

# JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS

## March Newsletter

### Message from the Board

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

The last several days have been very unusual for South Texas – setting record low temperatures! I have experienced cold weather before, but I do not ever remember it being this cold for this long. I know that folks in the northern parts of Texas and for sure the northern United States of America experience this all of the time, but I am sure that they are used to it!

I was thinking this morning that I am not sure that I would want to make a change to live in another part of the country that experiences these low temperatures every single winter. How about you?

All of us, at one time or another in our lives, have to adjust to change – a new job, moving to a new city, getting married, having a baby, getting older, declining health, loss of a loved one, etc. These things are definitely a part of life.

With change, there are all sorts of emotions that one experiences – fear, anxiety, worry, loneliness, happiness, etc. Because we are human, each of us handles change differently – taking it in stride in a positive way, negatively or possibly a combination of these two.

While we all know that change will happen throughout life no matter how well we plan, surprises and emergencies occur that can really turn our world upside down, revealing those emotions that ask us "how will we get through this circumstance?" However, we know that our first response should always be to pray and invoke the assistance of our Lord and Savior. The ideal prayer to always remember is the Serenity Prayer:

*God Grant me the Serenity  
To accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can, and  
The Wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time,  
Enjoying one day at a time,  
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.  
Taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is,  
Not as I would have it.  
Trusting that You O' Lord will make it right,  
If I surrender to your will,  
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, and  
Supremely happy in the next.*

As Christians, it is comforting to know that we are not alone in any life circumstance, because our Brothers and Sisters in Christ are always there for us – most of them

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**All of the weekends have been moved to 2022 and these are the dates we have scheduled with Pax Christi:**

**2022 Weekends**

**Corpus Christi Men's March 24 - 27  
Shane Beckwith**

**Corpus Christi Women's April 21 - 24  
Marivel Caro**

**Corpus Christi Men's June 16 - 19  
Joe Willisden**

are just a phone call, a text or an email away. Reach out when you need it.

Through the help of God and our Brothers and Sisters, there is a peace that we can and will get through any life circumstance.

May the changes in life be kind to you, and for those times that they are not, may the Christian Way of Life always be your beacon to lead you through.

De Colores  
Paul M. Pilarczyk  
President  
Journey to Damascus – Corpus Christi

[J2damascus@yahoo.com](mailto:J2damascus@yahoo.com)  
General mailbox for JTD Board of Directors

## Website & Pilgrim/Team Applications

If you are looking for a member of the Board of Directors, look no further! Pop on over to the Journey to Damascus website and you can find all of the email addresses for each of the current Board members.

<https://www.journeytodamascus.org/>

## Reunion Groups



**CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU**

**ORDER OF REUNION**

**Corpus Christi Women's July 28 - 31 Edna Lopez Alonso**

**Corpus Christi Men's August 28 - 31 Rick Oliviera**

**Corpus Christi Women's September 15 - 18 Janie Riojas**

**2021 Weekends JTD - Austin**

**Check back for more information!**

“Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.” Mt.18:20

1. Review service sheet:
2. Closest to Christ--When did you feel the closest to God this week?
3. Call to discipleship--When did you feel you were responding to God's call this week in your family, work, & community ?
4. Discipleship Denied--When was your faith tested through failure this week?
5. Plan--What is your plan for the coming week?
6. Reunion group activities
7. Prayers for Special Intentions
8. Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever, we give you thanks for all the gifts you have bestowed upon us. Amen.

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit, and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the Earth.

O God, who by the light of the holy spirit did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise, and ever enjoy your consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Some Words from the Wise

### Fr. Alfredo Villarreal

Dear JTD Community,

Grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a joy to have this opportunity to share some words with you this month. On Wednesday, February 17, 2021, we began the season of Holy Lent with Ash Wednesday in the mist of an extreme winter storm. I hope all of you have recovered from any damage the storm may have caused.

Lent is a time of preparation, and in the Ash Wednesday liturgy we heard from [St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians](#), where he tell us, "[Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.](#)" St Paul is asking the Corinthians and us to not take our salvation for granted, and to live each day as if it is our only day, that today is the day of salvation. St Paul also exhorts us, "[We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.](#)" This reconciliation with God that Paul speaks about is the work of forgiveness of sin that Christ accomplished for us on the Cross. For St Paul the purpose of Christ death was not merely to offer forgiveness of sins so one could just simply move on, but that it should reorient our lives completely towards God; that we would become ambassadors for Christ, no longer living for ourselves, but for Christ. Christ's sacrifice on the Cross was God the Father's and Christ's perfect manifestation of love for us, and this is what St Paul is referring to when he speaks of the "love of Christ." It is not so much the love we have for Jesus Christ, but the love Jesus Christ demonstrated for us on the Cross, and this love should be the motivation of our entire lives.

Lent is meant to help us remember "the love of Christ," the reconciliation he won for us, but how many of us go through lent and all our Lenten observances and then just move on. I encourage you not to let this lent just go by, but to live each day as if it is your only day, for today is the day of salvation. May we keep "the love of Christ" firmly planted in our minds, hearts, and souls so that "the love of Christ" may reorient our lives towards God and live as ambassadors for Christ each day, not living for ourselves, but for Christ; bringing His love, mercy, healing, peace, and justice to our families, friends, and community.

Yours in the love of Christ Jesus,

Fr. Alfredo Villarreal

## Agape Appeal

### GOAL

Due to an increase in food and lodging costs over the last few years, the Annual Agape Appeal will be used to off-set these increased expenses for the Team and Pilgrims.

*The Annual Agape Appeal's goal is to:*

- Never turn anyone away by making the weekend affordable for **ALL**.
- Provide a sustainable, annual fund to insure the continuation of JTD for **ALL**.

The intent of this appeal is to assist those who need monetary support in order to attend this Christian weekend. No one should be turned away due to financial need.

By joining our resources, we can insure JTD's continuation for friends, family and strangers.

### AGAPE DONATION

#### Suggested donations:

- \$5.00 each month
- \$60.00 Annually
- \$30.00 Semi-annually
- \$15.00 Quarterly
- \$100.00 Husband and wife

#### Or... Whatever you can GIVE

It's not about how **MUCH** each one can give.

It's about how **MANY** will give.

Only \$5.00 a month folks!

### UNITY

*With God all things are possible.*  
And by uniting together, we can change the world!

Please sign up for the JTD News Letter at:  
[www.journeytodamascus.org](http://www.journeytodamascus.org)  
All the information on how to send your Annual Agape Appeal will be available.

Please make checks Payable to Journey to Damascus and write **JTD Appeal** in note section of check. Please include your name, address, email address and phone number.

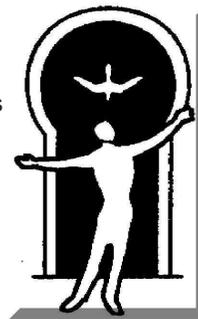
You may send it to **JTD Appeal**, P.O. Box 948, Corpus Christi, TX 78403.

Please help spread this opportunity by word of mouth or social media to encourage **all** the JTD community members to participate in this appeal.

**De Colores**

## Sr. Angela Murdaugh Scholarship Fund

We are also very pleased to announce the establishment of the Sister Angela Murdaugh Scholarship Fund. The goal is to be able to pay the weekend fee for one pilgrim per JTD weekend from this scholarship. To raise money to fund this endeavor we are selling JTD car emblems. The cost of the emblems is \$10. If you would like to order emblems for yourself, as gifts for your Reunion group please contact Dale Hernandez at [dale\\_hernandez@yahoo.com](mailto:dale_hernandez@yahoo.com).



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Corpus Christi, Tx 78403  
US

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