

2019 Lenten Pilgrimage

The Downtown Dayton Catholic Churches, Health Ministries Commission announces destinations for the 2019 Lenten Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage takes us through Parishes and Missions of the Society of Precious Blood in India.

We have two paths to reach our goal. One path is the physical exercise; the other the spiritual exercise. The mileage for each path will be combined to achieve the total goal of 9,240 miles. The goal for this year is 4,620 miles in physical activity and 4,620 miles in spiritual activity.

The Pilgrimage reflections are from a book authored by Mother Teresa: Where There is Love, There is God: Her Path to Closer Union with God and Greater Love for Others. New York: Doubleday Religion, 2010. The book contains beautiful quotes grouped according to five central themes: Part I examines who God was for Mother Teresa; Part II discusses her relationship with Jesus; Part III gives examples of obstacles that prevent us from loving; Parts IV & V discuss how to be a cause of joy.

Tally sheets and collection baskets for your physical and spiritual miles are in the back of each church. Miles are totaled weekly, tracking progress toward our goal of 9,240 miles. Progress is posted in the weekly bulletin. Each church has a display with maps and information about the mission locations along our journey. This Lenten activity is for all ages.

Earn miles by exercise and spiritual activities as follows:

- Exercise Activity – Miles/time engaged in physical exercise (walking, bike riding, working out, playing sports, etc.)
 - Tally actual miles or convert time to miles: 15 minutes of exercise is equal to 1 mile
- Spiritual Activity
 - Rosary = 5 miles
 - Daily Mass = 10 miles
 - Stations of the Cross = 5 miles
 - Sacrament of Reconciliation = 10 miles
 - Attendance at a Lenten Event = 10 miles (Mission or other event)

The Health Ministries Commission challenges our three parishes to achieve the combined physical and spiritual goal of 9,240 miles while growing in your spiritual life during Lent.

Week	State	Location/ Distance	Information	Reflection
02/24/19			<p>Lent begins on March 6 and we begin our virtual Lenten Pilgrimage in India. Around 80% of India is Hindu and around 14% is Muslim. The remaining 6% are Christian and of that number around 2.3% are Catholic. In India, a person who wants to convert from Hinduism to another faith must first seek permission of the State Officials.</p> <p>Several our CPPS priests work in small towns where there may be 3 or 4 Catholic families. They are engaged in the work of First Evangelization, those who have not heard about Jesus Christ. There are no churches. They meet in peoples' homes. The Bishops assign our members to the rural areas in hopes that we will build churches and schools.</p>	
03/03/19 Ash Wednesday 03/06/19	Kerala	North Paravur Begin miles- miles are to be doubled in the tally see overall sheet	The Apostle St Thomas, after receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, began the mission of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world. According to tradition, St Thomas came to India by sea in the year 52 A.D. He baptized, preached the gospel and founded seven churches, including at Paravur Pond.	"The most beautiful thing in the world is to love one another as God loves each one of us. And it is for this purpose that we are in this world." prologue
03/10/19	Karnataka	Bangaluru	St. Gaspar House of Formation for Seminarians and St. Gaspar Retreat House are in Kengari, a suburb of Bangaluru City. CPPS missionaries staff St. Paul Parish, Orphanage and School, also in Kengari. 84 orphan boys ages 5-16 live there. Some boys have no parents, some have one parent, and some have both	"Do we love Him enough to want to listen to His call to let go of everything and follow Him in the freedom of poverty, with

		268 miles	parents, but are homeless.	undivided love in chastity, through total surrender in obedience?" p 15
03/17/09	Karnataka	Bangaluru 288 miles	<p>St. Gaspar Viidyalyaya is in Bangaluru, also called Bangelore. The school serves over 450 boys and girls in grades 1-6. The school was started in 2004 by CPPS Missionaries to educate all classes of people. The facilities further expanded in 2018 including a science lab, digital library and Smart Classrooms.</p> <p>St. Gaspar Community College was built by the CPPS and can reach up to 60 students. This school is for students who have not been successful in other school settings. (i.e. the poor, run-aways). The purpose is to give students the hope that they can make it and they are good. The main work of the college is technical training for work in a particular factory.</p>	"There is no time for not learning. How do we learn? Through prayer. We talk to God, listening then speaking, this is prayer. If we have not listened, we have nothing to talk about." p 18
03/24/19	Goa	Bainguinin 644 miles	St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of Missionaries, is also the patron saint of Goa where he was the first Jesuit Missionary. His body is now in the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa at the Shrine of St. Francis Xavier. The sacred relic is enshrined in a glass and silver casket in the Church. Father Anthony offered Mass at this tomb.	"Let God become flesh during the day, during your meditation, during Holy Communion, during contemplation, during adoration, during silent work, and then that Word in you, you give to others." p 21
03/31/19	Maharashtra	Mumbai 975 miles	In 1976, thousands of poor and middle-class families, mostly from South India, such as Tamil Nadu and Kerala were moved to Cheeta Camp, located on the Arabian seafront. CPPS Missionaries serve the Tamil speaking people in the slums of Mumbai Cheeta Camp. There are also large numbers of people who have come to the big cities to find work.	"He came not to give the peace of the world, which is only that we don't bother each other, He came to give the peace of heart, which comes from loving, from doing good to others." p 36
04/07/19	Andhra	Kurnool	Maria Nilayam Women's Training Center in the Kurnool District belongs to the Sisters of The Adorers of the Blood of Christ. It	"The true love of the mother is shown when

	Pradesh	1448 miles	began with the intention of empowering women and young girls. The sisters provide services to the poor and down trodden without looking at the cast or religion. They conduct various courses such as tailoring, Nursery Teacher courses and Nurse Aid training. They also educate poor children who are weak in their studies and started self- help groups for the women between age of 20 to 45. Medical camps and a dispensary help poor people to meet their health care needs.	her children suffer. Then we see Mary's motherhood." p 39
04/14/19	Madhya Pradesh	Tappa 2316 miles	The Indian Village of Tappa Mission had been a mission of the Society of the Divine Word for 50 years and has been turned over to the CPPS missionaries. There is a youth hostel (boarding school) at this place for a Standard Grade School (grades 1 - 7). to provide better study facilities to the poor rural Catholic Children.	"The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted, uncared for, deserted by everybody. The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference towards those who are victims of exploitation, corruption, poverty, and disease. Love has to be built on sacrifice. We have to give until it hurts." p 82
04/21/19	West Bengal	Kolkata 3119 miles	Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) is the capital of India's West Bengal state. It is home to Mother House, headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, whose tomb is on site. In 1950, Mother Teresa and the small community formed by her former pupils became the Diocesan Congregation of the Calcutta Diocese. Their mission was to care for "the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers and all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone." It began as a small community with 12 members in	"How can we love God and His poor - if we do not love each other with whom we live and break the Bread of Life daily together? ... Love each other in the eating of this Bread of Life; and serve each other and Him in His poor by giving your whole-hearted service." p

			Calcutta and now has over 4,500 Sisters running orphanages, homes for those dying of AIDS, charity centers worldwide, and caring for refugees, the blind, disabled, aged, alcoholics, the poor and homeless and victims of floods, epidemics and famine in many countries. They have 19 homes in Calcutta, including homes for women, orphaned children, and homes for the dying, and for those dying of AIDS; a school for street children, and a leper colony.	57
04/28/19	Andhra Pradesh	Eluru 3842 miles	CPPS missionaries serve at St. Xavier Parish and high school in Pantani, Diocese of Waramgal. Social welfare programs there include housing, drinking water, wells and women's development. Health programs (hospitals, dispensaries, health education camps, Leprosy Rehabilitation Centers and the AIDS Care and Support Center) are run in different parts of the Diocese through the services of the Religious Communities. Eluru is a city in the district headquarters of West Godavari, which provides the St. Xavier Boarding School for Boys, familiarly known as the boy's convent. It stands as house for the education of poor children, house of formation and house of disciple.	The poor "are great people. We must love them not by feeling pity for them. We must love them because it is Jesus in the distressing disguise of the poor. They are our brothers and sisters. They are - all people, those lepers, those dying, those hungry, those naked - they are Jesus." p 185
05/05/19	Karnataka	Bengaluru 4247 miles	The Merlini Old People Home and Farm is a residence for Senior Citizens, built by the CPPS missions. It houses 40 elderly poor people who would be otherwise homeless. The elderly are often forgotten by their families and live in poverty.	"Hunger is not only for bread, hunger is for love, to be loved, to be wanted. That terrible loneliness of the old... is a terrible hunger... There among these people you can put and I can put my love for God in a living action." p 41
05/12/19	Tamil Nadu	Nagapattinam Bboodhmamgalam 4529 miles	The Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health and Shrine in Velankanni can be traced to the mid-16th century and is attributed to three miracles (oral tradition) at sites around where the Basilica stands: the apparation of Mary and the	"Let us ask Our Lady to teach us to love Jesus as she loved Him. Nobody can love love Jesus more

			Christ Child to a shepherd boy; the curing of a crippled boy; and the rescue of Portuguese sailors from a violent sea storm. Queen of Heaven Church was established in 1975. The Church is staffed by CPPS priests in the Vellore Diocese in the small village of Boodhmangalam. Social programs include a women's support group and a self-help group.	than Mary, so she will be the best one to teach us to love Jesus." p 41
05/19/19	Tamil Nadu	Mangalakudi 4620 miles	St. Gaspar Parish was recently built in the Diocese of Sivagangai and staffed by CPPS Missionaries. The Church is built close to the site of the martyrdom of St. John the Britto, SJ. This is a pilgrimage site dedicated to the patron Saint of the Diocese. St. John de Britto entered the region as a Jesuit missionary from Europe and became the bedrock of faith for thousands of people. He was beheaded at Oriyur on Feb 4, 1693 by a regional king for preaching about Jesus Christ and establishing churches.	"Our devoted, wholehearted service given to Christ in the poor is a living proof to the church that we are a living part of the body of Christ and that Christ is pleased with us and shares His love for His Father with us." p 273
05/26/19		Final week to report miles	Fr. Vincent Chembakassery is in residence at Emmanuel Church. He is full-time chaplain at the VA Hospital in Dayton. In August 2018, severe floods affected his homeland in Kerala due to high rainfall during the monsoon season. Fr. Vincent has been very concerned about his family there. 1,000 people lost their lives and 1 million people live in refugee camps displaced by the flooding. Getting clean water is a major problem Fr. Vincent asks for our prayerful support for the suffering people in his homeland.	"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." Mother Teresa
06/02/19 Pentecost			Final Report in the Bulletin	

Reflections were taken from the book; Where There Is Love, There is God, by Mother Teresa