

TRANSFORM & RENEW YOUR PARISH THROUGH PILGRIMAGE



TEKTON MINISTRIES
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

YOU WANT TO RENEW YOUR PARISH & BE A TRUE SHEPHERD TO YOUR FLOCK

God has called you to do important work. But we know that isn't always easy! You want every one of your parishioners growing closer to Christ, yet often you feel that more and more of them are falling farther away.

Many parishioners today feel disconnected from their parish and pastor. This lack of engagement can lead to empty pews, empty coffers, and tragically – empty souls.

We've helped renew and strengthen hundreds of parishes through pilgrimage and can guide you in renewing your parish as well, transforming it into a vibrant community of believers.





WE ARE PILGRIM PEOPLE.

When God created Adam and Eve, He placed them in paradise. He provided for their every need with no illness or stress, and nothing to distract them from the joy of knowing God in a pure and perfect way. The Bible even hints that God may have taken a physical form in order to walk with them in the garden (Genesis 3:8). Truly they were privileged in a way that no one has been since.

But with that first sin, Adam and Eve gave up living in close communion with God and were forced to live removed from His presence. With their expulsion, humanity became a “pilgrim people,” constantly struggling to find that place of contentment and joy that can only be known when in full communion with the Lord.

A pilgrimage helps a new Eden to blossom in our hearts, to walk with Him once again, and to move us closer to the kind of relationship with God that He meant for us to have, “In the beginning...”

WHAT IS A PILGRIMAGE?

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place. Pilgrimage has been part of the Christian tradition for centuries.

Years ago, pilgrims traveled in large groups for safety. Today, most people prefer group pilgrimages to:

- ▶ connect with their parish priest and faith community
- ▶ benefit from the safety and cost savings of group travel
- ▶ participate in the celebration of Mass in sacred spaces
- ▶ share in communal prayer and reflection
- ▶ experience holy sites with those who share their faith.

Pilgrimage takes place on “God’s Time,” offering

- ▶ time away from one’s regular routine to concentrate on the spiritual life without distractions
- ▶ a time for meditation, learning, spiritual growth, connection, and enrichment.
- ▶ a time of prayer for intercession, a special intention, or thanksgiving for blessings received.

A PILGRIMAGE IS NOT A VACATION

Although your pilgrimage will likely include moments of fun, some shopping, and good food, it is not a vacation. That’s because the ultimate goal of pilgrimage is not recreation, but re-creation. It is a journey of devotion, prompted by a call from the Holy Spirit. The primary purpose for the pilgrim is to worship God, know Him better, offer penance, and be transformed. Pilgrimage to holy places is so spiritually powerful that, under the Old Covenant, pilgrimage was commanded.

THE BENEFITS OF A PILGRIMAGE

INSPIRATION & TRANSFORMATION

A true Catholic pilgrimage offers more than inspiration. It results in transformation. A physical journey to the sacred sites where Jesus and the saints once stood provides spiritual illumination as pilgrims come to know God better through their travels, discussions, Mass, and shared prayer. Our hope – and our experience – is that parishioners bring this greater understanding and renewed spirit back with them into their daily life and faith communities.

VIBRANT PARISHES

The spiritual seeds planted on pilgrimage bear great fruit at home. Returning pilgrims participate more fully in the life of the Church through more frequent reception of the Sacraments, fellowship, and stewardship. In other words, they increase their capacity to live as disciples of Christ!

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Walking in the footsteps of Our Lord and the prophets, pilgrims gain a deeper understanding of and insight into Scripture. The gospels are no longer filled with Bible “stories,” but rather our shared ancestry as children of God. As a result, their faith is renewed and revitalized, and the Mass comes alive!

PEACE & PURPOSE

The distractions and stress of our modern lives often leave us feeling something is “missing.” Pilgrimage helps us refresh, renew, and re-center ourselves in Christ, filling that emptiness with God’s presence as He becomes tangible in the holy places and special people encountered along the way.

ADDED BENEFITS TO THE PRIEST

Many of the pastors we serve tell us their pilgrimages result in a strengthening of their own faith, endless material for their homilies, catalysts for Lent and Advent lecture series, and a much-needed time of fellowship during which they grow closer to their parishioners.

WHERE CAN I GO?



The Holy Land

Here pilgrims walk in the footsteps of Jesus and pray in the places where events in scripture actually occurred. Sacred sites include the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem; His childhood home in Nazareth; His baptismal site at the Jordan River; the locations of His early ministry around the Sea of Galilee; and places He spent His final days in and around Jerusalem.



Italy and The Eternal City

Many pilgrims choose to visit the foundations of the Catholic church in Rome and Italy. There are four major pilgrimage churches in the Eternal City: St. Peter's Basilica, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul's Outside the Walls. A papal audience and a visit to the Vatican Museums, especially the Sistine Chapel, offer memorable experiences.



Marian Shrines

Devotion to Mary is an important reason for pilgrimage. Visiting her shrines offers a chance to honor, reflect and rejoice on the inspiration and intercession we receive from Our Blessed Mother. The foremost Marian shrines are at Lourdes, France; Fatima, Portugal; Guadalupe, Mexico; Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Czestochowa, Poland; and Knock, Ireland.



Medjugorje

Medjugorje is a peaceful place ideal for spiritual growth and renewal. In 1981, a group of children reported seeing apparitions of Our Lady, and she continues to appear today. Abundant in grace and overflowing with stories of miracles, conversion, and calls to the priesthood, many pilgrims hope to visit Medjugorje while the visions are still taking place.



Shrines of Italy

Many pilgrims to Rome choose to add on day or overnight visits to the many surrounding spiritual destinations and shrines associated with the lives and sacrifices of important saints: Assisi-Sts. Francis and Clare, Milan-St. Ambrose, Bologna-St. Dominic, Subiaco and Monte Cassino- St. Benedict, Siena-St. Catherine; and Padua -St. Anthony.



Great Shrines of France

Embark on a cross-country pilgrimage to Lourdes where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette; Nevers, where Bernadette lived after the apparitions; Lisieux, home of St. Therese, The Little Flower; Mont Saint-Michel; the Cathedral of St. Joan of Arc in Rouen; the magnificent cathedrals of Paris, including the Basilica of Sacre Coeur, Notre Dame, and much more.



Camino de Santiago

The Camino de Santiago, or the Way of St. James, is a walking pilgrimage using a system of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. Pilgrims walk the final 100 km of the Camino. Walking the Camino is moderately difficult – most of the stages are fairly flat on good paths.



Greece & Turkey

Pilgrims retrace the footsteps of the Apostle Paul on a journey to some of the most sacred sites in Christianity. In the holy settings and unforgettable shrines where Paul preached his famous sermons, they'll see some of the world's richest displays of architecture, inspired artwork, Eucharistic miracles, and humble human works dedicated to planting the message of Christ.



Guadalupe

Here the Virgin Mary instructed Juan Diego to ask the bishop to build a chapel where she could hear petitions and heal the suffering of the Mexican people. She appeared again, showering roses and leaving her imprint on the cloak which pilgrims venerate at the largest Marian shrine in North America. The events in Guadalupe converted millions of hearts across North America.



Ireland

Often called the "Land of Saints and Scholars," Ireland has a rich Catholic heritage. Known for its wide range of religiously important sites and faith traditions, numerous Irish saints lend their names and stories to the apparitions, religious visions, shrines, and sacred texts discovered here. It is also one of the most common destinations for heritage and family pilgrimage.



Poland, Prague & Divine Mercy

Eastern Europe is rich in Catholic history and home to many saints, including St. Faustina, St. Maximillian Kolbe, and St. John Paul II. Visit Czestochowa, the third-largest Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and venerate the Black Madonna. Pray before the original Infant Jesus of Prague statue in Prague and experience the love of God in the Divine Mercy Shrine in Krakow.



Sacred Music

A musical and spiritual encounter await you as you hear (and sing!) God's praises in some of the greatest venues on earth. Pilgrims return from Italy with a new zeal for sacred music, ardently engaging in music programs and the Holy Mass. As St. Augustine said, "Music is given by God's generosity to mortals with rational souls in order to lead them to higher things."



World Youth Day

World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide encounter with the Pope, celebrated every three years in a different country. The next World Youth is in July 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal! Don't miss this opportunity to experience the universality of the Church and the inspiring youth worldwide committing themselves to Christ and others. We can handle all the details for your school, parish, or youth group.



Religious Order & Patron Saint Pilgrimages

Retrace the roots of St. Benedict in Subiaco. Walk the Way of St. Francis in Florence. Climb Mt. Carmel and see how the Carmelites were inspired by Elijah. Follow the Dominican trail from Spain to Rome, and so much more. Our custom itineraries allow you to celebrate Mass and explore the sites of spiritual significance unique to your religious order or saintly devotion.

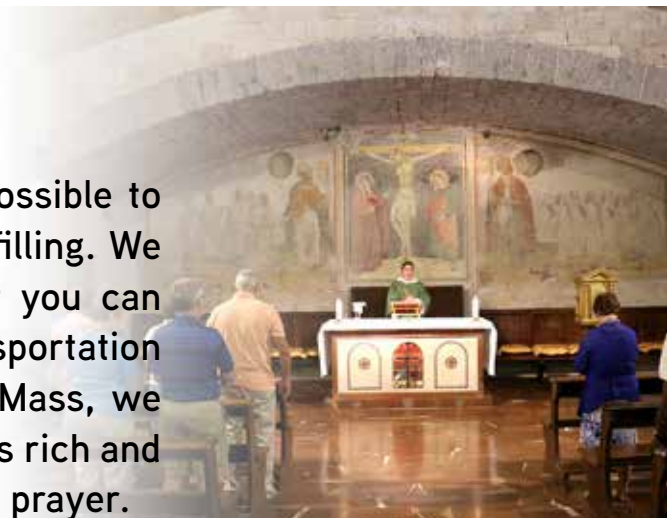


Themed & Custom Itineraries

In Italy and France, the monastic tradition of winemaking is not just for consumption, but for the Holy Mass. Monks and nuns in Belgium and Germany have been brewing beer since the 1500s. Whether it's Shrines & Steins, Wines & Shrines, Sacred Music, or Sacred Art, this is not destination travel, but a discovery of how faith and devotion are uniquely practiced and lived.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

At Tekton Ministries, we do everything possible to make every pilgrimage safe, easy, and fulfilling. We take care of the practical details so that you can have a memorable experience. From transportation and accommodations to meals and daily Mass, we help you plan a pilgrimage experience that's rich and rewarding while leaving room for rest and prayer.



Pilgrims celebrate Mass at the Orvieto Cathedral.

1. PRAY

SELECT YOUR DESTINATION AND TRAVEL DATES

After you've prayerfully considered **what destination** is best suited to the spiritual needs of your parish and potential pilgrims, we'll discuss your **desired travel dates** and length of pilgrimage. Keep in mind that a little flexibility can help us take advantage of seasonal rates and other economic considerations.

2. PLAN

CREATE YOUR ITINERARY AND MAKE ALL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS

We **custom-design your itinerary around the spiritual goals and needs of your parish**. After you approve the itinerary, we secure flights, ground transportation, arrangements for you to celebrate Mass in sacred places each day, and all permissions and documents necessary for admission to the holy sites.

3. PROMOTE

SPREAD THE WORD!

Tekton provides you with a pilgrimage **promotional toolkit** to promote your upcoming pilgrimage from the pulpit, on your website, on social media, and in your weekly bulletin. We also provide you with an ample quantity of printed brochures and easy, online registration that requires **no extra effort from your office staff**.

4. PILGRIMAGE

ENJOY A PEACEFUL AND PRAYERFUL EXPERIENCE!

When you arrive at your destination your Tekton guide will take care of all the details and day to day arrangements, so you can focus on your spiritual needs and those of your flock.

WHAT IS TYPICALLY INCLUDED IN THE PILGRIMAGE PRICE?



Practical and Prayerful Support

- ▶ Pilgrimage requires more than the right documents – it requires the right frame of mind. We send your pilgrims monthly preparation emails that offers practical travel tips and ways to enter into a more prayerful pilgrimage experience
- ▶ Our staff prays for your pilgrims before, during, and after travel!



Airfare

- ▶ Roundtrip economy airfare (unless it is a land-only package)
- ▶ Airline taxes/fuel surcharges are adjusted with final invoice



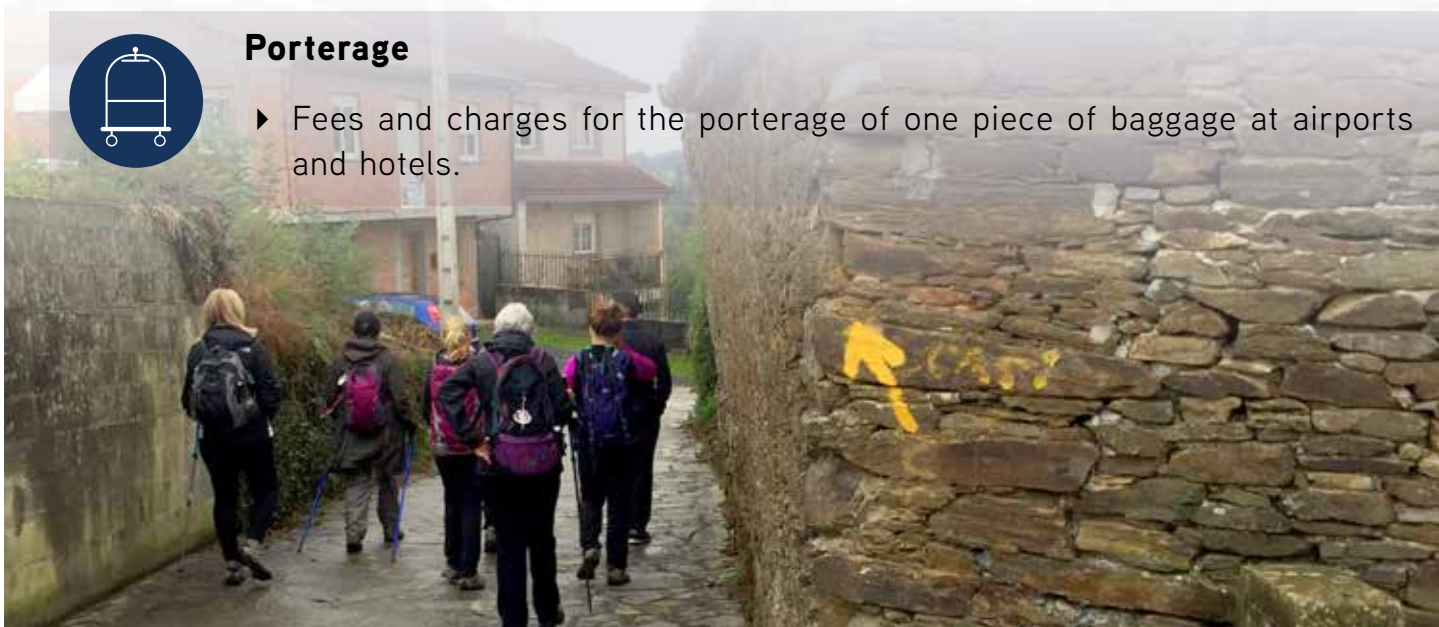
Accommodations

- ▶ Superior accommodations (including taxes and service charges) that are comfortable, safe, and convenient to local sites.
- ▶ Rates are based on double occupancy; however, a limited number of single rooms is typically available for a supplemental fee that ranges from \$500-\$900.



Porterage

- ▶ Fees and charges for the portage of one piece of baggage at airports and hotels.



Pilgrims walk through a Spanish village along the Camino de Santiago.



Transfers and Ground Transportation

- ▶ We arrange for deluxe air-conditioned motor coach transportation to and from the airport and to and from the holy sites.



Meals

- ▶ Tekton provides breakfast and dinner daily, unless specified otherwise on your itinerary.
- ▶ Beverages and lunches are **not** included with meals.



Daily Mass

- ▶ We make arrangements for you to celebrate Mass in special and sacred sites every day during pilgrimage.



Admission to the Holy Sites

- ▶ We take care of transportation and admission to all the holy sites.



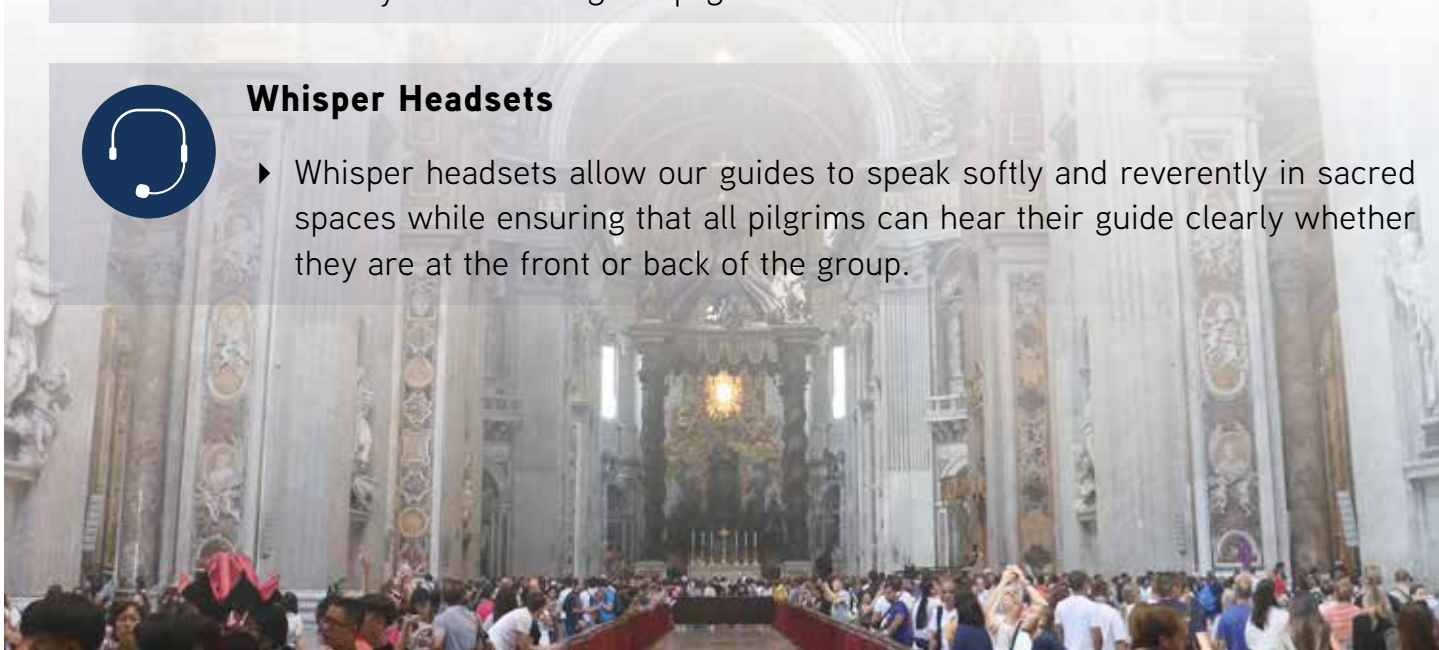
Trained and Licensed Catholic Guides/Tour Managers

- ▶ Our English-speaking Catholic/Christian guides are true believers with a passion for Jesus, Our Blessed Mother, and the Catholic faith. They coordinate all logistics as they educate and guide pilgrims.



Whisper Headsets

- ▶ Whisper headsets allow our guides to speak softly and reverently in sacred spaces while ensuring that all pilgrims can hear their guide clearly whether they are at the front or back of the group.



Pilgrims visit the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIEST LEADERS

A Catholic priest is an integral part of this sacred journey and is treated with reverence and respect on every pilgrimage. You can choose to be highly involved or hands-off in the planning process, but your participation and encouragement is critical in the recruiting process.

Costs and Expenses

All priests leading a pilgrimage may have their basic expenses covered, including airfare, fuel surcharges, hotels, ground transportation, breakfasts, lunches and dinners, tips, tickets, and taxes. Each priest is responsible for their standard incidentals that could include additional beverages, bottled water, personal charges added to their room (e.g., internet and phone charges, laundry, additional meals, etc.), personal purchases (e.g., souvenirs, religious items, books, food, medicine, etc.), public restroom costs, and other personal expenses.

Mass Credentials and Vestments

Pilgrims look forward to celebrating Mass with you each day during their journey. As such, all priests and deacons who plan to celebrate, concelebrate, or serve at Mass are required to send a copy of their Celebret to Tekton Ministries to keep on file. They must also keep a copy with them while on pilgrimage. It is rarely required at Mass sites but, when it is, the priests and deacons must be ready to present it. **Most holy sites and churches have an onsite sacristan and provide all that is necessary for the celebration of the Mass, however, we ask that you bring your own stole.** (You must bring your own alb to Medjugorje.) You may want to bring a small Mass Kit if you wish to celebrate Mass at the airport.



Pilgrims celebrate Mass in Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee.

Payment of Group Gratuities

Prior to departure, Tekton will mail you a check and a set of envelopes for the payment of gratuities to guides, bus drivers, and hotel staff. Gratuities have been collected from pilgrims in advance, so you will not be responsible for collecting money from anyone during your pilgrimage. You are responsible only for carrying and delivering gratuity payments per the instructions provided.

Pilgrimage Promotion and Encouragement

Tekton provides a pilgrimage toolkit to help you promote your upcoming pilgrimage from the pulpit, on your website, on social media, and in your weekly bulletin. We also provide you with an ample quantity of printed brochures and easy, online registration that requires no extra effort from your office staff.

A Note to Lay Pilgrimage Leaders:

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.



A Tekton guide explains the Capernaum Synagogue.



Pilgrims get ready to depart their parish.



A pilgrim priest celebrates Mass in Nazareth.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE TEKTON?

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages for more than 20 years. We work and listen closely to our priests and pilgrimage leaders to create thoughtfully planned itineraries. We help make the Catholic faith more tangible to your daily life by taking you where the seeds of Catholicism were first planted to be spread across the world. Daily Mass and time for prayerful reflection are important parts of each day's experience.

- ▶ 20+ Years' Experience
- ▶ Authentically Catholic
- ▶ Competitively Priced
- ▶ Authentically Catholic/Christian Guides
- ▶ Practical and Prayerful Support
- ▶ Local Offices and Support Worldwide
- ▶ We support Holy Land Christians and Christian-owned businesses



Pilgrims overlook Bethlehem from the Shepherds' Field.



Pilgrims pray in front of St. Rita in Cascia.



Pilgrims learn about San Damiano Convent.



Pilgrims descend Cross Mountain in Medjugorje.



A pilgrim priest reads Scripture in Capernaum.

HERE'S WHAT OUR PRIESTS SAY:



"Tekton is unique in their pilgrimage ministry in that they get it. They really understand what a pilgrimage is about."

Msgr. Bill Stumpf



"Tekton took care with every detail. They chose excellent hotels, well positioned to our points of interest. They required very little from us once we gave them our dates and destination. I appreciated Richard being at the airport to help us get approved for take-off. Tekton did a great job for us."

Rev. James Farrell



"Tekton Ministries is obviously extremely well-connected with their associated personnel at each pilgrimage location! Their planning and administration of our pilgrimage could not have been better. Everything went off perfectly scheduled - the itinerary was really flawless! One really "got their money's worth" with an intense coverage of so many holy sites. I've never been on a pilgrimage where the entire trip went so smoothly!"

Fr. Joseph Klee



"A pilgrimage is experiencing our faith in a very tangible way with other people on the same journey. I think that's what Christ meant for us...to grow our faith not in a solitary way, but in a communal way. Our pilgrims were all strangers to each other and now they are bonded. They have connected in a way they wouldn't have experienced just going to church together. Tekton created a fabulous experience for us that was well organized and well-scheduled."

Fr. Pat Baikauskas



"Knowing that Richard and the rest of the Tekton staff were praying for us back here in the States gave me a sense of safety and comfort. Although I had no direct contact with the U.S. staff after Richard saw us off at the airport, I still felt the care given by their local staff."

Fr. John Richardt

READY TO GET STARTED?

Contact us today to create a custom pilgrimage itinerary
that will renew and strengthen your parish.



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Pilgrims renew their baptismal vows at the River Jordan.