Reader: You guide your pilgrim Church on earth through the Holy Spirit: may we seek you in all things and walk always in the way of your commandments, we pray to the Lord...R.

Reader: You lead us along the right and peaceful path; grant that we may one day see your face in heaven, we pray to the Lord...R.

Leader: Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught: Our Father...

**Prayer of Blessing**

Leader: All powerful and loving God, you extend your mercy toward those who love you and are never far away from those who seek You. Remain with your servants on this holy pilgrimage and guide their way in accordance with Your will. Shelter them with Your protection by day, give them the light of Your grace by night and bring them safely to their destination. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**Concluding Rite**

Leader: Mary the Lord guide us and direct our journey in safety. Amen

May the Lord be our companion along the way. Amen

May the Lord grant that the journey we begin relying on him, will end happily through His protection. Amen

And may Almighty God Bless us and protect us on our way. Amen

Leader: O Mary, conceived without sin,

All: pray for us who have recourse to thee.
ORDER OF BLESSING

Greeting and Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, as we set out, we should remind ourselves of the reasons of our resolve to go on this holy pilgrimage. The place we intend to visit is a monument to the devotion of the people of God. The faithful have come to this shrine in great numbers to be strengthened in the Christian way of life and to become more determined to devote themselves to works of charity. We must also try to bring something to the faithful there: our example of faith, hope and love. In this way both they and we will be enriched by the help we give one another.

Reading

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Reader: Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians: So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please Him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24

Reader: Lord this is the people that longs to see your face.

All: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Reader: The Lord’s are the earth and its fullness, the world and those who dwell in it, for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the river.

All: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Women: Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord or who may stand in His holy place? He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is in vain.

All: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Men: He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his Savior. Such is the race that seeks for him that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

All: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Silent Reflection

Intercessions

Leader: God is the beginning and the end of life’s pilgrimage. Let us call upon Him with confidence.

Response: Lord, be with us on our pilgrimage

Reader: Almighty Father, you made yourself the guide and way for your people as they wandered in the desert; be our protection as we begin this journey; so that we may return home again in safety, we pray to the Lord...R.

Reader: You have given us your Son to be our way to you: Make us follow Him faithfully and unswervingly, we pray to the Lord...R.

Reader: You gave us Mary as the model for following Christ, grant that through her example we may live a life of faith, hope and charity, we pray to the Lord...R.