

**Sent:** Sunday, November 16, 2014 2:00 PM

**Subject:** A personal Invitation

Thy Kingdom Come!

FROM FR. JAMES PEREZ, LC

November 16, 2014

As we approach the end of the Liturgical Year our hearts are grateful to God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon us. In my case I am very thankful to God for the renewal process He has taken the Legion which culminated with the approval of the Constitutions by the Church. I am sure God has touched your hearts in a unique way this last year. His grace and love are ever-present.

With this letter I want to personally invite you to a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 11-20. I have had the grace to visit several times and every time, I come back spiritually renewed.

In his encyclical letter, *"Deus Caritas est"*, Pope Benedict XVI reminded us: *"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."* This is my prayer for you during this pilgrimage. I want you to encounter the Son of God who became man and gave His life for you and me.

**This is the Itinerary I have planned for our pilgrimage:**

**Day 1 – Friday June 12**

Upon arrival to Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv you will be met by your local guide and driver. Time permitting; you will visit the ancient Roman port of Caesarea Maritime, its aqueduct and amphitheater. Onwards, you will visit the Stella Maris Convent and the Grotto of the Prophet Elijah in Haifa.

**Day 2 – Saturday June 13**

In the morning after breakfast you will head towards the city of Nazareth. En route you will stop in Cana to visit the church where Christ performed his first public miracle of transforming water into wine. Married couples will be able to renew their wedding vows. You will continue to Nazareth and visit the Basilica of Annunciation, St. Joseph's Church, Mary's Well, and the Synagogue. After lunch, you will visit Mt. Tabor and have a chance to observe the Jezreel Valley and visit the Church of Transfiguration. On your way back to Tiberias you will stop by the Jordan River where you can renew your Baptismal promises.

*Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica of the Annunciation.*

**Day 3 – Sunday June 14**

This morning you will enjoy a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. On to Capernaum, where Jesus called the first apostles, you will visit St. Peter's Memorial and House, as well as the nearby synagogue. In the afternoon you will visit Tabgha, -site of multiplication of fish and loaves- and the nearby Primacy Church where Jesus confirmed Peter as head of the Church. You will then visit the Mt. of Beatitudes - site of the sermon on the mountain- And you'll finish the afternoon with a visit to the Magdala Center before returning to the hotel.

*Mass will be celebrated at the Magdala Center.*

**Day 4 – Monday June 15**

After breakfast and checkout, you will head south towards Jerusalem. En route, you will visit the Jordan River and renew your Baptismal promises and will enjoy a panoramic view of the desert.

*Mass will be celebrated at the Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center.*

**Day 5 – Tuesday June 16**

This morning you will visit Bethlelem: the Basilica of the Nativity, the Chapel of St. Jerome, the Milk Grotto, and in the nearby city of Beit Sahour you will visit the Shepherds' Field and the famous grotto. After lunch, en route to Ein Karem, you will stop at Herodian, the city Herod built to memorialize his victory over the Parthians. You will then visit the Church of the Visitation in the village of Ein Karem -where the Virgin Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth- and the nearby Church of St. John the Baptist, before heading to Jerusalem.

*Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica of the Nativity.*

**Day 6 – Wednesday June 17**

Today you'll start the day at the Mt. of Olives where you will enjoy a panoramic view of the city of Jerusalem and get a basic understanding of the geographical locations of the holy sites. On the Mt. of Olives you will visit the site of the Ascension, the *Pater Noster*, and the *Dominus Flevit* Chapel, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Then you'll head on to the Gardens of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations.

In the afternoon you will visit Mt. Zion and visit the memorial site of St. Peter in Gallicantu, the Cenacle (the room of the last supper), and the Dormition Abbey, where the Blessed Virgin slept into eternal in life.

*Mass will be celebrated at Gethsemane.*

**Day 7 – Thursday June 18**

Early in the morning, you'll celebrate mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. After breakfast, you will start the day with a walking tour of the Old City of Jerusalem. Starting from the Temple Area, you will visit the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock, Al Aqsa Mosque, St. Anne's Church, and Bethesda's Pool. Traveling the Via Dolorosa road you will pass by the Flagellation Church, Ecce Homo, and arrive at the end to the Holy Sepulcher.

After lunch you will have a free afternoon to explore Jerusalem at your leisure.

In the evening, you are invited to a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

*Mass will be celebrated at the Holy Sepulcher.*

**Day 8 – Friday June 19**

In the morning you will head to the Dead Sea Region. En route you will pass by Bethany and visit Bethany Church and the Tomb of Lazarus. Continuing towards the Dead Sea you will stop by Jericho –the oldest city in the world- and view the Mt. of Temptations and the Sycamore Tree. After lunch you will be taken to the Dead Sea for some time to swim in the mineral rich water of the Dead Sea.

*Mass will be celebrated at the Church of Bethany.*

**Day 9 – Saturday June 20**

After breakfast and check-out you can enjoy free time before heading to the airport in Tel Aviv.

**Note**

Please note that this program is subject to changes without prior notice to adapt to climate conditions, time limitations, availability or other circumstances.

**ACCOMODATIONS**

As you can see from our itinerary we are planning on staying three nights in Galilee and five nights in Jerusalem. During our stay in Galilee we will have accommodations either at the Mt. of Beatitudes Guest House or at the Ron Beach Hotel. In Jerusalem we will stay at the Notre Dame Center.

**PRICE**

The trip is priceless but I am going to give you the reduced price of: 1,950 dollars per person for double occupancy. There is a single supplement of 610 dollars.

This amazing price includes:

- Eight nights' accommodation on half-board basis (breakfast & dinner)
- Daily lunches (first and last day not included)
- One farewell dinner at a local restaurant
- English speaking guide
- Deluxe transportation
- All entrance fees
- Porterage fees at hotels
- Tips for guide, driver, restaurant and hotel staff
- Audio guiding system

The above rate does not include:

- Airfare
- Any personal expenses such as telephone calls, beverages, laundry, and medical insurance

I know this will be a life-changing experience for you.

I still remember the Mass we celebrated in the caves of Bethlehem reflecting on the Mystery of Christ's birth, the Mass inside the Holy Sepulcher, the Way of the Cross through the streets of Jerusalem, the Eucharistic Procession at the Garden of Gethsemane... Great experiences!!! You can also be part of them.

I hope you see your there.

Give me a call at **513-441-9803**  or send me an email at: [james.perez@legionaries.org](mailto:james.perez@legionaries.org)

Yours in Christ  
Father James Perez, LC