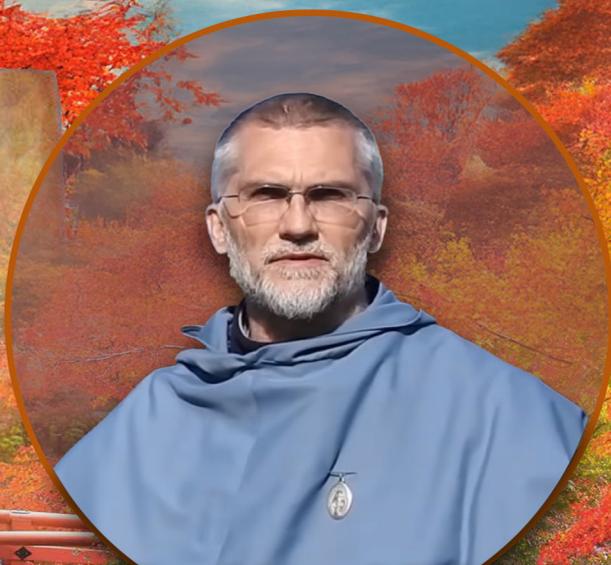


APRIL 2026  
**JAPAN**  
PILGRIMAGE



**Fr. Elias Mary Mills, F.I.**  
*Our Chaplain*

**April 8 - 22, 2026 (15 Days) | From \$6,299/person**



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Mount Fuji

**Day 1: April 8, 2026 | Depart US for Tokyo**  
Our pilgrimage begins as we board our flight to Tokyo.

**Day 2: Arrival in Tokyo**  
Upon arrival in Tokyo, we will proceed to our hotel for check-in before gathering as a group for Mass at Takanawa Church, which commemorates the Great Martyrdom of Tokyo. We will gather for our first dinner tonight as a group. Overnight in Tokyo.

**Day 3: Fujioshida Church, Mt. Fuji**  
We will start our first day of touring with Mass at Fujioshida Catholic Church. Afterwards, we will set out for the breathtaking Mount Fuji where we will explore the beautiful mountain area and the chance to pray at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Fuji. We will return to Tokyo for the night. Overnight in Tokyo.

**Day 4: St. Philip's Church - Twenty-Six Martyrs Museum & Monument**  
This morning, we will check out of our hotel and fly to Nagasaki, sometimes called the "Little Rome of Japan." We will begin our time here with Mass at St. Philip's Church. Then, we will walk a short way to the Twenty-Six Martyrs Museum and Monument where we will learn the incredible story of Catholicism in Japan over the centuries, giving us a foretaste of the sites that we will visit during the pilgrimage. The museum will also highlight the twenty-six martyrs of Japan, including that of St. Paul Miki, who preached forgiveness while hanging on his cross. We will also be privileged to see original letters written by St. Francis Xavier. Overnight in Nagasaki.

**Day 5: Tabira Church - St. Camillus Monument**  
Following breakfast, we will drive to Hirado to visit St. Francis Xavier Memorial Church and Tabira Church, parts of which were built by seashells, crushed and turned into stone by the very hands of their parishioners. We will have Mass at Tabira Church and will learn how, in 1873, the ban on Christianity was lifted and Christians, who had been in hiding for over two centuries, came out of hiding with great faith and built many churches. In Hirado we will also visit the monument of St. Camillus Costanzo, an Italian Jesuit missionary who was burned at the stake. On the way back to the hotel, we will stop at the Mt. Inasa overlook of Nagasaki which allows us 360-degree views of the thriving port city and the Sea of Japan. Overnight in Nagasaki.

**Day 6: Hongouchi - Kolbe Memorial - Oura Cathedral**  
We will begin our day with Mass and a Holy Hour at St. Maximilian Kolbe's Seibo no Kishi - Hongouchi Church, where afterwards we will visit the St. Kolbe Memorial Museum, pray at the Lourdes Grotto built by St. Maximilian in the 1930s, and pray the rosary along the Rosary Walk. This afternoon, we will have the chance to visit St. Maximilian's first friary in Nagasaki as well as the Oura Cathedral and Museum, the site where the Hidden Christians were first discovered. Time permitting, we will visit Our Lady of the Cape, a statue erected at the entrance of Nagasaki Bay on August 15, 1949, the 400th anniversary of St. Francis Xavier bringing Christianity to Japan on Our Lady's Feast Day. Tonight, we will come together for dinner at a traditional Japanese restaurant. Overnight in Nagasaki.

**Day 7: Shimabara - Unzen Hot Springs - Hara Castle**  
We will begin the day at Shimabara Catholic Church for Mass. Afterwards, we will visit the Unzen Hot Springs martyrdom site, which commemorates the tremendous sacrifice of the many Christians who stood strong against persecution here, preferring torture in the boiling 'hells' of the hot springs rather than to give up their faith. Nearby, we will visit the site of the Shimabara Rebellion and Hara Castle where, in 1637, local Christian farmers were fed up with the persecution they were experiencing and gathered in revolt fighting bravely against the Shogunate army. In response, the army murdered 37,000 Catholics. Today we will also get to see Holy Maria Kannon of Hara Castle, the largest wooden statue of Our Lady in the world, standing at 32.5 feet tall, carved in memory of all those who died in the rebellion. Overnight in Nagasaki.

**Day 8: Urakami Cathedral - Hypocenter Park - Nagai family gravesite**  
This morning, Fr. Elias will celebrate Mass at the Urakami Cathedral in the Chapel of the Hibakusha Maria (Atomic Bomb Maria). We will then tour the Nagasaki Hypocenter Park and Atomic Bomb Museum, before heading to Nyoko-do and visiting the Servant of God Dr. Takashi Nagai Memorial

Museum. Dr. Nagai was a Catholic radiologist, author, and survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bombing. His subsequent life of prayer, service, and courage in the face of adversity earned him the affectionate title "Saint of Urakami." Lastly, we will visit the Nagai family grave site and have the opportunity to pray near this great Saint. Overnight in Nagasaki.

**Day 9: Assumption of Mary Cathedral - Peace Memorial Park**  
In the morning we will take the Bullet Train to Hiroshima where we will start with Mass at the Assumption of Mary Cathedral, also called the Memorial Cathedral of World Peace, the location of the miraculous atomic bomb survival of the Jesuits of Hiroshima. From there we will visit Peace Memorial Park where the direct and indirect victims of the atomic bomb are commemorated. We will spend time at the A-Bomb Museum and the A-Bomb Dome, a building exactly below the detonation site of the bomb. Remarkably, the building was not decimated and stands today as a visual reminder of the events. Today if time permits, we will also visit the Hiroshima Castle which now serves as a museum of local history before World War II. Overnight in Hiroshima.

**Day 10: Train to Osaka - St. Mary's Cathedral Osaka**  
This morning, we will take the Bullet Train to Osaka. Today we get to experience Osaka's many shopping and cultural sites. We will begin with Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral, also known as Catholic Tamatsukuri Church, which features a commemoration of Blessed Justo Takayama Ukon, a Japanese Catholic Samurai with heroic virtue in the 17th century. He was beatified in 2017. Nearby, we will make a visit to Osaka Castle, a landmark of Japan famous for its history and stature, and recently popularized with its depiction in an American television drama. Overnight in Osaka.

**Day 11: Kawaramachi Church - Our Lady of Miyako Chapel**  
This morning, we will go to the Kawaramachi Church, which commemorates the 52 Kyoto Martyrs, and have Mass in the Our Lady of Miyako Chapel. Our last stop is a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the early 17th century and still in remarkable condition today: Nijo Castle. We will have more free time today to explore shopping and cultural sites in Kyoto. Overnight in Osaka.

**Day 12: Flight to Akita - Catholic Suita Church**  
Today, we will have Mass at Suita Church before we head to the airport for our flight to Akita. When we land, we will have a little time to explore the area before dinner. Overnight in Akita.

**Day 13: Seitai Hoshikai - Kakunodate, the Samurai District**  
Today we will gather for Mass at the Chapel of Our Lady of Akita Seitai Hoshikai, a convent with a chapel that is home to the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Akita, modeled after the statue of Our Lady of All Nations, which from 1973 until the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows in 1981, one could find miraculously shedding tears - sometimes for days at a time and other times at various intervals. Following Mass, we will have a ceremony of consecration and enrollment in the Miraculous Medal. This afternoon, we will spend time exploring Kakunodate, the Samurai District, and the Aoyagi Samurai Manor. Overnight in Akita.

**Day 14: Chapel of Our Lady of Akita Seitai Hoshikai**  
This morning, we will return to the convent for Mass and have some time for prayer. Together we will pray the outdoor stations and rosary walk. Seitai Hoshikai is home to one of the few Catholic gift shops in Japan, so we will have some time to shop there today. In the afternoon we will visit Catholic Akita Church commemorating the 32 Catholic Samurai and families who were martyred in 1624. Tonight, we will enjoy a Farewell Dinner together. Overnight in Akita.

**Day 15: April 22, 2026 | Return Home**  
Early this morning, we will have a final Mass of thanksgiving at Catholic Tsuchizaki Church. Filled with an invigorated love of our Catholic faith and memories to last a lifetime, we transfer to the Akita airport for our flight to Tokyo. From there, you can choose to spend more time in Japan or make your way home.



Seitai Hoshikai

## Your Pilgrimage Includes

- ✓ Inner-Japan group flights: Tokyo - Nagasaki & Osaka - Akita
- ✓ Bullet train group transfers: Nagasaki - Hiroshima & Hiroshima - Osaka
- ✓ 3-star hotel accommodations
- ✓ Breakfast daily & 10 dinners served
- ✓ Private motorcoach transportation
- ✓ Dedicated Canterbury tour director
- ✓ Licensed guiding & admission fees
- ✓ Audio headsets when touring
- ✓ Daily Mass & spiritual activities
- ✓ 9-5 PM (EST) reservation support
- ✓ 24/7 travel emergency support
- ✓ Name badge & luggage tag
- ✓ Magnificat prayer book
- ✓ Copy of The Canterbury Tales

## Pricing (per person)

**\$6,299** Double Room  
**\$7,594** Single Room



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