A Spiritual Journey to Turkey (Türkiye)
In the Footsteps of St. Paul & the Early Christians

Under the Guidance of:
Fr. Felix Just, SJ, PhD
Coordinator of Ongoing Formation of Clergy, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Ms. Gail Gresser, MA
Retired Director of Campus Ministry, Mount Saint Mary’s University

16 Days: May 6-21, 2023
Dear Friends and Pilgrims—

We invite you to join us from May 6 to 21, 2023, for an extraordinary 16-day pilgrimage to the early Christian sites of Turkey.

Many of the earliest Christian communities mentioned in the Bible were in this land, including Tarsus, where St. Paul was born, and Antioch, where the name “Christian” was first used. On this pilgrimage, we will have the chance to stand in the amphitheater in Ephesus and at the seashore of Miletus, where Paul and his coworkers preached. We’ll explore Smyrna and Pergamum and other cities of the Book of Revelation. And we will visit cities where some of the first Councils of the Church met, including Nicea (which gave us the Creed), Ephesus (where Mary was declared the Mother of God), and Constantinople (today’s Istanbul).

In this magnificent land, with its deep and rich legacy, we’ll visit dozens of places mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of Paul, and the Book of Revelation. We will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass at sacred sites associated with our ancestors in faith – as well as with the tiny but inspiring contemporary Christian communities.

During our pilgrimage, we will explore very diverse regions of this vast country, including the towns of the Mediterranean coast, the astonishing inland regions of Cappadocia, and the historic urban civilization of Istanbul. We will also meet some of the diverse people of modern Turkey, learning about Muslim spirituality and Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

Of course, some of the best aspects of pilgrimages are what is not listed on the itinerary – time for personal reflection, for meals and conversations with fellow pilgrims and our Turkish hosts, and even some special shopping!

This brochure provides a detailed itinerary for each day of our pilgrimage. Space is limited, so please sign up soon! We hope you can join us on this biblical, historical, and spiritual pilgrimage to explore the Spirit’s movements in the early Christian Church, reflect on the Word of God, renew our lives of faith, and enjoy the wonders of our world.

Our Daily Itinerary

Saturday, May 6, Day 1:
Afternoon Departure from Los Angeles
We depart Los Angeles en route to Istanbul with complimentary meals and beverages served aloft.

Sunday, May 7, Day 2:
Afternoon arrival in Istanbul / Transfer to flight to Antakya
We arrive in Istanbul and after our layover, board our flight to Antakya (Antioch), which was one of the largest ancient cities in the eastern Roman Empire. It was there that followers of Christ were first called “Christians” (Acts 11:26). We transfer to our hotel for a late dinner and the evening. (D)

Monday, May 8, Day 3:
Antakya: Visit of the City & Seleucia
Local traditions report extensive activity by St. Peter in Antioch, largely associated with the Grotto or Church of St. Peter, which we visit on the southern slopes of Mt. Staurion.

We also see an extraordinary collection of Roman Mosaics at the Mosaics Museum. Antioch was the site of the dispute between Peter and Paul (Galatians 2:11-13), so it is especially meaningful that we celebrate Mass there in a small Christian church named for them.

We then visit seaside Samandag (biblical Seleucia; Acts 13:4), the port from which Paul and Barnabas set out on their missionary journeys (Acts 13:1-4; 15:36). We will have some time at leisure this afternoon, then gather for dinner and a relaxing evening at our hotel. (B, D)

Tuesday, May 9, Day 4:
Antakya / Tarsus / Cilician Gates / Eski Gumus Monastery / Cappadocia
This morning, we depart early for the city of Tarsus, the birthplace of the Apostle Paul, and the capital of the Roman province of Cilicia - a well-known center of Greek culture and philosophical education. Tarsus was also a “Free City,” which gave the people born
there (like Paul) important rights and legal privileges as "Roman citizens" (see Acts 21:39; 22:25; and 25:10-12). Mass is celebrated in Tarsus' St. Paul's Church.

We visit St. Paul's Well in a courtyard believed by some to be the site of St. Paul's house. Archaeological studies have shown this area to have cultural layers from Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods. We continue our journey, traveling through the Taurus Mountains via the Cilician Gates, a route taken by Paul and Silas as they went through Syria and Cilicia.

As we head toward Cappadocia, we stop for a visit of Eski Gumus Monastery, carved from the rock in Gumusler. This 10th-century monastery, which is entered via a vaulted door, contains scenes from the Infancy of Jesus, along with several portraits of Mary, saints, and angels. We continue to our hotel for dinner and the evening. (B, D)

**Wednesday, May 10, Day 5:**
**Cappadocia: Goreme; Zelve Valley; Kaymakli Underground City; Monks' Valley**

Today in Cappadocia, we tour one of the most surreal landscapes on earth, formed by thousands of years of erosion. We focus on the vicinity of Goreme Open Air Museum, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Zelve Valley, one of the greatest Christian centers from the 4th to 10th centuries (although Christians probably lived here since the 1st century).

This area has more than 600 “cave churches,” hollowed out from the volcanic rock formations. Many of these churches are lined with frescoes dating back to the 11th and 12th centuries. Highlights of our visit include Tokali Kilise (“Church of the Buckle”), the largest church in Göreme; Karanlık Kilise (“Dark Church”), an 11th-century monastic compound with newly restored frescoes that are the best preserved in all of Cappadocia; and Yılanlı Kilise (“Snake Church”), a simple barrel-vaulted church famed for the frescoes of St. Theodore and of St. George slaying the dragon (or snake, as depicted in the fresco).

Next, we visit Kaymakli Underground City, located within the citadel of Kaymakli. The houses in the village are constructed around the nearly 100 tunnels, which are still used today as storage areas, stables, and cellars. We celebrate Mass in the Dereyamani cave church.

Our final stop today is Pasabag or Monks' Valley. The name was derived from some cones carved in tuff stones, which stand apart. Some of these cones split into smaller cones in their upper sections, in which the Cappadocian hermits once hid. They hollowed out the chimneys from bottom to top, creating rooms high above the ground. After our visit, we return to our hotel for dinner and the evening. (B, D)

**Thursday, May 11, Day 6:**
**Cappadocia / Agzikarahan Caravanserai / Konya**

This morning we depart Cappadocia and head toward Konya. En route, we stop at the 13th-century Seljuk Caravanserai “Agzikarahan.” In that era, the three most important factors affecting trade along this portion of the Silk Road were roads, caravans, and inns where traders would stop for the evening. Agzikarahan is one of the most beautiful and best-preserved fortified inns, which characteristically contained a mosque for the traders' religious observances.

We continue to Konya (ancient Iconium), where Paul and Barnabas had an active ministry (Acts 13:51; 14:1-21; 16:2, 2 Tim 3:11). We celebrate Mass there in St. Paul's church. Konya is the historic center of the Sufi mystical tradition of Islam. If time allows, we will visit the shrine to Rumi (the 13th century Persian mystic, whose poetry is often familiar to Westerners, and whose teachings inspired Sufism). After dinner at our hotel, we will experience the “Whirling Dervish” Sufi form of prayer. (B, D)

**Friday, May 12, Day 7:**
**Konya/ Aspendos / Perge / Antalya**

After breakfast, we head south toward the Mediterranean coast and visit the ancient theatre at Aspendos, one of the best-preserved in Turkey, and also visit the ruins of ancient Perge. Paul and Barnabas passed through Perga on their way to and from Antioch on their first journey (Acts 13:13-14; 14:25). We go on to visit the Archaeology Museum in Antalya, one of the finest in modern Turkey. We celebrate Mass in the Antalya Non-Denominational Church, downtown. Dinner this evening is served at our hotel. (B, D)

**Saturday, May 13, Day 8:**
**Antalya / Laodicea / Colossae / Hierapolis (Pamukkale)**

This morning, we begin with Mass, celebrated with the local Catholic community at St. Nikolaus Church, named for Bishop Nikolaus (the forerunner of Santa Claus), who came from Myra, an area of Antalya. We then drive inland again to visit the ruins of ancient Laodicea. The church in this city received a letter from Paul (Col 4:15-16), and is one of the
seven churches of the Book of Revelation. Laodicea was also the site of an important regional church council held in AD 367. We travel to ancient Colossae, a site that remains largely unexcavated. It seems that Paul himself never visited this city, but that Epaphras, one of Paul’s associates and a citizen of Colossae, was the founder of the Colossian church (Col 1:7; 4:12). Paul later tells Philemon of his hope to visit there upon being freed from prison (Phlm 1:22).

Next, we visit the ruins of Hierapolis (Col 4:13), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in present day Pamukkale – a stunningly beautiful natural wonder. St. Philip was martyred here in AD 80. Our hotel offers thermal spring waters laden with minerals. These waters, falling over a plateau edge, have created a cascade of dazzling white petrified basins—a beautiful photo opportunity! Dinner is served at our hotel. (B, D)

**Sunday, May 14, Day 9:**
Pamukkale / Aphrodisias / Miletus / Kusadasi
This morning we depart Pamukkale for the ruins of ancient Aphrodisias. The site has been sacred since 5800 BC, when Neolithic peoples came here to worship the goddess of fertility and crops. In Greek times the site was dedicated to Aphrodite, goddess of love and fertility. The great temple was built in the 1st century AD. For many centuries the area remained a stronghold of pagan beliefs, but eventually Christianity spread here and the city was renamed Stavropolis (“city of the cross”).

Next, we travel to the seaside city of Miletus. Not wanting to delay his travels by going to Ephesus, St. Paul called the elders of the Ephesian church to Miletus to bid them farewell (Acts 20). From here, Paul sailed to Jerusalem for the celebration of Pentecost. Mass will be celebrated at the site of Miletus port from where St. Paul disembarked. After our visit, we pass by the ruins of ancient Priene and proceed to the resort area of Kusadasi, with dinner served at our hotel. (B, D)

**Monday, May 15, Day 10:**
Kusadasi: Full Day Excursion to the House of Mary & Ephesus
We begin our day with Mass celebrated at the House of Mary, traditionally believed to be the last residence of the mother of Jesus. This peaceful site, sacred to both Christians and Muslims, was visited by Popes Paul VI, John Paul II, and Benedict XVI.

After Mass, our focus today is on Ephesus, the capital of the Roman province of Asia Minor. Once the largest city and main harbor on the western coast, accumulating silt has moved today’s shoreline more than four miles west of the of the Roman-era harbor. St. Paul founded the Church in Ephesus in AD 53-56. From here, he wrote letters to Galatia, Philippi, and Corinth. We visit the great Theatre where St. Paul addressed the crowds (Acts 19:29). We also pause to view the Temple of Aphrodite.

We visit the ruins of the Church of the Virgin Mary (or Council Church), an early 4th-century church with a baptistery and bishop’s residence. The Third Ecumenical Council, which affirmed Mary as Theotokos (“God-bearer”), met here in AD 431. Early Christian tradition also maintains that John the Apostle wrote his Gospel here in Ephesus. We visit the Basilica of St. John, built by Justinian in the 6th century, and which houses the tomb of St. John. We also briefly stop at the ruins of the Temple of Artemis, and return to our hotel in Kusadasi for dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Tuesday, May 16, Day 11:**
Kusadasi / Smyrna / Pergamum / Izmir
After breakfast, we travel to Izmir (ancient Smyrna), one of the earliest cities of the Mediterranean basin (5000 years old). Smyrna became a center of 1st-century Christianity and is one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:12-17). Pergamum was a central site for four of the most important Greco-Roman cults of the day: Zeus, Athene, Dionysios, and Asklepios (aka “Savior”). Because of the strong worship of Asklepios, the god of healing, Pergamum became a center of medicine. We visit the ruins of the ancient Asklepiion (where the first known psychological treatments took place), as well as the Altar of Zeus, the Temples of Athene, Trajan, and Dionysus, and the 10,000-seat theatre. After our visit, we return to our hotel in Izmir for dinner. (B, D)

We continue by traveling north to Pergamum, another of the seven Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:12-17). Pergamum was a central site for four of the most important Greco-Roman cults of the day: Zeus, Athene, Dionysios, and Asklepios (aka “Savior”). Because of the strong worship of Asklepios, the god of healing, Pergamum became a center of medicine. We visit the ruins of the ancient Asklepiion (where the first known psychological treatments took place), as well as the Altar of Zeus, the Temples of Athene, Trajan, and Dionysus, and the 10,000-seat theatre. After our visit, we return to our hotel in Izmir for dinner. (B, D)

**Wednesday, May 17, Day 12:**
Izmir / Sardis / Thytila / Bursa: Ulu Cami Mosque & Silk Bazaar
After breakfast we leave our hotel in Izmir for an hour’s drive to Sardis. Upon arrival we visit Sardis and its ancient synagogue, where we will celebrate
Mass. After Mass, we leave Sardis, driving north to Akhisar where we have a stop at the very limited remains of ancient city of Thyatira, site of one of the seven Churches of Revelation, and possibly where Paul and Silas visited (Acts 16:13-16). After lunch break we drive on to Bursa, where we visit the Ulu Cami Mosque, built between AD 1396 and 1400. This mosque has one of the world’s greatest examples of Islamic calligraphy from the Ottoman period. We then take some time to shop at the Silk Bazaar before going to our hotel for dinner and the evening. (B, D)

Thursday, May 18, Day 13:
Bursa / Nicaea / Istanbul
We depart Bursa this morning for Iznik (ancient Nicaea). Mass will be celebrated at the hotel property in the morning before departure. The First Council of Nicaea was held in AD 325, during the reign of Emperor Constantine. It defined more clearly the concept of the Trinity and drew up the Nicene Creed.

We see the massive medieval walls and the ruins of Hagia Sofia Church, scene of the 7th Ecumenical Council (convened by Empress Irene in AD 787), and visit the museum. Then, we board a ferry boat to Istanbul (ancient Constantinople) for an orientation tour of the city often called “Earth’s Pearl.” (B, D)

Friday, May 19, Day 14:
Istanbul: Topkapi Palace, Spice Market, Mosque of Suleiman The Magnificent, Kariye Museum & Bosphorus Cruise
Constantinople (Istanbul) became the capital of the Roman Empire under Constantine in AD 330, and it remained as capital of the Byzantine Empire until 1453, when the Ottoman army under Sultan Mehmet II conquered it. We begin today with Mass at the Holy Spirit Cathedral, near Papa Roncalli Street, named for Pope St. John XXIII who lived there while serving as Apostolic Delegate for Turkey and Greece (1935-1944). His experience with the Muslim and Orthodox communities of that time, as well as collaborating to provide refuge for European Jews, deeply influenced his interfaith and ecumenical initiatives in the Second Vatican Council.

We then visit Topkapi Palace Museum, site of the residence of the Ottoman sultans for nearly four centuries, and have some time to wander the Spice Market. After lunch at the Hamdi restaurant, famous for its Turkish kitchen, we visit the Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent, known as the culmination of Ottoman architecture, reflecting the Golden Age of the Empire at its heights. We continue to the Church of St. Saviour in Chora, also known as the Kariye Museum, famous for its early mosaics. Tonight, we embark on a Bosphorus Sunset Cruise ending by docking at Angel Blue Seafood Restaurant for our farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

Saturday, May 20, Day 15:
Istanbul: Hagia Sofia, Roman Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Grand Bazaar
We begin today with Mass at St. Anthony Church (regularly scheduled at 10:00 a.m. in English). After Mass, we visit Hagia Sofia, which was first a basilica, then a mosque, then a museum, and recently returned to its status as mosque. Built in the 6th century by Emperor Justinian, this extraordinary masterpiece of Byzantine architecture is still covered in splendid mosaics from the 11th and 12th centuries. Next, we enjoy lunch at Matbah Restaurant famed for its cuisine obtained from Ottoman archives. We continue to the site of the Roman Hippodrome, built by the Roman Emperor Septimius Severus in AD 203. The hippodrome stadium served as a meeting place for politicians, chariot races, wrestling, boxing, and other athletic activities. We then visit the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet, known as the ‘Blue Mosque’ for its marvelous interior decoration of turquoise tiles. We end our visit of Istanbul at the Grand Bazaar, where we have some free time to explore on our own. Dinner tonight is at our hotel. (B, L, D)

Sunday, May 21, Day 16:
Return to the USA
After breakfast, we transfer to the Istanbul Airport to begin our journey home. (B)

Note: While no changes are anticipated, there might be occasions when it becomes necessary to make certain alterations to this itinerary.
HOW TO REGISTER
Deadline for initial registration is October 31, 2022. After this date, please inquire to learn if any space is still available. Registrations are processed in the order received. Online registration is not available at this time. Please note many pilgrimages sell out well in advance of the registration deadline date.

To make your reservation, complete the Registration Form included in this PDF document and submit your non-refundable $500 per person deposit, mailed to the address shown on the bottom of the Registration Form. CTC will send your invoice via postal mail within two weeks of our receipt of your deposit. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure, by February 5.

TRAVEL PACKAGES
We offer two types of tour packages and two forms of payment.

PACKAGES
1) Full Package (including airfare)
2) Land Only Package (travelers make their own airline arrangements).

PAYMENT
1) Discount Price (payable by check or money order)
2) Standard Price (payment by credit or debit card). Prices are per person based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement shown below.

DISCOUNT PRICE (payable by check or money order)
FULL PACKAGE: $4,999 from Los Angeles (LAX) plus tips of $245 for total tour cost of $5,244
LAND ONLY PACKAGE: $3,899 plus tips of $245 for total tour cost of $4,144

STANDARD PRICE (payable by credit or debit card)
FULL PACKAGE: $5,298 from Los Angeles (LAX) plus tips of $245 for total tour cost of $5,543
LAND ONLY PACKAGE: $4,198 plus tips of $245 for total tour cost of $4,443

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: $965

YOUR PRICE INCLUDES
Airfare based on non-refundable, restricted economy class group fares only on regularly scheduled IATA carrier from Los Angeles (LAX) airport; first class hotels or best available accommodations (all with private facilities); sightseeing; and meals per itinerary (B, L, D); based on a minimum of 25 fully paying passengers. Please see the Registration Form and Terms & Conditions for more details.

HEALTH DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS
Please refer to the Terms and Conditions of this brochure for guidance on documentation requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Once your initial registration deposit is processed by CTC, you will receive an email with information on suggested travel insurance options. CTC strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance to help protect your investment in the trip and to help provide medical coverage outside the United States. We also strongly suggest you purchase the broadest coverage available with the least amount of exclusions. Because some travel insurance plans contain time-sensitive benefits, we encourage you to do your research and purchase insurance in a timely manner.

AIRLINE DEVIATIONS, SEATING, UPGRADES & FREQUENT FLYER BOOKINGS:
Deviations from the group flight itinerary, specific seat assignments, seat upgrades, and bookings using “frequent flyer” program points are not possible within the terms of our group airline contract. If these items are important to you, we advise you register for the “Land Only” package.

WALKING
Please note, this journey involves considerable walking on cobblestone streets and uneven pavement and requires being on your feet more than usual. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy this pilgrimage to its fullest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Your Local contacts:
Fr. Felix Just, SJ
Tel: (310) 963-4546
Email: fjust@jesuits.org

Ms. Gail Gresser
Tel: (310) 850-4033
Email: ggresser@me.com
1. PERSONAL INFORMATION
Please print in BLOCK LETTERS your complete Last Name, First Name, and Middle Name as they appear on your PASSPORT:

Last Name
First Name
Middle Name

How would you like your first name to appear on your nametag?

Email (Forms submitted without email address cannot be processed)

Date of Birth
Gender

Street Address

City
State
Zip

Home Tel
Mobile Tel

2. PASSPORT INFORMATION
Will you hold a U.S. Passport at the time of travel? (Yes / No)

If “no,” what nationality?

You must select one of the two choices below:

☐ I have enclosed a copy of the photo page of my passport showing my name, passport number, and expiration date.

☐ I understand I must submit a copy of the photo page of my passport 90 days or more prior to departure.

Note: Catholic Travel Centre is not liable for passports expiring within 180 days of the return date of the pilgrimage.

3. ROOMING INFORMATION
You must select one of the three choices below:

☐ I wish to room with: (enter name)

☐ Please try to find a roommate for me. I understand if you cannot find a roommate for me, I will be obliged to pay the single room supplement.

☐ I wish a single room at a supplement of $965.

A limited number of single rooms are available.

4. PAYMENT INFORMATION
Registration Deposit: $500 by October 31, 2022
Final Payment: by February 05, 2023

DISCOUNT PRICE
$500 deposit & balance paid by check or money order.
Make check payable to Catholic Travel Centre.

☐ FULL PACKAGE: $4,999 from Los Angeles (LAX) plus tips of $245 for total tour cost of $5,244

☐ LAND ONLY PACKAGE: $3,899 plus tips of $245 for total tour cost of $4,144. I agree to meet the group at the first night’s hotel

STANDARD PRICE
$500 deposit & payment paid by credit or debit card.
Please fill in your credit card information below.

☐ FULL PACKAGE: $5,298 from Los Angeles (LAX) plus tips of $245 for total tour cost of $5,543

☐ LAND ONLY PACKAGE: $4,198 plus tips of $245 for total tour cost of $4,443. I agree to meet the group at the first night’s hotel

CREDIT / DEBIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION
I authorize Catholic Travel Centre to charge the Standard Price amount to my credit/debit card card ($500 will be charged now; balance of payment will be charged to my card per the invoice due date).

I agree to the terms and conditions and cancellation terms attached here.

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Card Number
Exp. Date

Name as it appears on credit / debit card

Signature
Date

For Office Use Only

Please complete one registration form per person (couples, submit two separate forms).

If any section above is left blank, your registration form will not be processed and you will not be confirmed on this pilgrimage.

Enclosed please find my $500 per person non-refundable deposit for the above referenced trip. By submitting this payment, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the “Terms and Conditions” in the accompanying brochure, including information related to pricing and cancellations.

Signature ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Please mail this form with your deposit payable to Catholic Travel Centre to:
4444 W. Riverside Drive, Suite 301, Burbank, CA 91505

Further information and invoice will be sent within two weeks of receipt of your registration and deposit.
ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS & CONDITIONS: Any payments made by a Traveler or on behalf of the Traveler ("Traveler", "you") to Catholic Travel Centre (CTC) toward any CTC tour shall constitute acceptance of all Terms & Conditions provided herein.

PAYMENT TERMS: All payments shall be made on the dates indicated in the payment schedule, noted in the Registration Information section. Late payments are subject to a non-refundable $150 fee, and may result in cancellation. A Traveler registering within 90 days prior to departure must provide full payment by cashier check, plus a non-refundable late registration $150 fee. CTC reserves the right to cancel registrations not paid in full 75 days prior to tour departure and to charge fees per the Cancellation Policy. A non-refundable $75 fee is charged on all returned payments. Travelers agree not to dispute any credit card charges associated with this trip before contacting CTC first to resolve their concerns. CTC retains the right to dispute any chargeback that is improper and recover any costs, including attorney’s fees related to improper chargebacks. Additionally, in the event of an improper chargeback, CTC retains the right to cancel any travel reservation related to that improper chargeback NOTE: Credit card charges will not show as “travel expense” on your credit card statement, but will appear as “specialty services”, “shopping” or another designation.

CHANGES IN PACKAGE: After initial invoicing, changes from the air inclusive package (“Full Package”) to “Land Only” or vice versa are subject to a non-refundable $75 per person per change fee. Changes must be requested in writing to CTC at least 100 days prior to departure date (subject to availability). Late requests to change the package may not be accommodated.

CHANGES IN FORM OF PAYMENT: To change from Cash Discount to Standard pricing, the difference between prices plus an additional $75 fee applies. After a Traveler’s credit card has been charged for any portion of the tour, s/he is ineligible for the Cash Discount Price.

PARTIAL PACKAGES NOT AVAILABLE: Tour Packages are offered as described in this brochure, at the stated price. Partial package purchase is not available.

CANCELLATION POLICY: CTC’s cancellation policy is in effect upon first payment toward any CTC tour. A Traveler’s cancellation must be provided in writing either by email, fax, or registered mail to CTC. The cancellation is effective on the date CTC receives the cancellation email, fax or date-stamped letter. The Traveler forfeits the following fees to CTC based on the date of cancellation notice: anytime up to 90 days prior to departure, $500 fee; 89 to 60 days prior to departure, $500 fee plus 25% of Land Cost (all costs except airfare and related taxes, fees, surcharges); 59 to 30 days prior to departure, $500 fee plus 50% of Land Cost plus the full cost of all of the Traveler’s airline travel (including airfare and related taxes, fees, surcharges); 29 days or fewer, all payments by Traveler made to CTC are forfeited, and there are no refunds. In event of individual cancellation, no name changes or substitutions are permitted. No shows: Passengers who do not show up for the group’s departing flight (or land only passengers who do not show for first hotel night) will be considered as tour cancellations: their airline and/or hotel reservations will automatically be cancelled and cannot be reinstated.

PRICES: If the group does not reach the size quoted, the price or programming will be adjusted accordingly. Pricing is based on exchange rates and fares applicable at the time of quotation and is subject to change. Fuel surcharges are subject to increase up to 30 days prior to departure.

PASSPORT: A valid passport is required of all U.S. citizen passengers. Travelers of other nationalities should inquire with the appropriate embassies, and such Travelers are responsible for securing their own visas if required in addition to their valid passport. Travelers’ passports must be valid for six (6) months following the return date of the trip. CTC expressly denies any responsibility for any losses incurred due to insufficient validity of a Traveler’s passport.

HEALTH & MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS: The Traveler is responsible for identifying and securing any health/medical related documentation required by the airlines and/or countries visited on the itinerary, and CTC bears no responsibility for the passenger not providing the required documentation. If a country requires proof of COVID vaccination and/or a negative COVID test, it is the responsibility of the passenger to secure such documentation within the required timeframe as a condition for joining this tour.

Our suppliers (hotels, airlines, motor coach companies, etcetera) have agreed to abide by COVID-protective measures as outlined by local health authorities and government agencies, and the traveler agrees to abide by these policies as well. The Traveler understands that while CTC has made a reasonable inquiry to ensure these policies are adhered to by our suppliers, there may be occasions when the policies are not followed as completely as the policy suggests. Therefore, the Traveler agrees not to hold CTC, our suppliers, or the group leaders responsible should they contract any illness during or after their travel.

It is highly recommended Travelers be medically healthy and physically capable of significant walking. CTC tours involve international travel to foreign countries that have different standards of accessibility than U.S. law. Transportation services, which are provided by third parties, as well as visited sites and accommodations, which are not owned, leased, or controlled by CTC, may not be compliant with accessibility standards required by U.S. law. CTC cannot guarantee wheelchair, motorized scooter, or wheelchair accessibility on these tours, and does not provide transportation or accommodation. If a Traveler requires special individual assistance, the Traveler, not CTC, is responsible for bringing and paying for a capable companion willing to assist the Traveler. CTC assumes no responsibility for Travelers’ inability to fully participate in the tour, nor does CTC provide any refund for non-participation in any part of the tour.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: CTC strongly suggests the purchase of Travel Insurance to help protect Travelers’ investment in the trip and to help provide medical coverage outside the United States. We also strongly suggest you purchase the broadest coverage available with the least amount of exclusions. Travel Insurance is encouraged because CTC strictly adheres to our Cancellation Policy. Because some Travel Insurance plans contain time-sensitive benefits, we encourage Travelers to do their research and purchase insurance in a timely manner. CTC is not qualified to answer technical questions about the benefits, exclusions, and conditions of travel insurance plans. CTC cannot evaluate the adequacy of the prospective insured’s existing insurance coverage. If you have any questions about your travel protection, call your insurer or insurance agent or broker. Declining to purchase an adequate travel protection plan could result in the loss of your travel cost and/or require more money to correct the situation. You also acknowledge that without this coverage, there may be no way to recoup any losses, costs, or expenses incurred. If you choose to travel without adequate coverage, CTC will not be liable for any of your losses howsoever arising, for which trip protection plan coverage would otherwise have been available.

STATE DEPARTMENT & OTHER AGENCIES’ ADVISORIES: The State Department (www.state.gov), the Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov), and other government departments and agencies may issue travel advisories or warnings for one or more of the destinations visited on tour, and such advisories or warnings may even be in effect at the time of your registration for this tour. Should you choose to travel to a country that has been issued a travel warning or advisory, CTC will not be liable for damages or losses that result from travel to such destinations. CTC cannot change its Cancellation Policy or Terms & Conditions based on any such warning or advisory on the occurrence of any terror, health, pandemic, or other incident in one or more of the places this tour is scheduled to visit. All cancellation penalties remain in full force and effect. It is your responsibility to be aware of any and all requirements for admittance to a country or state, including COVID-19 requirements. Certain countries have a requirement for foreign visitors to have medical insurance upon entry. CTC cannot be held responsible for denied entry if the Traveler is unable to provide details to authorities of insurance or denial of entry for any reason.

ITINERARY: The itinerary presented in this brochure represents what CTC is planning for this trip; however, the itinerary is subject to final confirmations and changes in local schedules. While no changes are anticipated, CTC, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to change the itinerary, as it deems necessary or advisable. CTC is not responsible for costs or fees related to itinerary changes necessitated by changes in an airline’s schedule or other arrangements not made through CTC.

FINAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: Travelers receive travel documents by email approximately two weeks prior to departure. Bulk items such as luggage and names tags will be shipped by CTC to group leaders for distribution.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: Accommodations are based on double/twin rooms with private bathroom facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available and are subject to a single room supplement fee. If no roommate is available for you, or your roommate cancels prior to departure, a single room supplement surcharge applies. Triple rooms are not always available and are discouraged because of cramped quarters; no price reduction for triple rooms. Meals are either menu of the day or buffet. Included meals are as follows: American plan (B=Breakfast, L= Lunch, D=Dinner).

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION: All airline tickets are round-trip economy class and non-refundable unless specifically stated. Any cancellation, itinerary change, or failure to use confirmed space is subject to penalties and/or fees levied by the airline at the time of ticketing. Airfare, airline carrier, and airline schedules are subject to change without notice. Airline fees and fuel or security fee surcharges (if any) occurring after the date of brochure publication are the responsibility of the Traveler.
AIRLINE DEVIATIONS, SEATING, UPGRADES & FREQUENT FLYER BOOKINGS: The following are not possible within the terms of CTC’s group airline contract: specific seat assignments, seat upgrades, services deviating from the group itinerary, booking using frequent flyer points and airline credit. If these items are important to you, CTC advises you to register for the “Land Only” package. Additionally, CTC does not record Traveler frequent flyer numbers, TSA numbers, or Global Entry numbers. Passengers must submit this information on own own to the airline at the time of check-in.

LAND ONLY PASSENGERS: Travelers arranging their own airline ticket must meet the group at the first hotel of the itinerary.

BAGGAGE & PORTERAGE: Baggage is at Traveler’s risk. Traveler should confirm the checked and carry-on baggage specifications with the air carrier specified in Final Travel Documents. Any checked bags, if applicable, are not included in the tour price. Checked baggage is limited to one bag per person (subject to change by airline) and must adhere to airline specifications. Porterage for one piece of luggage is included at hotels; no porterage at airports.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE: Passports, visas, meals and beverages not mentioned, extras beyond standard menu, baggage fees, telephone calls, laundry, medical tests, and other items not explicitly stated as included.

PHOTOGRAPHY: CTC may take photographs or film of its trips and trip Travelers, and Traveler grants CTC express permission to do so and for CTC to use such for promotion or commercial use without payment of any fee or royalties. CTC has the unrestricted right to use and/or copyright and/or publish aforementioned photographs or film in any media for advertising or for any other lawful purpose. Traveler waives any ownership or publication right in connection with photographs or film taken by CTC.

PARTICIPATION: CTC reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any Traveler on any of its tours if, in its sole discretion, it deems accepting or retaining any such Traveler as being detrimental to the tour. No refunds shall be made for any unused portion of the tour in this instance, and any expenses related to early return home are the sole responsibility of the traveler. Traveler agrees to and shall indemnify and hold harmless CTC, and each of our officers, directors, employees and agents (collectively “CTC”), from any expenses, losses, liabilities, damages, judgments, settlements, and costs (collectively, ‘damages’) involved with or incurred by CTC (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys’ fees and the advancement of same) with respect to any claims, law suits, arbitrations, or other causes of action, which result, directly or indirectly, from: (i) traveler’s breach or violation, or threatened breach or violation, of this Agreement and (ii) Any damage caused by traveler while participating in the trip.

UNUSED SERVICES: There is no right to a refund for any unused services, including airline tickets.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER: CTC hereby expressly disclaims any and all liability for any personal injury, property damage, loss of baggage, accident, delay or irregularity, any claim for special or consequential damages, or any other loss that may be occasioned by the acts and/or omissions, whether negligent, wrongful or otherwise, of its touring or local staff or its agents, or of any air carrier, hotel/motel, or other lodging operator, railroad operator, bus operator, public transportation, sea carrier, local sightseeing company, tour operator, tour leader, or spiritual director, any employees thereof, or for any other entity or individual not under the direct supervision and control of CTC when engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection therewith. CTC further disclaims any liability for any damages, losses, or expenses incurred, or inconvenience caused, due to delay or changes in schedules, defaults, over-booking of hotels or airlines, sickness, weather, strikes, quarantines, acts of terrorism, construction, war, pandemic, force majeure, or other such events that are beyond CTC’s control. CTC likewise disclaims any and all liability for statements, omissions, or information given to intermediary agents, such as group administrators, spiritual directors, tour leaders, travel agents, or any other intermediary involved with the selling, promotion, or operation of CTC’s tours. Furthermore, to the fullest extent permitted by law, CTC disclaims any liability for any damages or injuries, or other losses whatsoever, sustained or incurred as a result of the negligence of CTC. Group administrators, spiritual leaders, and tour leaders likewise expressly disclaim any liability for the acts and/or omissions of any of the above entities and/or individuals not directly under their supervision or control. Please be advised that the liability of carriers as well as providers of hotel and lodging accommodations is limited by law, and Travelers may wish to consider purchasing a Travel Protection plan and/or additional insurance to protect themselves against any losses or injuries suffered as a result of their acts and/or omissions. In no event shall CTC’s liability exceed the amounts paid by the Traveler for participation in the tour, and subject to the provisions and cancellation fees as set forth in this brochure. In the event the tour leader and/or spiritual director named in a brochure or itinerary does not travel with the group and a substitute is not named therein, CTC reserves the right to make substitutions of its choosing for such person(s). CTC is not responsible for any misquotes contained in this brochure or other accompanying documentation, and the contents therein may be changed at any time without notice and at CTC’s sole discretion.

GROUP COORDINATOR/SPiritUAL LEADER: The group coordinator and/or spiritual leader is not an employee, agent, or contractor of CTC. Statements made by group coordinator and/or spiritual leader are not binding on CTC, and we will not be liable for their actions, words or promises.

CANCELLATION BY THE SUPPLIER: CTC will inform you as soon as reasonably possible if a supplier needs to cancel. CTC will also liaise between you and the supplier in relation to any alternative arrangements offered by the supplier, but CTC will have no further liability to you.

CANCELLATION BEYOND CTC’s CONTROL: CTC disclaims any responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred due to cancellation or alteration of the tour resulting from, but not limited to: travel advisories or warnings issued by the State Department or any other relevant authority, acts of war, terrorism, acts of God, natural disasters, pandemic, or any other circumstance beyond CTC’s control. In such case, CTC will assist Travelers in requesting refunds for all land and air services not received by the Traveler, less a non-refundable operational fee of $500 per person. CTC shall not be responsible for any non-recoverable amounts disbursed to service providers on a Traveler’s behalf. Suppliers may choose to provide a travel voucher or credit in lieu of refund. CTC is not responsible for a supplier’s failure to pay a refund or for supplier bankruptcy or insolvency.

POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION: CTC does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam or other veteran in the provision of its tour and pilgrimage services.

CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ONLY REGISTERED SELLER: Catholic Travel Centre is a registered Seller of Travel in the State of California: CST#: 2018667-40. “Registration as a Seller of Travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.” Section 17550.24(f). CTC subscribes to the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. Non-residents of California are not eligible to make claims to this fund. A claim must be submitted to the TCRF within 12 months after the scheduled completion date of travel. For more information, visit www.tcrcinfo.org. In accordance with California law, CTC has a trust account to protect Traveler’s purchase money.

FLORIDA SELLER OF TRAVEL: Fia. Seller of Travel Ref. No. ST43075.

JURISDICTION/VENUE/CLASS ACTION WAIVER/LIMITATION OF DAMAGES/NOTICE OF CLAIM: These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California without regard to conflict of law principles. Any dispute arising from the contract shall be litigated in a court of competent jurisdiction in the County of Los Angeles. You agree you will only bring claims against CTC in your individual capacity and not as a plaintiff or class member in any purported class action or representative proceeding. CTC shall not in any case be liable for any punitive, exemplary, or consequential damages, and your payment of a deposit on a trip means you agree to these conditions of sale and expressly waive any right to punitive damages. You understand and agree no claims will be considered and you will not bring suit against CTC unless you have first provided a typewritten notice of claim to CTC within 30 days after the trip or cancellation of the trip.

TERMS & CONDITIONS CHANGES: Changes in any of the Terms & Conditions can be made only in writing signed by an officer of CTC.

FOR CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS ONLY: Upon cancellation of the transportation or travel services, where the passenger is not at fault and has not canceled in violation of any terms and conditions previously clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger, all sums paid to CTC for services not provided will be promptly paid to the passenger, unless the passenger advises the CTC in writing, after cancellation. This provision does not apply where CTC has remitted the payment to another registered wholesale seller of travel or a carrier, without obtaining a refund, and where the wholesaler or provider defaults in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service. In this situation, CTC must promptly advise the passenger with a written statement accompanied by bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a wholesale seller of travel, proof of current registration of that wholesaler.