

JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS

May Newsletter

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

I hope that all of you are doing well, that the rain of the past several weeks has nourished your lawns and your crops with just enough, and this time has strengthened your life as well with refreshment in preparation for the coming Hot South Texas Summer Heat.

It seems that our world maybe "beginning to happen" again. As we are approaching the summer months with optimism, maybe we are seeing a "light at the end" of this pandemic tunnel, which will allow people to begin getting out again.

As a Journey Community, we too are working to begin to "GO OUT" again as well; to go out and spread the good news to our community. We are planning an Annual Gathering of the Journey Community on Saturday July 17th, 2021. This event will be held at St. Pius Catholic Church. The Board will provide the main entrée, and all you need to do is maybe bring a dessert, and just show up. We are ready to see you!

As we embark on bringing the Journey weekends back in 2022, your Board of Directors wanted to provide a "Kick-Start" to these weekends with this Gathering to bring the Community together to relight the fire and get us all excited with continuing our mission this next year.

As we come together, let us remember that there are no self-made Christians. We can't get to Heaven all on our own. The only way we can get to heaven is in the communion with our brothers and sisters, all of us working together, "scratching their backs & ALLOWING them to scratch ours!" If we are in God & God is in us, then we can do all things, because that is Love. If then we are involved in the lives of others, then we are sharing that love. Just as the Captain and Tennille's song from the 70s says, "Love Will Keep Us Together," let us stay in God's love and it will spread to others. Our whole world will be better because of Love. Let's Go Fishing Brothers & Sisters!

As I finish up this article, I wanted to let you know that this is my last article as your Board President. I have enjoyed my extended term serving as your President, and I appreciate the confidence you had in me to lead such a wonderful organization.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Gathering.

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

journeybod@gmail.com
General mailbox for JTD Board of Directors

SAVE THE DATES

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

Corpus Christi Men's
March 24 - 27, 2022
Shane Beckwith

Corpus Christi Women's
April 21 - 24, 2022
Marivel Garza

Corpus Christi Men's
June 16 - 19, 2022
Joe Willisden

Corpus Christi Women's
July 28 - 31, 2022
Edna Lopez

Corpus Christi Men's
September 15 - 18, 2022
Rick Oliveria

Corpus Christi Women's
October 27 - 30, 2022
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/>

Contact us at:

Journeybod@gmail.com

Annual Gathering - 2021

2021 ANNUAL GATHERING

SATURDAY July 17th, 2021

St. Pius X Parish Hall

747 Saint Pius Dr. Corpus Christi, TX 78412

6:00 – 9:00 PM

The Journey to Damascus Board of Directors cordially invites the entire JTD Community and your family to the annual gathering for fellowship, music and sharing a meal together. The BOD will be providing beef and chicken fajitas, tortillas, rice and beans and the community is asked to provide appetizers and desserts.

Please bring enough to feed 10 – 12 people.

Last Names A –L: Provide Appetizers

Last Names M – Z: Provide Desserts

The music and celebration begins at 6:00 pm, with a blessing and meal at 6:45 pm. There will be one speaker highlighting the impact of the Journey to Damascus weekend on their spiritual and personal lives.

Please RSVP to journeybod@gmail.com with the number in your party that will be attending. It is very important that you RSVP so we can make sure we have enough room for everyone within the guidelines of the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

Board News

Board of Directors Elections

The Board of Directors is proud to announce the following new and returning members:

Paul Pilarczyk – Past-President

Anna Adrian -President

Mariza Rodriguez

Robert Marraro

Janie Riojas

Alex Bayarena

Dale Hernandez
Cindy Garcia
Angela Wendel
Casey Mengele
Doug Walker
Ada Besinaiz
Rebecca Esparza

We would like to thank Becky Weaver and Daniel Bluntzer for their service on the Board, their contributions have been many for our community.

Officer Elections will be held in June and the new officers will be announced at the Annual Gathering in July.

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.

Candlelight Committee

The Board is looking for volunteers from the community to help with our Candlelight Committee. Please contact anyone on the Board or send an email to our general mail box journeybod@gmail.com

New Email address for the Board of Directors!!!

journeybod@gmail.com

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 Rev. Billy Storms

We're missing JTD! So what? So, everything! Jesus commanded us "to go make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). Our JTD experience is good at that. "To make disciples" is to cause someone else to be eager to learn, to be infected with that Transforming Presence. A disciple is a willing, even hungry and curious learner.

"Disciples" and "discipline" come from the same root, etemologically. But, in the milieu of the Christian experiment, discipleship can't be taught. It must be caught, like a good infection. To learn from our Lord is an infectious process more than an instructional process. Bringing people, attracting and awakening the hunger to know and follow Christ is to get so close to Him that He "rubs-off" on us. Then, our joy in that Christ-relationship rubs off on another.

I'm always stunned, deeply moved and encouraged as I listen to a pilgrim talk about their desire to experience the Journey because someone they knew and loved was "so different" after their experience at the Journey. That occurs whether they be Protestant or Catholic. What tantalizes them is a "disciple-maker", someone trusted who's becomes warm and safe. Those disciple-makers creates a hunger in the new pilgrim to know what caused the change in the one who made their Journey previously. There's a "good infection" that doesen't reshape how one thinks as much as how one loves and lives. That change, that difference that awakens another to be hungry and curiouis is the ultimate response, the authentic response to our Lord's command, "go and make disciples," go and make "willing learners."

We're anxious to get back to inoculating our community with the one injection that brings life and healing: a heavy dose of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ.

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.

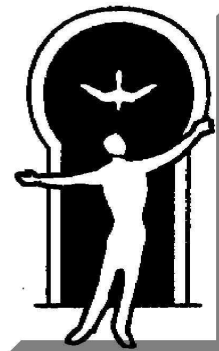
You may send it to **JTD Appeal**, P.O. Box 948, Corpus Christi, TX 78403.

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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