



# Pilgrimage Project

In lieu of completing the Saint Project, you may opt to do the Pilgrimage Project instead. The instructions for this project are very flexible. Rely on the Holy Spirit to guide you in a meaningful God-centered approach. School-associated experiences (going to mass at school) should not be considered for this project unless it is an extraordinary circumstance.

The purpose of this opportunity is to expand your experiences within our Church.

You may choose to travel to a sacred place and learn about it or attend a presentation that spiritually carries you to a new place. After you have been, please write a reflection on your experience. You may wish to include a drawing, brochure, bulletin or picture from where you have visited. Perhaps you have the opportunity to speak with someone who works/volunteers/worships at this place. What was your conversation like? It is a great idea to experience this with your family, friends or most especially, with your sponsor.

When you travel to a new place, please pay special attention to any **saints** that are associated with this place. Is it named after a saint? Are there statues or images of saints? What is the saint known for? Is this a saint with whom you were previously familiar? Or is this a new saint to you? How did the saint's work provide an example for us to live holy lives? Will you pray to this saint? Or, are there Holy Relics at this place? Please be sure to include this information in your reflection paper.

Some other possible questions to consider in your reflection:

- What made you choose this pilgrimage?
- Was it what you expected or was there anything that surprised you?
- How was this place alike or different from your normal experience? For example, if you attended mass at a Church while you were on vacation, how was the experience different/the same? Did you feel welcome? Did it have a different feel or smell? Darker or lighter? Same/different language? Were you comfortable physically? Spiritually? Do you normally attend mass on vacation or was this a new experience for you? If you could ask one of the parishioners one or two things about their parish experience, what would it be?
- Were you looking forward to your pilgrimage? How did you feel after having completed your visit?
- Would you recommend your experience to anyone else? Why or why not?
- Who shared in this experience with you? Did you deepen your relationship?
- What questions has this experience prompted for you? How have you grown from this experience?

Please make sure your name is on your paper.

# Potential Pilgrimage Sites

Some potential pilgrimage ideas are listed below. You may look up their websites to see what interests you. Please feel free to use your creativity as well. An excellent resource can be found at: <https://catholicpilgrimagesites.wordpress.com/sites-by-state-2/> . If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail Rick Urbanski at [confirmation@stjoefullerton.org](mailto:confirmation@stjoefullerton.org).

## Some sites in Maryland to consider:

- Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy, Holy Rosary Church, Baltimore
- Basilica of the Assumption
- Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
- National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes
- National Shrine of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Baltimore (“the place where saints have prayed,” St. John Neumann, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and Blessed Francis Seelos all worshipped here, 30 relics on display)
- Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Shrine to St. Anthony, Ellicott City (relic in Chapel), also consider walking the grounds and visit memorials to Maximillian Colby and other saints

## Some sites to consider in Washington, DC:

- The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
- The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America
- The Museum of the Bible
- The Pope John Paul II Cultural Center

## Some sites to consider in Pennsylvania:

- Carmelite Monastery (relics of Saint Therese, Saints Louis and Zelig Martin)
- Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul (body of St. Katherine Drexel)
- Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters/ Convent of Divine Love (perpetual adoration chapel where they pray for intentions around the clock)
- National Center for Padre Pio
- National Shrine of Our Lady Czestochowa
- National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia
- National Shrine of Saint John Neumann (His incorruptible body is here)
- Saint Katherine Drexel Mission and Shrine
- Shrine (and Museum) of the Miraculous Medal

## Sites to Consider in New York City:

- Catholic Ground Zero Memorial
- St. Patrick’s Cathedral

## Other Suggestions:

- Attend mass at a Church while on vacation.
- Explore a local church and/or a Neumann Center/Campus Ministry Office while on a college visit with an older sibling.