

# A Passionate Evangelist



## TRAVELING WITH HECTOR MOLINA



Hector with Cardinal Raymond Burke



Enjoying a Danube River Cruise Pilgrimage with Select International President, Edita Kronic

**H**ector Molina is a native New Yorker of Puerto Rican descent. Growing up in Brooklyn, as the oldest of four children, he watched his parents struggle in their marriage before returning in earnest to their Catholic faith. Through the struggle, great healing and restoration took place, and the children became immersed in parish life, which would prove invaluable on Hector's journey.

Serving the parish and befriending the Priests, Hector grew in his faith, and while discerning a career in education, he served as Youth Minister. Full-time ministry was a dream which he could not envision a path to achieving. God, however, had a plan.

A priest-friend introduced Hector to a parish mission apostolate that needed lay people to further their work. Hector applied, was accepted, and went on the road doing missionary evangelization for a year, before returning to Brooklyn and serving as a pastoral associate at an inner-city parish for the next twelve years.

Hector relocated to the St. Louis Archdiocese, where he served as Director of Hispanic Ministry and founding Director of the Office of Evangelization under then-Archbishop Raymond Burke. During this time, Hector accompanied Archbishop Raymond Burke to Guadalupe on pilgrimage. The experience, and its potential for shoring the faith of pilgrims, planted a seed in his heart.

Hector eventually struck out on his own as a full-time Catholic preacher and evangelist. He joined the staff of Catholic Answers and eventually served as evangelist and CEO of Casting Nets Ministries. While there, he and his partners, Chris Stewart and Tony Brandt, were invited to visit the Holy Land by the Israeli Ministry of Tourism. Returning from that trip, Hector saw the first glimpse of life from the seeds planted years earlier.

Edita, the president of Select International Tours and Cruises, had been following Hector's ministry and had consistently encouraged him to consider pilgrimage as a part of his ministry. Upon returning from the first-hand experience of pilgrimage, Hector and his partners began to vet pilgrimage companies to add a trip to their offerings. After a thorough investigation, Hector decided that Edita was right; he needed to lead a pilgrimage, and Select International Tours was the right company for the job.



*"A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is an encounter with both salvation, history and geography, which brings the gospels to life."*

– Hector Molina

"A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is an encounter with both salvation history and geography, which brings the gospels to life. I cannot begin to tell you how much I have learned over the last several years on these pilgrimages, which have deepened my knowledge of the scriptures and have made me a better preacher, teacher, and herald of the Gospel," says Hector. "I will never forget the first time I visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and prayed at the very place of Our Lord's crucifixion on Calvary. I was absolutely overcome with emotion. It was easily of the most moving experiences in my life."

Hector has led several pilgrimage trips with Casting Nets Ministries, on his own, and most recently with His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Burke. "Like many evangelists nowadays, I am currently pivoting my ministry from Live events (parish missions and conferences) to online/digital media ministry and outreach..." "I am also continuing to lead pilgrimages to the Holy Land and other destinations through Select International Tours. To find out more, folks can visit my website: [www.HectorMolina.com](http://www.HectorMolina.com)".



### How Should a Pilgrim Prepare?

#### Hector has some suggestions:

- 1** Prior to your departure, ask people to forward you their intentions which you can type up and print out. Bring these intentions with you and pray at every Mass you attend during your pilgrimage.
- 2** Purchase a bundle of rosaries ahead of time and touch them to each of the Holy Sites you visit. When you return from your pilgrimage you can share your experience and gift your friends and family members with rosaries that are charged with significance. This is a wonderful form of post-pilgrimage evangelization.
- 3** Pray a rosary novena in preparation for your pilgrimage. Invite your fellow pilgrims to do the same. This helps to set the tone for your spiritual journey and puts you in the proper state of mind leading into the pilgrimage.