



IMMACULATE HEART^{OF} MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Dear friends in the Lord,

Although our pilgrimage will have returned by the time you read this over the weekend, as I write it on Tuesday, we have just enjoyed an audience with Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, who gave us great insight into the very ancient and very diverse local church here in the Holy Land. We will now travel to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth, with Mass in the biblical city of Jericho and a renewal of baptismal promises at the River Jordan on the way.

But as the Church observes this weekend the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, it is our pilgrim prayer at sites surrounding the Temple Mount that are clearest in my mind. St. Luke's gospel, in which we find the story of Jesus' presentation, begins and ends in the Temple. And throughout the gospels, the Temple is a place of revelation, teaching, healing and conflict for Jesus.

Please know that you were all in my prayers at the Western Wall, the remnant of the Second Temple, and at every Mass throughout our sacred journey.

On this feastday, let us all imitate Simeon in today's gospel in praising the Lord for the Christ, the Revealing Light, who has entered our lives and made us all temples of the Holy Spirit.

Your brother in Christ's word and work,