



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 1, 2021

Dear Brothers:

The apostolic letter of Pope Francis *Patris Corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”) declared this year as the Year of Saint Joseph for the Universal Church.

In response to the call of Pope Francis, the Diocese of Sacramento will offer the ***Journey with St. Joseph*** pilgrimage commencing on June 19, 2021 and ending on December 7, 2021.

The pilgrimage sites will be those churches named for Saint Joseph in Auburn, Clarksburg, Elk Grove, Lincoln, Marysville, McCloud, Redding, Rio Vista, Sacramento, Vacaville, and Yreka. I am grateful for the collaboration of the pastors of these churches for making the pilgrimage possible, especially Fr. Ronald Torres who coordinated the pilgrimage planning.

A page describing the mechanics of the pilgrimage is enclosed. The Office of Communications is also producing a prayer booklet for pilgrims. As the Pilgrimage begins on Fathers Day weekend, you might consider offering the *Order for the Blessing of Pilgrims on Their Departure* found in the *Book of Blessings*.

In Saint Joseph we find solace and comfort as we face the difficulties in our own lives. He courageously faced, and prevailed against, challenging situations in his life with Jesus and Mary. He protected Mary and was an example to Jesus of trusting obedience to the will of his Heavenly Father.

To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.

--Pope Benedict XVI

May the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, who also journeyed with Saint Joseph, bring you and the pilgrims an abundance of God’s grace and mercy.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento

Enclosure: Journey with St. Joseph Explainer