

# JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS

## July Newsletter

### Message from the Board

Greetings Journey to Damascus Community!!

We hope that you and your family are doing well and staying healthy.

In these times that we are living, away from normal work and play routines, with many sporting events non-existent, and movie theatres closed, we are having to be very creative in finding things to entertain ourselves, while many of us are spending most of our time at home with our families.

This time of social distancing is also an excellent opportunity to have some real quality time with your spouse or significant other, and to maybe have some real bonding time with your children, something that always seems pressed for time.

We hope that you are also dedicating some extra quality time with Jesus in prayer & reflection, and that you are in regular communication with your Reunion Groups either in person or through social broadcasting platforms like Facetime, Zoom, Google.

We know that all of us are looking forward to the end of this Pandemic, which should mean we can have Journey Weekends again. Your Board of Directors are in regular communication with the Pax Christi Retreat Center, who is taking their directives from the Diocese of Corpus Christi on gathering and distancing guidelines. As many of you know, there are heightened restrictions on public gatherings throughout our nation (as the COVID-19 case numbers are increasing), which is no different than the requirements of the Diocese. Your JTD Board will continue with regular communications on gathering guidelines at Pax Christi, and as soon as current conditions change, you will be the first to know.

Until next month, Stay Safe & Enjoy Your Isolation,

Board of Directors - JTD Corpus Christi

[J2damascus@yahoo.com](mailto:J2damascus@yahoo.com)

General mailbox for JTD Board of Directors

### SAVE THE DATES!

All of the weekends have been moved to 2021 and these are the dates we have scheduled with Pax Christi:

### 2021 Weekends

Corpus Christi  
Men's  
March 4 - 7

Corpus Christi  
Women's  
April 22 - 25

Corpus Christi  
Men's  
June 17 - 20

Corpus Christi  
Women's  
July 22 - 25

Corpus Christi  
Men's  
September 16 - 19

## Website & Pilgrim/Team Applications

The links for online applications are updated. Let's go Fishing!

Our Webmaster has been working hard to make some long overdue improvements and updates to the website and it is going to be beautiful and easy to navigate.

## Community Events

Golf Tournament has been canceled for this year.

Community candlelight and annual gathering is still being considered for the September-February time frame. More information to come as we navigate these uncertain times.

## Updates from the Lay Directors

### Joe Willesden

JTD #200

*Ephesians 6:10-11 "A final word, be strong in the Lord and his mighty power. Put on all God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil"*

We have completed 3 team meetings and 6 of the practice talks. The meetings were very well attended, and the team has formed a bond that will continue when we are ready to start meeting again. We had only lost 2 original team members and my prayer is the original team will hold together when we resume.

Agape list was about 60% complete, we will reach out to those that have signed up when we resume.

Prayer Vigil was mostly complete and email reminders went out the weekend of

Corpus Christi  
Women's  
October 21 - 24

2021 Weekends  
JTD - Austin

Check back for more  
information!



Contact Us

Corpus Christi  
Journey to Damascus  
PO Box 948  
Corpus Christi, TX 78403  
[j2damascus@yahoo.com](mailto:j2damascus@yahoo.com)

June 21<sup>st</sup>, as that would have been our Journey weekend. We will start it over when the time comes.

### **Edna Lopez Alonso**

JTD #201

*Let All That You Do Be Done In Love. 1 Corinthians 16:14*

JTD #201 is truly blessed with a wonder team. Our team completed 2 successful team meetings. Due to the circumstances we postponed 3 remaining meetings and a gathering. Our St Elsewhere has been in communication via, text, email as well as monthly zoom meetings. St. Elsewhere and I continue to be in communication with our team regarding updates, prayer requests and support for one another.

We have 15 item slots available on our Agape List.

Our prayer vigil was in the beginning process and will need your support in completing the remaining times available.

## **Reunion Groups**

On behalf of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Committee, I wanted to impress upon the JTD Community the importance of REUNION GROUPS. We are prompted in Ephesians 5:1-2 to “Be imitators of God...and live a life of love” and in doing so we are to follow the perfect model, Jesus Christ. Jesus IS the ultimate small group leader. He started his ministry by establishing his small group, “the disciples”. Then gifted with the Holy Spirit, sent the disciples out to minister in both small and large group settings. The relationships established built the church from a few small followers to the vast ecumenical Body of Christ we have today.

The Reunion Group exists for four reasons. First, to provide a place to share the joy of life. The more genuine and the deeper that life together becomes, the more everything else recedes, as God becomes the center of our lives. Second, to foster and expand the work of love as the basic ideal. When love, commitment, and inspiration come together, the group becomes God’s masterpiece. Third, the reunion Group exists to be rooted in love, individual ingenuity, creativity, and initiative, provide endless opportunities for apostolic experiences. Each group’s purpose is to do good to the bodies and souls of all people, wherever possible, as often as possible. Finally, groups exist to encourage members to attend to the means of grace through piety, study, and action, and to support one another in that goal.

In Reunion Groups, the members help each other stay in healthy step with God’s robust grace, constantly spurring each other along, as they venture forth with God and each other. Whether you are able to meet face to face (practicing appropriate social distancing) or utilize one of the many social media platforms, it is the key to your successful 4<sup>th</sup> Day.

Please review the Reunion Group lists that are listed on the website at [https://www.journeytodamascus.org/reunion\\_groups.cfm](https://www.journeytodamascus.org/reunion_groups.cfm). If your group is listed and have moved to a social media platform, need to add or remove a group, or make changes to your group information, please email me at [tagbro1@stx.rr.com](mailto:tagbro1@stx.rr.com) so we may keep the resource as to date as possible.

DeColores,  
Steve Tagliabue  
4<sup>th</sup> Day Chairman

## Some Words from the Wise

### Brought to you this month by Fr. Alfredo

Dear JTD Community, greetings and grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Light.

The past few months have been hard. Between social distancing and quarantines, we have had to give up our normal routines and embrace a new way of life. At this point, our families, our roommates, or living alone might be driving us crazy. However, in spite of the challenges we are facing, the fact is: we are all family.

Being a family is never easy. It takes intentionality and a willingness to be humble and vulnerable. Whether it's with the people you are currently (stuck) with, or with friends online, we have to do our part to build up that community. Even [the Pope has asked us](#) to find new ways to be close in our relationships.

[Frustration and tensions will inevitably arise](#). When they do, be willing to take a step back and look at yourself first. Voice your feelings (calmly) and talk through what is going on with the people around you. Do your best to remember that all of us are in this together. We are all scared and anxious and trying to figure out how to handle life in the face of the unknown.

Ultimately, remember we are all sons and daughters of the Father, which makes us brothers and sisters in Him. He made each one of us with unique and unrepeatable gifts and talents, and for whatever reason, He chose each of us to be here in this moment of history. Let's do our best **TO SEE** the good in each other, **CHOOSE** cheerful hope, and **HELP** each other be the light that God is calling us to be.

### Live in the Light

#### Pray Together, Stay Together

Pray together as a family and as a community. Lean on your faith community by participating in Mass or Church Service together in person or livestream. Know that your faith community is praying for you. Pray together as a family, there are [various forms of prayer](#) you can use. Prayer does not have to be complicated or lengthy, if one form does not work for you, try another. Be patient as you find the form that works for your situation.

### Fr. Alfredo's Action Items

#### Be Vulnerable with One Another

Spending quarantine with the same people, in the same house, day-in and day-out, for days on end, can be a little taxing. Jim Gaffigan, a Catholic comedian, husband, and father of five, [had some thoughts on spending lockdown with his family](#) that might make you feel more normal, give you a few laughs, and maybe even give you a glimmer of hope for what good can come out of all this forced family time together. On a more serious note, this week, I want to encourage you to share how you're feeling in an intentional household conversation. As [Brené Brown highlights in her world-famous TED talk](#), vulnerability is the antidote to disconnection. It might be challenging and uncomfortable at first, but it will help us work through conflicts, live more meaningful days, and feel even deeper joy.

Here are some questions to ask one another in your household conversation:

- What are 3 words that describe how you're feeling?
- What have been your favorite moments of being at home?
- What have been your least favorite moments of being at home?
- Do you have any ideas for something we/I could do better or differently?
- Is there anything you are still angry about? Is there anyone you'd like to apologize to?
- What 3 words describe how you're feeling now?

This is a moment that we get to do the deep, difficult, rewarding work of connecting with one another. Be vulnerable and trust each other.

*"So, faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Alfredo Villarreal  
JTD Spiritual Director

## Agape Appeal

### GOAL

Due to an increase in food and lodging costs over the last few years, the Annual Agape Appeal will be used to off-set these increased expenses for the Team and Pilgrims.

*The Annual Agape Appeal's goal is to:*

- Never turn anyone away by making the weekend affordable for **ALL**.
- Provide a sustainable, annual fund to insure the continuation of JTD for **ALL**.

The intent of this appeal is to assist those who need monetary support in order to attend this Christian weekend. No one should be turned away due to financial need.

By joining our resources, we can insure JTD's continuation for friends, family and strangers.

### AGAPE DONATION

#### Suggested donations:

- \$5.00 each month
- \$60.00 Annually
- \$30.00 Semi-annually
- \$15.00 Quarterly
- \$100.00 Husband and wife

#### Or... Whatever you can GIVE

It's not about how **MUCH** each one can give.

It's about how **MANY** will give.

Only \$5.00 a month folks!

### UNITY

*With God all things are possible.*  
And by uniting together, we can change the world!

Please sign up for the JTD News Letter at:  
[www.journeytodamascus.org](http://www.journeytodamascus.org)  
All the information on how to send your Annual Agape Appeal will be available.

Please make checks Payable to Journey to Damascus and write **JTD Appeal** in note section of check. Please include your name, address, email address and phone number.

You may send it to **JTD Appeal**, P.O. Box 948, Corpus Christi, TX 78403.

Please help spread this opportunity by word of mouth or social media to encourage **all** the JTD community members to participate in this appeal.

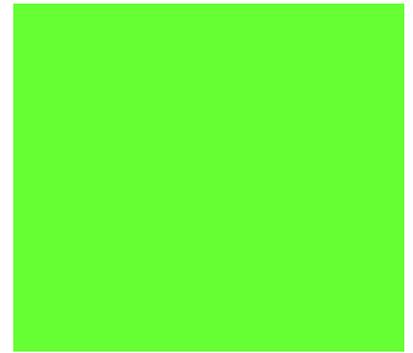
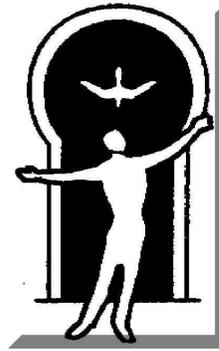
**De Colores**

[Click here to view the PDF version of Annual Agape Appeal](#)

## Sr. Angela Murdaugh Scholarship Fund

We are also very pleased to announce the establishment of the Sister

Angela Murdaugh Scholarship Fund. The goal is to be able to pay the weekend fee for one pilgrim per JTD weekend from this scholarship. To raise money to fund this endeavor we are selling JTD car emblems. The cost of the emblems is \$10. If you would like to order emblems for yourself, as gifts for your Reunion group please contact Dale Hernandez at [dale\\_hernandez@yahoo.com](mailto:dale_hernandez@yahoo.com).



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