

1206 – The Founding of the Community at Prouille

Carlos A. Azpiroz Costa, OP, Master of the Order of Preachers, announced on the feast of St. Catherine of Siena that beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2006, and continuing through Epiphany, 2008, the Order of Preachers will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the founding of the first community of sisters by St. Dominic in Prouille, in France.

This is an important opportunity for Dominican institutions to celebrate their heritage. By traveling to places where visionary men and women witnessed to the Gospel and forged new approaches to ministry, we gain an appreciation for the unique way they responded to the challenges of their day, and we are, ourselves, moved and inspired to find ways to make the Gospel come to life in our own time.

Illume brings people to important places around the world where significant change inspires significant transformation in the individuals and groups that we guide. Participants return home with a new sense of their place in the world and a renewed commitment to their faith.

Illume invites you to organize group journeys to historical Dominican sites as a way of fostering and encouraging transformation and growth in members of your community – whether they are members of the Dominican Family plus parishioners, faculty, students or others who share an interest in the Order and its founder.

Sites of Dominican Heritage

Institutions preserve the values and vision of their heritage by sponsoring travel events in relevant historical settings that evoke institutional values.

Organize a historical journey to the south of France

Dominic worked throughout the south of France preaching the Gospel and persuading the Cathars or Albigians to return to the Catholic faith. Visit cities that evoke the 13th century and that were at the center of Dominic's ministry - including Albi, Carcassonne, the first monastery at Prouille, Montreal, Beziers, and Toulouse. Visit other interesting cities in the region such as Aigues Mortes, Sts. Marie-de-la-Mer, and Avignon (where St. Catherine of Siena admonished the Pope to return to Rome).

Visit sites associated with Dominic, Thomas Aquinas and other Dominicans in Italy

Dominic accompanied his Bishop to Rome and attended the 4th Lateran Council. He founded an early community of nuns at San Sisto in Rome. The Dominican Generalate resides at Santa Sabina – also a site where Thomas Aquinas spent time working on the Summa Theologica. Visit other Thomistic sites in and around Naples such as Monte Cassino and Fossa Nuova.

Visit Historical Monasteries throughout the world

Although the Dominicans are a mendicant order, there are historical communities throughout the world that preserve the continuity and legacy of the Order and allow sojourners to appreciate the diverse way that the Order of Preachers realizes its mission in different cultural contexts.

The success of a travel experience is defined by the difference between novice and expert planning and touring.

In-house religious studies scholar

Illume's in-house religious studies scholar will be available to you to conceptualize and design a unique program that reflects your institution's specific objectives. This assures that your program has religious, historical, theological and pastoral integrity as travel services are integrated with program goals.

Local partners

Illume's local teams and affiliates assure that your event is managed professionally and is positive, safe and memorable.