

THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

May 26, 2011

Dear Priests, Deacons, Parish Life Coordinators, Religious and Department Directors:

During the past six years a number of people in our Diocese have asked Bishop Braxton if he would ever consider leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to Rome. Since he has lived and worked in Israel and in Rome, he has been very open to the idea. Such a pilgrimage could be a spiritual experience of a lifetime.

The Bishop has explored the idea of a pilgrimage as a part of the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of our Diocese (1887-2012). Working with Franciscan Pilgrimages the Bishop has planned a pilgrimage "in the footsteps of Jesus of Nazareth and of St. Peter and St. Paul and of St. Francis and St. Clare." He has asked Father John Myler, the Rector of the Cathedral, to serve as the liaison for the pilgrimage planned for March 5-19, 2012.

Attached to this letter is an announcement inviting members of our Local Church to join the Bishop on this faith-filled journey to the Holy Land, Rome and Assisi. The cost for the 15-day pilgrimage, including flights, rooms (with private baths) and meals has been kept as low as possible: \$3900. The number of participants will be kept to about forty. More information, brochures and reservations are available by contacting Linda Pensoneau at the Cathedral Rectory, 618-234-1166 or by email lindapensoneau@yahoo.com

You are most welcome to participate in the pilgrimage yourself. Please facilitate the participation of your parishioners by doing the following:

- 1) Publish the attached invitation in your parish bulletins at least once a month in June, July, August and September.
- 2) If you would like flyers to be inserted in your Sunday bulletins, please contact Mrs. Pensoneau at the email address above or telephone her with the number of flyers requested. The flyers will be sent to you.

Thank you for making this unique opportunity available to your parishioners.

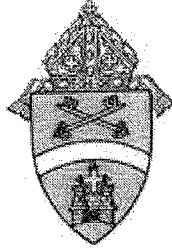
Sincerely yours,

Very Rev. John W. McEvelly

Very Reverend John W. McEvelly,
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

Office of the Vicar General

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**BISHOP EDWARD K. BRAXTON INVITES YOU TO
JOIN HIM ON A TWO-WEEK PILGRIMAGE TO**

**The Holy Land ... Rome ... Vatican City ... and Assisi
March 5 to March 19, 2012 (fifteen days)**

**COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE (1887-2012)**

In Israel, follow the footsteps of Jesus Himself praying in Bethlehem,
Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum and Jerusalem.

In the Eternal City, follow the footsteps of Sts. Peter and Paul
praying at the Basilica of St. Peter and praying with His Holiness,
Pope Benedict XVI at a Papal Audience.

Visit the shrines of the early Christian Martyrs in Rome
and spend a day in the footsteps of St. Francis and St. Clare in Assisi.

Mass, prayers, Scripture reflections, and Church History, each day.
(Bishop Braxton has lived and taught in Israel and in Rome.)

**Price: \$3,900 includes air, all meals (except 4 lunches in Rome).
Pilgrims' Casa Nazareth (3 nights)
Casa Bethlehem (4 nights) and Rome (6 nights). All private baths.
(Single supplement \$350).**

Arrangements through "Franciscan Pilgrimages".

Please contact Ms. Linda Pensoneau at the Cathedral Rectory
(618) 234-1166 or email lindapensoneau@yahoo.com
for information and a brochure.

Space is limited.