



True Life in God Newsletter

"I come to restore My Vineyard & be happy..."

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Pictures of Bishops From the True Life in God Pilgrimage May 2005

Bishops who participated in the TLIG Pilgrimage to Lebanon, Syria and Jordan: supporters of unity and reconciliation between Christians, their participation in the pilgrimage was one way they were able to put into action the call which Christ has resounded so prominently in the spirituality of True Life in God - the prayer which sounds eternally from the Lord, **"...so that they may be one as We are One."**

1. His Grace Bishop Jeremias Ferens, The Eparch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of South America in Curitiba, Brazil
2. The Right Reverend Orlando Guerrero, Bishop of Venezuela, The Episcopal Church in the USA - Venezuela
3. His Excellency, Bishop Georges Kahhale, Bishop Exarch of Venezuela Melkite Greek

Catholic Church in Venezuela

4. His Excellency, Bishop Felix Toppo of Jamshedpur, India
5. His Excellency, Bishop Anil Couto of New Delhi, India
6. His Excellency, Bishop Joao Evangelista Terra of Brasilia, Brazil



(l to r) Bishop Toppo, Bishop Guerrero, Bishop Kahhale, Bishop Couto, and Bishop Ferens



(l to r) Bishop Toppo, Bishop Guerrero, Bishop Kahhale, Bishop Couto, and Bishop Ferens



(l to r) Bishop Toppo, Vassula, Bishop Kahhale, Bishop Ferens, Bishop Terra, and Bishop Couto (second row, right, in red cap)



(l to r) Bishop Toppo, Vassula, Bishop Kahhale, Bishop Ferens, Bishop Terra, Bishop Guerrero, and Bishop Couto (second row, second from the right, in red cap)

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In the Footsteps of Moses and St. Paul: TLIG Pilgrimage 2005

Introduction:

Pilgrimage is not just about traveling; it is also about seeking. The true pilgrim is actually trying

to find a way home. Pilgrimage is associated with religion because ultimately our home is with God, our Creator. Pilgrimage expresses the call we experience within, a call which could be put into one word, expressed as an invitation:

“Come!”

What we might call the pilgrimage of life itself has many turnings: right and wrong; cross-roads; winding, dangerous roads; broad, apparently easy roads; cul-de-sacs with warnings, and blind alleys. Within this greater pilgrimage there are smaller ones: journeys to biblical countries and holy places; shrines, famous monasteries, etc. All of these travels are undertaken to keep us mindful of that deeper call which is not just about life after death, but the here and now.

We are almost like characters in a fairy tale; seekers after the legendary Kingdom, searching for the wisest and noblest of Kings, for the place of ultimate peace and joy where we have the most sublime sense of well-being. Yes, we know we seek Heaven, but the Kingdom is being opened to us in our daily lives with all its drudgery and challenges by the King Himself Who comes from His heavenly Throne to seek a humbler one: the human heart.

The Pilgrimage that produces fruit is the one that we travel in humility and love. Frustrations, delays, excess heat, chilly evenings, insects, thirst, and hunger are just as necessary as good company, laughter, wholesome food and prayer. A pilgrimage is not a holiday, as many a priest is forced to explain to his parishioners, even if it is billed as “pilgrimage/holiday.” A holiday is meant to be a time of rest; on the other hand, a pilgrimage is meant to reflect the journey of life itself and so involves struggle, hard work, and determination. Aspects of self-discipline, such as being on time, become more than bothersome. They are like little lights illuminating aspects of human weakness. In the context of a pilgrimage human weaknesses show up in selfishness, laziness, rebelliousness and carelessness. At the same time, some people shine. Such are the **“salt of the earth”** (Matthew 5:13).

These, and so many other things, become aspects of the Kingdom, which in this life is like a vast field consisting of both wheat and its counterfeit tares, or darnel. We hope that one of the graces of pilgrimage is the wisdom to know the difference both in ourselves and in the world around us. This means that one of the most important invitations within a genuine pilgrimage is the call to repentance.

Reverend Father John Abberton
England

Editor's note: Read about the pilgrims' travels in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan and see photos [here](#).

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The Holy Land Trip, Continued

After we left Nazareth, we were on our way to Jerusalem. We checked in at the Notre Dame Monastery and Guest House across from the Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem. We had been invited by

Bishop Riah to another graduation, this time at the St. George School in Jerusalem. He had special seats reserved for us in the front rows. It was a beautiful day and the Arabic music that was playing was quite moving.

When Bishop Riah began addressing the distinguished guests who were there, he also addressed and welcomed Vassula as "Sister Vassula." There were many representatives from the different Christian denominations as well as Moslems since both Christian and Moslem students attend the school.



Archbishop Riah and Vassula at the graduation in Jerusalem

We then ended our day with our meeting with Rabbi Alon Goshen-Gottsein, the Director of The Elijah Interfaith Institute. He spent a couple of hours speaking with Vassula at the Notre Dame Hotel. They spoke about Vassula's guardian angel Daniel, I AM, the intimacy of God the Father, Satan, Unity, Prophecies, Patriarch Bartholomew. He was very interested in listening to Vassula. He asked her about others who are authentic. I was observing and it was as if they were already familiar with one another. He appeared to be very comfortable and it was amusing how they were at times even humorous with one another.



Vassula and Rabbi Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Ph.D in Jerusalem

Monday, May 30, 2005, was a marathon day of meetings. Vassula was invited to have lunch in Bethlehem (which means House of Bread) at the Sisters of Emmanuel. We crossed the border on foot from Jerusalem into Bethlehem because at the check point our car was not allowed to go through. We showed our passports and the guards let us walk through. It was a strange feeling walking across the border by the wall that has been built. We felt such a strong sense of division. No one can imagine the height of the wall until one is standing there in person.



Wall in Bethlehem



Vassula with the Sisters Emmanuel in Bethlehem

Father Spyridon, who is a priest of the Greek Orthodox Church at the Church of the Nativity, was there also and he greeted Vassula and invited all of us to his house for lunch. His gracious Presbytera (wife) served us a wonderful meal that she had cooked for us. Father Spyridon gave Vassula a gift of a beautiful icon. We then went to visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.



Vassula and Father Spyridon in Bethlehem



Vassula at Father Spyridon's house having lunch in Bethlehem



Vassula and the Icon gift at Father Spyridon's house in Bethlehem



Vassula at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem

We then went to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Vassula met with Father G. Sellassie and Abba Fissihatsion. Vassula spoke to them about Unity. They told Vassula that she is most welcome in their Church and blessed the work that she is doing. She invited them on the next True Life in God Ecumenical Pilgrimage, 2007, because we had not had the Ethiopian Church represented on any of the four preceding pilgrimages.



Vassula and the Ethiopian Orthodox Priests, Father G. Sellassie and Abba Fissiatsion



Vassula with Father G. Sellassie and Abba Fissiatsion



Vassula and Father Emmanuel, the Armenian Orthodox Priest in Jerusalem

Vassula had a visit with The Greek Orthodox priest, Father Atallah. He and Vassula knew each other previously. He is the spokesman for the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. In the evening we shared a meal with him at his residence in Jerusalem. He told her that she has the blessings of the Greek Orthodox Church here in the Holy City. Vassula mentioned to him that she had also received blessings from Father Vassilis in Jerusalem. He suggested that we go to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and visit Patriarch Irineos.

Father Atallah mentioned that he had recommended to the Synod that they should select an Abbot from a monastery to become Patriarch. He added that he would e-mail Patriarch

Bartholomew and let him know that Vassula had visited with him.

We called the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate to visit with Patriarch Irineos. However, they said he was not receiving guests at the time.



**Vassula and Father Theodosius Hanna
(Atallah) in Jerusalem**

Tuesday, May 31, 2005 became another marathon day of meetings. Vassula had a meeting at The Romanian Patriarchate where she spoke with Archimandrite Ieronium Cretu, the Patriarchal Representative. He has an ecumenical center. He expressed to Vassula how wonderful it is to bring people together. She explained to him that the True Life in God Messages revive the soul and are for renewal. She spoke to him about unity and emphasized that division is a sin. She also spoke to him about the Apostasy and told him about the prophecy of Romania in the messages. [Dec 24, 1989](#)

Vassula and Father Ieronium also exchanged some words in Greek as he speaks Greek. He welcomed Vassula and the TLIG ecumenical group to come to his Cathedral to commune in two years, and because he was so pleased with our ecumenical group, he invited Vassula and our group to come not only to his Cathedral, but also to the new Cathedral in Jericho to commune when it is finished. Vassula mentioned to him that Bishop Theophylactos had welcomed us in the St. George Cathedral in Cairo, Egypt. Upon hearing this, Father Ieronium exclaimed that he said he knows Bishop Theophylactos very well.

In an ensuing conversation, Vassula and Father Ieronium also touched on subjects concerning

Freemasonry. Finally, Vassula talked to him about the Beth Myriams and especially the one in the Ukraine.

This same day one of our TLIG pilgrims, Zigmas, met Father Pavich at Notre Dame. At breakfast he spoke with him and explained to him the clarifications on True Life in God and gave him the CDF booklet.



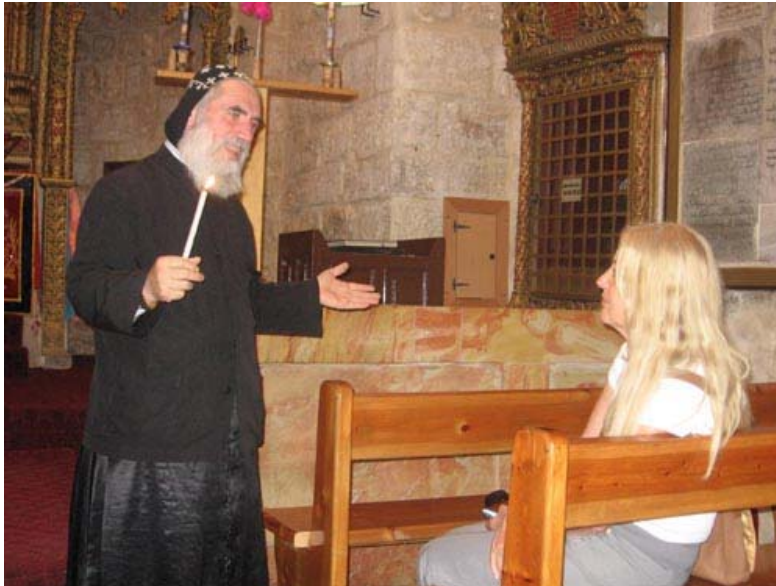
Vassula with Archimandrite Ieronium Cretu in Jerusalem



**Vassula and Fr. Ieronium offering us hospitality,
Romanian Patriarchate In Jerusalem**

We then were off to St. Mark's Convent and the Syrian Orthodox Church. Vassula met with

Father Shemun Can. They had met before as well. He invited us to stay for lunch during which time he said the prayer "The Our Father" in Aramaic. He spent time explaining to Vassula some of the history of the Syrian Orthodox Church. He also blessed Vassula's mission for church unity because of his involvement with the ecumenical group in Jerusalem. This group has an icon that is believed to have been painted by St. Luke, the Evangelist. Father Can is looking forward to participating in the 2007 TLIG Ecumenical Pilgrimage.



Vassula and Father Shemun Can, Syrian Orthodox priest in Jerusalem



Vassula and Father Shemun Can

We then went to The Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem. It is wonderful that they are all so close by. Truly they are neighbors! We were just going from appointments to appointments

which we called the "Spiritual Marathon." Bishop Aris Shirvastian and Vassula were sharing on the dialogue of unity and she asked him how he feels about the unification of the dates of Easter. Vassula invited him to the next pilgrimage as well and he said he would be looking forward to it.



Vassula and Bishop Aris Shirvastian, Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem



Vassula and Bishop Aris Shirvastian

Vassula's next meeting was at The Maronite Patriarchate in Jerusalem where Vassula met with Archbishop Paul Sayah. He was interested to know about her ecumenical meetings so she told him that she had, in 2001, been invited by the International Bridgettine Centre of Farfa in Italy to speak on Ecumenism and Spirituality and that she would mail him her Farfa speech. He then

took us to the roof top where there is a beautiful view of Jerusalem from which can be seen the Dome of the Rock on one side and the Mount of Olives on the other.



Vassula and Archbishop Paul Sayah, Maronite Patriarchate in Jerusalem

We went back to the hotel at Notre Dame to check out, and providentially, while we were putting our luggage into the car, we saw Bishop Timotheos of The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate there in the courtyard. Well, this was the Finale! The Lord surprised us with this one. We had tried earlier to go to the Patriarchate but at that time, they were not receiving guests. It was such a pleasant surprise that the Lord brought Bishop Timotheos to us! He was there in the courtyard having a meeting. He recognized Vassula whom he had met before on a previous visit, and came over to greet her. He expressed his pleasure at seeing her again and asked her for her latest book. I ran to the car to give him the CDF in English, and also two small booklets, the Bridegroom (He had said, "Is this Nymphios?" which means bridegroom in Greek) and the Odes. He assured us that he would read them.

Bishop Timotheos then asked Vassula what she would be able to do for the Church in Greece. They were talking like good friends. He said to her, "I welcomed you into my office. Remember?" I was at an advantage because I knew what they were saying in Greek. Unfortunately, I did not take a photo. Believe me! I was later so upset not to have taken his photo with Vassula, but at the time I was so excited about this Divine Providential meeting of the two, that I just froze. Here at least is a photo of him below from the Jerusalem Patriarchal website.

We then drove to Yehud, which is close to Ben Gurion Airport. Vassula had an interview with a correspondent for the Die Welt. This took place on the grounds of the Hotel Avia in Yehud where we stayed for the evening. We departed the next morning, Wednesday, June 1, 2005.



Bishop Timotheos of Bostra

The True life in God people of the Holy Land did a wonderful job setting up all these meetings and our accommodations. They showed us great hospitality and may God bless their work. It was wonderful spending time with them in the Holy Land right there where they live. I thank God for such a memorable and exciting time with Vassula and meeting His Shepherds who are so unique, diverse, and yet all belong to Him!

In Christ,
Georgia Klamson
TLIG reader, New York City, USA

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Jesus' Favors Reinforce My Faith

My name is Alcenir Parise, and I am thirty-four years old. I'm from Brazil, but for the past five years I have been living in Palatine, Illinois, in the U.S.A. as a student of Architectural Technology, and I have a job in an Architect's Office.

My life has totally changed after reading the TLIG messages. I am progressing now through Volume Five. I often feel Jesus' presence every day and in every activity that I'm doing, remembering His "We, us." I invite Him to be with me and do my tasks together with Him. Now I ask Him to bless my food when I'm going to eat.

This all happened after reading the Messages, since before reading them, I used to imagine God far away from me and from the world and being in Heaven only. Now I pray the three prayers from the beginning of the book every day. Sometimes I feel so much happiness and love that I cry; I feel God at my side. It's a marvelous feeling. I feel sorry for people who don't believe Him and I pray for them.

I had an important thing happen to me that I call a miracle:

On Holy Thursday last year I passed up my college class, preferring to go to Holy Mass that day and receive Holy Communion. I always had in mind to receive the "so tasteful wine" that I always thought was a thousand times more delicious than the regular wine we have at home, certainly because it's Jesus.

To my surprise, I simply drank Blood. Yes, Blood; the strong taste and smell of that Blood lasted for about an hour and made me think that I was offending God for not getting the delicious taste I usually expect.

It was only when I got home that I realized that what happened was a blessing of God to reinforce my faith. God showed Himself to me through the Eucharist, proving that it's His Body and Blood in the Consecrated Host and Wine. It's not symbolic, as many people mistakenly believe. Yes, It's truly Jesus.

Now I go to Holy Mass not only on Sundays but also during the week when it's possible, and I receive the Body and Blood of Jesus after confessing my sins. I'm so glad that this miraculous

favor happened to me, and I thank Jesus for this blessing. I am ready now to be a living testimony of the favors of Jesus.

Alcenir Parise,
United States

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A Simple Recommendation Changed my Life

Some time ago, my Uncle Edward recommended that I read the books containing the True Life in God Messages. When I read the Messages, they opened my heart.

I felt clearly that they were God's words to me. He changed my life in important ways. Before reading the Messages, I didn't like to go to confession. Now I go regularly.

Jesus gave me many other answers, too, by these Messages. I also started to read the Bible more and to understand the value of the Holy Eucharist.

Marzena S.

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The TLIG Pilgrimage 2007

Vassula each year reminds people to start saving money now for the TLIG international pilgrimage. Unlike many other groups the TLIG pilgrimage is not a fund raiser.

The pilgrimages are organized at cost...sometimes with a small extra charge to help subsidize the cost of some clergy from the most poor countries.

Usually these trips are about \$1200 or so US dollars plus the cost of traveling roundtrip to the point of departure. The next pilgrimage will involve visiting churches of the apocalypse and much much more, and will center in Greece. Now is the time weekly or monthly to put aside money a little bit at a time so you have the funds needed to participate. Start NOW to save \$10 or \$20 or \$30 dollars a week. The when the time for the pilgrimage comes you will not feel the cost so severely. Make a written plan and stick to it.

Those who have begun to penetrate the messages even a little understand how remarkable the spirituality of TLIG is. The saving message of TLIG can help us in these days cross the wilderness, cross the parched dry landscape of our times. In a pilgrimage there is the opportunity to experience just a taste of heaven. Part of this, is on these trips small flames of spiritual love are enkindled between people and in the prayers to God. Our memory can at times recollect this love. It is spiritual warmth in the cold winds of life in these "end of times." Spiritual love between friends united in prayer is beyond gold, beyond any price...and so pleasing to God.

We can bring back with us as fruit of a pilgrimage: refreshment in our prayer life, renewal,

healing, wisdom, knowledge, understanding and friendship. Perhaps for some a pilgrimage is like a spiritual tonic...we don't know why...but we have more strength for the tasks life brings us. We also by our participation are like little stones paving the path for Christ's return through demonstrating our love for one another and our love for God by practicing unity of heart and prayer.

Start saving money now!!!

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Have an article Idea or an inspiring thought to share with other readers of True Life in God? Write us.

Specifications:

All submissions become the exclusive property of TLIG. No remuneration is given to any writer at any time. We are all volunteers. Please make submissions in 12 point Times New Roman with no indentations. Please keep submissions in the body of the email. We do not click attachments. Send photos separately but put place holders and photo tags or numbers in the text. Have an idea? Talk to us!

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