

Catholic Italy Pilgrimage Spiritual Guide – Fr. Terry O'Connor

September 21- 30, 2020 - 10 Days

\$4,699 from Pittsburgh

For Information and Reservations, Contact Marianna Pisano, Unitours, Inc.

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Book online at www.bit.ly/Oconnor20

Monday, September 21

DAY 1 – DEPART USA Today we depart from Pittsburgh to connect to our overnight flight to Rome aboard a wide-bodied jet. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner and breakfast aloft.

Tuesday, September 22

DAY 2 – ROME We arrive in Rome, this morning, where we are met by our guide, who will remain with us for the duration of our pilgrimage. Our first stop is the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, where Father O'Connor celebrates our arrival Mass. This magnificent basilica with enormous marble columns and gold mosaics, is built over the grave site of St. Paul the Apostle, after he was executed in the first century AD in Rome. Portraits of each of our Popes grace the walls of the basilica, with a ray of sunshine lighting up the portrait of our current Pope, Pope Francis. Stop at Piazza Navona for free time for lunch. We walk by the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and also visit the Pantheon. We continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, September 23

DAY 3 – VATICAN CITY/ROME This morning, after breakfast (included daily) we make our way to St. Peter's for an audience with Pope Francis if he is in residence. We continue to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the largest church in Rome dedicated to our Blessed Mother, and celebrate Mass. After free time for lunch, we visit St. Peter in Chains to view Michelangelo's possibly most celebrated sculpture, the "Moses". We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, September 24

DAY 4 - VATICAN CITY/ROME We start our day at St. Peter's Basilica, location of Michelangelo's famous sculpture, "La Pietà", and tombs of many Popes, to celebrate Mass. After, we visit the Vatican museums and marvel at the many treasures including Michelangelo's restored frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. We have free time for lunch, before we arrive at the Basilica of St. John Lateran. It is here that St. Francis gained permission from Pope Innocent III for the Franciscan Order. We walk to the nearby Santa Scala, which are believed by many to be the staircase from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem, brought to Rome by St. Helen in the 4th century. Tonight, we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant in Trastevere, with entertainment. Overnight at our Rome hotel.

Friday, September 25

DAY 5 – ASSISI We depart the Eternal City and journey to Assisi the home of Saint Francis, the patron saint of Italy and Saint Clare, one of his early followers. Our first stop is in the lower town for a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, and the Portiuncula, Francis' Church of the Little Portion. We continue to the upper village and visit the Basilica of St. Francesco where we celebrate Mass and pray at the tomb of St. Francis. We view the relics and beautiful frescoes by Giotto, depicting the life of Italy's patron saint. Dinner and overnight at our Assisi hotel.



Saturday, September 26

DAY 6 – ASSISI/MONTECATINI Before we depart Assisi, we enjoy a brief walking tour of the village. We stop in at the famous Temple of Minerva, a former pagan temple, now the Santa Maria Sopra Minerva Church in the Piazza del Comune. We visit the Basilica of Santa Chiara, the final resting place of St. Clare, where her body is preserved in the crypt and also where the famous crucifix that spoke to Francis is preserved. We celebrate Mass here. We continue to San Damiano, to visit the dormitory where Clare slept and the chapel where the sisters prayed. This afternoon, we depart for Montecatini. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Montecatini.

Sunday, September 27

DAY 7 - FLORENCE Today we visit the Academia Gallery, to view Michelangelo's famous "David" and many other tremendous works of art. We continue to the Duomo, to celebrate Mass in the heart of the city. We will admire the cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1240, and its campanile by Giotto. Outside, we view the Baptistery's with its incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti. Free time for lunch, exploring and shopping. Then, 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." We visit the Basilica of Santa Croce, the famous interred here, include Galileo, Rossini, Michelangelo and Machiavelli. Return to Montecatini for dinner and overnight.

Monday, September 28

DAY 8 - VENICE This morning we leave Montecatini and travel to beautiful Venice. This morning we leave Montecatini and travel to Padua to pay homage to St. Anthony. Father celebrates Mass for us at the Basilica of St. Anthony, known locally as "il Santo". It is one of the eight international shrines recognized by the Holy See. This majestic building is Romanesque, strongly resembling Saint Mark's Basilica in Venice, while the interior with its high apse is Gothic in style. We continue to Venice, and have a few hours of free time to enjoy the sites before continuing to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, September 29

DAY 9 -VENICE After breakfast, we journey into Venice. We celebrate Mass at one of the local churches. Upon arrival we see the famous Rialto Bridge, which spans the river and is lined with picturesque little shops. We walk into the pigeon filled Piazza San Marco and enter the most famous Basilica of St. Marks, and celebrate Mass. We also time permitting, enjoy a walking tour of the city, including a stop at the Bridge of Sighs! We also view the Torre Dell'Orologio, the Renaissance clock tower and the Museo Civico Correr. Our last stop is Doge's Palace, a palace built in Venetia Gothic style, and one of the main landmarks of the city of Venice. The palace was the residence of the Doge of Venice, the supreme authority of the former Venetian Republic, opening as a museum in 1923. Then, we enjoy free time to explore Venice on our own! You may decide to take one of the many ½ day trips offered locally to the small islands- including Murano- or you could take the elevator to the top of the campanile for a spectacular view of the city. You might enjoy a gondola ride and the tremendous shopping and restaurants. This evening we gather together for our farewell dinner. Overnight at our hotel.

Wednesday, September 30 – St. Jerome

DAY 10 – USA Today we make our way to the airport for our flight home. Our memories of our time in Italy will never fade! ARRIVEDERCI ITALIA!

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



Pittsburgh Catholic - Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

Mail to: Marianna Pisano, Unitours, Inc., 10 Midland Ave., Ste 202, Port Chester, NY 10573

Please reserve ___ seats on this Catholic Italy Pilgrimage - September 21- 30, 2020

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

PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (Passport MUST be valid until March 30, 2021 or later.)

Name(s) as appears on passport) _____

My Roommate: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Name(s) to use on nametags _____

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. I have read and understand the Deposit and Cancellation Fees.

Signature _____

TOTAL TOUR PRICE: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect November 15, 2019. 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 35 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 **March 30, 2021** 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-TRANSFERABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE. Any requests to change a ticket once issued will incur a reissue fee of \$200 plus any fare differential will apply. Cancellation of air seat within 90 days of departure will incur a \$200 penalty.

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 \$609 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 \$109 plus current fuel surcharges of \$350 are included (subject to change). TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$98 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 including insurance. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior to departure - - \$100 processing charge plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 31 days of departure - - \$150 processing charge plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. There can be no refund for any services 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 including optional Cancel for any reason coverage. (NOT AVAILABLE FOR NEW YORK RESIDENTS.) Cost of travel insurance for this trip starts at \$237. 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 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. Optional travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment. **SPIRITUAL GUIDE:** If unable to travel - right is reserved to substitute. **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.



Italy



100 km

STEPMAP