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*13 September 2026 + Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*This coming Monday I will be heading to Spain with 24 pilgrims to visit some of the ancient sacred places in the north, from Barcelona to Santiago de Compostela to Madrid. One of the most anticipated places to celebrate Mass will be in the now completed Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona. This was a project begun by a very devout Catalan by the name of Antoni Gaudí back in 1882 who died in 1926, with only a third of the project completed. In 2002, when I was on sabbatical in Rome, our group of priests spent a week in Spain on the same route as our pilgrimage will be. It was at that time I first saw the famous Sagrada Familia, having Mass in one of the side chapels. In February of this year, Pope Leo went to Spain to consecrate the new cathedral on the one hundredth anniversary of Gaudí's death, marking its completion. Our groups will have Mass at one of the altars and tour this new cathedral, now the tallest church in the world. Please pray for our safe journey, as you will be in my prayers throughout the pilgrimage.*

*The full weekend I am away a priest from Cross Catholic Ministries will be covering the Masses. Cross Catholic has been with us before. They do not take up a general collection but seek sponsorships for the people they serve. Some of you are already sponsors of their great work. They are a Catholic ministry that partners with bishops, priests, religious and lay workers to provide food, water, housing, education, orphan support, medical care, microenterprise and disaster relief – and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ – to the poorest of the poor in over 30 countries around the world. I thank them for providing me the opportunity to be away for my pilgrimage.*

*The exterior bricks for the new addition to St. Joseph Church are on the church property. In the next couple of weeks, you should see them being laid and get a better look at what the final results will be. I will be kept informed on the project while I am away in Spain. Pray that we remain on schedule in time to celebrate our reentry at Christmas.*

*Blessings and best wishes,*