

## REGARDING PRIESTS JOINING A FOOTPRINTS OF GOD / CORPORATE TRAVEL PILGRIMAGE

Catholic priests are an integral part of any Catholic pilgrimage and are treated with great love and respect on our trips. Spiritual directors must be faithful to the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church, loyal to the Magisterium, and ready to teach and defend the orthodox Catholic faith. We expect reverent and liturgically-correct celebrations of the Mass.

### **Three kinds of priests join our pilgrimages**

1. Host Priests: Those who arrange a pilgrimage and are part of the planning, recruiting, and organizing. They are the hosts and group leaders. for example, a parish priest or bishop who arranges the pilgrimage for his parish or diocese.
2. Invited Priests: Those who are invited by a group or by Steve and Janet Ray to act as spiritual director. These must be approved by Steve and Janet Ray and Corporate Travel. They are not the hosts or group leaders and are not involved in planning and organizing, though they are asked to help recruit.
3. Paying Pilgrims: This includes priests who pay their way and come as pilgrims like the other persons on the trip. They are welcome to concelebrate and assist with priestly services along the way, but no pressure is put on them to do so.

Note regarding Deacons: Deacons also receive a discount and may serve at Mass at the discretion of Steve and Janet Ray and the celebrating priest(s).

### **Responsibilities of the priest**

1. To be an integral part of the pilgrimage, share meals, visit, sites and be available to the pilgrims.
2. Celebration of daily Mass
3. Lead the Via Dolorosa and daily prayers, including the Rosary as needed
4. Available for Confession (both scheduled and spontaneous) and other sacramental obligations

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5. Take direction from and maintain visible harmony and cooperation with Steve and Janet Ray and the local guides
6. Host Priests: Available to meet with the team ( Steve and Janet Ray, local guides, American escort, International agent) for planning, suggestions, and consultation
7. Invited Priests: Willingness to work cooperatively with the pilgrimage leaders and guides. We respectfully require Invited Priests to wear clerics during the day while “on duty”

## **Costs and Expenses**

Host Priests and Invited Priests may have their basic pilgrimage expenses covered including plane fare, fuel surcharges, hotels, transportation directly related to the pilgrimage, breakfasts, lunches and dinners, tips, tickets, and taxes.

They are usually required to cover the cost of additional drinks, water on the bus, charges added to their room (e.g., internet and phone charges, laundry, additional meals, etc.), additional travel not part of the pilgrimage, medical expenses, personal purchases (e.g., souvenirs, religious items, books, food, medicine, etc.), public restroom costs, and other personal expenses. The above lists are offered as example and are not to be considered exhaustive.

## **Miscellaneous Items**

All priests and deacons who plan to celebrate, concelebrate, or serve at Mass are required to send a copy of their celebret to Corporate Travel to keep on file. They must also have it on their person during pilgrimages. It is rarely required at Mass sites but, when it is, the priests and deacons must be ready to present it. Celebret copies can be emailed to Elizabeth Markey of Corporate Travel at [emarkey@ctscentral.net](mailto:emarkey@ctscentral.net).

Most holy sites and churches provide all that is necessary for the celebration of the Mass, however, we ask that you bring your own alb, stole, and a simple Mass Kit. The Mass Kit may be needed in case of an emergency or if scheduling problems arise. If these items prove to be unnecessary for a given trip, we will advise you prior to travel. Steve will provide in advance a list of the Mass sites and, if applicable, the Mass readings (if the readings are site specific, as they are at the holy sites in Israel).

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Priests can expect Steve and Janet to respectfully take pictures and video clips throughout the day including during the Mass. Steve also records the homilies. We need this for the video documentary of the trip that we provide to each pilgrim. Our picture taking is done prudently during the Mass and eliminates the need for others to be snapping pictures during spiritual activities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Elizabeth Markey at Corporate Travel (emarkey@ctscentral.net, 1.800.727.1999 x 150) or Steve Ray (sray@me.com).

## **The End Goal**

We all share the same goal. We want both pilgrims and priests to have a marvelous, unified, exciting, and deeply spiritual experience—coming in touch with Our Lord, Our Lady, and the Catholic faith in a deeper and richer way. We want to avoid conflict and tension and undo difficulties so the group bonds in joyful communion and friendship. The end goal is edification of pilgrims and that Our Lord is glorified!

## **I understand and agree to the above**

Name:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pilgrimage Destination and Dates: \_\_\_\_\_