

# Produce a Pilgrimage Film

Walk the Pilgrim's Path ~ Producer Prospectus (2026)



*Preserving Sacred Sites. Documenting Living Faith.*

Black Madonna Shrine and Grottos  
Pacific, Missouri

## *Walk the Pilgrim's Path ~ Producer Prospectus (2026)*

Walk the Pilgrim's Path is a sacred site documentation project created by author and photojournalist Jeanette McDermott.

In 2026, the project will document twelve monthly pilgrimages across St. Louis and the surrounding region through a series of short cinematic films. These films will culminate in a feature-length documentary that preserves the full pilgrimage year as a single body of work.

Each pilgrimage film may be produced by an individual, family, parish, or business that wishes to support the preservation of sacred sites in the region.

Producers become recognized stewards of this preservation effort. They receive permanent acknowledgment tied directly to the films they support, ensuring their contribution remains part of the historical record.

### PRODUCER OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Twelve Short Pilgrimage Films (2026)**

3–5 minute cinematic films released monthly, each documenting a sacred site as a living place of devotion. Filmed with care, restraint, and reverence for the sacred character of each site.

Produce a Short Pilgrimage Film

#### **\$1,000 per film**

Includes:

- Planning the shoot, travel, and setup
- Filming on location, reviewing and organizing footage, editing the narrative structure
- Sound balancing, color correction, and sequencing the story
- Exporting and formatting, and archival management

#### **One Feature-Length Documentary (End of 2026)**

A contemplative archival film weaving together all twelve pilgrimages into a unified narrative.

*The short films capture the moments of each pilgrimage.*

*The feature documentary preserves the deeper story of the entire year.*

Produce the Feature-Length Documentary

#### **Estimated budget: \$11,500**

Includes:

- Long-form editing and narrative assembly
- Voice-over narration and music score
- Mastering
- Film festival preparation, submission and marketing costs

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### WHY THESE FILMS MATTER

These films serve as enduring archival documentation of sacred sites that are often under-recorded.

They preserve living faith as it is practiced today—through pilgrimage, prayer, silence, and community—rather than presenting these places as distant historical artifacts.

Together, the films form an official visual archive aligned with the St. Louis Archdiocese Bicentennial Jubilee Year.

Created with care and restraint, this body of work is intended to remain meaningful and historically valuable decades from now.

### PROJECT ORIGINS

This pilgrimage series grew out of *Walk the Pilgrim's Path*, written by Jeanette McDermott, which documents the Black Madonna Shrine in Pacific, Missouri and the seven grottos built by Polish immigrant monk, Brother Bronislaus Luszcz.

What began as research and storytelling evolved into something lived. Readers and community members wanted to walk these sacred places, not only read about them.

The pilgrimages followed. The films followed organically.

### PRODUCER RECOGNITION

Producer support makes the filming of each pilgrimage possible and ensures that these sacred places are preserved on film for future generations.

Producers are acknowledged as stewards of this preservation effort and receive permanent recognition tied directly to the films they support.

#### **Short Film Producers receive:**

- Producer credit at the opening and closing of the film
- Optional logo placement (for organizations or businesses)
- Recognition in the feature-length documentary end credits
- Recognition on social media when the film is released
- Listing on the Walk the Pilgrim's Path website producer archive page
- Inclusion on the Walk the Pilgrim's Path YouTube Channel and Midwest Tonight streaming platform

#### **Feature Film Producers receive:**

- Prominent Presenting Producer credit with logo at the opening and closing of the film

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- Recognition across all screenings, streaming platforms, festivals, and social media
- Inclusion in press releases and other media announcements
- Listing on the Walk the Pilgrim's Path website producer archive page
- Inclusion on the Walk the Pilgrim's Path YouTube Channel and Midwest Tonight streaming platform
- Association with the complete 2026 pilgrimage archive

All producer acknowledgments become part of the permanent historical record of the project.

### DISTRIBUTION & LONG-TERM VISIBILITY

All films will:

- Live permanently on the Walk the Pilgrim's Path YouTube archive
- Stream on the Midwest Tonight media platform
- Be submitted to independent film festivals (feature documentary)

This ensures the work reaches audiences beyond the pilgrimage community and remains publicly accessible for generations.

### PRODUCTION TIMING & COMMITMENT

To ensure consistency and care in filming, cinematographers must be booked in advance for each pilgrimage site.

For this reason, we are **seeking producer commitments in advance of the pilgrimages.**

This timeline allows the production team to:

- Secure cinematography schedules
- Maintain visual continuity across the series
- Ensure each site is documented thoughtfully and without haste

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Producers may choose to:

- Support a specific pilgrimage site or month
- Support the next available pilgrimage film
- Underwrite the feature-length documentary

Whether producing an individual pilgrimage film or underwriting the feature-length documentary, producers help ensure that this year of living faith is permanently preserved.

If this work resonates with you, I would be honored to welcome you as a producer and steward of this living archive.

Your support helps ensure that these sacred places—and the faith lived within them today—are preserved on film for future generations.

Thank you for considering becoming part of this important work and walking the pilgrim's path with us.



*Cinematographers filming the pilgrimage at St. Cecilia Catholic Church.*

Saint Louis, Missouri