



# PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

**September 7 - 18, 2009**

Escorted by

**Fr. David Wathen, O.F.M.**

**GEORGE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL TOURS

# ITINERARY

## **Day 1 - Sep. 7: Depart U.S.A.**

Our spiritual pilgrimage begins as we depart on our overnight flight to Rome. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

## **Day 2 - Sep. 8: Arrive Rome**

Upon arrival in the Eternal City we will be met by our local tour escort and transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

## **Day 3 - Sep. 9: Rome / Assisi**

This morning depart Rome for Orvieto where we'll visit the Signorelli Chapel in the Duomo, the Cathedral of Orvieto and venerate the sacred Eucharistic miracle. There will be time for prayer and adoration. See the steps of the Papal summer residence where Pope Urban IV held up the blood-stained corporal and announced his intention to institute the Feast of Corpus Christi. After Mass, drive through the beautiful Umbrian countryside to the foothills of Assisi to visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, built over the Porziuncola, the tiny church in the woods where St. Francis began his ministry and where he consecrated St. Clare.



## **Day 4 - Sep. 10: Assisi**

This morning visit the magnificent Basilica dedicated to St. Francis frescoed by Giotto and other Italian masters of the middle ages. Following Mass, walk to visit the Basilica of St. Clare and view her incorrupt body. Tour the Convent of San Damiano where the miracle of the Eucharist of 1211 took place and visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix.

## **Day 5 - Sep. 11: Assisi / Loreto**

Following breakfast depart Assisi for Cascia, the home of Saint Rita, "the saint of the impossible." We'll visit her

Basilica and view her incorrupt body and pray in the chapel containing the Eucharistic miracle of Cascia. There will be time for adoration. We'll tour Saint Rita's convent where she received the thorn from Christ's crown. This afternoon arrive in Loreto. See the Holy House which is said to be the same house in which the Virgin Mary was born and raised in Nazareth. This is where she received the visitation of the angel announcing that she was the mother of Jesus. From archaeological excavations and documents uncovered in 1962-65, it is believed that the stones were actually transported by humans to this site, and the stones do indeed match the ones found in Nazareth.



## **Day 6 - Sep. 12: Loreto / San Giovanni Rotondo**

Following Mass depart Loreto for Lanciano, site of the 8th century Miracle of the Eucharist, where bread and wine became real flesh and blood. The Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano is one of the most moving sights for a pilgrim. The miracle defies all human explanation, and here in Lanciano the pilgrim can find greater meaning and clarity in the Lord's solemn words, "Take and eat, for this is my body." Drive south to San Giovanni Rotondo, the birthplace and home of Padre Pio.

## **Day 7 - Sep. 13: San Giovanni Rotondo**

Spend the morning touring this quaint 11th century town where the famous Padre spent most of his life. We will have the opportunity to visit his tomb and cell, his confessional and the Cappuchin Monastery of Our Lady of Grace as well as the new Church of Santa Maria Delle Grazie. Following Mass at Padre Pio's Tomb, enjoy a breathtaking view of the Cargano Peninsula, visit the Grotto of St. Michael the Archangel and the Home for the Relief of Suffering – Padre Pio's special project.

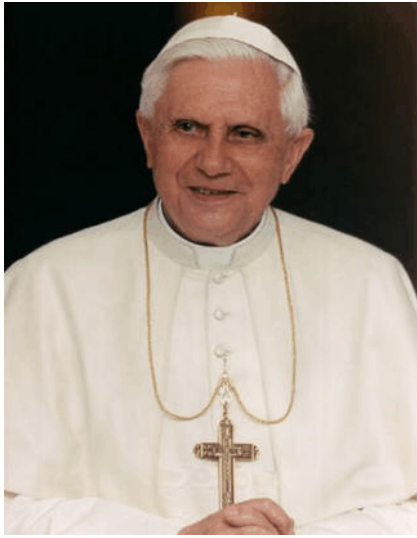
## **Day 8 - Sep. 14: San Giovanni Rotondo / Sorrento**

This morning depart San Giovanni and drive to Pietrelcina, the birthplace of St. Pio. In 1909, Padre Pio returned here and lived in a room where he fought many battles with the devil. Jesus, the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. Francis also appeared to him in a room. Continue to beautiful Sorrento

and enjoy the balance of the day free in this charming city located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

**Day 9 - Sep. 15: Sorrento / Rome**

Depart Sorrento and drive to Pompeii to visit the Basilica of the Rosary to venerate the Blessed Bartolo Longo. After Mass in the Longo Chapel we will visit the excavations of Pompeii which were dug out from the ashes rained on it by Vesuvius in 79 AD. Then drive north to Monte Cassino to visit the beautiful hilltop Abbey of Monte Cassino, founded by St. Benedict in 529. We then drive to Rome, our home for the next three nights.



**Day 10 - Sep. 16: Rome**

This morning we will experience a highlight of our Roman stay, attendance at the Papal Audience at St. Peter's (subject to the Holy Father's schedule). Join thousands of pilgrims from throughout the world to listen to the Holy Father and receive His Blessing. Our afternoon sightseeing of "Ancient Rome" includes visits to the Roman Forum, view from outside the Colosseum, St. Peter in Chains featuring Michelangelo's "Moses" and St. Paul Outside the Walls, where Mass will be celebrated.



**Day 11 - Sep. 17: Rome**

We'll begin our day in Rome with Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, followed by a guided tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel with its awesome frescoes painted by

Michelangelo. Visit the interior of St. Peter's Basilica, including the Pieta and the Adoration Chapel which our Holy Father opened in 1981. In the afternoon visit The Basilica of St. John Lateran, which is the Cathedral of Rome and officially "Mother and Head of all the churches in the city and the world". See the Holy Stairs, the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, noteworthy for its Holy Relics, and the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of the most important shrines in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Day 12 - Sep. 18: Rome / U.S.A.**

Today marks the end of a marvelous experience as we board our jetliner for the trip home, filled with memories that will last a lifetime.

**TOUR COST**

**\$3,242.00**

per person/double occupancy

For a single room please add \$555.00

**These prices include:**

- \* Roundtrip airfare from New York JFK
- \* All airlines taxes/fuel surcharges as currently levied
- \* Accommodation in First Class/Superior Tourist Class hotels
- \* All hotel taxes and service charges
- \* Breakfast and dinner daily
- \* Arrival and departure transfers
- \* Baggage handling
- \* Land travel by deluxe motorcoach
- \* Professional tour manager
- \* Comprehensive sightseeing with a professional local guides
- \* Entrance fees as per itinerary
- \* Daily Mass

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

**Reservations and Payment:** George's International Tours requires a deposit of \$300 per person at the time of booking. Final payment is due 65 days prior to departure.

**Cancellation and Refunds:** Please make all cancellations in writing. The following per person cancellation charges will apply: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$35 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior, a \$150 penalty will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior, a \$350 penalty will be charged. If canceled 14 - 7 days prior a \$700 penalty will be charged. No refunds will be made within 6 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets are issued, which will be 35 days prior to departure, 100% of air fare is non-refundable. Additional cancellation penalties may apply depending upon the cancellation terms of our suppliers.

**Travel Documents:** A passport which is valid for a minimum of 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. Visas are not required for U.S. citizens. If you are not a U. S. citizen, please call to determine your visa requirement status. George's International is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

**Tour Cost:** All quoted prices are based upon airfares, tariffs and currency exchange rates at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. Should the minimum number of 20 tour members not be reached, the right is reserved to increase the tour cost accordingly.

**Tour Documents and Tickets:** Final tour documents are mailed, provided we have received full payment, within 3 weeks of departure.

**Baggage:** Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carryon. George's International is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

**Air Transportation:** Air travel is in economy class on Iberia Airlines (or any other IATA carrier). Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares and flight schedules are subject to change without notice.

**Hotels:** Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities in first class and superior tourist class hotels. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted, and should be requested at the time of booking.

**Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend that you have comprehensive travel insurance. Insurance may be purchased directly through George's International and registration forms will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

**Not Included:** Gratuities, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of the included meals, additional baggage in excess of airport allowance, optional sightseeing tours, and all expenses of a purely personal nature.

**Responsibility Clause:** George's International Tours & Travel, Inc. and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions. *CST# 2035995-40*

For further information please contact:

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### RESERVATION APPLICATION: Franciscan Pilgrimage to Italy (Sep. 7 - 18, 2009)

**Print Names** (as they appear on each person's passport):

Passenger # 1

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Passenger # 2

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zipcode

**Home Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Office Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Accommodations:** Double room  Single room

Please enclose a deposit of **\$300.00** per person made payable to **George's International Tours** and mail to:

**George's International Tours**  
9265 Dowdy Drive, Suite 232  
San Diego, CA 92126