



PATRIARCHATUS LATINUS - JERUSALEM

بطيركية القدس للاتين

Jerusalem: 10 / 2 / 2004

Dear Bishops and Priests in the United States of America,

Greetings from Jerusalem,

I would like to draw your attention about the reality that our country is suffering greatly due to the fact that so few pilgrims are traveling to Israel. Many of our shrines are dependent upon pilgrims visiting them from USA and all over the world. Traveling within Israel is much safer than what is being presented in the American press. Many European pilgrims continue to make safe and spiritual journeys to Israel. On behalf of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, I would like to encourage American pilgrims to visit the Land where Jesus was born, where he lived and where he died.

I support and encourage Christopher Cross and all his efforts in bringing back American Catholic Pilgrims to the Holy Land. I already met Mr. Cross, a knight of the Holy Sepulchre, and had read his book "*Walking in His Footsteps*", a pilgrim's guide to the Holy Land. Mr. Cross had successfully led over 32 groups to Israel in the last 15 years and is now encouraging more American Pilgrims to make this spiritual journey.

Mr. Cross will be contacting you in the near future about the possibility of sponsoring and promoting Holy Pilgrimages. I would sincerely appreciate your considerations of his efforts in this most worthwhile ministry.

With my best regards.



Fr. Shawki Baterian
Chancellor
Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem