

PASCUA FLORIDA PILGRIMAGE™

**APRIL 2-7, 2024
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MARTYRS**

**A Public Profession of the Catholic Faith: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the Faith”
2 Timothy 4:7.**

April 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon landed on the northeast coast of Florida and planted the first cross in the sand. The early heroic martyrs endured deplorable conditions bringing the Faith to native Indians and ministering to the settlers. Modern day Catholics may not face death of body, but the irreligious atmosphere cries for evangelization! Come walk the path of the martyrs from St. Thomas More Chapel in Sanford, Florida, to the oldest known site of the First Mass in North America, St. Augustine.

What is a Pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a public profession of our Catholic Faith. It is not vacation, but a time to focus on spiritual life. Daily Mass, spiritual reflection, penance, meditation, intercession, thanksgiving, communal prayer and fellowship are a few of the spiritual goals.

Why are we Pilgrims?

“I still do not know why I left, what was the reason that launched me on the roads, but I had to leave, it is an imperious need that came,” say most pilgrims starting on the road. Long ago, they wanted to do it and intimately, but without a clear understanding in their heart, they desired “to meet God.”

A pilgrimage is more than traveling. Pilgrims first leave comfortable daily routines to walk and to place themselves inwardly in relation to God. Human beings are pilgrims on earth. The decision to walk is personal and allows them to rejoin physically that spiritual state of man who walks towards his eternal destiny. Walking is down to earth, and yet this walk leads to the gates of Heaven. For a time, the pilgrim puts himself in a state of voluntary poverty. Disconnect from this harassing world! Forget the accessories! Walk! Far from vain daily preoccupations, move your body and free your mind to find God in His simplicity and to find yourself.

Our Goal

This pilgrimage is an act of adoration to God, a good penance to help for the redemption of sin and sanctification, a token of thanksgiving for many graces, and a begging for our numerous spiritual and material needs.



IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF LA LECHE AND THE FLORIDIAN MARTYRS

Mission Nombre de Dios | Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche

Any sacred place is a goal for a pilgrim, and the Mission Nombre de Dios in the city of St. Augustine is one of the most sacred lands in our country. Most of the martyrs in North America started their journeys from this holy mission. It is the oldest known site of the First Mass in North America, celebrated by Father Francisco Lopez on September 8, 1565, upon the founding of the city. Following this Mass, the very first Thanksgiving was offered to the Natives.

Our Lady chose this Mission to be the first Marian sanctuary of our country. By this pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of La Leche prayers have been answered, and many couples, previously unable to conceive, have been blessed with “La Leche Babies.”

On October 10, 2021, Pope Francis, granted a canonical coronation to Our Lady of LaLeche, further sanctifying devotion to this title. The statue of Our Lady of LaLeche is the fourth statue in the United States to receive the canonical coronation.



SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor SSPX Priests, Seminarians or Brothers

Approximately twenty priests, seminarians and Brothers will walk and canoe the pilgrimage. To join the pilgrimage in spirit, please consider sponsoring them. They will then journey and gain for you the blessings of the Pascua Florida Pilgrimage™ and present your intentions to Our Lady of La Leche. The full cost of sponsorship is \$450, but partial sponsorships are also welcome. Sponsorship greatly defrays the cost of the pilgrimage and enables future operation.



PILGRIMAGE INFORMATION

St. Thomas More Church, Sanford, FL to the Mission Nombre de Dios and the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche in the city of St. Augustine: 24 miles of canoeing and 78 miles of walking, or full walk of 110 miles. The pilgrimage begins Tuesday, April 2, with 7:30 a.m. Mass and ends Sunday, April 7, with noon Mass.

- **Full Pilgrimage Walk and Canoe** - Costs include meals, water, canoes, transportation of belongings to campsites, camping fees, transportation to evening campsites during pilgrimage if needed, and end of pilgrimage transportation back to Sanford. Pilgrims must provide their own personal items, tents, special diet foods and drinks.
Costs: \$450.00 per adult / \$380.00 per child (10-15 years)
- **Full Pilgrimage Walk Only** - Costs include the above (minus canoes):
\$350 per adult / \$270 per child (10-15 years)
- **Day Walker** - Meals included (No camping): \$35.00 per day
- **Weekend Only (Friday dinner - Sunday lunch)** - St. Augustine KOA, 525 West Pope Road, St. Augustine, FL. Three and five man cabins. Personal tents also allowed. Community bathrooms and showers. Costs: \$75 per person plus \$175 per cabin (divided by number staying in cabin), or \$75 per person plus \$30 per person per tent.

****Family reduced rates apply to four persons minimum. Call or email for rates.*

**Registration and 50% deposit due by March 2
Balance due by March 17**

For general or sponsorship information and registration,
please visit: sspfflorida.com
Contact: (407) 212-3032 or pilgrimage@stmpa.net

**St. Thomas More Church
550 Riverview Avenue, Sanford, FL 32771**

