

## 2011-2 PRAYER

February 2011

*To enter into this prayer, "let us follow the guide...!" from Bordeaux to Jerusalem...*

*Let our imagination lead us and inspire our dialogue with God.*

*Let us follow the road without haste, benefiting from each moment, let's stop each time we feel like it and let our heart speak to those whom we encounter, to God,. Let's write down our prayer if we feel like it and then pick it up again in the following days.*

*It is good, as our guide suggests, at a given moment to evoke an image of the Cenacle.*

*The Cenacle is a place where we love to be; let us not hesitate to renew that visit many times!*

### **A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY FROM BORDEAUX TO JERUSALEM AND BACK**

*A Prayer and Reflection in Honor of the Founding of the Sodality, February 2, 1801*

#### Introduction

According to *Biblical Archeology*, The Pilgrim of Bordeaux was an anonymous Judeo-Christian traveler from Bordeaux, France, who made a journey to Jerusalem in A.D. 333, by way of Milan and Rome and left an account. His chronicle may be the oldest documented pilgrim account and provides a useful description of monuments, distances and landmarks of that day. Passing through Milan and Sermium (Serbia), he arrives at Constantinople and proceeds to Jerusalem. This is also the earliest known Christian account of Jerusalem. The Pilgrim stated that on the way back, he arrived in Constantinople on December 25, inferring he was in Jerusalem during the months of July and August. He references traveling in the Consulate of Flavius Dalamatius and Domitius Zenophilus which dates the Bordeaux pilgrimage to Jerusalem to A.D. 333.

#### Beginning

In prayer, we imagine ourselves on a journey, leaving Bordeaux on foot. As we walk together with the Pilgrim of Bordeaux in an eastward arc towards Jerusalem, through city and field pathways. Remembering Jerusalem and the many events told us in story and parable, our hearts are stirred up: Christ gathering us up in community, whether with charcoaled fish, in the table fellowship of the Eucharist, or with beatitudes at the waterside.

Near Zion's Gate in the Old City at the crest of Mt Zion is the Cenacle. Now only floor, foundation and wall remain. We pray and remember this First Church known early by many names – Upper Church of the Apostles, Small Church of God, New Israel of God, Congregation of God, Assembly of God, Company of God, but more often, **The Church of God**. We can imagine on our way, the Cenacle, its walls, its floors, its space- the place of the Jesus community and soon of the Holy Spirit.



We climb the stairs and enter the Upper Room and find all in prayer very early in the morning. There is a space, a niche for us to enter. It is immediately in front of Mary. So now in reflection, enter into the circle. Enter together as one community, in and of Mary. This is where feet were washed, the Eucharist was first celebrated by the Apostles themselves. And it is where the Holy Spirit blessed Mary, the apostles, the women and friends. There were probably too, the children there protected as the doors were shut against the authorities.

In the middle of this dining room, we can imagine Mary in conversation and prayer with others. She would be counseling, consoling and inspiring them. She and others in quiet conversation. There is a reflective tone of hope and encouragement, but mixed with fear and apprehension. Pentecost fire enflames hearts and minds. They receive both word and understanding: the Apostolic community of Jesus is born.

Now imagine William Joseph on a spirit walk in February, 1801, from Jerusalem to Bordeaux. Meeting Christ on the road, he comes home, and enters into the Upper Room in Bordeaux. He enters, and joins in prayer with Mary; Adele de Batz, Therese de Lamourous, and many faith-filled men and women. Again Pentecost fire enflames hearts and minds, brings wisdom and courage. The first Bordeaux Sodality is gathering and the Family of Mary is born.

We come home to that “Upper Room in Bordeaux” to receive the Spirit. We pray in thanksgiving for Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, for his vision and faith. We join our minds and hearts with the worldwide Family of Mary to be steadfast in our mission.

So during this celebration let all of us, both lay and religious, hold in our minds and hearts *The Image of the Cenacle Icon*, an image close to the heart of our spirituality.

(Prayer proposed by the community of the State – USA)