

APRIL 11-19, 2018

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF VISIONARY MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH

A Pilgrimage to Siena, Assisi, and Rome

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Father Gregory Kandt of the Church of the Incarnation in Charlottesville, invites you to join him for a retreat in Assisi – to spend time learning about the life, times and ministry of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. Assisi is one of the best preserved historic cities in Italy where narrow streets, beautiful vistas, and historic buildings evoke another time and invite us to contemplation and reflection. Our time in Assisi includes guided visits and scheduled liturgies – but we have also set aside time so that it is a retreat with leisure to explore at your own pace. In addition to our time in Assisi, we will visit the beautiful medieval town of Siena to explore the life and times of St. Catherine. We will spend time in Rome at the beginning and end of our retreat, including an opportunity to attend the weekly audience with Pope Francis on our last day. Come join us and treat yourself to a memorable and transformative spiritual journey.

We are all members of a global community that is increasingly interdependent. The future of our world depends on our cultivating a spirit of hospitality, respect, understanding and compassion for one another.

Enlightenment comes in many forms, but we believe that there are few life experiences more moving than exploring other cultures, meeting people of diverse backgrounds, and becoming a citizen of the world – leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life.

Our Program

Wednesday, April 11: Depart Washington, D.C. Dulles for Rome.

Thursday, April 12: *We Arrive as Pilgrims in Rome.* Arrival Rome. We will meet our tour manager at the airport and transfer by private motorcoach to the guesthouse in the center of Rome. We will have a welcome liturgy at Santa Maria Sopra Minerva at the tomb of St. Catherine to begin the retreat. Afterwards, we will enjoy an informal walking tour of the historical center, followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Rome.

Santa Maria Sopra Minerva is a historic church run by the Dominicans. This was the site of Galileo's trial. The body of St. Catherine of Siena is buried under the main altar. One of the great works of Renaissance art is here – "The Resurrected Christ" by Michelangelo. It is an important reflection of the celebration of the beauty of humanity during the 16th century.

Friday, April 13: *The Witness of St. Peter.* Breakfast. We will begin with Mass at St. Peter's, followed by guided visit to the Basilica. Afterwards, we will travel to Siena. On arrival, we will visit House of St. Catherine and San Domenico. We will enjoy some free time late this afternoon before dinner. Overnight Siena.

The current St. Peter's Basilica was begun in the early 1500s to replace the ancient basilica begun in 324 under Constantine. Constantine chose the site outside the main part of Rome because it was a cemetery containing the tomb of St. Peter. St. Peter was martyred during a persecution of Christians following the great fire of Rome in 64. There was a circus or arena in this area - and Christians were killed in the arena (including St. Peter). Over the years, pilgrims came to the cemetery to celebrate the martyrdom of Peter. Constantine created a large platform on the steep hillside by filling in Roman Mausolea as foundations. St. Peter's Basilica was one of the primary pilgrimage destinations for Christians for centuries. Pope Julius II decided the old structure was too unstable and began the work to build a new larger structure. The

building of the current St. Peter's took 125 years and involved the work of great artists such as Bramante, Sangallo, Michelangelo and Bernini. For many decades the old St. Peter's was encircled by the construction of the new building. Eventually the old was dismantled. There was much controversy surrounding the design of the dome. Bramante's original design was more in keeping with the shape of the dome of the Pantheon - a lower profile. Michelangelo designed a more elevated dome - one that would be more visible and create a punctuation mark in the urban landscape. Bernini finished the structure with his magnificent baldachino and arched colonnade and square. During the 1940s, archaeologists excavated under the basilica after a workman punctured a hole and found a Roman mausoleum. The archaeologists discovered an extensive Roman cemetery and ultimately the tomb of St. Peter. This was important confirmation of the original purpose for the basilica and its long-standing role as monument to St. Peter. The basilica is the largest Christian church in the world. Its dimensions are larger than life and create the sensation of entering a whole other world as one walks through the doors and front portico. Michelangelo's famous "Pieta" is housed in a small chapel on the right as one enters. Many important paintings from the original St. Peter's have been preserved in the new through mosaic reproductions. The building centers around the crypt surrounding St. Peter's tomb and the papal altar over it. On the lower level numerous popes are buried in the crypt. St. Peter's Square serves as an important site for Papal ceremonies, audiences, and liturgies. Bernini's colonnade creates arms welcoming pilgrims from around the world.

Siena, a city reminiscent of medieval times, set in the Tuscan hills, has Gothic streets and is surrounded by huge ramparts. The Campo is the large square in the center of town - shaped like a large shell. It is the site of the famous Palio races where horses sponsored by different neighborhoods compete for a coveted prize. St. Catherine was born in Siena in 1347. She became a

Dominican nun at 16 years of age. Throughout her life she experienced a calling from God and it is believed that she had the Stigmata at one point.

Saturday, April 14: *St. Francis Called to Rebuild the Church.* Breakfast. If time or interest permits, we will visit the Cathedral in Siena. Afterwards, we will travel to Assisi and visit the Convento di San Damiano on arrival, with liturgy here. We will check into the guesthouse with some free time before dinner. Overnight Assisi.

The Cathedral in Siena is truly a museum, exhibiting marble panels with intarsia drawings of mythological characters by forty different artists. Narrative scenes of Jesus' life are carved into panels in the pulpit. Frescoes and statues are also found in the Cathedral existing as tools to celebrate Christian spirituality.

Assisi is a graceful, serene and enchanting Umbrian hill town built of pink stone and encircled by medieval walls. The basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare welcome pilgrims at both ends of the city - underscoring the spiritual heritage of the two local saints who called for a return to evangelical simplicity. Assisi preserves the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare and offers an opportunity for personal reflection and prayer in a spiritually rich setting.

The picturesque convent and chapel of San Damiano in the valley below Assisi was rebuilt by St. Francis and served as the home for St. Clare. It was here that Francis heard the voice of Christ from the cross telling him to rebuild His Church. Later Francis realized this has more significance than simply rebuilding the chapel. Francis inaugurated an important reform of the Church to return to its evangelical roots.

Sunday, April 15: *The Evangelical Simplicity of St. Clare.* Breakfast. We will begin with Mass at Santa Chiara, followed by a guided visit to the Basilica of San Francesco. The rest of the day will be devoted to retreat and personal exploration. This evening, we will gather for prayer and reflection before dinner. Overnight Assisi.

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St. Clare, like St. Francis, was born into a noble family. At the age of 18, she joined Francis's movement and formed a group of religious women known as the Poor Clares. They established their community at San Damiano, just below the walled-town of Assisi. St. Clare died in 1253. Shortly afterward, a basilica was begun to house her tomb. The Basilica of Santa Chiara is a graceful and historic 13th century Gothic structure that houses the crucifix that was in San Damiano when Francis received his vision to rebuild the Church. In the crypt of the Basilica is St. Clare's tomb - where her preserved body is on display along with artifacts from her life and that of St. Francis.

One of the most important and frequented pilgrimage destination in Christianity is the Basilica of San Francesco. This is a UNESCO heritage site and houses not only the tomb of St. Francis but important medieval art/frescos. The basilica was begun in 1228 when St. Francis was canonized a saint (just 2 years after his death). The complex was to include a large crypt (the lower basilica) and a soaring Gothic-style upper basilica. Today there is a third area - an excavated stone crypt under the lower basilica where St. Francis' tomb is visible. The upper basilica includes important frescos by Cimabue and Giotto. The Giotto frescos narrate the life of Francis and are considered some of the early examples of the transition from medieval to Renaissance art. The lower basilica is covered in frescos as well. There is one fresco by Cimabue - Our Lady Enthroned and St. Francis - that is considered one of the most faithful likenesses to St. Francis.

Monday, April 16: *The Visionary Life and Work of St. Francis.* Breakfast. Today we will transfer to Eremo delle Carceri, with extended time at the Eremo. We will celebrate Mass either here or at San Rufino. On the way back to Assisi, we will visit the

Porziuncula in Santa Maria degli Angeli. The afternoon will be devoted to retreat. This evening, we will have prayer and reflection before dinner. Overnight Assisi.

Traveling up Mount Subasio - offering a magnificent panorama of the surrounding countryside – one arrives at the Eremo delle Carceri, Francis' favorite retreat. The hermitage, cut out of the rock, is set in the dense woodland covering the mountain behind Assisi. Most of the miracles recounted in St. Francis' Fioretti ('Little Flowers') took place in these woods.

San Rufino is the Cathedral Church of Assisi. There has been a church on this site from at least the 5th century. It is thought this may have been the site of the Forum when the town was a Roman village. San Rufino was a bishop who came to bring Christianity to Assisi and was martyred here. The Church has a medieval facade but a more modern interior. The Diocesan museum is housed in the Cathedral.

The Porziuncula is a small church inside the large basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in the valley under the historic town of Assisi. Legend suggests that the church dates to early centuries of Christianity and had always been a place of prayer where hermits stayed. It was in possession of the Benedictines until the Abbot of Monte Subasio gave it to Francis to restore. From that point onward, it became the place where Francis began his order, where he received Clare and dedicated her to the Lord, and where Francis died in 1226. It is a beautiful structure and evokes the simplicity that marked Francis and his Order.

Tuesday, April 17: *The Stigmata of St. Francis.* Breakfast. Today we will travel to La Verna for a guided visit to the monastery with Mass. Afterwards, we will return to Rome for dinner and overnight.

La Verna is a religious site in the Tuscan mountains given to St. Francis in 1213 as a place to retreat and pray. In 1224 while praying there, Francis received the stigmata. The stigmata are marks of the wounds of Christ that appear on a person considered to have embodied the spirit and life of Christ in such a way as to share his sufferings as well. A number of structures have been built

around the original cave where Francis prayed. It is a beautiful and spiritually suggestive site.

Wednesday, April 18: *The Ministry of the Bishop of Rome.* Breakfast. We will attend the Papal Audience this morning. The afternoon will be free, with help from the tour manager in arranging optional independent visits. We will have farewell liturgy at St. John Lateran, where Francis met the Pope. This evening, we will enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Rome.

Every Wednesday morning, His Holiness greets the faithful at St. Peter's. This general audience is comprised of visitors from around the world. After a hopeful message pronounced in various languages the Pope imparts His blessing.

The Basilica of St. John Lateran was founded by Constantine in the 4th century – and has served as the Cathedral (chair) of the Bishop of Rome ever since. Destroyed and rebuilt numerous times with some original details remaining, it adjoins Lateran Palace, at one time the home of the Pope and the site of several important councils, and the Scala Santa (Holy Stairs), said to have been brought to Rome by St. Helena from the house of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem.

Thursday, April 19: *We Return as Pilgrims Renewed.* Breakfast. We will transfer to the airport for our return to the USA.

Inclusive Features

- Roundtrip airfare Washington Dulles to Rome
- 7-nights accommodations in religious guesthouses
 - Rome - 1 night
 - Siena - 1 night
 - Assisi - 3 nights
 - Rome - 1 night
- Breakfast daily
- 7 dinners, including 2 at local restaurants
- A full time tour manager
- Guided visits with local experts per the itinerary
- Local transportation via deluxe motorcoach

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Travel Resource Center

Visit www.travelillum.com/trc/phv for details and registration information.

With questions please contact:

Rev. Gregory Kandt
gregory@incarnationparish.org
(434) 973-4381

Complete Program Prices

Includes group airfare and airport transfers

\$3635 per person based on double occupancy

+\$450 additional - airline taxes, airport fees, security fees, fuel surcharges (estimate as of June 15, 2017)

\$325 supplement for single occupancy

Land Only Program Prices

Excludes all airfare and airport transfers

\$3335 per person based on double occupancy

\$325 supplement for single occupancy

Please note: Single rooms for single use are limited to 10% of the total number of rooms reserved. Should additional single rooms be requested, hotels may impose a higher supplement for all single rooms of **\$550**. If you have selected double occupancy but no roommate is available due to uneven numbers or if your roommate should cancel you will be in a single room and responsible for the single room supplement.

All prices listed are discounted for payment by check. When paying with a credit card you will be charged the standard base price which is 5% higher.

All program prices are based on availability of services at the time registration material is received; currency exchange rates in effect May 18, 2017—and on 2017 land and air tariffs—and are subject to change. All services are provided subject to Illume's Conditions and Clauses.

The program prices will be reviewed before the invoices for the final payment are mailed, and will reflect the current prices.

Travel Protection

Illume suggests that you purchase travel insurance to help protect your trip and your investment from unexpected circumstances. Please read the Illume Conditions and Clauses attached to the Program Registration Application to review the charges that will apply in the event that you cancel your program participation. Illume offers you the option of purchasing a Group Deluxe Travel Protection Plan for your program. If you wish to purchase the plan, **the premium should be paid with your initial deposit on the same check.**

Travel Protection Rates

Group Deluxe
\$276 per person

Group Deluxe – Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR)*
\$414 per person

*CFAR coverage is 75% of the nonrefundable trip cost. Trip cancellation must be 48 hours or more prior to scheduled departure. CFAR is not available to residents of New York State.

This Travel Protection Plan is provided by Travel Insured International. All questions concerning covered reasons for cancellation, coverage while traveling, benefits and filing claims can be best answered by calling Travel Insured. Travel Insured International's customer care phone number is **1-(844)-440-8113**.

To download the Plan Document, please visit the "Travel Protection" link on your program's Travel Resource Center.

Program Registration

Complete the Application and forward with your **\$800.00** deposit per person (and travel protection payment, if purchasing) by **October 15, 2017** to:

Rev. Gregory Kandt
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(434) 973-4381

Registrations will be accepted after **October 15, 2017** on a space-available basis. Additional costs may apply. Contact Illume for pricing and availability after **October 15, 2017**.

Balance of payment due not later than: **January 11, 2018**.

Checks should be made payable to Illume.

Note: Any changes to the program will be outlined in the final documents which you will receive one month prior to departure. If changes are made that affect the program price, you will receive an invoice or a credit accordingly.

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