



## **Keep the Lamp Burning**

### **Peace paths in the Holy Land in Easter 2015 (1st-6th April, 2015)**

The ICCS, and the ICCG, International Conferences of Catholic Scouting/Guiding, for enlighten the celebrations of 100 years of Catholic Scouting/Guiding, are launching an international and inter-religious event for the Scout and Guide Movements, to be held in the Holy Luz de la Paz de Belén en Argentina, a place of high significance for the Catholics and for any Abrahamic religion (Jews, Christians, Muslims) and presently playing a key role in the World's struggle for peace.

We are addressing a warm invitation to participate to all the scouts and guides of any religion, older than 18 years and up to 99.

The event wants to be an occasion of a common and personal pilgrimage in a Land really Holy for us Christians and also for our brother and sisters Jews and Muslims. We would like that Scouts and Guides of any other religion would join us in this peculiar Land, too.

Walking with Jesus and the Prophets will inspire the personal commitment of every participant to be a witness of his/her own faith and will constitute a call to the Scout Movement to serve the Peace in the second century of its existence.

A total number around 2.000 participants is expected. At our knowledge, no event of this kind has ever been organized there.

The event will start on 1st or 2nd April in three areas (Israel, Palestine and Jordan), will finish the 6th of April in Jordan and will have two main moments.

The first part (2-3 days/nights) will start for a single participant OR the 1st of April (Wednesday) OR the 2nd (Thursday), according to his/her possibilities, to be indicated at the moment of registration. It consists of doing an itinerary (mostly hiking), touching any of the most significant locations of the Holy Land. The participants will be grouped into Parties of up to 50 people and hiking paths will be different for each Party. Each participant can select at the moment of the inscription in which area he/she would prefer to hike (Israel, Palestine, Jordan), considering the restrictions existing for the citizens of some countries.

The second part (2 days/nights, from the afternoon of the 4th to the morning of the 6th), will gather all the participants together in a proper site, located in Jordan. Presently, no difficulties in entering Jordan exists to anybody.

The inscription is individual, providing the endorsement of the national Scout/Guide Association she/he belongs. Parties will be in principle multi-national (at least 2 countries) and will be formed by the Organizing Committee, considering language grouping and personal wills. Each Party will have a "standard" language for communicating (English, French, Spanish), in addition to the language spoken by the majority of the group. Each Party will have a Party leader, appointed by the Organizing Committee on the basis of the indications of the ICCS / ICCG Associations. The composition of the Parties will be decided and communicated before the event, in order to allow a proper pre-event preparation, which shall include a proper religious animation.

The hiking paths will be defined by the Organizing Committee and will be assigned in advance to the Parties, in order they can further study them. Each Party will have a bus assigned from the first to the last day, that will carry the Party to the starting of the hiking section, will provide transport in

some legs, will carry the Party to the collective gathering location. The bus will serve also for carrying heavier personal luggage and for any moderate inconvenience like bad weather, light illness, etc. During the hiking, the food will be provided by the organization and the night accommodation will occur in hostels or tents (personal sleeping bag and backpack are requested). During the hiking, there will be time for group activities like reflections, discussions, prayers. During the second part (collective gathering), that will occur in Jordan on 4th-6th April, there will be several occasions of plenary meetings, and of small groups workshops. The Jordan River is now a country border, but it also an highly significant place for our religions, being nominated several times in the Bible and in the Gospel. Recent archaeological discoveries places, the Baptism site of Jesus at Bethany beyond the Jordan: it is a special place, where we wish to pass and possibly celebrate according to our faiths.

While details about the location of the second part will be defined soon, the collective gathering will start in the afternoon of Saturday before Easter, according Catholic calendar. The Easter Vigil Celebration have a particular significance for Christians, as we consider Easter as the most important feast of our religion. We will make next Easter Vigil 2015 significant and unforgettable. The activities on Sunday will include the attendance to religious rites of all the present religions in an "Assisi spirit" dimension(1) .

Activities will end on Monday 6th morning, allowing the transfer of the participants to the airports (Tel Aviv or Amman), by means of buses provided by the organization.

The participation fee will include local transportation, accommodation and food for 4 or 5 nights (5 or 6 days). It has not been established yet, as main sponsorships have to be confirmed. It will NOT include the trip to/from Israel or Jordan and should not go beyond the 500€ threshold.

A more detailed program will be made available later. The inscription will occur through a dedicated website.

We are expecting you for living together a fully inspired 'Keep the Lamp Burning' Scout Event!

(1) On 27th October 1986, the Pope Giovanni Paolo II realised a big dream, inviting the representatives of the different world religions in Assisi (IT), to elevate to the only God, from many hearts and in various languages, only one song of peace. The invitation was accepted by 70 representatives of the major religions of the world, who shared the hope for a better world, renewed, profoundly fraternal and purely human.

### **Practical message**

Next year, according to the religious calendar, Jewish Easter and Catholic Easter will be in the same week. This is a chance for our trip to the Holy Land. As the Jewish scouts will invite other scouts to celebrate their Easter on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (for us Catholics, the Good Friday ), they promised us, we as Catholic Scouts, can invite others to the feast of the Resurrection in the night between Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 .

Attention. Because of this coincidence of dates, Jews are very numerous to visit Israel during Holy Week . The aircraft will be loaded. As a result, we recommend that you arrange to book your flight now. It will be cheaper for you.

Our organization supports you on site in the Holy Land. For some of you: Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in the morning and others Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> in the morning, your choice. For all: the proposed activity ends on Monday morning April 6 Easter Monday. If some wish to arrive in Israel before the beginning of activity, or stay longer after the end of the activity, it is their responsibility to organize their stay. "