

## Exploring the Heritage Of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Catholic colleges and universities draw from a rich heritage. They are shaped by important moments in history where visionary men and women led the way in advancing the Gospel, creating educational organizations responsive to the needs of their time. Administrators, trustees and faculty continue to search for ways to shape the identity and promote the mission of Catholic institutions in our own day and time. Travel to places where important history shaped this heritage is a powerful way to stimulate learning, conversation, reflection, new perspectives and renewed commitment to the rich tradition of Catholic higher education.

Illume brings people to places of important historical and religious significance is a powerful way to *inspire growth and change* in individuals and groups and advance your institution mission and objectives. We delight in collaborating with our clients to create unique international events that promote institutional identity and mission.

### Program Objectives

#### Exploring the Lives of Visionary Founders

Many Catholic institutions trace their heritage to men and women who responded to unique challenges in their day and age – Ignatius of Loyola, Dominic, Benedict, Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Louis Marillac, and others. Travel to places where these visionaries forged new institutions helps contemporary leaders understand the charisms that shape the mission of their organizations.

#### Discovering the Roots of Our Catholic Tradition

Catholic beliefs and practices have developed over the centuries. Travel to places that were formative for these traditions – such as Italy, France, Spain, Poland, Germany and other European and Mediterranean countries - strengthens Catholic identity and inspires contemporary leaders to preserve that heritage for future generations.

#### Worshiping At Sites That Move the Spirit

Praying at historical venues is powerfully inspiring and builds community amongst those who gather together. This is particularly powerful for trustees and administrators who return home with a new sense of their common faith and a collegial spirit to foster the heritage of their institution.

The way we travel the world is always changing but the reasons remain constant– to become citizens of the world, *leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life*. People who travel the globe begin a lifelong journey of worldly citizenship to gain valuable insight about themselves and the world around them through the discovery and exploration of cultures outside their own.

### Venues

#### France

Many venues in France are conducive to reflecting on the heritage of Catholic orders and institutions. Paris gave birth to the Daughters of Charity and the Vincent de Paul Society. Rheims, Paris and Saint-Denis was the center of John Baptist La Salle's formation of educational institutions and the Christian Brothers. Southern France was the context for the development of the earliest Dominican communities and their ministry, 800 years ago. The Missionaries of LaSalette were founded in response to the apparition of Mary in 1846. Learn about the compassion and respect these communities inspired in others.

#### Spain

Northern Spain includes many venues for exploring the heritage of the Jesuits – including Loyola, Xavier, Manresa and Montserrat. Southern Spain is a great venue for deepening reflection on the interfaith outreach of Catholic institutions with travel to Toledo, Granada, Cordoba and Seville. Explore models of interfaith respect and understanding.

#### Italy

Rome is an excellent venue for exploring early Christian sites, the development of Christian art and architecture, Catholic traditions, and the commitment of Catholic institutions to the arts and humanities. Franciscan institutions owe their heritage to St. Francis of Assisi. There are sites throughout Italy that underscore the work and mission of the Dominicans, Jesuits, Benedictines and other sponsoring Orders of Catholic higher education.

**Illume works with group leaders to create customized and unique programs with activities, visits and resources that support your vision and objectives. Call us to begin planning a program tailored to your constituency.**