



ADVENTURE FOR THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

An Outreach of Wyoming Catholic College

*The Father drew me to the desert to teach me to pray.  
I longed to hear him say: "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased!"  
In so many ways I heard the Father speak to my heart.*

Esteban C., CFR Postulant

Lent, 2022

Dear Friends of COR Expeditions,

For the past three years, it has been COR Expeditions' great privilege to partner with New York's Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. These amazing friars, commonly known as "The CFRs," are based in the Bronx, New York, and are famous for their radical embrace of Christ's call to serve the destitute and preach the Gospel—a mission which they undertake from their original friary in the South Bronx and from 15 friaries worldwide.

Each fall, a dozen or so postulants travel from New York to Moab, Utah to spend three weeks in the desert with COR Expeditions and its instructors. This trip has become an increasingly important part of their postulancy—a time when they grow in leadership, strengthen the bonds of community, spend hours in shared and private prayer, and come to a deeper understanding of themselves and their mission.



The trip's participants—instructors and postulants alike—describe the impact of those twenty-one days as truly transformative. It's not obvious that men who have given themselves so completely to Christ would benefit from this sort of adventure, but all of them describe the trip as deepening their desire to embrace Christ's call to radical conversion of heart. This outcome is a credit to our instructors and the programming they bring; it is a credit to these postulants, who give themselves so wholeheartedly to the experience; but most of all, it is a credit to the transformative power of the wilderness itself.

**This Lent, I ask you to please consider supporting our ministry to groups like the CFR's and to help us spread this Adventure for the New Evangelization to new hearts!**

As we enter into this season of Lent, I am struck by how perfectly the CFR's experiences mirror the Lenten journey we all must undertake. And I am amazed at how perfectly their time in the desert reveals the power of COR Expeditions' mission and ministry.

For centuries, the wilderness has been a place of spiritual awakening and renewal. The Israelites journeyed through the desert for forty years on their way to the promised Land. John the Baptist's travels in the wilderness were essential to his efforts to prepare the way of the Lord. Christ Himself—the exemplar of our Lenten journey—spent forty days there, doing battle with the Devil. And the Desert Fathers wrote some of the most important spiritual works in the history of the Church while immersed in the wilderness.

*As I said "Yes!" to this invitation to let go, it was amazing how I grew in trust and confidence. I was able to focus less on myself, and more on my brothers, growing more open to the love that God has for me, moment by moment.*

Gaetano C., CFR Postulant

Lent is always a holy time of year, but here at COR Expeditions it is especially relevant to our work. We speak often to our participants of the role the wilderness plays in our Faith, with a particular focus on Christ's forty-day sojourn in the desert. It was His withdrawal into the isolation of the desert that gave Him the proper environment for the prayer and fasting that was such a vital preparation for His public ministry. It is hard to imagine a setting for these events—and for the Lenten mindset we all must embrace as we follow in His footsteps—other than the wilderness.

In so many ways, Christ's time in the desert serves as **THE** template for what COR Expeditions does; indeed, the experiences of those forty days are what COR Expeditions **IS**, at its very core. Our mission to renew the hearts of our participants can only be accomplished away from the comforts, consumerism, and clamor of the modern world. Christ removed Himself from the world in order to prepare for His earthly ministry.

**Here at COR, we lead our participants into the wilderness so that they too can better recognize and prepare for the vocation to which Christ is calling them.**

COR Expeditions immerses its participants in the wilderness, removing them from the everyday comforts that can so easily cloud our inner, spiritual sight. Prayer is an integral part of each day in the backcountry, and helping your neighbor is a necessity. An adventure with COR means stepping into the footprints of Christ, leading us into the hardship of desert and into the joy of His Resurrection. COR Expeditions is forming disciples of Christ by following the path which He Himself showed to us.



People crave the authentic community, genuine challenge, and austere environment that our trips offer. Beyond the positive feedback from our clients, the demand alone speaks to this. Looking forward to our course load for the next 7 months, I am grateful and amazed at the results.

**Last year, our goal was to schedule 90 trips in 2022, increasing from the 61 that we ran in 2021. We currently have 102 total trips scheduled. God is good!**

I never imagined this kind of growth was possible when we ran our first trip six years ago, and I am so grateful for all the prayers, sacrifices, and support that have gone into our extraordinary success. It is due to the wonderful support of our benefactors, the good faith of our clients, and the tireless work of our staff that it has been possible.

As Lent begins, so does our busiest time of year, and I'm happy for the opportunity to once again express my gratitude for all you have done to support this ministry. As we undertake our largest season to date, please consider supporting COR this Lent in order to help us offer the best possible experience to our participants.

*We're brothers now. We're a just a group of friends: we're family!*

CFR Postulant Joseph Y.

**Be a part of this Adventure for the New Evangelization. Help COR Expeditions form new leaders for the Church by supporting us this Lent.**

I truly feel the life of the Church in this ministry. This Lent, please help us to keep growing strong. Your support is vital to the work we are doing and to our part in the New Evangelization.

A blessed and fruitful Lenten season to you!

*Thomas Zimmer*

Thomas Zimmer, PhD  
Executive Director  
COR Expeditions

**P.S. Two of our missionaries, David and Jacob, recently traveled to New York to record a series of podcast episodes with the CFR's. These episodes will be released on the CFR's "Poco a Poco" podcast each Wednesday of Lent, and will be a spiritual guide for your journey through the Lenten wilderness.**

**Visit [www.franciscanfriars.com/pocoapoco](http://www.franciscanfriars.com/pocoapoco) to learn more!**

**P.P.S. Your gift can be made in a number of ways:**

- Online, by visiting [www.corexpeditions.org/lent22](http://www.corexpeditions.org/lent22)
- Mail, by returning your gift in the enclosed envelope.
- Phone, by calling a member of our COR staff at (307) 335-4334.
- Planned Giving, by contacting Paul Milligan at (307) 438-9039.

COR Expeditions is an outreach program of Wyoming Catholic College, a registered non-profit. All donations made to COR Expeditions are tax deductible, to the extent allowed by law.

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