

**Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
Love the Lord, Love His Kingdom**

**“Gaze, Contemplate, Consider, Imitate”
An Invitation to a Pilgrimage/Journey**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ and in Saint Francis,

May the Lord Give You Peace. As we begin the second half of 2023, I want to invite you to a Franciscan Pilgrimage/Journey in the St. Francis Region. I am calling it a Pilgrimage/Journey since it may not meet the strictest definition of “pilgrimage” as a journey of religious people to holy places or places of religious significance. However, as you will see, it is a journey to carry the words of the invitation of St. Clare to Gaze, Contemplate, Consider, and Imitate. So we will travel with the holy purpose of strengthening our relationship with our Lord and standing with Him in the world.

It is a journey in three parts – June, August, and October. Our prayers will be based on the words of St. Clare as she gazed at the Cross at San Damiano, contemplated and considered its deepest meaning, and then sought to imitate our Lord. Let us follow her gentle instruction in the following way:

June 17, 2023 Gaze and Contemplate at the Sistine Chapel Exhibition at the Santa Barbara Museum and Mission. Please purchase your tickets online. We will meet at the entrance to the Museum at 11:00 a.m.

August 17, 2023 Consider the ministry conducted by Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles. Homeboy Industries was founded by Fr. Gregory Boyle, a Jesuit Priest, when he was called to witness to the transformative “power of extravagant tenderness” (subtitle of his book, *The Whole Language*) by ministering to gang members in Los Angeles. We will meet at the entrance to Homeboy Industries at 11:00 and have lunch together at their café and tour the facility.

October 14, 2023 Imitate our Lord who “went out” to the borders to pray and then encounter the places and peoples marginalized by the dominant culture. We will gather at Border Field in San Diego, the border between the United States and Mexico, to pray, walk, and be a presence to those caught in the border struggles of our times. We will gather at the Border Field entrance, 1250 Monument Road, San Diego, at 11:00 a.m.

You are invited to arrange the travel individually. Perhaps you can consider traveling with others in your fraternity, or with family members, or friends. All are invited.

May the Lord teach us His ways. May we be faithful disciples of the One who calls us to holiness and to spread His love to all around us, as we journey through our region.

Peace and All Good,
Patricia Grace, OFS,
JPIC Animator St. Francis Region