

**Comments from members of our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land June 7-20, 2016**

**Comment by Deacon Carlo Maniglia:**

Where is Mount Zion? I've asked this question to several seminarians and to several Deacons and no one knows the answer unless they have been to the Holy Land. Don't feel bad; I didn't know the answer either. My trip to the Holy Land this last summer revealed not only the location of Mount Zion, but also the location of the Kidron Valley, Bethlehem, Bethany, the Mount of Olives, and many more holy sites and where they fall in relationship to Jerusalem.

**The journey through the Holy Land has opened Scriptures to me more than any book could ever do.** To stand and walk where our Lord and Savior walked is not only an honor but also a trip that I will cherish for the rest of my life. During the trip I walked the Via Dolorosa, I placed my hand where Jesus's cross was, I stood in the tomb where He was laid and where He rose from the dead. It's hard to describe the emotion, the joy, the excitement, the sorrow, the unworthiness, the humility, and the thankfulness.

Is it safe? At no point during this trip did I feel unsafe. **I would highly recommend not only Deacons but also lay ministers to make this journey.**

*Deacon Carlo Maniglia*

Dear Jerry,

Thank you for such a memorable pilgrimage. Pat and I will be ever grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a moving experience. Many thanks to Meredith for her patience, humor and guidance.

Sincerely,  
*Charlene and Pat*

Dear Deacon Jerry,

Donald and I would like to thank you for an incredible pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our friends and family have enjoyed your journal\* of the pilgrimage. They have complemented you on your writing. We know that we will be able to make the Scriptures come alive by sharing our experience with our RCIA groups each year. Thanks also for the homily at the daily Masses,

Love and prayers  
*Donald and Jeanne*

Dear Jerry,

Thank you for this great reminder of all we saw and did. The pilgrimage was a tremendous blessing for Fred and for me. You and Meredith were magnificent coordinators!

In the love of Jesus,  
*Susan and Fred*

Dear Jerry and Meredith,

Thanks! You did a great job with this journal and I know you put a lot of time into making things work during the tours - It was excellent!!! Please congratulate Meredith also - she was very patient with the laggards!! HaHa - my husband being one.

*Terry and Will*

Deacon Jerry,

Phil here. Thank you so much for all the kindness; you took care of me so much on our recent trip. I remember you in my prayers. You are indeed good man and may God bless you.

*Phil*

\* I write a journal each day and send it to the family and friends of our pilgrims so they know about our journey, and to the pilgrims to keep as a record of our journey through the Holy Land.