This retreat experience is for those who wish to reflect on the Scriptures in the land that inspired them. Rooted in Catholic Biblical scholarship, this retreat offers input on the texts and sites visited, experiences of Eucharistic liturgy, common prayer, and times of quiet reflection. Days will begin early and include biblical sites from the Old and New Testaments. At each site, participants will hear about the significance of the biblical story and have an opportunity to pray.

TRIP ITINERARY

MAY 18 Caesarea Maritima, Muhraqa, Sepphoris
Peter baptized Cornelius the Centurion in Caesarea (Acts 10), and Paul was imprisoned here for two years (Acts 23-26). Muhraqa is the site of one of miracles of Elijah the Prophet (1 Kgs 18). Now an archaeological site, Sepphoris would have been a thriving Greco-Roman and Jewish city in Jesus’ day. Overnight at Sisters of Nazareth.

MAY 19 Basilica of Annunciation, Mt. Tabor, Yardenit
We will visit the Basilica of the Annunciation and celebrate Mass. Jesus’ Transfiguration is commemorated on Mt. Tabor (Mark 9:2-8). Recalling our own baptism, we will visit the tourist baptismal site of Yardenit (Jesus’ actual baptism occurred in Jordan). Three-night stay on the Sea of Galilee at the Ron Beach Hotel.

MAY 20 Capernaum, Tabgha, Primacy of Peter, Mount of Beatitudes
Visit Capernaum, the “hometown of Jesus,” and remember his many miracles around the Sea of Galilee. Explore Tabgha, the area remembered for the multiplication of the loaves and fishes (Mark 6:30-46) and Jesus’ post-resurrection appearance (John 21). We will celebrate Mass on the Mount of Beatitudes. Overnight Ron Beach Hotel.

MAY 21 Caesarea Philippi (Banyas), Tel Dan
Travel through the Golan Heights to the upper Galilee. At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:29). Tel Dan was once the northern most limit of the Kingdom of David (2 Sam 3:10). At Ginosar Kibbutz, we will see the remains of a first century fishing boat, and later sail on the Sea of Galilee. Overnight at Ron Beach Hotel.

MAY 22 Qumran, Dead Sea
Driving south through the Jordan Valley, we will pass Jericho on our way to Qumran, located in the area where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Perhaps we will even have an opportunity for a float in the Dead Sea! Overnight in Beersheva at Leonardo Negev Hotel.

MAY 23 Ein Avdat Nature Preserve
Much of Israel’s faith history is rooted in the experience of the desert. Today we will take a hike in the Negev desert to a beautiful oasis. If time allows, we may even travel on the “ship of the desert”—and ride a camel! Overnight at Leonardo Negev Hotel.
MAY 24 Beersheva, Latrun (Emmaus)
Beersheva was the home of Abraham and Sarah (Gen 21:27-34), and the southern extent of the land of the Tribes of Israel (Judg 20:1). At Latrun, we will celebrate Mass and recall the disciples’ encounter with the Risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). For the rest of our retreat, we will stay at the Gloria Hotel in the Old City of Jerusalem.

MAY 25 Mt. of Olives, Gethsemane, Peter in Gallicantu, Mt Zion
On the Mt. of Olives, we will overlook the Holy City where Jesus lamented the fate of Jerusalem (Matt 23:37). Then we will walk down the pilgrim route to the Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42), and finish our day in the area where Peter denied Jesus (14:66-72).

MAY 26 Holy Sepulchre, Old City, Via Dolorosa, St. Ann’s
The rock of Calvary is enshrined in the Holy Sepulchre and here we find the burial place of Jesus (John 19:38-42). After celebrating Mass in the Holy Sepulchre, we will walk along the Medieval Way of the Cross to St. Ann’s Church, built over the ruins of Bethesda (John 5:2).

MAY 27 Western Wall, Southern Wall excavations; free afternoon
Visit the remains of Herod’s Temple (John 2:20). The Western Wall is a place of prayer and pilgrimage for Jews. The Jerusalem Archaeological Park encompasses the Southern Wall of the Temple and the monumental stairs that led to the Temple Platform. Enjoy a free afternoon.

MAY 28 Bethlehem, Temple Model, Ein Karem
Very early in the morning, we travel to Bethlehem (West Bank) to the Church of the Nativity and, later, celebrate Mass at Shepherd’s Field. Afterwards, we will view a model of First Century Jerusalem. If time allows, we will visit Ein Karem, remembered as the birthplace of John the Baptist (Luke 1:39).

MAY 29 Departure
Most flights leave very early in the morning, so we will have a very short sleep before going to the airport for our return home.

TRIP DETAILS
Cost — The trip is $2,700 plus airfare. That price includes: entrance fees, gratuities, retreat presentations, ground transportation, and breakfast and supper each day. It does not include roundtrip airfare, lunches, drinks, visas, or any expenses incurred for events outside of the scheduled program. The application can be found on the CTU website: www.ctu.edu/retreat-2015. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2015. Non-refundable deposit of $250 is due with the application.

Arrival — The Group Bus will depart for Nazareth from Ben Gurion Airport at 5 p.m. Please arrive at the airport by 4 p.m. in order to get through security. For those unable to make it to the Group Bus, please find alternate transportation to the Sisters of Nazareth.

Note about health: The retreat requires daily hikes, so participants must be in good health and able to walk unassisted on uneven ground for one mile.

To learn more about CTU’s Biblical Study and Travel Program visit:
www.ctu.edu/biblical-study-and-travel

For more information about the Holy Land Retreat, contact:
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