

Grand Catholic Italy

May 7 – 17, 2017



Information Night

**Tues. June 7th
7 pm**

St. Leonard Parish Hall

5332 LONG ISLAND RD

MANOTICK

Join Fr. Titus on your vacation in Rome with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant, and enjoy guided visits to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Square and Basilica, the Colosseum and the Roman Forum. Also attend the weekly Papal Audience (subject to availability) and visit St. Paul Outside the Walls, the Catacombs, St. John Lateran Basilica, the Holy Stairs, and St. Mary Major Basilica.

Enter Umbria and stop in Cascia to visit the basilica that houses the tomb of St. Rita, and the Lower Basilica, home of the Eucharistic Miracle. Arrive in Assisi, where guided visits to the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare are included, and where you can celebrate Mass. Also included are visits to St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, and the Porziuncola, where St. Francis founded the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor in 1209, as well as the Carceri Hermitage and the Monastery of St. Damian. An optional excursion to ancient Spello is available.

Continue to Tuscany and stop in Siena to visit the Basilica of St. Dominic with a local expert, the Sanctuary and House of St. Catherine, and Siena to Piazza del Campo before continuing to Florence. Here, start with Mass at the Santa Maria Novella Basilica, followed by a guided walking tour with visits to the Academy of Fine Arts to see Michelangelo's David, Signoria Square, and the Santa Croce Basilica with Michelangelo's tomb. Next is Padua, where a guided visit of the Basilica of St. Anthony is included. From Padua, a full-day excursion to Venice features a private boat ride, and guided sightseeing including a visit to Doges' Palace and the Bridge of Sighs, plus St. Mark's Square and Basilica, where you can attend Mass.

These are just some of the many highlights on this vacation through Italy—a trip of a lifetime!

Please Contact:

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This tour involves a lot of walking

Day 1 Depart Canada

Day 2 Arrive in Rome, Italy

Welcome to Rome! At 5 pm, meet your Tour Director, then enjoy this evening's welcome dinner with wine at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 3 Rome

This morning, enjoy a guided visit of the VATICAN MUSEUMS and the SISTINE CHAPEL, world famous for Michelangelo's ceiling paintings and The Last Judgment. Continue to monumental ST. PETER'S SQUARE and BASILICA. Cross the Tiber River and visit the COLOSSEUM, one of the New 7 Wonders of the World®, and the ROMAN FORUM, where Roman legions marched in triumph. (B)

Day 4 Rome

Attend the weekly general audience of the Pope (subject to availability). This afternoon, visit ST. PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALLS and the CATACOMBS. During the persecutions, the catacombs were used as places of refuge for the celebration of the Eucharist. Next, visit ST. JOHN LATERAN BASILICA, the HOLY STAIRS, which were brought from Jerusalem to Rome around 326 AD by St. Helena, mother of Constantine the Great. As a favorite of pilgrims everywhere, officially these 28 white marble steps may only be ascended on the knees. Then, visit the impressive ST. MARY MAJOR BASILICA. (B)

Day 5 Rome—Cascia—Assisi

Enter Umbria and stop in the town of Cascia to explore the life of St. Rita, known as the "Saint of the Impossible." Visit the MAJOR BASILICA, the chapel that houses the tomb of St. Rita, and the MINOR BASILICA, home of the Eucharistic Miracle, which is commemorated each year with the Feast of Corpus Christi. Arrive at the hilltop village of Assisi, home of St. Francis and St. Clare. Here, visit ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS BASILICA, where St. Francis consecrated St. Clare as the "Bride of Christ," and the PORTIUNCOLA, where he founded the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor in 1209. (B,D)

Day 6 Assisi

Celebrate Mass this morning followed by a guided walking tour of Assisi. Visit the BASILICAS OF ST. FRANCIS and ST. CLARE, and see the crucifix that spoke to St. Francis. A short trip by minibus will take you to the CARCERI HERMITAGE, where St. Francis came to meditate and pray, an oasis of peace and tranquility in the midst of the woods of Mount Subasio. Finally, visit the MONASTERY OF ST. DAMIAN, a Franciscan shrine built on the spot where St. Francis heard the voice of Christ, and where he wrote the Canticle of the Creatures. The convent founded by St. Clare is still intact; here she died in 1253. This afternoon you may wish to join an optional excursion to magnificent Spello. (B)

Day 7 Assisi—Siena—Florence

Leave Assisi and enter Tuscany. Stop in Siena to visit beautiful PIAZZA DEL CAMPO, theater of the biannual Palio, Siena's spectacular medieval-style horse race. Then, enjoy a walk with a local expert through the ancient narrow lanes and visit the SANCTUARY OF ST. CATHERINE and the BASILICA OF ST. DOMINIC. In the afternoon, continue to Florence, "Cradle of the Renaissance." (B,D)

Day 8 Florence

This morning, attend Mass at SANTA MARIA NOVELLA BASILICA. Then, follow your Local Guide on a walking tour through Florence's historical center. Visit the ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS with Michelangelo's David, admire the Duomo, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistery's heavy bronze "Gate of Paradise," and sculpture-studded SIGNORIA SQUARE. Also visit SANTA CROCE BASILICA with the tombs of Michelangelo, Galileo, Machiavelli, Rossini, and



others. Tonight is your chance to try out Tuscan specialties. (B)

Day 9 Florence—Padua

Through the Apennine Mountains, arrive in the flat Po area and in picturesque Padua. Visit the BASILICA OF ST. ANTHONY to see the tomb and reliquaries of this miracle-working saint and patron of lost and stolen articles. (B)

Day 10 Padua—Venice

A short drive brings you to Venice. Enter the city in style by PRIVATE BOAT and start sightseeing with your Local Guide. Visit lavish DOGES' PALACE and the BRIDGE OF SIGHS, ST. MARK'S SQUARE and its BASILICA, where you can attend Mass. The afternoon is at leisure and optional excursions are available. Return to Padua and enjoy a farewell dinner with wine. (B,D)

Day 11 Fly home from Venice

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)

PRICE

Tour - \$3,411 per person in dbl occ

Airfare from Ottawa— est. \$ 1225 incl tax (subject to change until ticketed)

Inclusions:

- Government licensed , English speaking professional tour guide
- Entrance fees to sites where applicable

Hotels:

ROME Una Hotel Roma (F), ASSISI Giotto (F), FLORENCE AC Firenze by Marriott (SF), PADUA Milano (F)

Meals:

Full buffet breakfast daily; 4 three-course dinners with wine, including a special welcome dinner in Rome, and a farewell dinner in Padua

Exclusions:

- Personal expenses and optional excursions
- Lunch and some dinners
- Tips and Gratuities (Guide and driver)
- Insurance - \$239

Please Contact:

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