



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEVEN PILGRIMS WALK 110 MILES FROM THE BRONX TO SOUTH PHILADELPHIA

WHAT: The National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia (cash-uh), in partnership with Modern Catholic Pilgrim and the Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, is sponsoring a walking pilgrimage from Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Parish in the Bronx, New York, to the Shrine in South Philadelphia during the week of March 3, 2024. Seven young adults will walk 110 miles over the course of seven days before reaching their destination.

As the pilgrims make their journey (roughly 15 to 20 miles each day), they will follow in the spiritual footsteps of Saint Augustine (uh-gus-tin) of Hippo and many of the saints he inspired. This pilgrimage is being led by an Augustinian Friar, Fr. Jeremy Hiers, O.S.A.

WHY: Thousands of people travel across the world for large-scale pilgrimages each year, most popularly to the Camino de Santiago, the Holy Land, or Rome. Yet, there are holy sites all over the world, many in our own backyards.

With support and guidance from Modern Catholic Pilgrim, this walking pilgrimage returns to the basics: setting a holy destination and bringing prayerful intentions along the journey. In this way, the idea of a pilgrimage as something only available in a far-off land is reimagined, and opportunities for everyone to experience the fruits of deepening faith and building community through pilgrimage are created.

WHEN: Sunday, March 3, 2024 to Saturday, March 9, 2024 (see attached schedule)

SCHEDULE:

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Starting Location (Leaving at approx. 6:30 a.m.)

Saint Nicholas of Tolentine Church

2345 University Avenue

Bronx, NY 10468

Ending Location

Saint Clare Parish

110 Nelson Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10308

Monday, March 4, 2024

Starting Location (Leaving at approx. 7:30 a.m.)

Saint Clare Parish

110 Nelson Avenue

Staten Island, NY 10308

Ending Location

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

506 Westfield Avenue

Westfield, NJ 07090

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Starting Location (Leaving at approx. 9:30 a.m.)

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

506 Westfield Avenue

Westfield, NJ 07090

Ending Location

Catholic Center at Rutgers University

84 Somerset Street

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Starting Location (Leaving at approx. 8:00 a.m.)

Catholic Center at Rutgers University

84 Somerset Street

New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Ending Location

Saint Paul Parish

216 Nassau Street

Princeton, NJ 08542

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Starting Location (Leaving at approx. 7:30 a.m.)

Saint Paul Parish
216 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08542

Ending Location

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Parish
225 Bellevue Avenue
Pennel, PA 19047

Friday, March 8, 2024

Starting Location (Leaving at approx. 7:30 a.m.)

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Parish
225 Bellevue Avenue
Pennel, PA 19047

Ending Location

The Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
475 E. Chelton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Starting Location (Leaving at approx. 8:30 a.m.)

The Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
475 E. Chelton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Ending Location (Arriving at approx. 12:45 p.m.)

National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia
1166 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146

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About the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia:

Founded in 1907 by the Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova, the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia is a Roman Catholic community of prayer and worship located in South Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Inspired by the life and witness of Saint Rita of Cascia, an Augustinian saint known as a healer, reconciler, and peacemaker, the Shrine serves people from all walks of life as they live these virtues and encounter God in their midst. To learn more about the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia, or to support their mission and ministries, visit: www.SaintRitaShrine.org

About Modern Catholic Pilgrim:

Established in 2017, Modern Catholic Pilgrim aims to deepen faith and build community across the United States through walked pilgrimage in the Catholic tradition. Through this work, they envision our society transformed by geographic pilgrimage and biblical hospitality into a society more closely mirroring the Kingdom of God. To learn more about Modern Catholic Pilgrim, or to support their ministry, visit: www.ModernCatholicPilgrim.com.

About the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova:

The Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova is a mendicant order of friars living in Augustinian communities on the east coast of the United States and in Japan. Inspired by the teaching of Saint Augustine of Hippo, the Province was established in 1874, and today is comprised of 153 friars in 20 communities. The Augustinian Province of Saint Thomas of Villanova serves the Church and its communities by working in collaboration with lay men and women. Together, they build Christian communities in education, parishes, foreign missions in Japan and Peru and ministering to the marginalized and underserved in the inner-city. The Province founded and owns or sponsors Villanova University, Merrimack College, Malvern Preparatory School, and Saint Augustine Preparatory School. It administers 10 parishes in Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, and four in Japan, as well as the National Shrine of Saint Rita of Cascia in Philadelphia. The Province depends on the generosity of benefactors to its Augustinian Fund to meet many of its needs and initiatives, specifically Province operations, the care of infirm and elderly friars, formation and vocations, foreign missions, its Office of Justice and Peace, and the Office's action arm, the Augustinian Defenders of the Rights of the Poor.

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