

ROUTE STATIONS

Pilgrim's Itinerary

- ① Near the Crib
- ② In the Chapel of the Apparitions
- ③ Near the Tombs of the Seers
- ④ In the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament
- ⑤ In the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity



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Pilgrim's
ItineraryI CAME
THAT THEY
MAY HAVE
LIFE

Pastoral Year 2015-2016



2

ENCOUNTER: «CONTINUE TO
PRAY THE ROSARY IN ORDER
TO OBTAIN THE END OF THE
WAR»

In the Chapel of the Apparitions

Here I am in the heart of this Sanctuary, a true oasis of blessings for mankind. Today the grace of speaking to the Mother of God was granted to me. I seek solace and relief under Mary's gaze. I offer to Her *the needs I carry in my heart*. Lucia begs Her:

«I was told to ask you many things, the cure of some sick people, of a deaf-mute... Our Lady answered: "Yes, I will cure some, but not others».

I look at the space around me. I add to my prayer the intentions of those around me and I ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, the cure for the wounds of humankind and peace for the world.

I pray the rosary or one of its mysteries and recite in conclusion the hymn *Salve Regina*:

*Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee to we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.*

*Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.*

*He protects Israel, his servant,
Remembering His mercy,
The mercy promised to our fathers,
To Abraham and his sons forever.*

1

CONVOCATION: «AT LAST, WE
ARRIVED AT THE COVA DA IRIA»

Near the Crib

I start my path in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

«As the hour approached, I set out with Jacinta and Francisco, but owing to the crowd around us we could only advance with difficulty. [...] At last, we arrived at the Cova da Iria, and on reaching the holmoak we began to say the Rosary with the people».

This is how Sister Lucia remembers the arrival of the little shepherds at the place of the apparitions, on September 13, 1917.

Today, it's me who comes as a pilgrim. I adopt an attitude of listening and prayer. I let the Lady of the Rosary, Mother of Mercy, help me to *rediscover the joy of God's tenderness* and the beauty of faith as horizon for a full life in Christ.

Contemplating the crib, I lift my praise up to God and proclaim the *Magnificat* with Our Lady:

*My soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.*

*He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
Henceforth all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy His name!*

*His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear Him.
He puts forth His arm in strength
And scatters the proud-hearted.*

*He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.*

3

SELF-SURRENDER: «GOD IS PLEASED WITH YOUR SACRIFICES»

*Near to the Tombs of the Seers
(in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary)*

During the visit to the tombs of the seers, I remember the heroic way they lived their lives in an attitude of constant surrender, prayer and sacrifice, in fidelity to the love of God and in favour of others.

At the apparition of September, Mary, tender and solicitous Mother, says to the little children that their sacrifices are pleasing to God, but at the same time she recommends moderation. I think of the daily sacrifices that make up my life. I beg the Virgin of Heaven courage to accept them, uniting them to the sacrifice of Christ, the Redeemer.

I come nearer to the tomb of Blessed Francisco and contemplate his picture on the wall. Collected in thoughts and prayers, the little shepherd keeps company to the *hidden Jesus* in the depths of his heart. I recite with him the prayer taught by the Angel to the Little Shepherds:

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You. I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You.

I turn, now, to the tomb of Blessed Jacinta and contemplate the figure of the little shepherd, holding the sheep very tight in her arms as if to embrace the whole of humanity, begging them *not to offend God more*. I recite with her the prayer taught by the Angel to the Little Shepherds:

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You. I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You.

4

ADORATION: «WE SAW THE FLASH OF LIGHT»

In the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament

Arriving at this place, I set my body and my spirit at rest before Jesus in the Eucharist. Worshiping God means that we recognize Him as Lord, welcome Him in our heart and life, let Him be God in us and with us.

Like the Little Shepherds, I allow myself to be involved in the light of God and plunge into the deep mystery of the Trinity, relationship and gift of love between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Indeed, from the communion with God flows conversion and solidarity of the love of neighbour.

I make all this part of my own inner being and pray repeatedly:

O Most Holy Trinity, I adore You; My God, my God, I love You in the Blessed Sacrament!

I spare a few moments of my prayer for the silence of listening, meditating on Jesus' words: «I came that they may have life and have it abundantly» (Jn 10:10).

This Holy Year of Mercy, convened by Pope Francis, is a favourable time to experience the love of God who comforts, forgives and gives hope. I open my heart, stripped of any pride or vanity, and I give God my weaknesses and my will that He renews everything in his love.

In case of feeling called to this encounter, I set my course towards the Chapel of Reconciliation to receive God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, source of joy and peace.

5

MISSION: «THEN SHE BEGAN TO RISE AS USUAL, AND DISAPPEARED»

*In the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity
Holy Door of Mercy (door of St. Thomas,
on the opposite side to the High Cross)*

I turn to the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity. I make my entrance through the Holy Door of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and recite the prayer that is presented to me.

May I, by crossing this threshold, as Pope Francis says, «find the strength to embrace God's mercy, who never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that He loves us and wants to share his love with us».

Guided by the welcoming and pleasant silence of this temple, I walk towards the presbytery, contemplating, on the large panel, the heavenly Jerusalem, dwelling of the living God with His holy people, the ultimate goal of our earthly pilgrimage. I focus my attention on the altar of the Eucharist. I put on it my life, asking God to change it into a place of beauty, faith, hope and charity. Here or elsewhere, I try to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist, nourishment to the Christian's peregrination towards heaven, where «death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more» (Rev 21:4).

Before the image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, refuge and way to God, I make my consecration to Our Lady, committing myself to be an authentic sign of divine mercy for those seeking peace, justice and forgiveness. I pray with confidence:

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit...
Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, pray for us.
Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto, pray for us.*

I bring to an end this journey with the sign of the cross.