



Msgr. Frank Pugliese Spiritual Director Catholic Sicily Pilgrimage

September 26 - October 5, 2024 - 10 Days
\$4,899* from Los Angeles (*includes Airfare) or \$3,474 Land Only

For Information and Reservations, Contact Unitours, Inc. –
Telephone: 1-800-777-7432 – Email: mpisano@unitours.com
To book online visit <https://bit.ly/PuglieseItaly>

Thursday, September 26 - Day 1 –

DEPART USA – Today, we depart our home airport to connect with our overnight flight to Rome. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner, and breakfast while aloft.

Friday, September 27 - Day 2 – SICILY/

PALERMO - This morning, we arrive in Palermo, Sicily, where we are greeted by our Unitours tour manager, who will remain with us for the duration of our pilgrimage. We celebrate Mass at a local church. We enjoy some free time for lunch on our own before checking in at our hotel, rest of the day is at our leisure to acclimate to the new time zone. We enjoy our “welcome” dinner and overnight at our hotel in Palermo.

Saturday, September 28 - Day 3 -

PALERMO – Today, following breakfast, we start our excursion to Palermo, Sicily’s capital, with a visit to the magnificent Duomo of Monreale. We then explore Palermo, founded by the Phoenicians. We celebrate Mass at the Norman church of Martorana. Following a stop for lunch on our own, we visit the historic city center, The Palatine Chapel is the royal chapel of the Norman Palace in Palermo, San Giuseppe dei Teatini, Cathedral founded in 1185AD, with six tombs of past emperors. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Sunday, September 29 - Day 4 -

PALERMO/AGRIGENTO/CATANIA
This morning, we depart for Agrigento, the Greek major city of “Akraga” (5th Century BC) and visit the Valley of the Temples, where we will admire one of the best-preserved landscapes of Magna Grecia’s temple of Juno, Concordia Castore, and Polluce. We celebrate Mass at the Agrigento Cathedral, founded in the 11th century, and dedicated to St. Gerland. We stop along our route for lunch on our own before

continuing to Catania. Following check in, we enjoy dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Monday, September 30 - St. Jerome - Day 5 –

TAORMINA/CATANIA - Today, we drive to Taormina, an ancient Greek colony, known as the pearl of Sicily, for its beauty and history. We celebrate Mass at the baroque-medieval Cathedral of San Nicola, built in the 13th century. A pleasant walk through the narrow streets filled with typical shops introduces us to their magical atmosphere. We break for lunch on our own before we visit the Greek Theater on the hill overlooking Taormina’s Bay, the ancient summer resort of Roman Emperors and prominent Romans. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Catania.

Tuesday, October 1 - Day 6 – CATANIA/

SIRACUSA/CATANIA - This morning, we journey to Siracusa, a Greek city that in ancient days was fierce rival of Rome and Athens. It was here that St. Paul landed after departing Malta, enroute to his trial in Rome. The visit includes: the Archaeological Park with the Greek Theatre (5th century BC), where during the season the ancient Greek tragedies are performed; the Ara of Ierone; the Roman Anfiteatro, where the gladiator competitions occurred; the Latomie of the Stone Paradise, ancient hollow stones known for their different shapes, the most famous being the Orecchio of Dionisio. After the visit of Siracusa’s excavation, we’ll visit the Catacombs of Saint John. Some of the ancient sights to see in Syracuse are located in Ortigia, the most important being: the Cathedral, where we will celebrate Mass, a Doric Temple built on a Sicilian settlement, Byzantine Basilica, a Norman church, with late Renaissance and then Baroque elements and the Arethusa Fountain, which is a place linked to Greek mythology. We return to Catania for dinner and overnight.

“Have questions about this pilgrimage? Ask us! Go to www.Unitours.com/questions.”

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**Wednesday October 2 - Day 7 – CATANIA/
RAGUSA/MODICA/SCICLI/CATANIA –**

Today, we travel to Ragusa, which is really two separate towns, both of whom were combined to form one municipality in 1926. Lower Ragusa, known as Ragusa Ibla, or simply “Ibla,” is the ancient part of the city, rebuilt after suffering heavy damage due to the infamous 1693 earthquake that devastated south-eastern Sicily. The other, Upper Ragusa, or Ragusa Superiore, is the main part of the new city, which was built on the ridge across from Ibla after the earthquake. Because upper Ragusa was built in the early 1700s, most of its churches and main buildings were constructed in the Baroque and New-Classical styles of that era. Most of the city’s history deals with the old city of Ibla. Populated by the Indigenous Siculi in ancient times, the town was called “Hybla Heraea” from which the name Ibla was derived. Ibla's best-known church is the Basilica of St. George, whose entrance is reached by climbing a spacious set of elegantly decorated curving stairs. The majestic dome of the church towers above the town and dominates the Piazza del Duomo and its neat rows of palm trees beneath it. We travel to the town of Modica. What makes Modica so unique and charming is undoubtedly the baroque look that dominates the old town Center, as well as the maze of narrow streets bordered by old shops, houses, and buildings, which characterize both Modica Alta and Modica Bassa. Scicli is the loveliest city in the province of Ragusa, lying on a vast valley amidst Rocky Mountains, where the San Bartolomeo, the Santa Maria La Nuova and the Fiumara di Modica rivers intersect. The 18th century look, the result of the reconstruction following the earthquake of 1693, along with its elegant palazzi and churches, contribute to its being referred to as the “Baroque Jewel.” We return to Catania for dinner and overnight. Mass to be determined.

**Thursday, October 3 - Day 8 - CATANIA/
TINDARI/MESSINA/CATANIA –** This morning, we drive to Messina to see “The Gate of Sicily,” just five kilometers separating Messina from mainland Italy! In the ancient times, it was given the name “Zancle” by the Greeks for its sickle-shaped harbour. Seeing the beauty of the town, it is hard to imagine that in 1908 a devastating earthquake levelled Messina and that during World War II, the town was subjected to several intensive bombing raids. After passing some points of interest, such as the Church of San Francesco

and the Fountain of Neptune, our tour will proceed to the National Museum. We continue with City Hall, the Church of the Annunziata Dei Catalani, and the Piazza Duomo. Important to note is the astronomical clock, the most interesting component of the 60-meter-high belltower located to the left of the Cathedral. Our next stop is Tindari, and the northern coast of Sicily. The town is a Greek colony that was founded in 396 BC and occupies a magnificent position on the coast. Nowadays, Tindari is a popular pilgrimage site for those who visit the sanctuary dedicated to the “Black Madonna.” We return to Catania for dinner and overnight. Mass to be determined.

Friday, October 4 - Day 9 - CATANIA – Today is spent in Catania, which was built in 729 BC with the name “Katane,” which means “grater” in Sicilian. It was conquered by the Romans in 263 BC. The Roman influence can still be felt, as some architectural ruins of the Augustan period remain. After the Byzantine domination there was Arabic and then the Norman supremacy, which brought many changes and innovations to the town, the building of the Cathedral, and the many monasteries. With the Aragonese, Catania had a period of economic recovery and cultural revolution. In fact, it was during this period that the first university of the island was born. Following Spanish domination and the earthquake in 1693, both plunged the land into a serious economic crisis. This period was then followed by an important rebuilding campaign that continued after the unity of Italy. The 19th century saw a flourishing period of cultural splendor for Catania, involving expansion and growth in worldly, literary, musical, and theatrical expressions. We visit Catania’s most significant monuments: the Elephant Fountain, the Cathedral (11th century), and Ursino Castle (1239-1250). Following a break for lunch on our own, the afternoon is spent at leisure shopping around this beautiful City. We return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Saturday, October 5 - Day 10 – CATANIA/
HOME –** This morning, we transfer to the airport for our flight connections back to the US. We arrive later that day filled with memories of a lifetime!

Catholic Sicily Pilgrimage

If unable to book online Mail to: Unitours, Inc. 10 Midland Avenue, Suite 202, Port Chester, NY 10573

Please reserve ___ seats on this Catholic Sicily Pilgrimage - September 26 - October 5, 2024

Enclosed please find deposit of \$500 per person (Payable to Unitours, Inc.)

PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (Passport MUST be valid until April 05, 2025, or later.)

Name(s) as appears on passport) _____

My Roommate: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Day _____ Evening _____

Email address: _____

Charge my deposit to ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Amex ___ Discover

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

I understand that certain charges such as air taxes, fuel surcharges and rates of exchange can affect the final cost, and I agree to pay such costs should adjustments be necessary. _____

Signature _____

TOTAL TOUR PRICE: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect January 26, 2024. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. Refunds CANNOT be granted for any accommodations, services or events that are not used nor if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 20 pilgrims participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: A valid passport is required. At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports DO NOT REQUIRE visas or immunization for the country or countries being visited. Passport MUST be valid until April 05, 2025, or later. Citizens of countries other than U.S. - please contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: International flight reservations are being held on Lufthansa Airlines. No stopovers are permitted. Any changes after ticket is issued carries a mandatory charge of \$200. Once the tickets are issued, they are NON-REFUNDABLE. Additional non-recoverable airline penalties of up to \$200 may be assessed for cancellations received within 90 days of departure.

DOMESTIC AIRFARE: For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, your tour host and Unitours strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of \$661 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

MEALS: Breakfast and Table D' Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

TIPS AND TAXES: Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, portage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of \$159 plus current fuel surcharges of \$410 are included (subject to change). TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$101 ARE NOT INCLUDED. One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip.

NOT INCLUDED: Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to, passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc.

DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS: A deposit of \$500 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received at Unitours after 45 days before departure must include a \$25 late payment fee. (This does not apply for new reservations made after 45 days of departure.) Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment. Amex, Discover, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final payment due date. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior

to departure - - \$400 administration fee (charged to deposit) plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 31 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. No refund for cancellations received within 30 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc.

BANK FEE: A fee of \$50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

DEVIATIONS: A service charge of \$50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, (where possible), PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Optional Travel Insurance is strongly recommended for your trip. See www.Unitours.com/travelInsurance for full details and to purchase coverage. To cover preexisting conditions, insurance must be purchased within 21 days of Unitours' receipt of your reservation.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tours. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or events during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment.

ERRORS. In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

You May Contact UNITOURS at 1-800-777-7432 for additional accommodations (pre-nights, post-nights) and or flight arrangements to and from mainland to Sicily.



