

JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS

April Newsletter

Message from the Board

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Happy Easter!

I hope that you had a great Lenten Season where you were able to do some internal “house-cleaning” in preparation for the Easter Celebration, that will hopefully provide a new awakening in your mind, body and most importantly in your soul.

In the course of our lives on this earth, it is very easy to be drawn into the ways of our modern world, and as a result we miss out or neglect the important things – our health, our family, our friends, our work, and our God.

I know that in order to manage my life between work and family, I have to prepare and work through my *To Do Lists*, to make sure that I include everything that needs to be done, and to prioritize the order of how my list should be completed.

I am sure that everyone prepares To Do Lists.

However, in looking back on my life and how I have used these To Do Lists, it occurred to me that I am sometimes so intent in checking items off my To Do list that I fail to enjoy doing a task in that moment & I miss out on the present experience because I am already wondering about the next task. It is a vicious cycle that we sometimes need to step back, be present with the current task, and enjoy what we are doing. Remember that this moment in your life is a gift, and that is why it is called the present. Don't miss out on it!

This is no different than our spiritual life. To really get to know God and have a relationship with him, we have to slow down, separate ourselves for a moment each day from the hustle and bustle of our busy world, and communicate with our Lord.

By starting off your day in silence might be a good place to begin. Go to that quiet place by yourself, maybe start off by taking a deep breath in & saying “Here I am Lord.” After pausing a short time, begin with either reading a scripture for the day or reciting your own prayer. The important thing after that is to reflect on that scripture or the prayer you just recited. If you really set aside this quiet time on a daily basis, you should be amazed at the benefit that it will have on your life.

Fostering a healthy spiritual life requires discipline and a refocusing of our priorities.

Developing a strong relationship with our God should be your top priority, and to do that effectively, you must put in the undivided “now-time” to hear Him speak to you in order to nurture this relationship, just like you would do for any other relationship that you want to grow & flourish.

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

The time is now to give all of you relationships ***Undivided Attention.***

How will you do it?

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

J2damascus@yahoo.com
General mailbox for JTD Board of Directors

Men's

June 16 - 19
Joe
Willisden

**Corpus
Christi
Women's**

July 28 - 31
Edna Lopez
Alonso

**Corpus
Christi
Men's**

September
15 - 18
Rick Oliviera

**Corpus
Christi
Women's**

October 27
- 30
Janie Riojas

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. Please feel free to reach out to any of the Board Members anytime..

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

**2021
Weekends
JTD -
Austin**

**Check back
for more
information!**

Board News

Board of Directors Elections

The JTD Board of Directors is also seeking to fill a couple of Board positions. If you're interested in helping continue to grow this beautiful ministry, please submit a Letter of Interest and contact any board member, emails to contact board members are on the website or feel free to use the general mail box

J2damascus@yahoo.com.

Our current Board Members:

Paul Pilarczyk - President
Janie Riojas - Past-President
Anna Adrian - Vice-President
Mariza Rodriguez- Treasurer
Robert Marraro - Secretary
Becky Weaver - Historian
Daniel Bluntzer - Member
Alex Bayarena - Member
Dale Hernandez-Perez -Member
Cindy Garcia - Member
Angela Wendel - Member
Casey Mengele - Member

Missions and Retreats

If your church is hosting Silent Retreats or Missions, please let Angela Wendel (sunshineaggie@gmail.com) or another board member know so we can include it in our newsletter for the community. In an effort to continue to support the community we are trying to make everyone aware of activities around our community.

Upcoming Silent Retreat

After a very successful weekend earlier this month, Sr. Teresa has graciously agreed to hold another Silent Retreat to be held at PAX Christi in Corpus Christi. It is scheduled for FRIDAY 05/14/21 through SUNDAY, 05/16/21. This retreat is open to both men and women. There will be a mass on Sunday, but it is not a requirement that you be catholic.

Please click on the link below to register and get more information. Sister Teresa will be the spiritual director and is asking for prayers from the Journey community to help her through this process. Feel free to pass on to family and friends.

<https://forms.gle/U83HSqEqCQDXyb6UA>

The retreat isn't affiliated with the Journey to Damascus, but we fully support all that PAX Christi offers.

Update on Sister Angela

Many of you have inquired about Sister Angela. This is an email Angela Wendel received from her about her condition:

Dear Angela:

You certainly can share that the doctors seem to have the right combination of medication to keep my blood pressure in check. I have been doing very well. Above all tell everyone in Journey how grateful I am for their prayers. I am convinced it is those prayers that have gotten back on my feet.

I love you--Sister

Reunion Groups



CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU

ORDER OF REUNION

“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

From the desk of Sister Teresa Diaz, PCI

March 9, 2021

The Lord is gracious and merciful.

To all my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Wishing you faith, hope, and love during this Lenten season! I am writing you today to let you know that I have been given a new assignment within my religious community. I will soon be leaving the Pax Christi Liturgical Retreat Center to be in our convent in Brenham, Texas where I will assist a local parish with their religious education program.

I am certainly thankful for all the time I was able to serve at the retreat center, but I

am most thankful for all the friends I have made during this spiritual journey. I feel truly blessed for all the people that God has placed on my path. I have learned so much from your witness and your relationship with Christ and your willingness to sacrifice of oneself for the good of the Church, and the good of God's people. I am taking a little bit of all you with me! You will forever be in my prayers and in my thoughts. I look forward to the day that we may see each other again. I am asking that you keep the success of the retreat center in your prayers. Your support of the incoming Sister will also be very much appreciated!

One in Christ,

Sister Teresa Diaz, PCI

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
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.

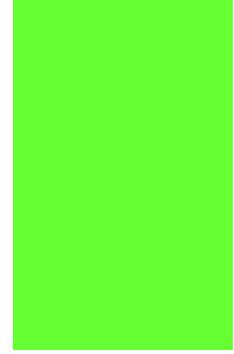
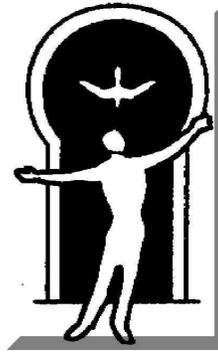
You may send it to **JTD Appeal**, P.O. Box 948, Corpus Christi, TX 78403.

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.



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