, after extensive hurricane damage.



CALIFORNIA

Mission San Carlos Borromeo

This stone church satisfied the final wish of its founder, Fr. Junípero Serra: for a new building to replace the original adobe chapel.



WASHINGTON

National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The basilica is home to more than 80 chapels and oratories that honor the Mother of God and represent people from around the world.

PREPARE YOUR HEART (AND BODY) FOR PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrims have traditionally traveled simply, unencumbered by heavy baggage or an inner heaviness of spirit. Preparing for pilgrimage involves interior preparation and exterior planning to make it a fruitful journey. See the ways you can prepare for your pilgrimage in spiritual, intellectual, physical, and practical dimensions.

SPIRITUAL

This journey is really a pilgrimage of the soul. Instead of merely going to a location, we are going to holy places to experience something inside of us. The purpose of this journey is to encounter God.

Prepare Your Heart

Tap into the desire for a closer relationship with God, yourself and others through prayer.

- Pray daily.
- Pray the Rosary.
- Start a journal for your journey.

Unpack Your Burdens

“For the Church, pilgrimages, in all their multiple aspects, have always been a gift of grace.” - St. John Paul II

- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Come as you are, with joy or with sorrow. Offer up your worries as part of the pilgrimage to lighten your load.

Share the Pilgrimage

We are called to live out our lives and our pilgrim’s journey in the company of others. We are not on this road alone.

- Collect prayer intentions from friends and family to take with you.
- Strive to remain open to God’s will.

INTELLECTUAL

Prepare Your Mind

- Read about the places you will travel.
- Familiarize yourself with basic elements of the new culture you will soon experience.
- Read about the saints in whose footsteps you will follow.

PHYSICAL

Prepare Your Body

Good physical preparation can be key in allowing for a better spiritual experience.

- Make sure you can comfortably walk 3-5 miles a day.
- Drink lots of water and get ample rest in the days leading up to your departure. This will help your body to endure the strenuous nature of travel.

PRACTICAL

Pack Light

- Pack necessities such as toiletries, basic mix-and-match clothes and prescriptions, but leave blow dryers, extra clothes, big books and jewelry at home. Less is more.
- Bring comfortable shoes. If you purchase new shoes for the trip, break them in before departure.
- Use the luggage tags provided by Magnificat Travel to easily identify your bags.

All of these actions will help to prepare your heart for God’s work. Growing as a pilgrim involves being flexible and trusting your leader. Our purpose is to be with God and grow closer to Him while visiting holy places and sharing the experience with your pilgrimage family.



PILGRIMS FIND MERCY, LOVE IN POLAND



PILGRIM'S MOTTO

I am willing to be flexible.

I am neither in control
nor in a hurry.

I journey in faith, hope, and charity.

I know God will provide for me.

My goal is the journey, not the
destination.

I joyfully accept today's sacrifices,
challenges, and blessings.



This stunning adoration chapel is part of St. Mary's Basilica in Krakow, Poland. Pilgrims were able to pray here before continuing their journey.

Mercy and love—those two words are some of the most pivotal aspects of our faith. Their power and beauty were only greater exemplified in the pilgrimage I took to the Czech Republic, Poland, and Lithuania.

In front of the Infant Jesus of Prague, when receiving the Eucharist, another pilgrim knelt next to me and whispered, "This is the first time I have received the Eucharist in years. I went to confession today."

I don't think she knows how much of a gift it was that she shared that with me. I was filled with joy. I understood so much more about the Lord's love for me because of her vulnerability, friendship, and journey to sainthood.

This love, mercy, and vulnerability are shown by the saints and their holy sites seen on pilgrimage; St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, St. John Paul II, and St. Faustina Kowalska.

In this opportunity, praying with these saints and growing closer to my church militant friends on pilgrimage, my heart was transformed once again. I was made aware of the sheer light of our faith, made aware of its necessity in the darkness of World War II and Communism, and made aware of its necessity in my own heart. I'm forever grateful for pilgrimage, a tangible representation of the Lord's love and mercy.

Jori Bercier
Magnificat Travel Escort
Lafayette, Louisiana



Louisiana high school pilgrims join people from all over the country to participate in the annual March for Life in January 2019. Sacred Heart High School students gather in front of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C..

March for Life Gives Hope for Change

“Remember why we’re here.” This phrase was used everyday of our pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., to remind us all of the reason why we came. The reason is there are thousands upon thousands of innocent babies aborted daily, and we want to change that. As Catholics, we believe all life is sacred, from the womb to the tomb. Attending the March for Life is a chance to express this belief. This beautiful pilgrimage was one of the most fulfilling and spiritually nurturing experiences of my life.

We began our journey to Washington, D.C., early in the morning, which for people like me, was a challenge in itself. Upon arriving, the scenery in Washington fascinated me, and our first stop only intensified this feeling.

The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America gave me a deeper sense of connection to our Lord through its Holy

Land replicas. From the site of the Nativity to the embalming stone, I was blown away by the rich history that was depicted.

The National Shrine of Saint John Paul II presented me with a deeper connection to my faith. A simple story like his hit close to home and moved my heart with new fervor to actively share my faith like he did. The long day appropriately ended with a celebration of Mass.

The next five days were filled with adventures, Christ, and a heightened respect for life. The number of attendees at the Vigil Mass the evening before the March was simply astonishing. The sound of so many voices singing together and responding was unlike anything I had ever heard before. Our day at the March for Life changed the way I look at the world.

Seeing people from all walks of life showed me how diverse the supporters of life are and how far this cause reaches.

SEEING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER FOR ONE CAUSE GAVE ME REAL HOPE THAT ONE DAY SOON ROE V. WADE WILL BE OVERTURNED.

This is one trip I will never forget and one I will always cherish. New friends, memories, and a closer relationship to our Lord are priceless to me. Now, each Mass I attend sends the memories and close encounters to Christ flooding back to my mind. God has touched my soul and set me on fire with love for Him and for life.

**Mary Dupre, Sophomore
Sacred Heart High School
Ville Platte, Louisiana**

THEN I LEARNED

Nine years ago, I had only imagined what a foreign mission trip would entail. As my first mission trip approached, I daydreamed about how hard I would work, how much I would sweat, how I would work with my hands and build things until exhaustion. Then I learned it was not about me nor how hard I could work.

I couldn't wait to make an impact. It reminded me of how I felt before a football game. I couldn't wait to perform my best and make a difference. Then I learned it had nothing to do with me and my performance, or even my desire to make an impact.

I had a picture in my mind of what poverty would look like. It was dirt everywhere; it was dilapidation; it was beggars wearing rags without shoes with festering sores and sad faces. It was malnutrition, no electricity, phones, TVs, cars, stores, economy, food, plumbing, and depression. Certainly, this is one type of poverty. Then I learned that poverty is something we all experience, and it is not just material.

I was awakened to my own spiritual poverties, relational and emotional poverties, identity poverties, my prayer poverty, and the beautiful poverty of those around me. I learned that poor people smile and, in some cases, have a deeper joy and a stronger faith than me. I learned that poverty has



ABOVE: Missionaries dove right in to restoring a foster home in Puerto Rico. The hurricane may have stripped the paint and blew away some hope, but they brought the love of Christ with their service attitude. **BELOW LEFT:** Missionaries from St. Thomas More Catholic High School learn the true meaning and transformative power of mission work. **BELOW RIGHT:** Physical and spiritual restoration took place on this day. The caretakers shared a tear-filled testimony after the restoration was complete.

many faces, and the poorest among us may be very rich. I learned that poverty is not a shameful place but is always a humble place. Poverty is beautiful, broken; it is vulnerable, authentic, raw, and humble in its need for help.

After mission, I better understand Christ and the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Poverty is a place of weakness, where Christ has permission to enter our plight and be our Savior; after which we are transformed and become stronger than before.

Then I learned "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will gladly boast

about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. "For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor 12:9-11).

Mission is transformation, so that we might serve to introduce others to their own beautiful poverty, where Christ awaits with a magnificent love. Go on mission, don't just imagine it.

Lance Strother
Director of Campus Ministry
St. Thomas More Catholic
High School



MAGNIFICAT TRAVEL SUPPORTS LOCAL NONPROFITS

Magnificat Travel believes in giving back to the community. We have supported several organizations in the past year, including the Christian Service Center in Abbeville, the Diocese of Lafayette's Bishop's Services Appeal, and many others.

This year Magnificat Travel also showed its support for the Lourdes Foundation. Staff members attended the annual Sapphire Soirée, held at the City Club of Lafayette on Nov. 14, 2019. The Lourdes Foundation supports charitable healthcare services in Acadiana to build stronger and healthier communities.

Magnificat Travel staff members (clockwise from left), Maria Tregre, Marty Hebert, Kayla Raffray and Evelyn Tregre, support the Lourdes Foundation at its annual Sapphire Soirée.



PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE IN MEXICO

with Fr. Jason Palermo

April 25-May 1, 2020

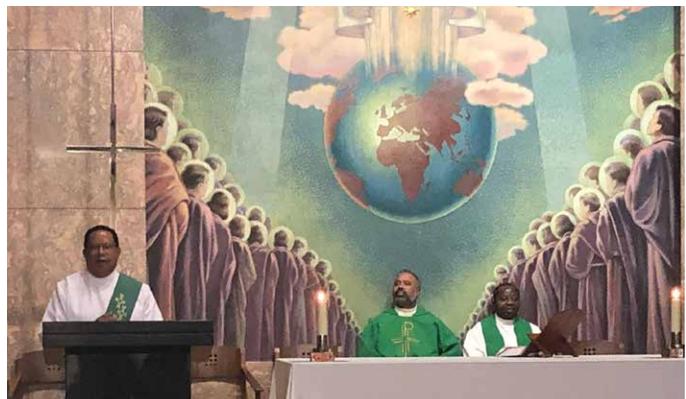
Travel to Mexico City, Mexico, to see sites significant to the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego

Learn more:
www.holytravels.org/stjosephmexico

Special Thanks to our Spiritual and Group Leaders

SPIRITUAL LEADERS

- Fr. Mike Arnaud**
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church
Church Point, Louisiana
- Fr. Mark Beard**
St. Helena Catholic Church
Amite, Louisiana
- Fr. Charles Benoit, OSB**
St. Benedict Catholic Church
Covington, Louisiana
- Fr. Rodney Bourg**
Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Covington, Louisiana
- Fr. James Brady**
St. Pius X Catholic Church
Lafayette, Louisiana
- Fr. James Burkart**
Christ the Good Shepherd Church
Spring, Texas
- Fr. Robert Cooper**
St. Benilde Catholic Church
Metairie, Louisiana
- Fr. Jim Courville**
St. Helen Catholic Church
Houston, Texas
- Fr. Jamin David**
St. Margaret, Queen of Scotland Catholic Church
Albany, Louisiana
- Fr. Hampton Davis**
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
Eunice, Louisiana
- Fr. Michael Delcambre**
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church
Broussard, Louisiana
- Msgr. Jace Eskind**
St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
Lake Charles, Louisiana
- Msgr. Frank Giroir**
St. Anselm Catholic Church
Madisonville, Louisiana
- Fr. Matthew Graham**
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
Paincourtville, Louisiana
- Fr. Brian Harrington**
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church
Coteau, Louisiana
- Msgr. Ken Hedrick**
Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Fr. Martin Laird**
Mater Dolorosa Catholic Church
Plaucheville, Louisiana
- Fr. Lambert Lein, SVD**
Holy Ghost Catholic Church
Opelousas, Louisiana
- Fr. Norbert Maduzia**
St. Ignatius Catholic Church
Spring, Texas
- Fr. Garrett McIntyre**
St. Bernard Catholic Church
Breaux Bridge, Louisiana
- Fr. Aaron Melancon**
St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church
Duson, Louisiana
- Fr. Bill Melancon**
St. Rita Church
Catahoula, Louisiana
- Fr. Jason Palermo**
St. Joseph Catholic Church
French Settlement, Louisiana
- Fr. Keith Pellerin**
St. Philip Neri Catholic Church
Kinder, Louisiana
- Fr. Mikel Polson**
St. Michael the Archangel Church
Crowley, Louisiana
- Fr. Louis Richard**
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church
Abbeville, Louisiana



TOP: Fr. Jason Palermo and Deacon Leon Murphy celebrate a moving Mass on the Mount of Beatitudes. **ABOVE:** Fr. Jaison Mangalath listens attentively to Deacon Charles Richard's homily during Mass in Fatima.

- Fr. François Sainte-Marie, MIC**
St. Theresa Catholic Church
Abbeville, Louisiana
- Fr. Andrew Schumacher**
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
Lafayette, Louisiana
- Fr. Clint Trahan**
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church
Port Barre, Louisiana
- Fr. Adam Travis**
St. Martin Catholic Church
Lecompte, Louisiana
- Fr. Frank Uter**
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
Denham Springs, Louisiana
- Fr. Thomas Voorhies, V.F.**
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
Ville Platte, Louisiana
- Fr. John Wiltse**
St. Mary's Assumption Catholic Church
Cottonport, Louisiana

GROUP LEADERS

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| Rebecca Ardoin
Holy Family Group
Ville Platte, Louisiana | Debbie Cheramie
Holy Rosary School
LaRose, Louisiana | Dona Dugas
Teurlings Catholic High School
Lafayette, Louisiana | John Listi
St. Mary Magdalen Church
Abbeville, Louisiana | Lance Strother
St. Thomas More High School,
Lafayette, Louisiana |
| Raquel Baker
Hanson Memorial High School
Franklin, Louisiana | Bailey DeBardleben
St. Pius X Catholic School
Lafayette, Louisiana | Kristina Lavergne
Teurlings Catholic High School
Lafayette, Louisiana | Michele Sagarino
Cross Catholic Outreach
Pompano Beach, Florida | Josette Surratt
Teurlings Catholic High School
Lafayette, Louisiana |



MAGNIFICAT
TRAVEL
HOLYTRAVELS.ORG

P.O. Box 4801
Lafayette, LA 70502

Phone: 337-291-1933
Toll Free: 1-877-454-7469
Fax: 337-291-1935

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lafayette, La
PERMIT NO. 352

Learn more about our upcoming journeys
and see pictures of recent trips online:



holytravels.org



facebook.com/holytravels



info@holytravels.org

Join us for our 20th Anniversary Pilgrimage

River Cruise

in South France with excursions to Paris and Lourdes

SAILING
OCTOBER 2021

See Itinerary Highlights: www.holytravels.org/rivercruise