

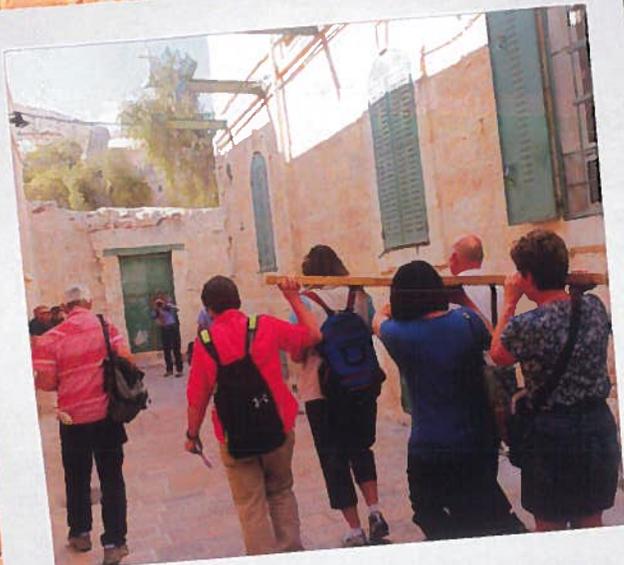
Faith Experience of a Lifetime!
PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

**Sponsored by Illinois M.A.L.E.S.
June 20 - July 1, 2016**

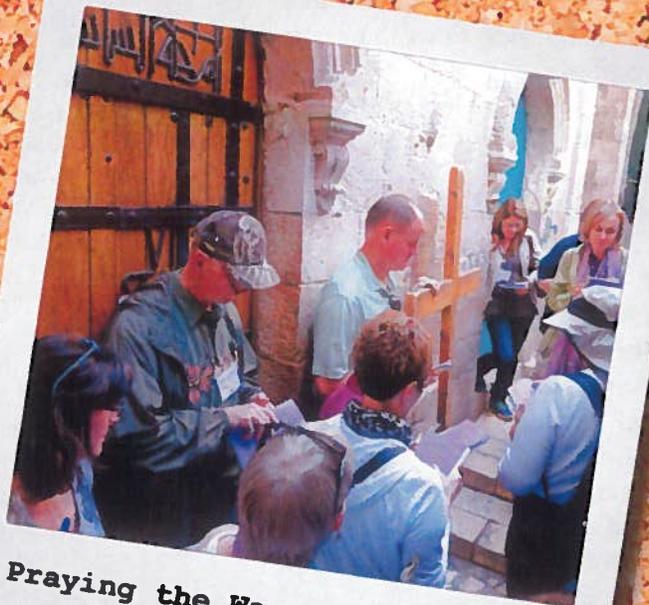
Spiritual Director:
Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

Guide & Tour Manager:
Zacharia Shavin

Airline Agent:
Great Experiences, Ltd.



Walking the Way of the Cross



Praying the Way of the Cross



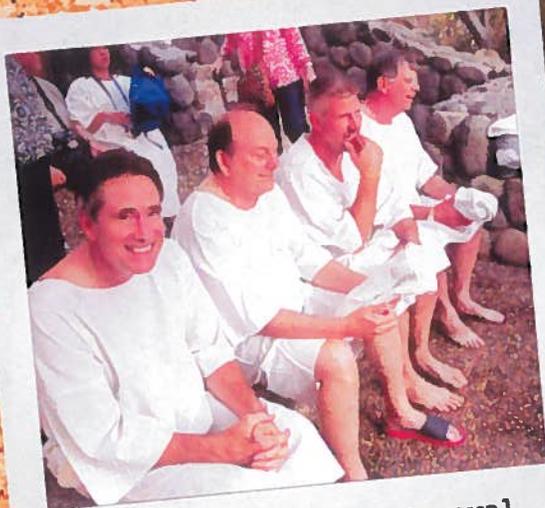
Brothers at the Western Wall



**Capernaum Synagogue where
Jesus taught and healed**

Features Included

- ✓ **Roundtrip Flights** from Chicago to Tel Aviv, Israel. Airline fare includes fuel surcharges and taxes.
- ✓ **Hotels**, Four-Star and Kibbutz lodge
- ✓ **Daily Mass** and special Biblical reflections
- ✓ **Pilgrim Liturgy Book** specially prepared for the tour
- ✓ **Catholic Priest** throughout the pilgrimage
- ✓ **Licensed Israeli Guide** and Driver
- ✓ **Paid Entrance Fees** to all sites on tour program
- ✓ **Bible Study** materials and map
- ✓ **Pilgrim Journal** compiled at end of tour
- ✓ **Israeli Breakfasts & Dinners** daily
- ✓ **St. Peter Fish Lunch** included (optional entrée)
- ✓ **Biblical Passover Lunch**
- ✓ **Boat Cruise** on the Sea of Galilee
- ✓ **Taxi Drive** to the top of Mt. Tabor (Transfiguration)
- ✓ **Transportation** in our own private air-conditioned Motorcoach
- ✓ **Home hospitality** with a local Israeli family
- ✓ **Special Farewell Dinner**



River Jordan Baptism Renewal

Planned Itinerary

(All sites will be covered, but the order may change slightly)

Day 1 • Monday, June 20 † Depart U.S.A.

We depart from Chicago, Illinois, going through Newark airport and then continue overnight to Tel Aviv, Israel, to begin our Holy Land pilgrimage.

Day 2 • Tuesday, June 21 † The Holy Land • Jaffa • Mount of Olives

We arrive at Israel's Ben Gurion airport where we meet Zach Shavin, our teacher/guide. Board our private motorcoach and tour Jaffa (Peter's Vision), then drive up to Jerusalem, to the Mount of Olives and then to our Grand Court Jerusalem Hotel, have dinner, and celebrate our opening Eucharist in the Holy City.

Day 3 • Wednesday, June 22 † Jerusalem • Yad Vashem • Ein Karem

We begin on the Mount of Olives to view the Holy City as Jesus often did. Walk down the Palm Sunday Road, stopping to visit the Pater Noster and celebrate Mass at Dominus Fleuit where the Lord wept over Jerusalem. Then to Zion Hill to visit the Last Supper Upper Room, King David's Tomb, and Dormition Abbey (Assumption of Mary). Celebrate Holy Women. Then we visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum and Children's Memorial. Then on to Ein Karem to visit the birthplace of John the Baptist and Church of the Visitation. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 4 • Thursday, June 23 † Jerusalem • Bethlehem

We begin at the Western Wall ("Wailing Wall") and see the archaeological remains of the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 A.D. Then to Bethlehem where we celebrate a Biblical Passover meal for lunch, and then celebrate Mass in the Church of the Nativity, and then visit the grotto of the birth of Jesus. Do some "olive wood" Christmas shopping. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 5 • Friday, June 24 † Gethsemane • Way of the Cross • Jerusalem

We begin our day in the Garden of Gethsemane where we celebrate Eucharist, then some quiet reflection time and visit the All Nations Church. Enter the Old City through St. Stephen's Gate to St. Anne's Church and the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the lame man. We then begin the Way of the Cross: Stand on the Lythostratus where Jesus stood before Pilate, then pray the Via Dolorosa with Jesus to Calvary, ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, place of Mt. Calvary and cemetery of the Resurrection. We visit the Jewish Quarter, St. Peter in Gallicantu, traditional site of Caiphas' house and imprisonment of Jesus, the Temple Model and the Israeli Museum (Dead Sea scrolls). Dinner at our hotel.

Day 6 • Saturday, June 25 † Old Jerusalem • Optional Day of Leisure

Jewish Sabbath. We begin our day celebrating the Peace of Jerusalem. Optional walking tour of Jerusalem's Old City through various quarters followed by free time. You will be given a list of suggested sites to visit. Return to the hotel on your own. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 7 • Sunday, June 26 † Judean Wilderness • Dead Sea • Qumran • Masada

We descend through the Judean desert to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on Earth. To Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, then drive up to a mountain top in the Judean wilderness to celebrate Manna from heaven in the stark desert environment. Continue to Masada where we ascend by cable car to explore the impressive palace fortress complex built by Herod the Great atop a high desert plateau. "Float" in the Dead Sea before returning to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight rest.

Day 8 • Monday, June 27 † Emmaus • Caesaria • Mt. Carmel • Galilee

Packing our bags, we leave Jerusalem for the Galilee, stopping at Emmaus to celebrate breaking of the bread, then through Tel Aviv, along the Mediterranean coast to Caesaria, the Roman capital at the time of Jesus where Cornelius the Centurion was converted and St. Paul imprisoned. On to Mt. Carmel, home of the Carmelites, famous for the Prophet Elijah and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Drive to the Galilee, to the Kibbutz Lavi Hotel near Nazareth in the lower Galilee where we spend the next three nights. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 9 • Tuesday, June 28 † Cana • Nazareth • Capernaum

We begin our day at Cana (wedding feast and miracle of water to wine) where couples can renew their marriage vows, and then to Nazareth where we celebrate Eucharist. Visit the Church of the Annunciation built over the house of Mary, the Church of St. Joseph (traditional site of the Holy Family's house), followed by a stroll through the old town to the ancient spring where Mary would draw water. Conclude our day at Capernaum, Jesus' headquarters during his public ministry. Visit the ancient synagogue where Jesus taught, celebrate healing, visit the ruins of the home where he cured Peter's mother-in-law and the shore where he called his disciples. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 10 • Wednesday, June 29 † Mt. of Beatitudes • Sea of Galilee • Jordan River

We drive up to the Mt. of the Beatitudes where Jesus delivered his Sermon on the Mount. Then to the Church of the Loaves and Fishes, commemorating the famous multiplication miracles. We celebrate Mass by the Sea of Galilee at the Church of the Primacy where Jesus appeared after the Resurrection. Enjoy a St. Peter's Fish lunch, followed by a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. We conclude our day at the Jordan River where we will have opportunity to renew our baptismal vows. Dinner at our hotel.

Day 11 • Thursday, June 30 † Mt. Tabor • Beth Shean • Jordan Valley

Leaving the Galilee, we taxi to the top of Mt. Tabor (Transfiguration) to celebrate Mass, anchoring ourselves in the tradition of Holy Men, tour the impressive Roman ruins of Beth Shean, drive down the Pilgrim Road of the Jordan River Valley, view Jericho where "the walls came tumbling down" (Joshua) and Mount of Temptation. Enjoy home hospitality and a farewell meal before we go to Ben Gurion airport for our late night return flight to the USA.

Day 12 • Friday, July 1 † Return to the U.S.A. • Shalom!

Our flight leaves after Midnight, arriving at Newark Airport, where we go through Passport control and U.S. Customs. We say our farewells and return home—most to Chicago. Shalom! Time to start processing all that happened to us!

Special Highlights

- ✓ **Jerusalem** — Old City, Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, Garden of Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Golgotha (Calvary), "Wailing Wall," Biblical archaeological sites
- ✓ **Bethlehem** — Cave-stable where Jesus was born
- ✓ **Nazareth** — Boyhood home of Jesus
- ✓ **Capernaum** — Synagogue where Jesus taught and healed, Healing Service
- ✓ **Baptism in River Jordan** — Renewal of Baptism
- ✓ **Qumran** — Site of the Dead Sea Scrolls
- ✓ **Masada** — Herod's palace
- ✓ **Dead Sea** — Float in the lowest point on Earth
- ✓ **Judean Desert** — Experience Mass in the wilderness
- ✓ **Mount Tabor** — Transfiguration, Celebration of Holy Men
- ✓ **So much more!**



Biblical Seder Meal

Not Included: Insurance (optional); expenses of a personal nature, lunches, and gratuities.

Proof of Citizenship: A valid U.S. Passport (in effect for at least six months after your date of return) is required for all U.S. citizens; citizens of other countries should contact their consulate.

Cancellation Penalties: Loss of \$400 for cancellation at any time; complete loss within 60 days of departure. Insurance coverage is available and encouraged. Prices are subject to change given flexible international financial situations and airline fuel and security surcharges.

Security: Israel is known for its effective security measures for pilgrims and tourists—you will not be in any danger. We are valued visitors to the Holy Land, and you will be welcomed warmly by Israelis and Palestinians. During 29 previous pilgrimages, we have never felt unsafe. "Be not afraid" is the most frequent angelic message!

Cost: Full Pilgrimage: \$4,355 per person (double occupancy) which includes all airfare expenses and the rest of the land pilgrimage; \$998 single occupancy supplement (subject to availability). Airfare of \$1,780 is the cost of the airfare from and to Chicago which includes base fare, fuel surcharges, and taxes.

Land Portion: \$2,555 per person, if you wish to make your own airline arrangements. (\$998 single supplement, subject to availability). Be advised that you must meet the group in Tel Aviv airport by Noon on Tuesday, June 21st, if you make your own airline arrangements. If you miss this deadline, it is your responsibility to catch up with the group.

Payment: A deposit of \$500 and a completed reservation form, along with a copy of your valid Passport, is due with each person's deposit and should be sent to:

**Holy Land Pilgrimage
Carmelite Spiritual Center
8419 Bailey Road
Darien, IL 60561-4597**

The balance of payment is due **April 19, 2016**, 60 days before departure, by check or cash only. Make checks payable to **Carmelite Spiritual Center**.

Credit Card: If you wish to use credit card, check that option on the registration form and fill in information. If you wish not to write down your personal credit card information, please call Darlene at 630-969-4141 and she will take it over the phone. An additional charge of 3% is levied to cover credit card charges—therefore, \$4,465 for full pilgrimage, including airfare, or \$2,631 for land portion only.

Terms and Conditions:

- Registration & Deposit as noted in brochure; Accommodation, double with private bath
- Transfers; Baggage allowance: 1 large suitcase, 1 carry-on bag
- Sightseeing and entrance fees per brochure; Services charges and tips per brochure
- Airfare and land costs listed on this flyer are based upon costs available at the time of publication; Cancellation penalties per brochure; Insurance coverage available
- Airlines concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircraft. The passenger ticket in use by the airline, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser of these tickets and/or passenger.

Fr. Bob Colaresi, O.Carm., Illinois M.A.L.E.S., and the Carmelites give notice that we are acting as agent for the passenger, upon the express condition that they shall not be liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason or defect in any vehicle, or through acts of default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection therewith, hotel, or guesthouse proprietor or aforesaid. Illinois M.A.L.E.S., Carmelites, nor Fr. Bob Colaresi, O.Carm., cannot accept responsibility for losses or accidental expenses due to delay or changes in schedules, defaults, or overbooking by hotels, guesthouses, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger. Baggage is at "owner risk" throughout the pilgrimage unless insured.



**Fr. Bob Colaresi, O.Carm.,
at the Judean Desert**



**Palestinian Driver and
Jewish Guide**



Mount of the Beatitudes

Dear Potential Pilgrim to the Holy Land,

Several brothers of our Illinois M.A.L.E.s have gone to the Holy Land on pilgrimage and found it to be very significant in their spiritual journey. They got excited about having Illinois **M.A.L.E s sponsor one for Initiated men and their wives/significant others.** Here is the Brochure and Registration Form for the **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 20 – July 1, 2016.** This will be my 30th Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I am excited about returning there. Possibly God is calling you on this great journey of faith!

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is difficult to explain. It is not a tour, but a journey of heart and spirit. I believe it is a call from God. Scripture comes alive in unbelievable ways when we walk in the footsteps of Jesus. It is a time of prayer and reflection on the Word of God, where it happened. It follows the touchstones of the Journey of Illumination. Just think of visiting Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Galilee where his public ministry was; Capharnaum, his headquarters, the Mt. of Beatitudes, Multiplication of the Loaves & Fishes, Mt. Tabor; the Sea of Galilee; the Holy City Jerusalem, site of so much biblical history; the Garden of Gethsemani, Mt. of Olives, Way of the Cross, a Passover meal, the Dead Sea, Massada, the Judean Wilderness, Qumran and so much more. Our biblical faith assumes deeper dimensions which only the heart understands.

Enclosed are testimonies from Joe Hebert, Jack Moller and Mark Waldman who have all made this pilgrimage with me.

The cost of this Holy Land Pilgrimage is \$4,355 (double occupancy) or an additional \$998 for single occupancy (*subject to availability*). There are credit card and check options, as well as Land only. The overall cost has increased the last few years because of the devalued US Dollar and the huge jump in airline prices, esp. the fuel surcharges and departure taxes. This total price covers air transportation (Chicago-Tel Aviv); hotel accommodations; all breakfasts and dinners; two lunches, private bus transportation and driver; a local Jewish Biblical Israeli guide; all sightseeing entrance fees, taxes, and portorage. There is a land only price of \$2,555 for those who want to make their own airline reservations. The special features and highlights included are listed in the brochure. We celebrate Mass/Communion Service, pray, read and reflect on Scripture each day at the holy sites. We will celebrate being holy men on Mt. Tabor.

Despite the negative focus by media, the Holy Land is relatively safe. Recently while there a few incidents occurred in Israel but they did not affect our trip or safety. I've never had a pilgrim who felt fearful over there. You need to be **a person of faith and in good shape** – we do walk a lot and there is an aggressive pace. The Holy Land is not well-suited for handicapped people or those who have trouble walking. If God is calling you to join your initiated brothers and you are interested, you can sign up through me. Anne Breslin, at Great Experiences, Inc. will be taking care of our El Al airline transportation. Zach Shavin and I are taking care of the land portion of the pilgrimage. Reservations are made by sending in the registration form, deposit and a copy of your valid passport to:

Holy Land Pilgrimage
Carmelite Spiritual Center
8419 Bailey Road
Darien, Illinois 60561-4597

Information and the registration form are inside the enclosed flyer. We need to have a minimum of 20 people to make this work. The only way to reserve a spot is to make a deposit. I look forward to sharing the Holy Land with you.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

E-mail: robco@robco.org

Reservation Form

Holy Land Pilgrimage – June 20 – July 1, 2016

Sponsored by Illinois M.A.L.E.s

Please Print clearly

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____

E-mail _____ @ _____

Name of Roommate, if known _____

- I am willing to share a room if someone else is looking for a roommate
 I prefer single accommodation at additional costs noted on the brochure

Any medical problem we should be aware of? _____

If you are traveling alone, information of contact person:

Name _____

Relationship _____

Tel: _____

Celebrating any special occasion during this pilgrimage? _____

Payment:

Check: I am enclosing \$ _____ (\$500 per person) as a deposit for _____ persons. Make checks payable to "Carmelite Spiritual Center."

Credit Card: I want to pay by credit card. My credit card information is:

Please charge my Visa MasterCard AMEX Other _____

Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____ Security Code _____

An additional charge of 3% is levied to cover credit card charges: therefore: \$4,465 for full pilgrimage, including airfare or \$2,631 for land portion only

If you wish not to write down your personal credit card information, please call Darlene – 630-969-4141 and she will take it over the telephone.

I understand that the remaining balance is due April 19, 2016 (60 days before departure).

Please return this form, with deposit, and copy of valid passport(s) to:

Holy Land Pilgrimage, Carmelite Spiritual Center
8419 Bailey Road, Darien, Illinois 60561-4597

Testimonies by Initiated Men / Holy Land Pilgrims

Jack Moller

Holy Land Pilgrimage is on! From the moment I set foot in Israel to the moment I left, I felt an overwhelming sense that I have to return, I have to go deeper, and I have to come with my significant other. We discussed the possibility of having an Illinois MALEs group go, or a group of initiated men with their wives/significant others, and now incredibly, it is real. To have one of our own, Bob Colaresi with his vast knowledge and experience as our Spiritual Guide is just icing on the cake. While I am not a Catholic and am not a regular church-goer, I not only felt comfortable being included in the Catholic rituals and liturgies but found myself deeply touched by the experience. My pilgrimage in November 2014 was profoundly moving and changed the way I see Jesus, read The Bible, and go to church. Having grown up with a view of Jesus as sort of a magician doing miracles and as God, the pilgrimage further moved me to see him as a 1st century Jewish man who devoutly practiced his Judaism. Starting with the 2008 MROP and the teachings of Richard Rohr, my worldview and my spirituality has evolved. Much of it came together in the Holy Land 2014 Pilgrimage. Jesus teachings and his life show me who and whose I really am, and as an initiated man, my responsibility to live my life as closely to his teachings as possible by following, not necessarily worshipping, him.

To truly walk in Jesus footsteps and visit such historical and profound places that birthed the major religions of the world was awe-inspiring. Yet, the pilgrimage was so much more. I found myself experiencing extraordinarily powerful emotions. Yet, I could not put words to my feelings and realized God was touching me at a deep, deep level beyond words. Even writing this short note rekindles many of those almost overwhelming feelings as I recall breathing the same air, walking the same desert, following the same steps on the Way of the Cross, and standing in his teaching spot in Capernaum. The experience has no doubt led me to an understanding of my divine and human connection beyond my cognitive understanding. The responsibility is so great, yet God's Grace is so Immense! - Jack Moller

Mark Waldman

When I reflect on my pilgrimage to Israel I am amazed at how many different emotions and memories come flooding back to me. As an engineer, I tend to dwell on the beauty of the place and marvel at the built environment; I wonder about how these centuries' old walls and religious relics and temples and homes and infrastructure were built. I ponder how they were made and constructed and designed to withstand the elements and passage of time. And certainly one could take this trip to Israel and be entertained and awed by simply that element and the beauty of the Mediterranean Area. But then I recall the stories that Zack, our amazing Jewish tour guide, told us about the "who and why" of these places and structures; these temples, these walls; why they were built and by whom and how they changed throughout the ages from Abraham's time, King David's era, and the days of Jesus, the crusades to modern times. The "who" and "why" are clearly the cornerstones of my faith. My memories always carry me back to more deeply understand the struggles of Jesus and all those who lived and work and worshiped in the

Holy Land and to appreciate the manner in which the people of Judea, Islam and Christian, today continue to dwell in Jerusalem and all of Israel and share that space. I found there a great sense of peace and struggle to live in harmony as opposed to the constant strife and killing portrayed by the media.

There was a connection for me in Gethsemane and the Mt. Olives that was truly transformative. I was walking through difficult times in my life during my pilgrimage and being in that place where Jesus prayed and struggled was incredibly powerful and healing. By far, however, my most meaningful time in Israel was in the wilderness; the Judean wilderness; the desert. It completely overwhelmed me and there was essentially nothing there. The barren landscape and the lifelessness of the Dead Sea coupled with the occasional sighting of a flock of goats being herded by camel riding shepherds was simply awe-inspiring. I honestly wanted to go back simply to spend time in the desert among the rocks and sand. Its stillness was like a calming tranquilizer for me. Perhaps it was the elevation or lack thereof or the salinity of the Dead Sea but the calming and healing powers of that place continue to be some of my best memories and some of the things that call me to go back.

I am anxious to go back to that desert place and to Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee and the River Jordan. All of it was truly amazing made even better by the guides and stories of Zack and Bob. – Mark Waldman

Joe Hebert

At retirement I had no “bucket list” but I knew that someday I hoped to be able to go to the Holy Land. Then, in a casual conversation with Fr. Bob, I found out that he had been guiding pilgrimages for a number of years and had been associated with the same Israeli guide for many, many years. Bingo! I signed up quickly. The trip was an extremely positive experience in that it allowed me to integrate the humanity of Jesus into my spiritual journey. Visiting the sites where Jesus lived, traveled and taught was wonderful. Some were primitive; some were extravagant and all were of value to my journey. Fr. Bob and Zack (our Israeli guide) complimented each other in giving us the historical, archeological and biblical perspectives of what we were encountering. There were three personal highlights of my pilgrimage. One was the outdoor Mass near Masada in the Judean desert where the starkness of the terrain has left a lasting image in my mind; the second was in the courtyards of the Church of the Transfiguration where we honored all of the men of our journeys; and the last one (perhaps the most meaningful) was at the Church of Peter’s Primacy. This church was the least elaborate one we visited and the contrast with the more elaborate structures was strong. Here on the shore of the Sea of Galilee I sat on an ancient stone wall and heard God tell me that I was truly one of His beloved sons! My trip was made!! I encourage you to join Fr. Bob on the 2016 Illinois pilgrimage! - Joe Hebert