



MARY'S PILGRIMS

1200 Potters Wheel Cress
Oakville Ontario, Canada - L6M 1J2 - Tel. (905) 847-9750
e-mail : jesus@maryspilgrims.com
GROUPE FRANÇAIS (Québec, Canada) - Tél : 450-658-9812
courriel: missionbn@videotron.ca

DEPARTURE FROM MONTREAL

FOR OUR PILGRIMS THAT JUST TAKE JORDAN, EGYPT & ISRAEL

MARCH 16 – 29, 2008 Price: \$ 4151.00 US all inclusive

Led by: Fr. Jacob Britto & Fr. Louis-René Gagnon

Pre-tour LEBANON, SYRIA, JORDAN:

March 11th to March 19th Price: \$ 3803.00 US all inclusive

LEBANON, SYRIA, JORDAN, EGYPT & ISRAEL

March 11th to March 29th Price: \$5243.00 US all inclusive

MARCH 11TH: Departure from Montreal Airport to Beirut with Air France, dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

MARCH 12TH: Arrival at Beirut Airport. We get better acquainted and we transfer to the hotel where we have dinner and have a good night sleep.

MARCH 13TH: BEIRUT – BYBLOS ANNAYA

After breakfast we visit Beirut and start with a cathedral. We proceed to Magdouche's grotto where the Virgin Mary prayed while Jesus preached in Tyr and Sidon. Afterwards, we have a short tour of Tyr and Sidon. Then the bus takes us to Jounieh where we get on the cable car up to Mont Harissa dedicated to the Virgin of Lebanon. It is of an undescrivable beauty. We return along the coast to reach Nahr Ibrahim, (Tripoli is a sea port that existed in the 9th century BC. We then proceed east to Mghairi to visit the Yanouth Temple, this small building is protected by a wall converted into a church of the Byzantine period and dedicated to « .Saint-George the Blue »! We continue toward Akoura, a small village located at the top of an impressive cliff. We visit a cave of the Roman era which became a chapel dedicated to Saint Peter, a pilgrimage site where we can admire Syria writings on its walls. Dinner and overnight stay.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME WITH THE VISIT TO ANNAYA, SAINT CHARBEL'S VILLAGE: After breakfast We visit and pray at the tomb of Saint Charbel. – We have the Eucharist at the Sanctuary - Visit of the Museum – Visit the Hermitage – We could get Saint Charbel oil. Saint Charbel was canonized in 1977 and a number of miracles have been witnessed around the world. His remains are intact. We now proceed to Byblos for a short visit. With Damascus and Jericho, Byblos is one of the oldest cities in the world which has been continuously inhabited. This Phoenician city was called Byblos by the Greeks. Because it was through Gebal that bublos/Egyptian papyrus was imported into Greece. It is mentioned in the bible in 1Kings 5:18 referring to the nationality of the builders of Solomon's Temple. Visit the Crusader's castle (12th century) and its small chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Door located at the foot of the castle; the ancient Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist; the baptistery which stands against the cathedral and the

Orthodox chapel to the west dating back to the Byzantine period. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

MARCH 14: *BEIRUT – MT. LEBANON - BAALBECK - DAMASCUS*

After breakfast we begin by visiting Jeita grotto. Jeita Grotto is the jewel of tourism in Lebanon offering to its visitors *after we drive up Mt. Lebanon and view the cedars of Lebanon that were exported in ancient times to Jerusalem to build the Temple in Jerusalem. Drive down to Baalbeck and visit one of the greatest Roman temples in the world. When Christianity was declared an official religion of the Roman Empire in 313 AD., Byzantine Emperor Constantine officially closed the Baalbeck temples. At the end of the 4th century, the Emperor Theodosius tore down the altars of Jupiter's Great Court and built a basilica using the temple's stones and architecture elements. Proceed through Beqaa Valley to the Lebanese/Syrian Border. After going through the border procedures, drive to Damascus for dinner and overnight.

MARCH 15: FULL DAY AT DAMASCUS*

After breakfast we begin with the city tour of Damascus: *Umayyad Mosque* where is the John the Baptist's head. Then, walk the Street called Straight to visit St. Paul's Window and St. Ananias Chapel. ***THE BEST IS YET THE MEETING WITH MYRNA AT SOUFANIEH.*** Welcome from Myrna, meeting with her spiritual guide, Holy Mass, prayer before the icon of Our Lady of Soufanieh. To learn more about Myrna this great mystic, see the web site: www.soufanieh.com Dinner and overnight.

MARCH 16: *MA'ALOUA:*

After breakfast we drive north of Damascus, Ma'aloua is a very special village where the inhabitants speak Aramaic, the same language spoken by Jesus. The point of view is very difficult to describe. It is so beautiful that we have to see. Along the cliff the monastery of Saint Serge (a saint very loved in Orient). There we can see icon from 6e s. The bishop of Ma'aloua was at the council of Nicée in 325 A.D. Down the cliff, the monastery of Sainte Thècle (the lady who followed St Paul during his travels). In this monastery is the Sainte Thecle's tomb. Don't forget oil: the chapel is full of ex-voto given by men and women who were healed by Sainte Thècle intercession. Before going to Damascus for dinner and sleeping may be we will be able to taste the good Ma'aloua's wine.... Dinner and overnight.

MARCH 17 **:*/* DAMASCUS – BOSRA – JERASH - AMMAN*

After breakfast we depart for Jordan. En-route visit Bosra which in Roman times was a crossroads on the caravan routes and the official seat and residence of the Imperial Legate. After the decline of the Roman Empire, Bosra played a significant role in the history of early Christianity. It was also linked to the rise of Islam, when a Nestorian monk called Bahira met the young Mohammad) when his caravan stopped at Bosra, and predicted his prophetic vocation and the faith he was going to initiate. Drive to the Syrian and Jordanian land border at Deraa. After going through the border procedures drive to Jerash in Jordan (ancient Greco - roman city. the guide will take you for a tour through the colonnaded street, amphitheatres, churches, temples and the vast roman forum , continue to the city of Amman for dinner and overnight.

MARCH 18 *: **PETRA** MADABA – MT. NEBO***

After breakfast we start our day early with the visit to Petra. The rose colored city of Petra is one of the most beautiful sights in the world. You will always remember your experience visiting Petra, and riding on horseback into the city, through the canyon. We tour Petra before returning back to the entrance of Petra where we board our bus and drive north along the King's Highway to Madaba. Marvel at the oldest known map found on the ancient mosaic floor of St. George's Church in Madaba. Drive a few miles to the overview of Mt Nebo the location where Moses saw the Promised Land and where he was laid to rest. We visit the sanctuary at Nebo. This is one of the most revered holy sites of Jordan dinner and overnight

MARCH 19*: **BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN – JERICHO – MT. TABOR -NAZARETH*

After breakfast we visit the newly opened Christian pilgrimage site: the Baptismal Archeological Park on the east banks of the Jordan River. This area is believed to be "Bethany beyond Jordan", and the site where

Our Lord was baptized by John the Baptist. We cross the Allen by Bridge and proceed to Jericho, the oldest known city. At Jericho, we visit one of the oldest cities and view the traditional mountain of Jesus' temptation. Driving through the Jordan Valley north we get to the crossing with Harold's valley. We drive west into Harold's Valley. This fantastic view is filled with biblical history. From this location on Tel Jezreel looking east, one can yet imagine the crowned Jehu "driving like a madman," on his way to killing the kings of Israel and Judah. 900 years later, Jesus healed the 10 lepers, probably somewhere in this valley. We continue into the Jezreel Valley heading to Mt. Tabor. We take the taxis up Mt Tabor. We will visit Mt. Tabor and the Church of Transfiguration, where we conclude our day by celebrating Holy Mass... We descend Mt. Tabor reboard our bus and drive through the Jezreel Valley to Nazareth. Dinner overnight Nazareth.

MARCH 20 **/: GALILEE /**

After breakfast we spend the day literally in His Footsteps. Sail across the Sea of Galilee. See the "Jesus boat" uncovered in 1986 from the mud on the seashore by a group of young boys. Visit the Church of St. Peter's Primacy. Explore Capernaum and see the new church built on St. Peter's house and visit Chorazim, which was cursed by Our Lord because the people did not follow his teaching. Drive to the Mount of Beatitudes where Our Lord preached the Sermon on the Mount, and where you have Mass, and lunch at the Franciscan Convent. Proceed to Tabgha, Greek for Seven Springs and the Church of the Multiplication of Fishes and Loaves. Dinner overnight Nazareth.

MARCH 21 : / *NAZARETH - MT. CARMEL-HAIFA-CAESAREA*

After breakfast proceed to visit the city of Nazareth, one of the holiest towns in Christendom and see Mary's Well where the Angel Gabriel told Mary she will give birth to Our Lord Jesus Christ. See St. Joseph's church and the Church of Annunciation. Continue to Cana to visit the Wedding Church, site of Jesus' first miracle. There will be an opportunity for couples to renew their marriage vows. Then we travel up the Carmel Mountain range heading towards the Mediterranean coastline. Continue on to the third largest city in Israel, Haifa. Visit the Carmelite Monastery "Stella Maris" "here is Elijah's Grotto and home of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Celebrate Mass in this peaceful spot. We drive down along the Via Maris and on the way we stop the coastline to the ancient Roman city of Caesarea. We enter *Caesarea Maritima* to explore this Roman bridgehead to the East, which became the Christian springboard to the West. After the visit this ancient harbor, we board our bus and we head up the historic Beth Horon road (Joshua 10:10) to the Benjamin Plateau, passing ancient Gibeon and continuing on to Jerusalem. Finally, atop Mt. Scopus, we behold majestic Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.

MARCH 22:/ *JERUSALEM: THE HOLY CITY ***

After breakfast we enjoy the unforgettable view from atop the Mount of Olives/, /as the 4000-year-old city spreads like a jewel before you. See the place where Our Lord thought the Apostles to pray Our Father/./ Visit the church of Pater Noster and the Chapel of Ascension. Walk down the Palm Sunday road, stopping at the Chapel of Dominus Flevit (the teardrop) where you celebrate Mass. Continue to the Church of All Nations in the tranquil/Garden of Gethsemane. Descend across the Kidron Valley, to the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu where the Apostle denied Christ three times. Continue on to Mt. Zion, to visit the room of the Last Supper, King David's Tomb and the Church of the Dormition. Here the Holy Mother fell into eternal sleep. Conditions permitting, visit Bethany, site of the house of Mary and Lazarus. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

MARCH 23:/ *BETHLEHEM-EIN KAREM-NEW CITY */**

After breakfast we start the day by visiting Bethlehem, Shepherd's Field and Grotto. See the Church of Nativity built over the birthplace of Our Lord and St. Catherine's built over the tomb of St. Jerome. Here you celebrate Mass. On the way back to Jerusalem stop at the village of Ein Karem the birthplace of St. John the Baptist, and see the Church of Visitation where Mary visited her cousin Elisabeth. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.

MARCH 24/: JERUSALEM: OLD CITY /***

After breakfast we visit the Old City, when it is quiet and free from the noise and the crowds. As we carry the Holy Cross along the Via Delarosa, we pray the Stations of the Cross, walking to the place of Crucifixion, at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We celebrate Holy Mass in this sacred spot, and then continue with our visit including the Wailing Wall and the Temple Mount, the Pool of Bethesda, St. Anne's Church (birthplace of Mary), the Chapel of Flagellation and Condemnation, the Prison, Ecco Home Arch and onto the Via Dolorosa, to retrace the final hours of His life as you pray the Stations of the Cross site of Our Lord's death and resurrection. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.

MARCH 25: *QUMRAN-DEAD SEA-ARAVA VALLEY-MOUNT SINAI ***

After breakfast, we drive to Bethany, hometown of Martha and Mary. Here we shall Visit Lazarus' tomb. There is a possibility of celebrating Mass there. We then drive through the Judean Wilderness down to Qumran in whose caves the famous Dead Sea Scrolls were found. We drive along the western shores of the Dead Sea south to Ein Gedi. If you wish, you may take a dip in the mineral rich waters of the Dead Sea. After a dip in the Dead Sea we continue driving south past Masada and into the Arava Valley all the way to Eilat. After lunch, we cross over to Egypt and enter the Sinai Peninsula Travel through the Sinai Peninsula, along the ancient caravan routes to arrive at Mt Sinai for dinner and overnight.

MARCH 26: /*MT. SINAI – ST CATHERINE MONASTRY – CAIRO***

A wake-up call at 2:00 am for those who wish to make the four-hour climb to the top of Mount Sinai. Mt Sinai is believed to be the location where Moses received the Ten Commandments. We get back to our hotel for breakfast later we visit St. Catherine's Monastery, built in the sixth century to protect what was believed to be the Burning Bush. Later we depart on our journey by bus across the Sinai Peninsula and by the Suez Canal to Cairo. Dinner and overnight

MARCH 27: *OLD CAIRO – CITADEL – CHURCH

After breakfast we visit the famous Citadel of Saladdin, Mohammed Ali Mosque and enjoy a panoramic view of the city. Then to Old Cairo, visiting the Hanging Church and Abu Serga Church and later the Church of St. Mary in Zeitoun where many people witnessed the miraculous apparition of the Blessed Mother. Dinner and overnight

MARCH 28: / *CAIRO - EGYPTIAN MUSEUM – PYRAMIDS -FAREWELL DINNER*

After breakfast we visit the Egyptian Museum with Tutankhamen's fabulous treasures. Then leave to the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx. Afternoon will be at leisure to prepare ourselves for a farewell dinner on the Nile River cruise with entertainment. Dinner and overnight.

MARCH 29: We depart Cairo for Montreal for our flight back home.

REGISTRATION FORM AND TERMS & CONDITIONS

PILGRIMAGE to the SYRIA , LEBANON, HOLY LAND , JORDAN , EGYPT

MARCH 11 – 29, 2009

I want the pre- tour SYRIA & LEBANON YES / NO (March 11- 29, 2009)

PASSPORT NAME ONLY (please print)
Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. / Priest / Sister (circle one)

Name (Last): _____ (First): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Home PH (____) _____ Work PH (____) _____

e-mail: _____ Emergency (____) _____

Contact PH: Relationship _____

Valid passport required. Visa required for non-U.S. and Canadian citizens. All others, please check with your local tourist office. ALL PASSPORTS MUST BE VALID AT LEAST 7 MONTHS AFTER DEPARTURE DATE.

Passport #: _____ Date of Issue: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Place of Issue: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Country: _____ Citizenship: _____

Enclosed is my non-refundable deposit (except if covered by insurance*) of \$500.00 per person at the time of your deposit for the

Final balance Group one JAN 10 ,2009 of \$ _____ sixty days before departure total non refundable
TYPE OF ROOM REQUESTED: Single / Double / Triple (please circle one)

My roommate is _____ I need a roommate(s) YES / NO (circle one)

DONATION: I want to help pay for my parish priest, religious, or guest speaker \$ _____

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I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND AGREE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Signature _____ Signature _____ Date _____