

December 2021

Holy Land 2022

Dear Friends,

You are invited to join a special study tour of the Holy land, **October 29- November 11, 2022**, sponsored by Catholic Theological Union. This will be a specially designed visit to Israel and Jordan where you will discover some of the most fascinating scenery and historical sites in the world, places with profound meaning for our Christian heritage. I will be joined on the trip by my colleague, Colleen Kennedy, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at CTU, a veteran traveler to the Middle East and a superb administrator of our travel arrangements. We will do everything we can to make your trip enjoyable and memorable.

I realize some may have concerns about how safe it is to travel in this region because of the perennial unrest in some areas. I want to assure you that travel conditions will be safe and enjoyable. Our itinerary does not take us to places, such as in Gaza or some parts of the West Bank, where tension exists. Every year we have had the privilege of leading groups to Israel and Jordan without encountering any problems at all. In a particular way, the Christians of this region are eager to have fellow Christians come visit them. One of the highlights of our trip is always a visit with members of the Christian community in Bethlehem.

This coming year we have a wonderful tour in mind. We will begin our journey in Israel, visiting all of the major biblical sites including the flowered hills of Galilee, the majestic vistas of the desert, and the haunting beauty of Jerusalem. You will visit fascinating places most commercial tours never dream of. Our trip will also include a few days in Jordan, a land of extraordinary beauty and warm hospitality. In Jordan, we will explore important sites such as Mount Nebo, Madabah, and of course Petra, one of the true wonders of the world. Our travel will be safe and peaceful in all the areas we visit. Our tour will be professional in every detail, and we will stay in first class accommodations. Particularly in Israel I will have the privilege of introducing you to the biblical sites and the other remarkable traces of history that are there, offering background on the biblical and archaeological significance of each place. In Jordan we are obliged to have a state guide, but I will have some input there, too.

The price for this trip is **\$6,100 per person** based on double occupancy (\$2,350 additional for a single room) exclusive of airfare. This includes all ground transportation in spacious new air-conditioned coaches, accommodations in five-star hotels, half-board (full breakfast and dinner), all entrance fees, gratuities, and other miscellaneous costs. Not included are transatlantic airfare or lunches (note that there are plenty of clean, attractive snack bars and restaurants along our way). Because Israel is anticipating a strong increase in visitors in the Fall of 2022 once the pandemic

diminishes, prices for hotels have risen sharply. If circumstances change and there is any adjustment to lower prices, we promise to pass them on to you.

If you are interested in joining us for an unforgettable visit to the lands of the Bible, please go online to register by March 1, 2022. The trip tends to fill up rather quickly. If you have family or friends who might like to join us, please share this information with them. The online registration can be accessed here: <https://ctu.edu/event/2022-holy-land>. Registering does not oblige you to anything but reserves a place on the program for you until you may decide otherwise. Later we will be in touch with you to give you further information about the itinerary, including suggestions for booking transatlantic flights, final payment instructions and detailed information on how to prepare for the trip (including a reading list for those who are interested).

Israel will require proof of current and complete vaccination for everyone on the trip. We will send further information on this matter as we approach the departure date.

Prior to our departure, we will also offer an orientation session for those in the Chicago area. Details will be forthcoming. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

I hope you will consider joining us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Fr. Donald Senior, C.P.
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Enc.
Itinerary