



Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation
Living Stones Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
With Fr. Jean-Marie Kabango
and the St. Camillus French Speaking Community
7-17 May, 2018 – 11 Days / 10 nights

Under the leadership of **Fr. Jean-Marie Kabango**, we will visit holy places, spend time with Palestinian Christians – the “Living Stones” of the Holy Land – and meet some remarkable people from Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith traditions who build bridges of hope through their work for justice, peace and reconciliation.

Day 1- Monday, May 7th: Departure

Our Holy Land pilgrimage experience begins this evening as we depart on our international flight. There are meals and movies in flight, as well as some conversation and sleep.

Day 2- Tuesday, May 8th: Travel & Arrival in Tel Aviv

After arriving in Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport, we will have entry formalities at the airport and then transfer to **Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.**

Day 3- Wednesday, May 9th: Bethlehem



After Breakfast, we will begin our day with a visit to ***Shepherd's Field*** in Beit Sahour. It is where the angels appeared to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Then we will visit ***Church of the Nativity***, the birthplace of Jesus, and celebrate Mass. During **lunch** at Al-Karmeh Restaurant, we will have a welcome by a representative of **HCEF**, who will teach us about HCEF's programs in the Holy Land. Then we will have a tour of the **Bethlehem Museum** and view the exhibits on the culture of the Holy Land Christians. Later in the

afternoon we will visit ***Bethlehem University*** and meet with some of the students. **Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem.**

Day 4- Thursday, May 10th : Bethlehem

After Breakfast, we will go to visit the **Tent of Nations**, where we will meet with Daoud Nassar and enjoy lunch there. Afterwards, we will visit Aida Refugee Camp and meet with some of the families who live there. Later in the afternoon we will celebrate Mass at the **Carmelite Convent** founded by Maryam Baouardy (St. Maryam of Jesus Crucified), a Palestinian Carmelite nun canonized by Pope Francis in 2015. **Dinner and overnight in Bethlehem.**





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Day 5- Friday, May 11th: Jerusalem



After Breakfast, we will depart very early to Jerusalem to walk the **Via Dolorosa** (Way of Suffering) through the narrow alleys and bazaars of the Old City of Jerusalem, ending at the Church of the **Holy Sepulcher** and the Tomb of Christ. We will celebrate Mass in one of the chapels of the Holy Sepulchre. Then, we will visit the **Latin Patriarchate** and meet with a representative of the Bishop. After lunch, we will drive to the Mount of Olives to visit the **churches of Pater Noster and Dominus Flevit**. We will also visit the **church of All Nations**, located in the beautiful Garden of **Gethsemane** where Jesus prayed the night before his Passion. Then we will have a visit with a member of the **Israeli Committee Against Home Demolition**. **Back to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.**

Day 6- Saturday, May 12th: Jerusalem

After breakfast, we will drive to Jerusalem to visit the **Dome of the Rock, the Golden Gate and Western wall and the Temple Mount**. After lunch, we will visit **Mount Zion and the Upper Room**, scene of the **Last Supper**, and then the **Church of the Assumption (Tomb of Mary)** for Mass.. Before returning to Bethlehem, we will visit **Parents Circle Bereaved Families or Rabbis for Human Rights or B'Tselem** (subject to availability.) **Back to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.**

Day 7- Sunday, May 13th: Birzeit and Ramallah



After Breakfast, we will drive to visit **Birzeit**, and visit the **Catholic Church**, where we will meet the Parish Priest and celebrate Mass. Then we will visit the **Birzeit Social Development and Cultural Center**, giving us the chance to share a lunch with the elders of Birzeit and hear their stories. Afterward, we will go to **Ramallah** and visit the **Holy Family Church** there and meet with our brothers and sisters. **Back to Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.**

Day 8- Monday, May 14th: Jericho, Dead Sea, Nablus

After an early breakfast, we will depart for **Jericho**. On our way, we will visit the **Tomb of Lazarus**, an important pilgrimage site located in the West Bank town of Al-Eizariya, traditionally identified as the biblical village of Bethany, on the southeastern slope of the Mount of Olives, some 2.4 km (1.5 miles) east of Jerusalem. The tomb is the site of a miracle recorded in the Gospel of John in which Jesus resurrects Lazarus. We will celebrate Mass at the Catholic Church here.

Then we will continue to Jericho to view the Monastery of Temptation and remember Zaccheus climbing the tree and blind Bartimaeus wanting to see. After lunch in Jericho, we will make a brief stop at the Dead Sea, and then continue to the town of **Nablus** and **Jacob's Well**, where Jesus met the Samaritan woman who offered him water. **Then we will continue to Nazareth for dinner and overnight.**





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Day 9-Tuesday, May 15th: Nazareth - Mt.Tabor.



After an early morning breakfast, we will tour the holy places in Nazareth, the town where Jesus and the Holy Family lived. We will visit the **Basilica of the Annunciation** where the Angel Gabriel proclaimed: "Rejoice O highly favored daughter," and celebrate Mass. At Nazareth we will also see **Mary's well**, and **Joseph's workshop**, and visit the **Nazareth Synagogue** where Jesus began his ministry. After lunch, we will drive to **Mount Tabor**, to visit the site of Jesus' Transfiguration at the summit of the mountain and enjoy the beautiful scenery of

the Valley of Jezreal. **Return to hotel in Nazareth for dinner and overnight.**

Day 10- Wednesday, May 16th: Sea of Galilee

After breakfast, we will drive to Galilee, to the **Mount of Beatitudes** to recall the Sermon on the Mount and celebrate Mass here. Continue to **Tabgha** for a visit to the **Church of the Multiplication**. Then we will visit the small chapel of the **Primacy of St. Peter**, and continue to **Magdala Synagogue** after enjoying a lunch of St. Peter's fish. Then we will go to **Capernaum**, the Town of Jesus, for a detailed visit of its ruins: the remains of the House of Peter, and the White Synagogue. Afterward, we will experience a **boat ride** going out on the Sea of Galilee where we will recall Jesus' mighty deeds calming the wind and the waves. **Back to hotel in Nazareth for dinner and overnight.**



Day 11- Thursday, May 17th: Return Home

After an early morning check-out and transfer to the airport, we fly back home. However, our faith journey will continue in a new, invigorated way. Having visited the sacred places in our tradition, having met the descendants of the first disciples of Jesus and witnessed how the people of the Holy Land strive to build bridges of justice, peace and reconciliation --all these experiences will enrich your spiritual life and transform you. They will also enable you to interpret the news from the region in a different way. A Living Stones pilgrimage to the Holy Land will definitely enrich and permanently change your life for better.

For further information and to register for this pilgrimage, please contact:

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Notes:

- *Mass can be arranged daily*
- *Itinerary subject to change without notice*
- *The Itinerary includes interaction with the Living Stones*
- *The meeting at the Latin Patriarchate may be changed depending on their schedule and availability.*