



TEKTON MINISTRIES

Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

WITNESS THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Join Father Claudius Mganga
**ON A PILGRIMAGE TO THE
SAINTS AND SHRINES OF**

ITALY

September 4 - 15, 2023



A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages for more than 20 years. Working closely with your priest to create thoughtfully planned itineraries, we help make the Catholic faith more tangible to your daily life by taking you to the heart of our Mother Church today. Although we visit numerous sites in this holy and historic region, daily Mass and time for prayerful reflection are important parts of each day's experience.

We use only experienced Christian or Catholic guides, so you receive truthful explanations of scripture and the places we encounter. When the disciple Philip asked the Eunuch (who was reading Isaiah) if he understood what he was reading, the man responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:35) Just as Philip guided the Eunuch with "the good news of Jesus," your Tekton pilgrimage will guide you into a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. Our prayers, service, and love of our Lord go with you.

• Day 1 - Monday, September 4 Depart USA

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

• Day 2 - Tuesday, September 5 Arrive Rome / Orvieto / Assisi

After our arrival in the "Eternal City", we will be met by our tour manager at the airport and drive north, stopping in the walled town of Orvieto. In the 13th century, in nearby Bolsena, a priest doubted the Eucharistic Presence during Mass and the host turned to real flesh and the wine to real blood during the consecration. The priest brought the blood-stained Corporal to Pope Urban in Orvieto, and it is now kept in a special reliquary for the faithful to view. It was also in Orvieto where Pope Urban IV called for a world-wide Feast of Corpus Christi. After venerating the sacred Eucharistic miracle, we will continue our drive through the beautiful Umbrian countryside to Assisi, a town which welcomes us in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare, and our home for the next two nights. Upon arrival we will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, site of the Porziuncola, the tiny church in the woods where St. Francis began his ministry and where St. Clare began her religious life. We will then proceed to our hotel for check-in and dinner. (D)



• Day 3 - Wednesday, September 6 Assisi

This morning we will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, the site of the beloved Porziuncola the tiny chapel rebuilt by St. Francis and his fellow friars after Francis took the commandment from the

Lord to "rebuild my church" literally, and where St. Clare began her life as a nun. In the heart of Assisi, we will witness where the power of the Eucharist turned away an army. The invading Saracens were about to attack the Convent of San Damiano where St. Clare lived with her nuns in 1241. Even though bed-ridden, St. Clare got up and held the Blessed Sacrament in the air and saw the advancing army flee in terror establishing "The Miracle of the Eucharist of Assisi." Also in the convent, we will visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix. Afterwards visit the Basilica of St. Clare, which holds the famous San Damiano Crucifix that spoke to St. Francis, and where the golden locks of St. Clare's hair and St. Francis' poor patched tunic are kept. Journey to the Basilica of St. Francis to venerate his burial place and marvel at the mother church of the Franciscan order (B, D)



• Day 4 - Thursday, September 7 Assisi / Siena / Assisi

Journey outside of Assisi to stopping in Siena, where we visit St. Dominic's, St. Catherine of Siena's parish church where she attended daily Mass and went into ecstasy. The people of Siena wanted St. Catherine to be buried in her home church, but they were only able to procure her head, which is preserved for veneration in a reliquary in St. Dominic's. Adjacent to the church is her birthplace and childhood home, which has been renovated throughout the centuries into a museum, including several chapels and a cloister. Visit the cell where she fasted and prayed, then experience a highlight of our day in the Basilica of St. Francis: venerating the Eucharistic miracle of Siena. Explore the majestic Gothic Cathedral of Siena, also known as the Duomo di Siena, built in the 13th and 14th centuries and dedicated to the Assumption of Mary. After some free time in this charming city, return to Assisi for dinner and overnight. (B/D)

• Day 5 - Friday, September 8 Assisi / Loreto / Lanciano

This morning we will depart Assisi and journey southeast, first stopping in Loreto, to visit the Shrine of the Holy House, 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 and according to tradition the home was transported by four angels from Nazareth to its present resting place in Loreto. Afterwards, we will continue our journey along the Adriatic to Lanciano, site of the oldest miracle of the Eucharist, still preserved after twelve centuries. Overnight in Lanciano. (B, D)

• Day 6 - Saturday, September 9 Lanciano / San Giovanni Rotondo

This morning we'll visit the sanctuary of the 8th century Eucharistic miracle of Lanciano. There will be time for adoration as well as a tour of the museum detailing the history of the miracle. After time for prayer and reflection, we will then drive along the coast to San Giovanni Rotondo, the home of St Padre Pio. Visit his tomb and tour

the sanctuary of the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, where this famous Saint said Mass. After visiting this mystical Saint's cell and the parlor where he greeted the faithful, we proceed to our hotel for the night. (B, D)

• **Day 7 - Sunday, September 10**

San Giovanni Rotondo / Monte Sant'Angelo / Monte Cassino / Rome

Depart San Giovanni early this morning and drive up to Monte Sant'Angelo for a breathtaking view of the Gargano Peninsula and a visit to the Grotto of Michael the Archangel. Afterwards, continue to Monte Cassino to visit the famous Abbey of Monte Cassino, founded by Benedict in 529 after he left Subiaco and where he lived until he died. Monte Cassino is considered by many to be the birthplace of monasticism in Western Europe. We will have a guided tour of the Abbey, including the extensive museum and the relics of Benedict and his sister St. Scholastica which are interred beneath the main altar. Arrive in Rome this evening in time for dinner and check-in at our hotel. (B, D)



St. John Lateran

• **Day 8 - Monday, September 11**

Rome

Our first full day in Rome is filled with wonder and awe as we steep ourselves in the beauty of St. Peter's Basilica, which beckons us into its interior through the arms of Bernini's Colonnade. A quick stop to rub the foot of St. Peter's statue like thousands of pilgrims before us takes us to marvel at Michelangelo's Pieta and then to pray at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel renovated by St. John Paul II. Afterwards, we walk through the Vatican Museums which house artifacts from around the world and Eucharistic art to prepare ourselves for the greatest masterpiece yet: The Sistine Chapel. Painted by Michelangelo, it is the most famous ceiling in the world under which popes are chosen to lead the faithful. This afternoon, travel to St. Paul Outside the Walls, originally built by Constantine in the fourth century over the site of St. Paul's tomb. Afterwards, we proceed to the Catacombs of St. Callistus and venerate the martyrs and early saints of the Church. (B, D)

• **Day 9 - Tuesday, September 12**

Rome / Subiaco / Rome

This morning we travel a short distance outside of Rome to Subiaco, where we visit Benedict's monastery, built around the Sacro Speco (Holy Cave) where he lived for three years in prayer and seclusion. Here St. Benedict began to codify his Rule, which became the foundation of western monasticism. We will also visit St. Scholastica's Monastery, built by Benedict and his twin sister, Scholastica, originally one of twelve in this area. We will see the cloisters from the 6th and 11th centuries, as well as the medieval church decorated by Cosmati, before returning to Rome for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

• **Day 10 - Wednesday, September 13**

Rome

This morning we will attend the weekly Papal audience given by His Holiness, Pope Francis (depending upon the Holy Father's schedule). This afternoon, the Scala Santa, or Holy Stairs, are prayed this day by going up them on your knees because they are so sacred. Christ walked on these 28 marble stairs at the home of Pontius Pilate before he was condemned to death. For those who cannot climb the stairs on their knees there are other stairs leading to the chapel at the top. Our prayerful experience continues with a visit to St. John Lateran, the Mother Church of the Roman Catholic faithful and the oldest basilica in Europe followed by a stop at St. Clement's Basilica, built in honor of the fourth pope. An original fresco inside this basilica depicts St. Clement celebrating Mass, giving us a visible history of Eucharistic worship at the end of the first century. (B, D)

• **Day 11 - Thursday, September 14**

Rome

We begin this morning at the fourth papal basilica of Rome. At St. Mary Major we venerate the crib of Christ, view the famous icon attributed to St. Luke, and see inestimable artwork that makes Rome renowned throughout the world. This afternoon, enjoy one last walking tour of some of Rome's other famous sites, including the Piazza Navona, with Bernini's lavish fountains, and the Pantheon with its unique dome that inspired Michelangelo. Admire the intricate frescoes and paintings of all the side chapels in the Church of the Gesu. Guarantee another visit to Rome by throwing the traditional coin over your shoulder into the Trevi Fountain. This evening we enjoy our farewell dinner together before retiring for our last night in Rome. (B, D)

• **Day 12 - Friday, September 15**

Rome / USA

Today we say "Ciao" to Italia and transfer to the airport for our return flight home, cherishing all the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage. (B)

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare **\$3,885.00**

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (applied to final invoice)

Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges **\$443.28**
(subject to change until final ticketing)

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **\$155.00**
(estimated)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST \$4,483.28

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$812
- Land-only option: \$3,267 (no flights or gratuities included)

Final Payment Due

June 2023

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy airfare from Tampa on American Airlines
- 10 nights' accommodations, including taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one piece of luggage at airports and hotels
- Knowledgeable, friendly, Catholic/Christian guides; whisper headsets; deluxe motor coach transportation to holy sites; all entrance fees listed on itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner as per itinerary (excluding drinks)
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Rome on day 11

Base rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals, gratuities, COVID-19 testing (if required)

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms a part of your final payment which is due 90 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 89 days of departure must be accompanied by payment in full. Payments made by credit card will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 21 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for a smaller group size.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be in writing. The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$150.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$300.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$1,000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 14 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

Travel Documents: A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for Italy. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

Hotels: Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

Air Transportation: Air travel is in economy class on American Airlines. Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares and flight schedules are subject to change without notice. Note that any ticketing changes or cancellations made within 120 days of your departure date will incur airline penalties.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included in base price: Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$443.28 per person, but subject to change until the time of ticketing), gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records estab-

lishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

Trust Account Disclosure: California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"): George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

Responsibility Clause: Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their co-operating 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.



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