

The 2nd Spiritual Pilgrimage 2019

Pilgrimage through North Italy and Early Christianity

490th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Anabaptist Mennonite leader, G. Blaurock, &
110th anniversary of the death of the Catholic St. J. Freinademetz and 15th anniversary of his canonization

Japan Mennonite Christian Church Conference (Hokkaido)

La Provincia Italiana dell'Istituto dei Missionari Verbiti (SVD)

Prof. Nozomu Yamada (Nanzan University), Prof. Jun Yamada (Seinan-Gakuin University)

It is with great joy and honour that we announce the 2nd Spiritual Pilgrimage for reconciliation between Catholics and Mennonites.

【The 1st Spiritual Pilgrimage : 2013,summer】 In the summer of 2013, about 5 years ago, we 30 Pilgers, consisting of both Catholics and Mennonites, made the Spiritual Pilgrimage from Rome to Bolzano in North Italy. The purpose of the Pilgrimage was to journey to the birth place of St. J. Freinademetz, who intermediated for a miraculous healing of Jun Yamada, a Japanese Mennonite. St. J. Freinademetz was canonized as a Saint by the Vatican Superiors in 2003, based upon this miraculous healing. We 30 Pilgers, overcoming the differences between our Christian denominations, had many wonderful, unforgettable and precious experiences through the “Footwashing Liturgy” in the Catacomb of Domitilla in Rome, and the ecumenical “Double Eucharist” for both Catholics and Mennonites.

【The Background of the 2nd Spiritual Pilgrimage】 On our 1st Spiritual Pilgrimage to the birthplace of St. J. Freinademetz, “Oies”, we came to know an astonishing truth. This small village is located close to the town of “Chiusa” (Klausen), where one of the Mennonites leaders Georg Blaurock was burnt at the stake on the day of 6th September 1529, about 490 years ago. These two towns, Oies and Chiusa, are located in the same district of the Doromiti Badia Valley in Southern Tirol. From this same district where Georg Blaurock, a non-violent, pacifist Christian missionary and one of the well-known Anabaptist Mennonites, originated, a young Catholic missionary departed to China with his own, similar, peace-making, pacifistic Missionary ambitions. However, this man, St. J. Freinademetz, was to die of illness in China. About 100 years later, St. J. Freinademetz was canonized, the most valid evidence being his intermediation for the miraculous healing of the young Japanese Mennonite, Jun Yamada. We cannot help but recognize our God’s mysterious working and His rich blessings in our human histories. Remembering this astonishing experience six years ago, which we could not have expected then, our 1st Spiritual Pilgrimage was a real Spiritual Pilgrimage, a true reconciliation between Catholics and Anabaptist Mennonites.

【The Purpose and Program of the 2nd Spiritual Pilgrimage】 Last year, 2018, was a memorable year, the celebration of the 110th anniversary of the death of St. J. Freinademetz and the 15th anniversary since his Canonization. This year will also be a memorable year, September 6th being the 490th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Anabaptist Mennonite leader, G. Blaurock. Recently, tragic incidents of racism and religious intolerance have occurred around the world. Because of these incidents, we cannot forget the spirit of our peace-making and the profound reconciliation our Gospel offers. In this spirit, would you like to participate in our 2nd Spiritual Pilgrimage, which will be held from September 2nd to 9th, 2019?

In the Spiritual Pilgrimage this time, we will gather in Milan, and after that visit Ravenna, where we can see many mosaics of early Christian churches (2 days). Then we will visit Innsbruck, where one of the Anabaptist leaders, Jacob Hutter, was martyred. The highpoint of our pilgrimage will be the “Double Eucharist” of Catholics and Mennonites on September 6th. (We are planning a special ceremony to dedicate a memorial plaque.)

【Announcements】

Period: 2nd September (Monday) ~ 9th September (Monday): 7 nights, 9 days (1 night on the plane)

Schedule: See below

Number of participants: about 45 people (max); (about 20 (max) North American attendees)

Total participation cost: US\$ 2300~3100 (current rough estimate), made up of -

Economy class flight North America to Milan (Italy): US\$1000~\$1500 (depending on the flight)

Hotel/meals/Bus/other fees: US\$1300~\$1600

* Participation costs – precise participation costs will be announced after the exact number of the participants is determined.

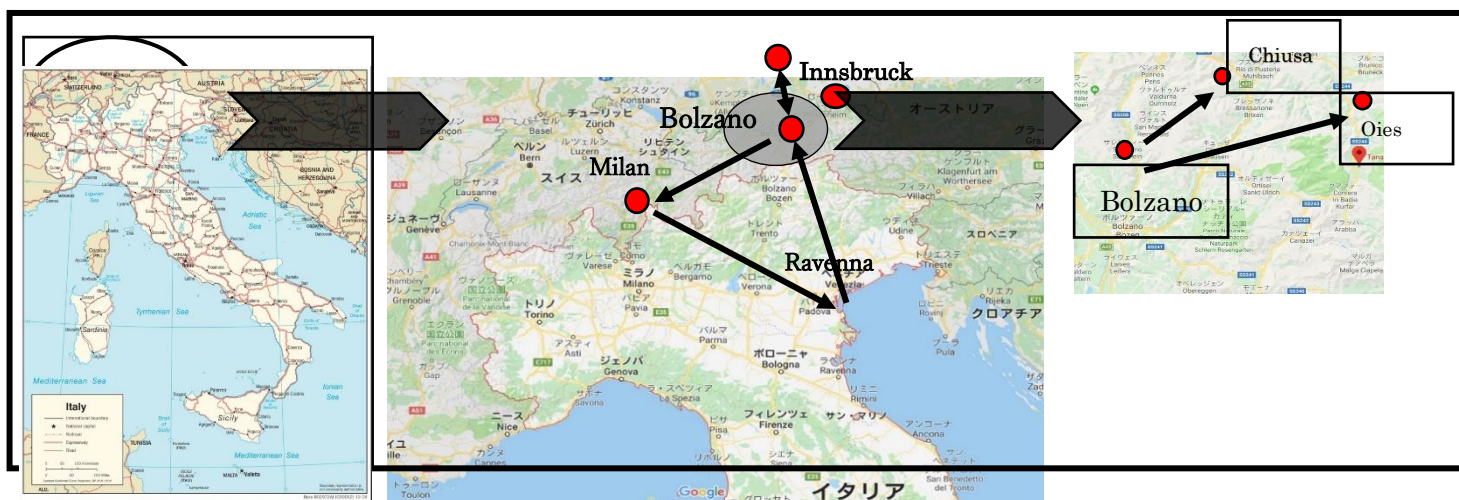
* If a surplus occurs, it will be refunded to participants equally.

* First deadline for applications: 21st April, 2019

* First-come-first-served basis. Please apply as soon as possible by e-mail or phone to the representatives of each region, as the number of seats is restricted

* **Contact person (North America): Fr. William Skudlarek: e-mail: wskudlarek@csbsju.edu**

* **Contact person (Japan) : Mr. Nozomu Yamada : e-mail: nozomuzono@gmail.com**



Day	Activities	Hotel
2/Sep. (Mon)	Arrival in Milan (Participants from North America, Japan, others gathering)	Milan
3/Sep. (Tue)	Milan → Ravenna [Transfer by Bus—Lunch at a historical city]	Ravenna
4/Sep. (Wed)	【Ravenna/visiting at historical churches in Early Christianity: Mosaics and historical buildings and monuments】	Ravenna
5/Sep. (Thr)	【Ravenna/visiting at historical churches in Early Christianity: Mosaics and historical buildings and monuments】 (afternoon) Ravenna → Bolzano [Transfer by Bus]	Bolzano (or Bressanone)
6/Sep (Fri)	【G.Blaurock’s 490 anniversary memorial Double Eucharist】 Oies : at the memorial Church of St. J.Freinademetz After the worship service 【Memorial Lunch at Oies】	Bolzano (or Bressanone)
7/Sep (Sat)	【Innsbruck (Austria) Pilgrimage】 * Visiting the plaque of Jakob Hutter, one of martylers of Annabaptests) 【Memorial Lunch in Innsbruck】	Bolzano (or Bressanone)
8/Sep (Sun)	【Chiusa and Oies: Sightseeing】 * George Blaurock’s last place and St. J. Freinademetz’s memorial places 【Memorial Lunch in Chiusa】	Bolzano (or Bressanone)
9/Sep (Mon)	Depart from Bolzano by Bus → Milano Airport	