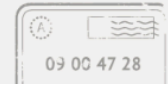


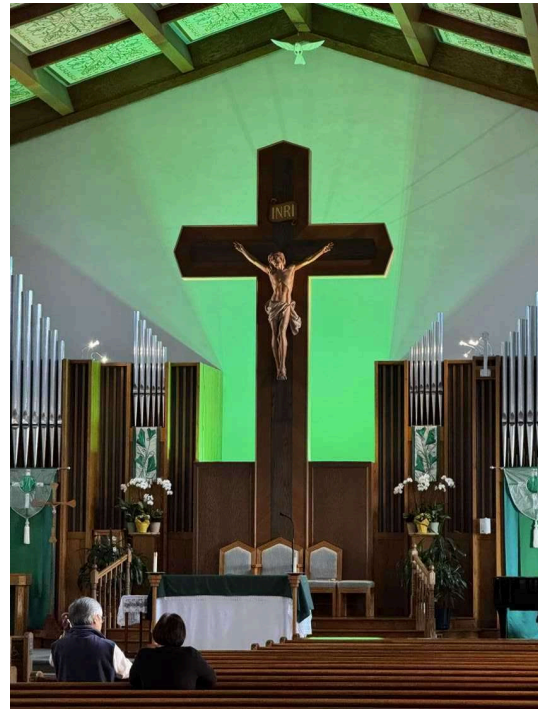
# PILGRIM'S TRAVEL COMPANION

August 27 – September 9, 2025

**A JOURNEY OF HEART, HEALING, & HOPE  
WITH FR. JC MERINO**

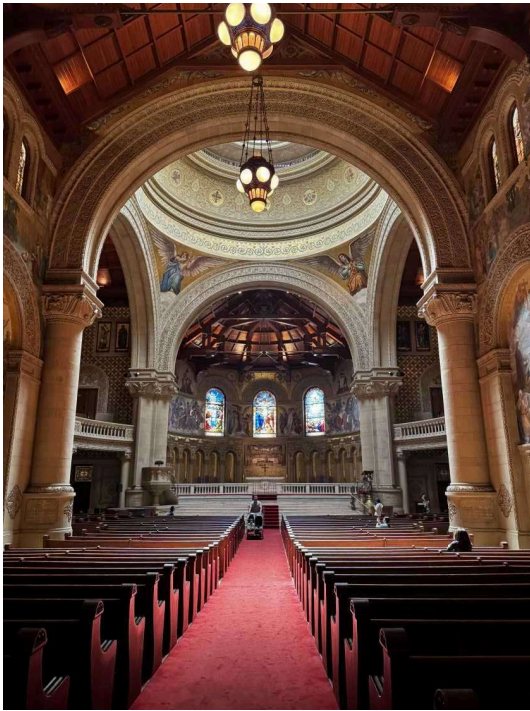


Today, on this third day of our pilgrimage of *hope, healing, and heart*, I want to pause and give thanks. So many of you have lifted me and Papa in prayer. Papa is still in the hospital; I am still with him accompanying him on this trying journey; and we both are still here (in San Francisco) —fighting each day with courage, sometimes in weakness, but always with faith. And in this path of slow healing, one truth consoles us deeply: we are not alone. You are with us in spirit, as we make our pilgrimage together.



OUR LADY OF MERCY, DALY CITY

In times of weakness, I run to the mantle of the Blessed Mother, seeking consolation and hope.



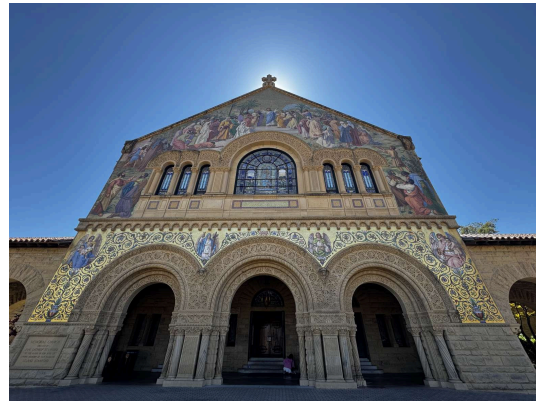
MEMORIAL CHURCH  
IN STANFORD UNIVERSITY

This day, I met a Dominican priest - the Catholic Chaplain and Pastor at Stanford University.



LANDS END LOOKOUT

Thank you for your continued prayers and care. They are a lifeline, a gift, and a true reflection of Christ's love.



Please know that I carry you, too, in prayer on this journey. As you and climb our own hills of suffering and hope, we are united. And with each step, I am reminded that healing is not only of the body, but of the heart—and that God's gentle work continues, even in hidden ways.

Your prayers surround us like a mantle. Your love steadies us when the way feels uncertain. Every word spoken, every assurance of hope, every intention carried for us, every quiet moment of intercession—you may not realize how much strength you share with us. It is a grace I hold with gratitude.

# A Day of Encounter, Prayer & Peace ~ In Medjugore

August 28, 2025

## Day 3: Good Morning, Sunshine! ~ A Journey Upward in Light

The sun rises gently over the hills of Medjugorje, casting a golden warmth across the village – a quiet reminder that each new day on this pilgrimage is a gift. As pilgrims of hope, healing, and heart, today we lace our shoes not merely for walking, but gird our souls for ascending – toward grace, toward encounter, toward the Queen of Peace.

We gather in the heart of the village – St. James Church – where pilgrims from around the world come to offer the same prayers in different tongues, all lifted to the same heaven. Here, in the stillness of the Eucharist, we anchor our day in the heart of Christ, asking Him to open our spirits wide. From there, our steps lead us to Apparition Hill, where the Blessed Virgin is said to have appeared to six young visionaries. The path is rocky, but it is holy ground – each stone a memory, each step an offering. As we climb, we carry our own intentions, sufferings, and hopes – some spoken, others hidden deep within. We are not alone. Our Lady walks with us, quietly, motherly.

At the top, we pause – not just to catch our breath, but to behold the gentle voice of God. Here, we are invited to surrender. To be still. To be seen. Later, we continue our journey to the Sanctuary of Our Lady Queen of Peace and the peaceful village of Bijakovići, where the visionaries were born and where the first heavenly encounters took place. These are humble places where heaven kissed earth – reminders that holiness blooms in the ordinary.









