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Dear Pilgrim family:

We hope you are all well, living through what is probably the most unique years in our lifetime! While many may describe these times as a trying experience, when you think about it from a spiritual perspective, it is a gift in disguise! For most of us, it is time to be together again with most of our family. It is time for reconciliation, time to forgive and be forgiven. Time to listen to each other at meal times, time to pray together, worship together (even though it is online — after all, this is earth and not Heaven — nothing can be perfect down here), time to enjoy each other's company and reflect over our lives in thanksgiving for all the good and the bad that God has allowed in our lives. This time together is certainly a time to do a self-examination of conscience and see where we can improve, making life better for us and our family. Please know that our prayers are with you and our entire pilgrim family.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Mater Dei Tours has had to postpone its public and private pilgrimages up to mid-March 2021. Regarding our pilgrimages in March and beyond, we want you to know that we are in close communications with our vendors, continuously monitoring the situation in all our pilgrimage destinations. So far all of the vendors are still on and are eager for our arrival. We have very special relations with our vendors due to our “truly Catholic” model, and this has resulted in a very fruitful information exchange. As a result, Mater Dei has inserted the following paragraph to our General Terms and Conditions:

Our pilgrimages are being operated under the premise that it is safe to travel under the current Covid-19 situation. If governmental authorities and/or our tour vendors, declare that it is no longer safe to travel because of Covid-19, Mater Dei will need to cancel the pilgrimage. If all our vendors cancel their services, Mater Dei will issue a full refund to all. If a passenger cancels because of fear of Covid-19, but authorities and vendors still declare that it is safe to travel as long as people practice the appropriate advice to keep proper hygiene to avoid contamination, the passenger shall be assessed the appropriate cancellation penalty detailed in the first column (see the cancellation penalties table on your brochure). Please bring a face mask for consideration of others (masks will likely be required by the airlines) while inside the bus. If you are sick with Covid-19, please stay home.

We hope and pray that day when all will be back to normal (some of the worldwide data is supporting that the death cases have been decreasing). Until that day arrives, we continue to monitor the situation, stay in contact with our partners and vendors and pray for a quick end to the coronavirus. Things can change very quickly and we intend to keep you informed regarding any new developments. We have many protocols in place that we can draw on to match the particular outcomes that may surface. However, if you have any questions, by all means, do contact us.

Once again, our hearts and prayers go out to you and your families and all of God's children affected in any way by the coronavirus. We ask you, too, to pray for them and for our great United States and all the countries affected (especially our destinations). It would be very appropriate here to pray for the intercession of St. Jean Gabriel Perboyre who was martyred in Wuhan, China.

All of us at Mater Dei wish you a safe, holy, joyful and prayerful year!

Juan Landa

President

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