

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I'm writing this column as I wait in the long check-in line at Tel Aviv Airport, as I wait with 100 youth to board our flights home having completed our pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

We travelled to the Sea of Galilee, the Negev Desert, Bethlehem in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

We celebrated a final Eucharist today at the Domus Galileaea, a Catholic retreat house that has been built on the slopes of the Mount of beatitudes. I was in Israel in the year 2000 when Pope Saint John Paul II celebrated Mass on this very mountain.

I remember him blessing the corner stone of the Domus Galilea, which is now completed.

It was a beautiful celebration of the Eucharist today, many of the youth spoke sincerely having listened to the Word of God in Scripture and in the Fifth Gospel, which is the Holy Land itself.

The land where Jesus Christ was born and spent his public ministry, where he was crucified, died and buried, and Rose from the dead. We visited the empty tomb in the Holy Sepulcher, and sang the hymn He Rose from Death in the chapel of Saint Helena, the music echoed throughout the whole basilica.

Christ is risen. It was for this reason that we came here, to meet Jesus Christ.

We do not need to be in the Holy Land to meet Him, we can be in Bergen County, Woodcliff Lake, in Park Ridge, in Montvale, Hillsdale.

Christ Risen appears to each one of us each day in our own Galilee, that is, in the daily events and affairs of our lives.

Fr. Sean

Arriving at Domus Galileaea for the Vocational Meeting.



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Meeting on the Mount of Beatitudes.