



THE HOLY LAND



DOMINUS FLEVIT

"MY FATHER, IF IT IS POSSIBLE, LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME; YET, NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL."

(MATTHEW 26:29)

09.25.2023

DOMINUS FLEVIT. GARDEN OF GETSEMANE. LOCAL CHRISTIAN FAMILIES: BREAKING BREAD DINNER.



My dear fellow Pilgrims,

The Jerusalem Pilgrim Cross. It is the representation of the five wounds of Jesus Christ. Some say that it represents the four gospels with Jesus at the center. Some others say that it signifies the four corners of the earth with Jerusalem at the center, which invite

Christian pilgrims to make their pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

For me, it took on a personal meaning today. As we visited the pilgrim sites and sacred places today (the Palm Sunday Road, *Dominus Flevit* - "the Lord wept" - Church, and the Wailing Wall inside that used to be the Jerusalem Temple, the visit of the homes of our local Christians brothers and sisters), I reflected on the pilgrim cross - not as thing with its meaning in the pass - but a constant invitation to *re-connect with our local brothers and sisters who are Christians here* and to reconnect with our common story as disciples of Christ. The Pilgrim's Cross took on a somewhat different but ancient invitation: to go out into the world to preach the good news (Mark 16:16-18), while making a pilgrimage to reconnect with our past (Matthew 28:20). It is important for our brothers and sisters to remain and persevere so that they can continue to tell the Story from its roots! *Jesus promised that He would be with us always.*

Jesus promised that He would be with us always until the end of age (Matthew 28:20), not as a building or temple, but in our hearts through the New Covenant - the Holy Eucharist. The Jerusalem Pilgrim Cross is an invitation for our local Christians to remain *home, but at the same time*, an invitation for those who have been baptized into Christ to revisit *home* in their hearts - ever they are! In our hearts, our prayers, and in the Holy Eucharist, we are connected in Him - we become one Body!

In the same way, the Jerusalem Cross as a symbol is a reminder for us that we are one in prayer and Eucharist all over the world - pilgrims on the journey of our faith - towards the new and eternal Jerusalem.

Your spiritual guide in the journey,
Fr JC Merino