

ITINERARY

This intimate **Pilgrimage** will take us to many of the famous sites of Catholic devotion. It will give us the ability to examine our deepest aspirations and to heighten our **love, faith and hope** to the Lord.

Day 01

Our spiritual journey begins as we depart on our transatlantic **flight to Rome**. Meals and refreshments will be served on board. Please arrive at LAX three (3) hours prior to departure for airport check-in. **D**

Day 02

Upon arrival at Rome's airport, **Bob & Adeline and our tour guide, Nick**, will greet you. We will then proceed through the lush countryside of **Umbria** before arriving in the beautiful, peaceful **Assisi**, the birthplace and home of **St. Francis**. **BD**

Day 03

Visit the upper and lower **Basilica de San Francisco**, view the cycle of **Giotto's frescos** with the twenty-eight episodes from the "**life of St. Francis**." On the lower level; visit the Church of **Santa Maria del Angeli**, which houses the famous "**Porziuncola**" (the little church that St. Francis built), the thornless bush, the cave where St. Francis retired for prayer, and the chapel where **St. Francis** consecrated **St. Clare**. Also in Assisi, we will visit the **Basilica of St. Clare**, where you can view her incorrupt body in the crypt. You can also see the cross of **San Damiano** that spoke to St. Francis and said to him "build my Church." **BD**

Day 04

After breakfast we depart by motorcoach for the **Eternal City of Rome**. This afternoon we will tour Christian Rome...**Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican, Santa Maria Maggiore Basilica, St. John Lateran**, housing the **Holy Staircase**, Chapel of Domine quo Vadis, the **Catacombs of St. Callixtus**, St. Sebastian's Gate, the Roman Caracalla baths and more. **BD**

Day 05

This morning we will attend the **Papal Audience** and receive the blessing given by his holiness, the Pope. Immediately following the Papal Audience, the **Vatican Museum and Gardens** and the **Sistine Chapel** - Michelangelo's glorious masterpiece. **BD**

Day 06

Morning departure to **San Giovanni Rotondo**. Today we will visit the places associated with **Padre Pio**; his tomb and cell; the **old church where he received the stigmata** and the new church of **Santa Maria della Grazia**. Later we ascend **Monte Sant' Angelo** along a spectacular vista to visit **Grotto of St. Michael the Archangel** and Padre Pio's most famous charitable work, the home for the relief of suffering. **Overnight ferry to Dubrovnik with cabins**. **BD**

Days 07, 08, 09

Upon disembarkation from our ferry we visit the "**Jewel of the Adriatic coast**," the medieval walled city of **Dubrovnik**. We will enjoy a guided tour of the old town and its major monuments.

Later this afternoon, we continue driving inland toward the town of **Medjugorje**, a tiny village where over 3,000 personal apparitions of Our Lady have been reported since June 24, 1981, when **Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, appeared to six children from this village. Later this evening we will join the villagers at **St. James Church** for the evening devotions of the Rosary, Holy Eucharist and a Healing prayer service.

During the next three precious days in **Medjugorje** we will share in the many religious ceremonies with pilgrims from all over the world. Beginning this morning, we will gather for English speaking Mass. Afterwards, you will have time for your private devotions. Our local guide will accompany us as we ascend **Apparition Hill** to see the place where the young visionaries first encountered Our Lady. You will have the opportunity to pray before the cross, which commemorates the spot where Mary appeared. We can then climb **Krizavec Hill** (Holy Cross) for private devotions.

Our guide will arrange a meeting with the **visionaries** in their own homes, if they are in the village. We have planned a half-day tour to Siroki Brijeg to visit Father Jozo at the Franciscan monastery for a healing prayer service. **Father Jozo** was the pastor of **St. James Church** in Medjugorje when the Apparitions began. **BD**

Day 10

Early morning departure from Medjugorje to Split. Day ferry (10 am departure) from Split to Ancona. Upon disembarkation of our ferry, we will proceed to our hotel for dinner. **BD**

Day 11

Morning departure to **Osimo, Shrine of St. Joseph Cupertino**. Later, on to **Loreto**, one of the Italy's leading Pilgrimage spots. The Basilica houses the **Holy House of Nazareth**, which tradition tells us, was transported here from the Holy Land. This Basilica houses the most reproduced Madonnas in the world, the **Black Madonna of Loreto**. Afterwards, continue along the scenic Adriatic coastline to **Lanciano**, the site of the **Eucharistic Miracle** in the church of Lagomtia. A Brazilian monk, while having great doubts, began the consecration of the Mass during which the host had turned to flesh and the wine to blood. The people attending the Mass witnessed this. Today it is believed that the chalice which holds the blood is the same as was used during the Mass when the miracle took place. **Late afternoon departure to the Eternal City of Rome. Dinner in Rome. BD**

Day 12

Free day in Rome. as you please. Time on your own for last minute shopping or to explore this fascinating city as you please. Maybe a visit to the **Spanish Steps**, or drop by the **Trevi Fountain** to toss in a coin. Tradition tells us this assures your return to Rome. Farewell dinner tonight in restaurant with wine and music. **BD**

Day 13 Rome - Los Angeles

Morning transfer to the Rome airport for our **return flight** home with fond memories of the wonderful places we visited, people we met and friendships made along the way. **Ciao for now!!**