Holy Year of Mercy Pilgrimage
With a Bishop Host
April 4 - 14, 2016 - 11 Days
$3999 from Newark

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Monday, April 4 – Annunciation - Day 1 – DEPART USA – Today we depart New York’s International airport on our overnight flight to Rome aboard a wide-bodied jet. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner and breakfast afloat.

Tuesday, April 5 - Day 2 - ROME/TUSCANY /MONTECATINI TERME – This morning we arrive in Rome where we are met and board our motor coach for our ride to Tuscany. Following lunch on our own we arrive in the delightful spa town of Montecatini Terme. The balance of the day is at leisure to stroll through the inviting streets of this charming town. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Wednesday, April 6 - Day 3 - FLORENCE - This morning we drive to Florence where our first stop will be a visit to the Academy Gallery, here we view Michelangelo’s famous “David”. (OR MEDICI). We continue for Mass and a visit of the Duomo, the heart of the city, here we admire the cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1240, its campanile by Giotto. Outside once we view the Baptistery’s with its incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti. Afterwards, we set out to the Piazza della Signoria, dominated by the Palazzo Vecchio and its embattlement crowned tower. Across from the Palace, we visit the Loggia dei Lanzi with the statues of the Perseus by Cellini; Giambologna's the “Rape of the Sabines” and “Hercules.” Free time for Lunch on our own before we visit the Basilica of Santa Croce. Among the most famous interred here, lie Galileo, Rossini, Michelangelo and Machiavelli. Some time for shopping or personal adventure, before we drive to the “Piazzale Michelangelo” for a panoramic view of this spectacular city. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, April 7 - Day 4 - LUCCA/PISA - Today we travel to Lucca. We’ll visit St. Gemma’s Sanctuary, the Passionist Monastery dedicated to St. Gemma, and see the Saint Gemma Galgani tomb under the altar in a bronze sepulcher. You’ll visit the Giannini family home, where St Gemma lived her last four years. The house now belongs to the St Gemma’s Sisters, a congregation founded by Eufemia Giannini, who became a nun and changed her name to Gemma Giannini. See the Duomo di San Martino, Cathedral, where you’ll find the Volto Santo or “Holy Face” image of Christ which was miraculously carved by Nicodemus and has been a historic place of pilgrimage for more than 1,000 years. St. Gemma herself visited this shrine often during her life. Next, we drive to nearby Pisa where we celebrate Mass at the Pisa Cathedral, near the Leaning Tower of Pisa, one of the most famous towers in the world. Return to Montecatini for dinner and overnight.

Friday, April 8 - Day 5 - SIENA/SAN GIMIGNANO – This morning, we journey through the Italian countryside arriving in the magnificent city of Siena, which invites us to stroll through its Gothic streets. After we celebrate Mass at the Dominican Church commemorating St. Catherine, we continue to the famous Piazza del Campo. This shell shaped square is the dramatic setting for the annual Palio bareback horserace. The piazza's focal point is the Palazzo Pubblico, the public palace, which dates back to 1250. We continue uphill to visit the monumental Cathedral dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Following lunch on our own we continue to San Gimignano the nearby medieval town famous for its tower houses built as a symbols of the resident’s wealth and power. The town is so precious that UNESCO has declared it a “World Heritage Site.” Walking through the Old City means plunging into the Middle Ages and getting a taste of what the city must have been like more than seven hundred years ago. On return to Montecatini Terme, we will enjoy a wine tasting at the famous Dievole Winery. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, April 9 - Day 6 – ASSISI/ROME - This morning we drive south to Assisi, the hilltop home of St. Francis. We begin our walking tour of the village at the Basilica of St. Francesco. We visit the Church of St. Clare to view the crucifix that spoke to St. Francis and celebrate Mass here. We pass by the famous Temple of Minerva in the Piazza del Comune. This afternoon, following some free time, we continue our journey to Rome for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Sunday, April 10 - DAY 7 - ROME – This morning we tour Rome’s sites, we pass by the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We enjoy an interior visit of the Colosseum Following free time for lunch we visit the Church of the Holy Stairs and pass through the Holy Doors of the first of our four major Basilicas as we enter the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome. First built in the fourth century. The Basilica was the site of five ecumenical councils between the 12th and 16th centuries. The Popes resided in the Palace from the time of Constantine until 1304 when they moved to Avignon. We enjoy a tour of her treasures before we celebrate Mass here and return to our hotel for overnight. We will be free to enjoy the culinary delights of Rome tonight as dinner is on our own.

Monday, April 11 - Day 8 – ROME - This morning, we drive to St. Paul Outside the Walls where we pass through our second set of Holy Doors. This huge, imposing Basilica, second only to St. Peter’s and one of the largest churches in the Christian world contains an unusual gallery of papal portraits: 265 tablets portraying the popes of the past. We will celebrate Mass here. We conclude our day at one of the Catacombs, burial place of early Christians. We view the 2nd and 3rd century fresco paintings. This afternoon, we will be free for personal adventure. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Tuesday, April 12 - Day 9 – ROME - This morning, we begin our day passing through the Holy Doors of St. Peter’s opened for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. We will celebrate Mass in a chapel beneath the Basilica. Afterwards, we see the treasures of the Vatican Museum. We marvel at Michelangelo's recently restored frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and the wonders of St. Peter's. This afternoon will be free for shopping and personal adventure. Dinner will once again be on our own. Overnight at our hotel.

Wednesday, April 13 - Day 10 – ROME – This morning, we make our way to St. Peter's for the Audience of Pope Francis if he is in residence. This afternoon we make our way to St. Mary Major, our final patriarchal Basilica of Rome and where we pass through her Holy Doors. This is the first church dedicated to the Blessed Mother first built in the fifth century following the Council of Ephesus. We will celebrate Mass here. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local Roman restaurant. Overnight at our hotel.

Thursday, April 14 - Day 11 - USA – Today we make our way home with memories of a lifetime.

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

$50 Early Booking Discount if Reserved by July 7, 2015
Reservation Form – Holy Year of Mercy Pilgrimage UA4004BF
Mail to: Unitours, Attn: Marianna Pisano, 10 Midland Ave., Ste 202, Port Chester NY 10573
Please reserve ___ seats on this Holy Year of Mercy Pilgrimage - April 4 - 14, 2016
Enclosed please find deposit of $300 per person (Payable to Unitours, Inc.)

PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (Passport MUST be valid until October 14, 2016 or later.)
Name(s) as appears on passport)

Address:
City, State & Zip ____________________________

Telephone:
Day Evening ________________________________

Email address: ____________________________________________

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.

Total Tour Price: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect May 18, 2015. 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 or if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 50 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 October 14, 2016 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 United 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 $466 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange, 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, are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, portage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of $106 plus current fuel surcharges of $516 are included (subject to change). Tips to Tour Manager/Guides, drivers and dining rooms staff of $110 are 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. Of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. There can be no refund for any services for cancellations received within 7 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. Cost of travel insurance for this trip is $199. To cover preexisting conditions, insurance must be purchased with your reservation. (See reservation form). If paying by check, add insurance cost to your deposit. Insurance can also be purchased at the time of your final payment.

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 restrictions, 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. Optional 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.