

Regarding Priests Joining a Footprints of God / Corporate Travel Pilgrimage

Catholic priests are an integral part of any Catholic pilgrimage. Priests are treated with great love and respect on our pilgrimages. 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.

Two kinds of priests that 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. 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 to act as spiritual director. They are not the hosts or group leaders and are not involved in planning and organizing, though they are expected to help recruit. Example, a chaplain or friend of the host who invites them to come along as a spiritual director for the group.

Responsibilities of priests during Holy Land Pilgrimages:

- 1) To be an integral part of the pilgrimage and available to the pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage and at meals
- 2) Available daily to celebrate Mass
- 3) Available to lead the Via Dolorosa and daily prayers, including the Rosary
- 4) Available for Confession and other sacramental obligations
- 5) Work in visible harmony and cooperation with Steve & Janet Ray to build unity and cohesiveness within the group
- 6) Host Priests: Available to meet with the team (Steve & Janet Ray, local guides. American escort, Israeli agent) for planning, suggestions and consultation
- 7) Invited Priests: Willingness to work cooperatively with the pilgrimage leaders

Costs & Expenses:

Host Priests and Invited Priests have their basic pilgrimage expenses covered including plane fare, fuel surcharges, hotels, transportation directly related to the pilgrimage, breakfasts and dinners, tips, tickets and taxes. They are usually required to cover the cost of their own lunches, drinks, charges added to their room (e.g., internet and phone, laundry, additional meals, etc.), additional travel, not part of the pilgrimage, emergency & medical expenses, personal purchases (e.g., religious items, books, food, medicine, etc.), and other personal expenses. Changes in travel plans or emergencies are not the responsibility of Footprints of God or Corporate Travel (we strongly encourage the purchase of Travelers Insurance for such emergencies). The above lists are offered as examples and are not to be considered exhaustive.

Miscellaneous Items:

Most places provide all that is necessary for the celebration of the Mass. If there are exceptions we will notify the priest in advance. It is wise for the priest to bring his own alb and stole.

Priests can expect Steve & Janet to take pictures and video clips throughout the day including respectfully documenting each Mass. Our photography during Mass is done prudently and eliminates the need for others to be snapping pictures throughout spiritual activities.

The End Goal:

We all share the same goal. We want the pilgrims to have a marvelous, unified, exciting and deeply spiritual experience. We want them to come in touch with Our Lord, Our Lady and the Catholic faith in a deeper and richer way. We want to avoid conflict, tension and undo difficulties. We want the group to bond and form lasting friendships, We want the leaders and priests to build up and support each other and to work together in harmony and enthusiasm. The end goal is edification of pilgrims and that Our Lord is glorified!