

What is Your Journey?

My journey began immediately after the Symposium. The pilgrimage to the Holy Land was a journey to listen to the call of Jesus. What was God calling me to do? Although, my feet ached constantly, and I required the help and encouragement of many to make it through the Holy Land, I am going to share my personal insights and the three words to process this trip for this February Council Connect.



We all struggle, we all worry, but Mary's faith in God, our Blessed Mother's Fiat, caused me to ponder. As women of faith we **ponder** over many events and how God has played a role in our life. Our Blessed Mother Mary knew the Old Testament and pondered what it meant to her. I still cannot fathom what she thought when the angel appeared to her. We were able to pray at the spot where the angel appeared to Mary. The inscription on the altar saying "The Word Made Flesh Here." It really causes one to ponder how important our words are, especially

when one yes, changes the world! What an amazing fiat!

We heard during our symposium that we need to listen to the call of Jesus. What is God calling us to do? Going to the Holy Land on our pilgrimage was a **journey**. I'm still unsure if there was a new calling while I was in a foreign land. I know I grew even more deeply to love our Blessed Mother even more. The journey she took after the angel appeared to her was my journey. Traveling to the women of the diocese who are asking for help in the PCCW's or listening to phone calls from the women who have questions is my journey.





We were able to visit with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and watched two of our LDCCW members be involved as the Knights and Dames of Malta. We went over to the Patriarchal Co-Cathedral of the Diocese of Jerusalem. I was struck by the statue of Our Lady of **Sorrows**. We as women of the LDCCW follow the same journey as Mary. Our call, our journey is all a part of who we are. There are many fears that we struggle with and fear as to how easy or difficult our path is going to be.

I know there will always be a road block or difficulty keeping our footing on our path toward being women of God.

My last image is one that resides at St. Michael's parish in Hastings. I thought of it many times as I walked through Jerusalem. The Return from Calvary by Herbert Schmalz. I have copied a description from the website.

"One of his most powerful and revered images is The Return from Calvary of 1891. The picture works on several levels. In the foreground you can see the distraught figure of the Virgin Mary, with St. John and Mary Magdalene. Beyond them two more women can be seen, of them looking back at the city of Jerusalem with Mount Golgotha in the far distance. The whole scene is overshadowed by dark storm clouds, but there is a light breaking through symbolic events to come." [Read more here.](#)



The steps where Jesus walked.

As I journeyed throughout the Holy Land, I carried with me the precious cargo of the women who gave me their prayer requests. It isn't just one woman who holds sorrow in their heart, we all pray and worry about our family members. I think about this image and being a part of the LDCCW, is that we have women who walk our way of the cross and help us along the way.

Your humble servant

Judy Weston

President

Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women