



PRESS RELEASE – April 6, 2026
CALIFORNIA EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE

The **California Eucharistic Pilgrimage**, hosted by pilgrimage non-profit organization Camino de California, is part of a grassroots, 100% volunteer movement seeking to further revive the evangelistic and spiritual pilgrimage first established over 250 years ago by St. Junipero Serra. Special emphasis this year will be placed on pilgrimage sites designated in connection with this Jubilee Year of Saint Francis as declared by Pope Leo XIV. This Second Annual Eucharistic Pilgrimage in California includes:

- A 10 day driving pilgrimage from Friday, May 29th to Sunday, June 7th
- Nine of our events will be blessed by participation by bishops of the dioceses through which we are travelling
- Bringing Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament to the people of California in a special Eucharistic van, shepherded by the CFR (Franciscan Friars of Renewal) priests, brothers and seminarians
- Over 100 Eucharistic Pilgrims joining for the entire pilgrimage
- Participation by over three dozen clergy, seminarians and religious
- Visits to all 21 California Missions starting in Sonoma and finishing in San Diego
- Visits to 12 designated Jubilee sites for special indulgence opportunities during this Jubilee Year of Saint Francis
- Daily Mass, Adoration, Benediction and Eucharistic Processions led by our fine Bishops, Priests, Deacons and other religious in each of the dioceses along our pilgrimage route
- Daily Works of Mercy opportunities including visits and programs for the incarcerated, the homeless, women's shelters, food banks, workers in the fields and more
- Shell Dropping Ceremony at California's Cruz de Ferro at Mission San Miguel (exact replica of the same "Iron Cross" on the Camino de Santiago in Spain)
- Prayer intentions will be gathered and carried from each stop to be placed at the foot of the altar during the pilgrimage closing Mass on Corpus Christi Sunday
- A Eucharistic Healing Service led by our CFR priests at Thomas Aquinas College
- A special hand-painted icon of St. Junipero Serra will be carried and blessed at all 21 missions, to be then hand-carried and gifted to the Santiago de Compostela Archdiocese commemorating the newly established relationship with Camino de California for pilgrims to "Start their Camino de Santiago in California".
- Holy hours in adoration by our pilgrims before the Blessed Sacrament during this pilgrimage will be tallied and sent to our counterparts at the National Eucharistic Congress to be applied towards their goal of 250,000 holy hours leading up to the culmination of their Eucharistic pilgrimage on July 4th, 2026.
- Over 100 Religious Orders are praying for our pilgrimage

See also endorsements on following page.

Visit caminodecalifornia.org for more information.

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ENDORSEMENTS



The Most Reverend Robert F. Vasa, Bishop of Santa Rosa

"The Camino de California seeks to express the belief of our Catholic Faith that Jesus is truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. With this in mind plans are being made for a 2026 Procession through California with stops at each of the California Missions. We were honored and delighted to launch the pilgrimage from Saint Francis Solano Parish in Sonoma in 2025 and look forward to being the starting point for the pilgrimage again in 2026. It is important for us to remember that Jesus walks with us continually and we give Catholic witness to this belief when we walk with Him in Eucharistic Procession."

The Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone, Archbishop of San Francisco:

"What a blessing it will be to again see our Eucharistic Lord processed through all the Missions of California and arriving in San Diego on the Feast of Corpus Christi! The works of mercy of visiting the incarcerated, feeding the hungry, visiting the homeless pregnant women in the shelters and visiting the farm workers in the fields of California are extraordinary. I extend my blessing to all of you and the team planning and participating in the 2nd annual Camino de California Eucharistic Pilgrimage. May God bless, protect and sustain you in planning this journey and along the Camino and always."

The Most Reverend Ramon Bejarano, Bishop of Monterey

Pilgrimages have always been a vital part of our spiritual journey. Some are widely known—such as those to the Holy Land or Santiago de Compostela—but every pilgrimage, near or far, offers a sacred opportunity to deepen our faith and strengthen our relationship with God.

As pilgrims, we are reminded that our ultimate destination is heaven. Along the way, we encounter both moments of grace and times of challenge. It is a journey that teaches resilience, trust, and hope while reassuring us that we never walk alone. God accompanies us at every step, and so do our fellow pilgrims, united in faith and purpose. The "Camino de California Pilgrimage" offers a unique expression of this sacred journey. Led by our Eucharistic Lord, pilgrims will travel through the historic California Missions, walking in faith and fellowship. Yet a pilgrimage is only complete if it helps us to become better humans and Christians. Along the way, there will be opportunities not only for prayer, but to practice Christ's example being closer to the poor, the marginalized, the forgotten, and those left at the side of the road. I warmly invite you to join the pilgrims at any Mission that is near you. This experience could also help prepare our hearts for the consecration of our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11, 2026, by the United States Bishops.

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ENDORSEMENTS (continued)**



The Most Reverend Jose Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles:

"I want to let you know about a beautiful opportunity for spiritual renewal and prayer – the Camino de California Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which will visit all 21 historic California missions, beginning in the northern part of the state and traveling south. This year marks the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding and the Declaration of Independence. But well before July 4, 1776, the great Saint Junipero Serra and other Franciscan missionaries from Spain were proclaiming the Gospel throughout California. By the time the founding fathers declared our independence, Saint Junipero Serra had already established five of the state's 21 missions. This unique, holy pilgrimage provides a special moment for all of us to pray for America and the Church's mission in our country. You will have the chance to renew and deepen your faith in Jesus and your dedication to spreading the good news of His Gospel in our state and our country. At each mission, the Eucharist will be processed reverently and adored, Mass will be celebrated, and there will be time for prayer and fellowship. This year also marks the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis, so your pilgrimage will include special programming to highlight his beautiful spirituality. Entrusting you to the tender care of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I pray that God grant you peace and joy."

The Most Reverend Felipe Pulido, Bishop of San Diego:

"I would like to share with you an important spiritual initiative taking place this year: El Camino de California Eucharistic Pilgrimage Procession. This initiative offers a profound opportunity for the faithful to journey together in prayer, reflection, and fellowship, uniting our hearts in Christ who walks with His people. The purpose of this procession is to proclaim with faith and joy that Christ is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. He continues to nourish us with His love and sends us forth as missionary disciples to serve the world with compassion and hope. I warmly invite all the faithful of our local Church to participate—whether by walking in the pilgrimage, praying for its success, welcoming pilgrims along the way, or joining the Corpus Christi procession here in San Diego. With gratitude to the organizers and with prayerful support for all who will participate, I entrust El Camino de California Eucharistic Pilgrimage to the loving intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. May this pilgrimage bear abundant spiritual fruit for the Church in California and throughout our nation."

Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Chairman of the Board, National Eucharistic Congress:

"As Chairman of the National Eucharistic Congress, I am happy to offer my support for the Camino de California. The Camino de California is an ambitious Eucharistic Pilgrimage that will visit all 21 historic missions throughout the state of California with the Blessed Sacrament this summer, beginning in the northern part of the state and then traveling southward. Though the Camino de California is an independently organized effort, distinct from the National Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage, I am glad to see the development of another program that fosters Eucharistic encounters."

Stephen J. Binz, biblical writer and author of "Saint Junipero Serra's Camino: A Pilgrimage Guide to the California Missions."

The California Eucharistic Pilgrimage promises to be a transformative experience you'll want to be a part of. United in worship and prayer along the way of the 21 mission churches, this California Camino will unite its participants in word and sacrament as their hearts catch fire with zeal for evangelization. In traveling this road, pilgrims will encounter holy places, communities of faith, occasions for meditative prayer, and "works of mercy", such as visiting a homeless pregnant women's shelter, the workers in the fields, the incarcerated—all of God's children along the "Camino". Participants will also encounter prospects for inner healing—opportunities to align their lives more closely with the Gospel. Register for this historic event and invite others to join you.