



April 2026

Journey to Damascus Community Newsletter

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Journey To Damascus #240



Dear Journey to Damascus Community family,

Thank you JTD Community for your outpouring of love, support, and prayers – it truly means so much to our pilgrims and team.

Thank you to those of you that have helped fill our agape book and prayer vigil. If you have not joined our 72-hour Prayer Vigil, please consider signing up for a slot or two – WE NEED YOU!

Our team has bonded through guided spiritual activities, prayers, music, and talks. We are praying for each other and the pilgrims that God is calling by name. I cannot wait to meet them!

We hope to see all of you on Saturday, April 25th for Candlelight . Come show the pilgrims what agape love is all about. They will be amazed at the number of new brothers and sisters in Christ who have been praying for them without even knowing them.

God is counting on you, and we are counting on Christ! He continues to show up in the most amazing ways! My continued prayer for the weekend is that the team and pilgrims experience LOVE, JOY, PEACE, and that each 4th day they know that our Lord is with them

De Colores,
Missy Socha, Lay Director JTD 240

Carrying his own cross, He went out to the place of the skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha) John 19:17

TEAM

Lay Director

Missy Socha

"Perseverance / 4th Day"

Spiritual Director

Fr Scott Braathan

"Sacraments"

Spiritual Team

Rev Billy Storms

"Grace"

Rev Gwen Perkins

"Obstacles to Grace"

Kathy Campbell

"Faith"

Board Representative

Sonia Dowty

Observing Lay Director

Bea Martinez

PILGRIMS

Melissa Sellers

Mary Gipson

Adriana Lindsley

Alyssa Ward

Cristine Diamond

Kayla Marie Garza

Serrina Morales

Ida Smitham

Iris Arismendez

Delores Lara

Juanita Juarez

Nicole Ruiz

Brenda Dickens

Sonia S. Torres

Valerie A. Villerreal

Katrina Raychelle Lara

Amanda M. Asher

Emma LEEANNE Brice

Demina Rogers

Assistant Lay Directors

Anne Lovely

"Discipleship"

Jennifer Riley

"Priesthood of All Believers"

Sally Rowsey

"Changing Our World"

Co Head CHA's

Paula Ryna

Monica Mitchell

Music Team

Katelijne Acker

Melanie Brown

Marila Colunga

Magda Madla

Terri-Lynn Schofield

Table Leaders

Melissa Lugo

Jenna Martinez

Eiras Mitchell

Meilssa Naranjo

MK Haynes

Diane Estringel

Elisa Flores

"Christian Action"

Nicole Potter

"Body of Christ"

Donna Rodriguez

Evie Tello

Cris Wright

Angels

Kathleen Bailey

"Life in Piety"

Angela Wendel

Camilla Carraher

Kathy Hendrex

Karen Whelan

DeeDee Arismendez

Anna Adrian

Lisa Cobb

"Growth Through Study"

Monica Castaneda

Eilayah Mitchell

"Priorities"

Janie Riojas

Elizabeth Letterman

Ruby Lee Guerrero

Debbie Cavazos

"Love and Unity"

Journey To Damascus #242

Dear Journey to Damascus Community,

The last several months have flown by as our team prepares for JTD #242 on Father's Day Weekend, June 18-21. I am taking the advice of past Lay Directors in my Reunion Group and am *Enjoying the Ride...and the Process!*

Individually and collectively, our team has had obstacles thrown our way. Nevertheless, we have come together and become stronger as a result. My Board Rep. and St. Elsewhere team have done an amazing job keeping things moving, I couldn't ask for more.

My sincere appreciation goes out to the Journey to Damascus Community for their love, support, and prayers for our team and future Pilgrims. Keep a lookout for Pilgrims for the weekend. And please visit the website and sign up for our Prayer Vigil, there are several unfilled spots.

We are excited about the weekend and look forward to yet another encounter with the Holy Spirit. Please keep us in your prayers and we look forward to seeing you at Candlelight on Saturday, June 20th!

De Colores
Daniel Bluntzer
Lay Director for JTD #242

Journey To Damascus #239



Brothers & Sisters in Christ Jesus,

It is hard to believe that Journey to Damascus #239 has already come and gone and we are preparing to reunite for Afterglow. This time last year, I had just received the news that I had been selected to lead an upcoming Men's Journey and it's been a whirlwind ever since. The weekends scripture really took hold of both the team and the pilgrims..... The Centurion recognized something special when he encountered Jesus and he humbled himself to trust and believe in Him. And the weekend of JTD #239 had that same effect on all who were there. We saw walls coming down starting Friday afternoon and by Friday night, the bonding, laughter and brotherhood was well underway.

I have to first and foremost thank those that set the tone for the weekend..... my Spiritual Directors Father Raju Thottankara, Rev Billy Storms, Rev Kelle Clarke, Deacon Ruben Soliz and my Board Rep Simon Purnell. They held us captive with their insight, wisdom, guidance and humor. My St. Elsewhere Team

(Peter Moore, Ben Oliviera, John Rodriguez, Alex Bayarena, Tom De Los Santos, Johnny Ginn and Mick Boudreau) led the team by their example and guided us all thru their actions. The TL's / ATL's bonded with their tables and kept them focused and fixed on the speakers, their talks and growing together as a small community of men. And what can be said about the Cha's other than they were absolutely the Best! No request went unanswered and most all the pilgrims left the weekend wanting to be a Cha. The music team brought us all together and we adopted the song played after the Christian Action talk "Do Something" as our unofficial weekend song. Alonzo Garza and his cooking crew dazzled us with their culinary skills and you could tell every meal came from their heart.

My wife Lisa and her band of ladies decorated for the weekend and then served our Agape Fiesta, giving a room full of men a glimpse of what heaven could be like.

Richard and Teresa Arizmendi were there all weekend in the Prayer Chapel guiding the community during the talks and Anna Adrian put together the Sponsor Hour.

Thank you to all of the community who came out to Candlelight and Closing. To the Journey Board and to all the Lay Directors I served with on previous Journeys.....you were the example I learned from and hopefully modeled this weekend after. Your guidance, suggestions and patience (along with God's) made me into something that 24 years ago, when I was a pilgrim on JTD #15, I thought I could never be.

Finally, to the Pilgrims of JTD #239, thank you for taking that leap of faith and saying Yes to making this Journey. I hope you came away with a new found love of God and a brotherhood with your fellow pilgrims that will last forever.



2026 Journey to Damascus Lay Directors & Up Coming Weekend Dates

June 18-21, 2026 Corpus Christi
Men's JTD #242

Lay Director- Daniel Bluntzer

July 30- Aug. 2, 2026 Corpus Christi
Women's JTD #243

Lay Director- Bea Martinez

September 17-20, 2026 Corpus Christi
Men's JTD #245

Lay Director- Phil Gagnon

October 15-18, 2026 Corpus Christi
Women's JTD #246

Lay Director- Sonya Rodriguez

[Applications](#)

Sign the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil

Prayer Vigils

PLEASE CLICK THE "SIGNUP" LINK
-access code (for all) DeColores

June 18-21, 2026 Corpus Christi
Men's JTD #242
Lay Director- Daniel Bluntzer

July 30- Aug. 2, 2026 Corpus Christi
Women's JTD #243
Lay Director- Bea Martinez

September 17-20, 2026 Corpus Christi
Men's JTD #245
Lay Director- Phil Gagnon

October 15-18, 2026 Corpus Christi
Women's JTD #246
Lay Director- Sonya Rodriguez



The community is invited to join any
of the following JTD committees
listed below:

Please contact Marivel Garza,
President
or Javier Flores, Vice President with
any questions.

Board representatives for each
committee are listed below. If you
would like to be involved in any of
these committees, please contact the
Board President or Vice President.

1. 4th Day Committee: Liz Yzaguirre
2. Board of Trustees: Javier Flores & Marivel Garza
3. Candlelight/Closing Committee: Jenny Sehy & Liz Yzaguirre
4. Historian Report: Rick Svetlik
5. Music Report: Owen Gallagher & Rick Svetlik
6. Newsletter: Marivel Garza
7. Registrar Report: Jenny Sehy
8. Spiritual Director: Rev. Billy Storms & Father Joseph Lopez
9. Spiritual Team: Owen Gallagher
10. Team Selection: Lori Green
11. St. Elsewhere: Javier Flores
12. Manual Committee: Bud Colwell
13. OLCC Timeline: Rick Svetlik

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