



Amazing Catholic Journeys

A JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Pass through the Holy Doors & receive a Plenary Indulgence!



With

REV. FR. FRED OFREDO
(SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR)

Departs Cebu or USA- May 18, 2025

ROME ONLY: May 19-22, 2025 (4 Days) - \$1,335*

ROME TO ASSISI: May 19-26, 2025 (8 Days) - \$2,665*

(Rome, Monte Cassino, Padre Pio, Monte Sant' Angelo, Lanciano, Loreto, Assisi)

ENTIRE TOUR: ROME TO VENICE - \$3,885*

May 19-30, 2025 (12 Days)

(All above sites, including: Sienna, Florence, Cinque Terre, Padua, Venice)

(*Prices for Land Only; Based on DBL Occupancy & 25 minimum Pilgrims)| Airfare from JFK: \$995/from TPA: \$1345)
Airfares as of Jan 15, 2025; Book early, fares not guaranteed until ticketed.

**FOR REGISTRATION
& MORE INFO**

Visit: www.goAmazingTours.com



Amazing Catholic Journeys

Call: Xenia Maye | 813-731-7682 (USA) OR
Melba Serafico | +63-917-315-1461 (Phils.)
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MARIAN JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY: May 18-30, 2025

Day 1 (May 18-Sun): Depart for Rome

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Meals will be served on board.

Day 2 (May 19-Mon): Arrival in Rome / Sightseeing Tour / Holy Mass & Welcome Dinner

Welcome to Rome, also known as "The Eternal City." Upon landing at Rome airport, claim your baggage and proceed to the Arrivals Hall, where your tour guide and/or driver will greet you. Drive to the hotel for check-in and take some free time to relax. Later this afternoon, at 2PM, your group will meet in the hotel lobby for a meet and greet with fellow pilgrims and your priest. You will depart together for a sightseeing tour of Piazza Navona and a guided walking tour of the Piazza di Spagna, the Spanish Steps and the world famous Trevi Fountain. Later, we will have Mass at the Church of Santo Spirito in Sassia (Holy Spirit in Saxony) in Rome, located near St. Peter's Square (by the Vatican), and following Mass, you will attend a Welcome Dinner at a nice restaurant with free wine/drinks. After dinner, return to the hotel for a restful night.

Day 3 (May 20-Tues): Santa Maria Maggiore / St. John Lateran Basilica / Holy Stairs / Santa Croce / Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls

Today we will visit the four major basilicas of Rome. Today, we will next visit another of Rome's major basilicas, Santa Maria Maggiore, the most important church in the world devoted to Our Lady. Here we celebrate Mass where Mass has been celebrated every day since the 5th century. After Mass, we enjoy a guided tour of this wonderful Basilica, and spend some personal time for prayers. Then we visit (guided tour) the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, the Pope's cathedral church where relics of both Peter and Paul remain under the main altar. Here we will see its impressive statues of each of the Apostles. From here we cross the street to visit the church of the Scala Santa. Here we see the Holy Staircase of 28 marble steps (now covered in wood) which is believed to be a staircase from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem where Jesus was condemned to death and brought to Rome by Saint Helen in the 4th century. We may climb the steps on our knees in memory of Christ's Passion. We will also visit Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (Church of the Holy Cross). This large church not far from San Giovanni in Laterano and Santa Maria Maggiore houses a number of relics from the Passion of Christ. These include the Titulus Crucis, the inscribed sign

which hung over Christ during his crucifixion; two thorns from Jesus's crown of thorns; and three pieces of the True Cross. Here you'll also find the doubting finger of St. Thomas. Later we embark on a day's worth of sightseeing beginning with a drive to Capitoline Hill, where we will enjoy a view of the ancient Roman Forum and see Constantine's Arch, the Arch of Titus, the Circus Maximus and ancient Roman Aqueducts. Finally, we stop at the famous Colosseum for inner visit and a guided tour. Return to hotel for dinner and a restful night in Rome.

Day 4 (May 21- Wed): Papal Audience/St. Peter's Basilica / Vatican Museum / Sistine Chapel / Panoramic Sightseeing

Today we have an early breakfast to be on time for the general audience with Pope Francis at the St. Peter's Square. (Papal Audience: Is scheduled to take place every Wednesday, pending the schedule of Pope Francis). Following the audience, we will proceed to the Vatican Museums for a guided tour, where we will see art masterpieces of Michelangelo, Bernini, Tapestry Gallery, and Raphael Rooms. We will walk through Geographical maps Gallery, Sistine Chapel with the magnificent fresco of The Last Judgment and many more halls and rooms filled with Christian art, history and inheritance of all civilization. After the museum tour, we will have a guided tour of the heart of the Vatican State, St. Peter's Basilica, where St. Peter was martyred. Here, you'll have the opportunity to view Michelangelo's Pieta sculpture, pray at the tombs of Pope Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II. Spend some time on prayers and meditation.

Later, we embark on a panoramic sightseeing tour beginning with a drive to Capitoline Hill, where we will enjoy a view of the ancient Roman Forum and see Constantine's Arch, the



Arch of Titus, the Circus Maximus and ancient Roman Aqueducts. Finally, we stop at the famous Colosseum for photo opportunity. Then, we return to the hotel for dinner and

a restful night.

Day 5 (May 22-Thurs): Rome – Monte Cassino / San Giovanni Rotondo

(Note: Some pilgrims are here only for the 4-Days in Rome after their Marian Pilgrimage, this morning they transfer to FCO airport.)



This morning, we depart Rome, you will board the bus and enjoy the scenic route to the Abbey of Monte Cassino, the principal monastery of the Benedictine Order, founded by St. Benedict around 530 A.D. Enjoy a guided tour of the Monte Cassino Abbey. Continue on to San Giovanni Rotondo, where St. Pio of Pietrelcina (St. Padre Pio), a Capuchin friar, priest and mystic known for his devotion to God, care for the sick and supernatural gifts and has lived for many decades and where thousands of people have flocked in order to be closer to this great saint and to Our Lord. Celebrate Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Grace. Dinner and overnight in San Giovanni Rotondo.

Day 6 (May 23-Fri): San Giovanni Rotondo / Monte Sant' Angelo

After breakfast, we will walk to the Sanctuary of Padre Pio and celebrate Mass at the Tomb of Padre Pio. After Mass we will have the opportunity to view and pray before the incorrupt body of Padre Pio. Then we have a guided tour of the sanctuary, hear more of the life of the saint, watch some documentaries and then visit the museum with many personal belongings of Padre Pio. See the old church, Church of Our Lady of Grace and the altar where he said masses and the crucifix from which he received the stigmata in 1918. We will see the confessional where Padre Pio spent innumerable hours with a multitude of pilgrims, directing them on their journey toward God. We will then get an opportunity to touch and be played over the First-Class relic of Padre Pio, his stained glove. Our guide will make arrangements to schedule this during our visit. After lunch, we then depart San Giovanni and drive along the breathtaking view of the Gargano Peninsula to visit the Grotto of Monte Sant' Angelo, where St. Michael Archangel had been appearing from 5th to 17th century. Also here, six different popes, St. Francis and at least four other saints have knelt in prayer at this grotto, seeking the protection of St Michael. It is the oldest shrine in Western Europe dedicated to the Archangel Michael and has been an important pilgrimage site since the early

Middle Ages. Visit St. Michael Basilica and town where we will

spend some free time on our own. This shrine and a little town surrounding it on the top of Mount Gargano shows us little bit more of the life of the local population have in this part of south-east Italy. *(Note: Make sure you get the stone relic, which was believed to have been blessed by St, Michael, which assumedly can provide protection; Purchase this from the nearby souvenir shop.)* Return for dinner and overnight in San Giovanni Rotondo. After dinner you have the Option to attend the weekly candlelight procession at the Sanctuary of St. Pio after dinner, at 9:00 pm. (*Candlelight Procession - Between May and October).

Day 7 (May 24-Sat): San Giovanni Rotondo / Lanciano / Loreto / Assisi

After breakfast, you leave for Assisi. On the way we stop in Lanciano, for private Mass at the Church of St. Longinus, the site of the greatest Eucharistic Miracle in the world, that occurred in the eighth century. At the time of the miracle, there was a Basilian monk, who struggled with the belief in the Real Presence in the Eucharist. During the time of Mass, the monk, with doubt in his voice, said the words of consecration and the bread and wine transformed into physical flesh and blood. After lunch, depart for the Marian Shrine of Loreto. Loreto is a beautiful little town where the church dedicated to Saint Mary was built already in the 14th century. Legend says that the House of the Holy Family was miraculously transferred from Nazareth, while probably some parts of it were brought here by the crusaders. "The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and She conceived of the Holy Spirit" - words that in Loreto in the House of the Holy Family touch us even deeper. On the ruins of the house one can see the actual place of the event. This is also the house in which Mary first prayed the Magnificat, in which Jesus grew to manhood, and in which the Holy Family lived, before it was transported several times by angels, to its current location. Later drive to Assisi or nearby area, with dinner and

overnight at your hotel.

Day 8 (May 25-Sun): Assisi - St. Francis / St. Claire / Blessed Carlo Acutis

Today is a very special day, as we will spend a full day touring the home of Saint Francis, the Saint of Nature and Servant to the Poor and Saint Claire. Following breakfast, we will celebrate Mass at the Basilica of St. Francis. After Mass, we will be exploring and learning about St. Francis and his life. Our guided tour will start from church of Santa Chiara to see the Cross from which Jesus spoke to St Francis, asking him to rebuild His church. You may kneel before the crucifix and pray his prayer. Also visit the tomb of St. Francis. Explore the quaint hilltop birthplace of St Francis that still retains something of the atmosphere of the early 1200s, the period when St Francis began his ministry. Contained within the huge 13th-century Basilica are many of the saint's possessions and a series of frescoes depicting his life. Next, we will learn more about St. Claire the founder of Poor Claire's and see her relics/incorrupt body in St. Claire's Basilica. The foundress of

the Order of Poor Claire's followed the teachings of St. Francis by living a life of poverty and humility.

Next you will visit the Santuario Della Spogliazione where Blessed Carlo Acutis' tomb is, the first millennial to be declared Blessed. Continue tour by walking through this picturesque town, where St. Francis and St. Clare both followed God's call to rebuild his church. Enjoy some free time - for additional prayers, shopping and lunch. After lunch, board the bus, which will take you outside of the walls of Assisi, to the Chapel, "Porziuncola", one of three restored churches by young Francis that nowadays is embraced by Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. It was in St. Mary of the Angels Basilica where St. Francis spent most of his life. We will visit the rose bush, and the cave where the saint retired for prayer. This Basilica is made up of two structures, both of which you will visit. The first structure is the "Porziuncola" and the second is the "Capella del Transito" which is the place where St. Francis died. After the guided tour, attend the Farewell Dinner with drinks at a nice restaurant in Assisi. Return to hotel in Assisi or nearby area for the night.

Day 9 (May 26-Mon): END OF MAIN TOUR: Assisi to Rome & Homebound / OR JOIN POST TOUR: From Assisi to Siena, Florence, Cinque Terra, Padua & Venice

This morning, we will have our last Mass as a group at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angel in Assisi. **After Mass, for those not taking the Post Tour, they will depart Assisi & return to Rome for their flights in the afternoon.**

FOR MORE INFO:

Amazing Catholic Journeys

Email: amazingcatholicjourneys@yahoo.com

Website: www.goAmazingTours.com

Call one of the following Phone Numbers:

Xenia Maye | 813-731-7682 (USA) OR

Melba Serafico | +63-917-3151-461 (Philippines)

INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE

- Accommodation in hand-picked Superior/ First class hotels
- Pricing based on DBL occupancy; 25 minimum
- *Price may increase if less than 25 pilgrims*
- English speaking & expert guides
- Breakfast and Dinner daily
- Modern air-conditioned tourist bus
- Entrance fees to all the sites as per itinerary
- Welcome Dinner in Rome, 3 Course Meal, drinks included
- Daily Holy Mass arrangements at Holy Sites
- Papal Audience in Rome
- Free Portage of one piece only of luggage in/out hotels
- Travelling Priest/Chaplain
- Whisper sets (must be returned after the tour)
- Farewell Dinner in Assisi with drinks

NOT INCLUDED

- International Flights, domestic flights, airport, taxes;
- Add-On Fares from other Gateways
- Single room supplement (additional fee)
- Lunch meals and drinks
- Souvenirs and personal expenses
- The new visa for Europe: (ETIAS)- \$7.00 (European Travel Information and Authorization System – apply online)
- Gratuities for Bus Driver, Tour Escort, Local Guides & Hotel Dining Staff: \$48 (Rome)/ \$128 (Rome to Assisi) /\$208 (Rome to Venice)
- Love Offering for Priest
- Church Offerings for Daily Mass (\$1-\$5/day)
- Travel insurance – strongly recommended
- Schengen Visa where applicable

OPTIONAL POST TOUR: May 26-30, 2025 (5 Days)

HIGHLIGHTS: Sienna, Florence, Cinque Terra, Padua, Venice

Day 9 (May 26-Mon): Assisi / Sienna / Florence

FOR THOSE JOINING THE POST TOUR: After Mass, we drive will have a scenic drive to the Tuscan city of Siena. We will walk through the well preserved city of Siena, birthplace of Saints Catherine (Virgin and Doctor of the Church and one of the two patron Saints of Italy, with St. Francis of Assisi) and St. Bernardine (known as the "Apostle of Italy" for his efforts to revive the Catholic faith in the 15th century). Siena is also one of Italy's loveliest medieval cities. Here we will stroll the Piazza Del Campo (the city center), one of Italy's finest squares and visit the Basilica of St. Francis, containing the miraculous consecrated hosts that remained intact since 1730. We will continue on to view the incorrupt head of St. Catherine at the Basilica of St. Dominic (Her body is preserved in Rome in the Basilica St. Maria Sopra Minerva). We will also visit the spectacular Gothic Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta (Assumption of Our Lady). After lunch, we proceed to Florence. Upon our arrival, we enjoy a guided tour of Florence's main sights, including the inner visit to the Cathedral with its magnificent Dome by Brunelleschi, Giotto's elegant belfry and the Baptistery with Ghiberti's Gate to Paradise. This Cathedral is an iconic piece of architecture of the city of Florence. It was designed by Filippo Brunelleschi in the 13th century. We also visit the Basilica di Santa Croce (Church of Holy Cross), where many nobles are buried, such as Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli. Continue walking by Piazza Signorina, Palazzo Vecchio, Uffizi, Ponte Vecchio, and Republic Square to the Santa Maria del Fiore. You will notice that Florence is the land for art lovers. Some of the most world-renowned artists are from Florence such as Dante, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli, Donatello, and many others. Next, a visit to L'Accademia, the well-known art gallery. At this gallery, you will have the opportunity to view the work by artists such as Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Pontormo, and the ever-famous sculpture by Michelangelo, David. This afternoon you will have time to explore Florence on your own. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 10 (May 27: Tues): Florence/Cinque Terre /Florence

Leisure Day! Following breakfast, we will celebrate Mass and after the service, our motor coach will take us to board the train for a delightful ride to the picturesque Cinque Terre. Enjoy a delightful day at breathtaking **Cinque Terre** with its stunning landscape of the coastal towns, popularly called the French Riviera of Italy, and a **UNESCO Heritage** site. Today, we will visit Manarola, Corniglia and Rio Maggiore. Time for lunch on your own at one of the many local restaurants. Enjoy the French Riviera of Italy. After a full day, we will return to our hotel in Florence for a restful night.

Day 11 (May 28-Mon): Florence / Padua

Following breakfast at your hotel, board the motor coach for your transfer to Padua. This Northern Italian city honors the "Patron Saint of Lost Things and Causes", St. Anthony. You will begin a sightseeing tour of the city, including a view of one of the oldest Universities in Italy, the University of Padua, pass by Pratto Della Valle, and see the Basilica of Santa Giustina, the "Patron Saint of Padua." Mass at the Basilica. The guided tour after the Mass at the Basilica of St. Anthony, will have the opportunity to visit the Tomb of St. Anthony and to see several of his relics. The rest of the afternoon is free. Dinner & overnight in Padua.

Day 12 (May 29-Tues): Padua / Venice

Today, you will have an early breakfast and then board your bus to depart to the magical city of Venice. Upon arrival to the Venice Tronchetto Terminal, follows a short boat taxi ride to the city and we start with the Holy Mass in the Cathedral of St. Mark. After Mass, enjoy a tour of the "city paved with water!" Your guided walking tour includes a visit to St. Mark's Square, the largest square in the city and the site of many government buildings; guided inside tour of the Golden Basilica of San Marco, known for the great mosaics that depict the Old and New Testament of the Bible; the Bridge of Sigh, a bridge that will bring eternal love to those who drift below it. You will also have the guided tour inside of the Doges' Palace (Duke's Palace), which served as the seat of the Government for the Republic of Venice for centuries. After lunch, we will enjoy a gondola ride along the water. The rest of the afternoon is free time to explore Venice on your own, shopping by Rialto Bridge with hundreds of souvenir shops and restaurants and perhaps visit the famous murano glass factory. Don't forget to enjoy a cappuccino and gelato at one of the cafes in St. Mark's Square, a must do for any visit to Venice. In the early evening, we will return to Padua for dinner and overnight at our hotel.



Day 13 (May 30-Wed): Return Home

After an early breakfast and heartfelt farewells, transfer to Venice airport for return flights home.