



Dear Sir or Madame,

Thank you for taking the time to read about Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages Christmas 2015 pilgrimage. This promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage.

If you would like to join us after reading through the attached Registration Packet, simply mail the following completed forms to our US office — space is limited, so I suggest you act quickly!

1. **Registration Form** — one per person with a copy of the picture page of your passport
2. **Letter of Recommendation** – this may follow since it is due 30 days from the date of deposit.
3. **Deposit** – Check for \$1, 500 per person. Please make checks out to **Urbi et Orbi Communications**. You will receive a \$1,000 tax-deductible donation letter for your taxes.

Our US office address is:

Inside the Vatican magazine
14 W Main Street
Front Royal, VA 22630

If you should have any questions about the pilgrimage, please feel free to call me. I can be reached directly at 1.202.536.4555 or by email at TNorris@InsideTheVatican.com.

Please let me know how I can assist you in joining this pilgrimage!

Theresa Norris
Executive Assistant
Inside the Vatican magazine



Inside the Vatican Magazine's Christmas Pilgrimage
Assisi, Norcia, Manoppello, Castel Gandolfo, Castelluccio and
Rome
December 20 – 28, 2015

A Personal Invitation from Dr. Robert Moynihan:

For the past 7 years our pilgrimages have been unique—so special that people would say they were “once-in-a-lifetime” experiences.

All of our pilgrimages are planned to be quiet and prayerful, not rushed. We want your journey with us to be a peaceful, enjoyable and unforgettable experience, one that enriches your life and deepens your faith. Although we will visit many very special places, our journey is a pilgrimage, not a tour. The spiritual dimension – the search for a deeper understanding of God and a better appreciation of the history and life of the Church – is central. This is why the pace of our pilgrimages will be slow and peaceful, not hurried. There will be time to reflect and to pray.

This pilgrimage will be centered on the Incarnation, the mysterious and marvelous “fact” that the Divine Author of all things entered into human history, embracing our same human flesh. We will read together some of the great Christmas sermons from ages past, and meditate on certain passages from Pope Emeritus Benedict’s book on the “Infancy Narratives” in the Gospels—the stories of the birth of Jesus. Of course, there will be a strong Marian dimension, for Christmas is a time when we reflect on Mary’s “*Fiat*” (“Let it be”)—“Let it be done unto me according to your word.”

So, please consider joining me on this extraordinary journey to Rome for Christmas. We expect it to be a wonderful, joyful, and memorable time, with many hours devoted to prayer and meditation, in the places of St. Francis, St. Benedict, and St. Peter, while being close to Pope Emeritus Benedict and His Holiness, Pope Francis.

— Robert Moynihan
Founder and Editor of *Inside the Vatican* magazine



Dinners are filled with great food, drink and conversation. Join Dr. Moynihan for each meal during the pilgrimage

A Note from Deborah Tomlinson,

Welcome to Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages! Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages began in 2008, and since then we have led over 18 pilgrimages to the heart of the Church. I have organized and traveled on all of these unique experiences. It has been our policy to keep the size of each pilgrimage small, rarely more than 15 people, in order to keep the experience personal and intimate. We have found that the small pilgrimages create a bond of friendship that is very special. At the end of our journey together, our pilgrims often discover that not only have they visited some of the most important shrines in the Christian world, but they have also made deep friendships with one another, and with those they have met along the journey -- friendships that will last a lifetime.



These pilgrimages are a total-immersion experience—unrepeatable and unforgettable, informative and transformative. The focus is not solely on the stones of the Basilicas of Assisi, Norcia, and Rome, but also on those living stones which are the souls of the people we encounter—the Franciscan Sisters and Brothers of Assisi, the Benedictine Monks of Norcia, the Cardinals and Monsignors of the Vatican, the Swiss Guards in Rome, and even ourselves, the pilgrims.

Dr. Robert Moynihan, the founder and editor of *Inside the Vatican* magazine (founded in 1993), and I will be traveling with you for the entire pilgrimage. Robert is an expert on all things Roman, and his love of Italy is contagious. We will begin in the little town of Assisi, situated almost in the exact center of Italy. I like to think of Assisi as the heart of Italy. It was the home of St. Francis, whom some have called the greatest religious genius the West has produced.

Assisi is known for its tranquil silence. As the starting point of our journey, we hope that this serenity translates to our pilgrims in a way that allows us to become more tranquil and reflective ourselves, as we enter deeper into the spirit of pilgrimage. We will introduce you to our friends, the Franciscans, who live in Assisi, then listen as they share their stories. After Assisi, we will visit Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict, the Patron Saint of Europe and the founder of monastic life. Father Cassian, our friend and founder of the current monastery in Norcia, will meet with us there to share with us a reflection. These moments with Father Cassian are often an important highlight of our trip. From Norcia, we will turn towards Rome, residence of the Caesars and the Popes, and Vatican City, taking with us our quiet reflections from the places that Saints Francis and Benedict made holy.

We will be in Rome on one of the most important Feast Days of the year – Christmas! The advent season will come to an end – as these long 4 weeks of waiting close, we will celebrate the birth of Christ, beginning the 12 days of Christmas. In Rome, we will visit special places inside the Vatican.

During our days in Rome, we will take a day trip to Manoppello and visit the Shrine of the Holy Face—which contains a mysterious cloth bearing the image of a man with wounds on his face. This image is believed by some to be the actual face of Christ, formed at the moment of resurrection. On the way back to Rome, we will stop in Castel Gandolfo to have a café in the main piazza just outside the door to the Popes' summer residence.

Dr. Moynihan will share his knowledge and experience of the past 25 years as one of the leading Vatican journalists and scholars. Robert will also introduce you to some of his friends inside and around the Vatican. These Roman days will be filled with many experiences that will make you feel like a “Vatican insider,” not a typical tourist. The Vatican will become familiar to you as you gain a new understanding of how the Church operates.

I hope to greet you in Rome!

— Deborah Tomlinson
Chief Operating Officer, *Inside the Vatican* magazine

Inside the Vatican Magazine's Christmas Pilgrimage December 20 – 28, 2015

Assisi, Norcia, Manoppello, Castel Gandolfo, Castelluccio and Rome

Sunday, December 20, 2015—Leave from the US. You will have packed lightly, but taken all you need for this unique pilgrimage. Safe flight!



Manger Scene in front of the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy

Assisi

Our Christmas Pilgrimage begins in Assisi, the City of St. Francis. With a population of about 25,000, Assisi is a small medieval town perched on a hill in Umbria in the heart of Italy. Assisi is one of the prettiest and most peaceful cities in the world, and has long been regarded as an important spiritual center. The Temple of Minerva, which two thousand years ago was a centerpiece of Roman Assisi, can still be visited today. We will spend 2 days and 1 night at the Hotel Francesco, which is next door to the Basilica of St. Francis. You wake to the bells of the Basilica!

Monday, December 21 – Welcome to Italy! You arrive at Fiumicino airport, about 10 miles outside of Rome to the west, near the Mediterranean Sea. You may have seen the sea as your plane circled to land. Robert and Deborah will meet you at the gate as you come out with your luggage after going through customs—you will walk right through the “nothing to declare” line—and we may have a quick morning coffee, tea, and brioche, or as the Italians call it, a *cornetto*. We will then cross to our waiting private motor coach, and head out for that little town in central Italy where St. Francis of Assisi was born.

As we drive north and east, you may either sleep after your long trip, or discuss a bit of history, looking out over Lazio and Umbria, as we give you our first overview of the pilgrimage. After about two hours of driving, we will pull into the walled city of Assisi, and you will be escorted to your guest room in the peaceful, local Hotel Francesco, located next to the Basilica of St. Francis.



After a quick lunch we will rest for several hours, then attend a private Mass in the Basilica of St. Francis. The Franciscan friars should be available before Mass to hear confessions. Dinner will be early and delicious at one of our favorite restaurants in Assisi. Our first day will end early so we all can go to bed for a good night's sleep.

Tuesday, December 22 – Morning: Assisi. Our second day in Italy will begin with morning Mass celebrated by a Franciscan priest at the tomb of St. Francis, followed by a tour of the basilica. Afterwards, we will visit the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels in the valley at the bottom of the hill. Brother Alessandro (*photo left*) always welcomes us with his beautiful smile and perhaps with a delightful song. His story is amazing and his voice is angelic. We will return to the city center of Assisi to visit the Basilica of



St. Clare. Lunch will be on your own in the Piazza del Comune, the main piazza in Assisi, one of the most beautiful piazzas in all of Italy. After lunch there should be time to shop, before we say good-bye to Assisi and head to Norcia.

Norcia

Over the centuries, “Nursia” has in the Italian language become “Norcia”; however, it is still the same city—the heart of Benedictine monasticism. Benedict and his twin sister, Scholastica, were born here in the late 400s, at the time of the collapse of the Roman Empire in the West. Thus what we have in Norcia is a “link” to that ancient world, that, despite perishing during the fall of Rome, was nonetheless preserved through the mediation of Benedict and Benedictine monasticism that has come down to us from the so-called “Dark Ages” after Rome’s fall, between 500 to 1000 A.D., when civilization and learning were restricted to the little enclaves of Benedictine monasteries.

The Benedictine monastery in Norcia flourished for a millennium, but it was closed under the secularizing Napoleonic legislation that was introduced into Italy in the early nineteenth century, around 1810. From then on, through the next 200 years, the monastery remained closed.

Though it seemed as if the link with the past had been severed, the world did not reckon with Father Cassian Folsom, an American Benedictine, who has been a friend since 1990. Cassian went to Cardinal Ratzinger (now Pope Emeritus Benedict) in the 1990s, saying that he sensed a vocation to re-found the Benedictine monastery in Norcia, and Cardinal Ratzinger encouraged him to do so. Thus, in 1998, he came to Norcia with two companions, and on their own, with no help, they restored the ancient monastery. Bit by bit, what they were doing began to be noticed, and other young men came to join them.

Today, there are 18 monks in Norcia, and Father Cassian is gaining a worldwide reputation for his humble zeal in restoring the Faith. We will have a chance to talk to him directly, and, if you wish, to go to confession to him or to another of the monks. We will attend the Mass celebrated by the monks in their chapel, and you may join them as they chant their prayers each morning and evening in the crypt church.

Tuesday, December 22 – Afternoon: Norcia. In Norcia, the Palazzo Seneca will be our home for the next two nights and is located only 50 yards from the main piazza where the Benedictines celebrate Mass. The palace that houses Palazzo Seneca was originally built in the 16th century and was completely renovated a few

years ago. The spa and cooking school are just a few of the offered amenities. Quiet time in the Palazzo can be spent sitting in the beautiful library or in the garden room for a cup of afternoon tea. The family-owned hotel is sophisticated, simple, and luxurious. This is why it was awarded the prestigious *Relais & Châteaux* award—an exclusive honor recognizing the finest hotels and gourmet restaurants in 55 countries around the world.

After we arrive in Norcia and have a brief rest, we will make our first visit to the Benedictine monastery of Norcia, which was built precisely over the place where St.

Benedict and St. Scholastica were born. We will meet some of the monks, and begin to learn their story—one of the most remarkable in the Church today. Afterwards, we will dine at a restaurant next to our hotel, with a huge stone fireplace and oven at one end (*photo above*). In the winter, this provides much needed warmth, because the temperature in the mountainous region of Norcia is quite a bit cooler than that of Rome. However, you may find that you appreciate the fireplace for its ambiance more than for its warmth. Our meal will be made entirely of local products; we especially recommend their one-of-a-kind lentil soup, which tastes like no other lentil soup in the world. Sometimes one of the monks, even Father Cassian, comes out of the monastery to join us for dinner. Dinners are always a time for meaningful conversation in the heart of Italy.



The Main Piazza in Norcia and the Basilica of St. Benedict surrounded by the Sibillini Mountains

Wednesday, December 23 – Norcia/Castelluccio. We will awake to a delicious breakfast spread in the quaint garden room filled with the morning light. Fresh fruits, local cheeses, meats, and breads will await you, and if you would like something else, it will be served to you! All food is local and prepared to order. Our day will begin with Mass at 10:00 a.m. with the monks. They chant the liturgy in Latin. This solemn moment is truly an “extraordinary” experience, but in an “ordinary” way, for this is how the monks worship every day. We will provide Latin-English missals so that you can follow along. After Mass, we will listen to a spiritual reflection given by Father Cassian.



Following a rest after lunch, **if the weather permits**, we will leave Norcia for the mountains outside the city. Norcia is nestled under these peaks, reminding one of Aspen in Colorado, under the Rockies. Our van will take us up a little-traveled road and over a ridge into one of the largest national parks in Italy, where the *Gran Piano*, or “Great Plain,” stretches out for 20 miles before us. There, we will be surrounded by the Sibillini Mountains, a range of the Apennines, which run up the entire spine of Italy, from the boot in the south to the great plain of the Po, which links Milan and Venice in the north. We will journey through the lentil fields to the tiny village of **Castelluccio (photo above)**. Located nearly a mile up the mountainside, Castelluccio is the highest settlement in the Apennines, and in the winter, this region’s slopes teem with skiers. With its pristine mountain vistas, Castelluccio becomes a favorite for hikers and horseback riders, and sightseers. This picturesque village is well-known all over the world for its gastronomical delicacies, especially for its famous lentils. We will return to Norcia for another meal grilled on the wood-burning, open-air oven. While we sip wine or *Birra Nursia*, the monk’s beer, we will reminisce about our adventures and share impressions of our day with the monks.

Thursday, December 24 – Morning: Norcia. We will wake to our last meal in Norcia and a 10 a.m. Mass with the monks, followed by another reflection with Father Cassian. Father Cassian has been battling a debilitating form of blood cancer, but his suffering has only deepened his spiritual vision. Some are beginning to say, in and around Norcia, that he is a living saint. We are very privileged to have this time with our old friend who is doing so much for the Church, and who always has profound insights to impart to our pilgrims. And after we spend time with Father Cassian, we depart, at last, for **Rome**.

Rome and Vatican City

Contained in the heart of the city of Rome is the sovereign city-state Vatican City, whose territory consists of a walled enclave within the city of Rome. The Vatican has an area of approximately 110 acres, a population of around 840, and is the smallest country in the world.

This is a unique time in the Vatican as Pope Francis continues to define his pontificate, and Emeritus Pope Benedict continues to reside in Vatican City in a small convent inside the Vatican gardens, not far from the *Domus Santa Marta*. The Vatican usually is quieter in December and we expect to have the opportunity to breathe in that peace, during these days of the “two Popes,” Benedict and Francis, both so very different and yet each so filled with the love of Christ and of His Church.

Thursday, December 24 – Evening: Vatican City. We will stop for a light lunch on our drive into the Eternal City. We will experience an Italian “autogrill,” known for good Italian snacks and meals. This lunch will be one of the two meals that will be on your own. After lunch, we will arrive at our hotel, Hotel Michelangelo, for the next 4 nights. We plan to have enough time for a brief rest before dinner. After dinner we will gather to depart for St. Peter’s Basilica to attend the Christmas Eve liturgy celebrated by Pope Francis. The Mass will begin at 10 p.m., so we will find ourselves in the basilica at midnight, when Christmas begins.

Friday, December 25 – Vatican City. Our Christmas Day in the Vatican will begin with the opening of presents, and greeting each other with the great joy of the feast. After a relaxing morning, we will walk to St. Peter’s Piazza to see Pope Francis deliver his *Urbi et Orbi* Christmas message to the faithful around the world. After lunch near the Vatican, we will have free time to experience Christmas in Rome. In the late afternoon, taxis will take us to the Spanish Steps, where we will begin our afternoon Christmas walk to the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and the Piazza Navona. Along the way, we will also visit the Basilica of Sant’Andrea delle Frate, where Our Lady appeared to Alphonse Ratisbonne, which effected his miraculous conversion. This special church is also where St. Maximillian Kolbe offered his first Mass. Robert Moynihan will be pointing out the historical and religious significances of the important places we will be encountering along our afternoon stroll while we walk towards Vatican City for dinner at another fine restaurant.



“Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy!” (Luke 2:10)

Christmas is a wonderful time to be in Rome. The entire city seems to light up with a special joy, and there is more peace throughout the city than usual. Little red and white lights flicker on kiosks set up in Piazza Navona, and the Vatican sets up a larger-than-life manger scene in St. Peter’s Square, right next to the obelisk. Roman grandparents stroll with their grandchildren through the streets to look at the nativity scenes and little displays of stuffed animals and other children’s gifts. We will join them. People throughout Rome tend to be more courteous to one another “in the spirit of the season,” and the entire city can actually seem to become a small village. We, too, will become “Roman villagers” at Christmas.

Saturday, December 26 – Vatican City/ Manoppello/Castel Gandolfo. We will continue our Christmas celebration by traveling a little over two hours to the little town of Manoppello, Italy (population 157 — yes, it’s tiny!) in the rugged Abruzzo region. There, we will visit the Shrine of the Holy Face — the shrine which contains a mysterious cloth bearing the image of a man with wounds on his face, an image some believe is the actual face of Christ, formed at the moment of his Resurrection. Pope Emeritus Benedict visited this Shrine in 2006 to venerate the Holy Face of Manoppello. We will have lunch at the same restaurant Pope Benedict dined at when he visited Manoppello — a family-owned restaurant where *Nonna*, Grandma, cooks with the fresh ingredients from the region. A real Italian experience!



Father Cucinelli, Rector of the Shrine of the Holy Face

After a few hours, we depart for Rome. On our way back we stop in the lovely town of Castel Gandolfo—the Pope’s summer residence. Since our lunch will be long and filling, we will only have a café in the main piazza, just outside the front door of the Papal Palace. Dinner will be on your own this evening after our return to Rome.

Sunday, December 27 – Vatican City. Morning Mass will be at the altar of the Chair of St. Peter in St. Peter's Basilica, followed by the Pope's Angelus. Afterwards, we will have some free time to shop, rest or to visit St. Peter's Basilica on your own before lunch at one of our favorite restaurants. After lunch, we will depart for the three other patriarchal basilicas in Rome, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul's Outside the Walls. St. Peter's Basilica is the 4th patriarchal basilica. Each of these churches is a glorious monument to the Faith and contains treasures of art and faith that can take one's breath away.



In **St. Mary Major**, for example, there is a painting of Mary (*photo left*), which is believed to have been painted by St. Luke himself, making it the oldest painting of Mary in the world. It is called the *Salus Populi Romani* (English: the *Protectress of the Roman People*)—*Protectress* is a translation of the Latin “*salus*” which means “salvation” or “health.” It has historically been the most important Marian icon in Rome, and was crowned by Pope Pius XII in 1954. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI venerated the *Salus Populi Romani* on different occasions, and asked Mary on each occasion to “pray for us.”

One of the first acts after his election was for Pope Francis to pray before *Salus Populi Romani*. In May of 2012, the month dedicated to Our Lady and the Holy Rosary, Pope Francis also prayed his first public Rosary before this ancient and venerable image. The *Roman Breviary* states: “After the Council of Ephesus (431) in which the Mother of Jesus was acclaimed as Mother of God, Pope Sixtus III erected at Rome on the Esquiline Hill, a basilica dedicated to the honor of the Holy Mother of God. It was afterward called Saint Mary Major and it is the oldest church in the West dedicated to the honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

The *Salus Populi Romani* is one of the so-called “Luke images” of which there are many throughout the world. These are believed to have been painted from the lives of

Jesus and Mary by St. Luke himself. According to the account: “after the crucifixion, when Our Lady moved to the home of St. John, she took with her a few personal belongings—among which was a table built by the Redeemer Himself in the workshop of St. Joseph. When pious virgins of Jerusalem prevailed upon St. Luke to paint a portrait of the Mother of God, it was the top of this table that was used to memorialize her image.

“While applying his brush and paints, St. Luke listened carefully as the Mother of Jesus spoke of the life of her Son, facts which St. Luke later recorded in his Gospel.” The account also tells us that the painting remained in and around Jerusalem until it was discovered by St. Helena in the fourth century. “Together with other sacred relics, the painting was transported to Constantinople where her son, Emperor Constantine the Great, erected a church for its



enthronement.” So this icon is, in some ways, the greatest treasure in the entire city, as it is connected back through St. Luke to Mary, and to a table made by Christ Himself. In the presence of this icon, we are able to sense the presence of the Holy Family as something close and real to us.

St. John Lateran (*photo above*) is the oldest and ranks first among the four Papal basilicas of Rome since it is the *cathedra* or “seat” of the Bishop of Rome. For centuries, the Popes lived here. The façade has the inscription *Christo Salvatori*, “To Christ the Savior,” indicating the church’s dedication to Christ—the cathedrals of all patriarchs are dedicated to Christ himself. As the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, it ranks above all other churches, including St. Peter’s, and so, unlike all other Roman basilicas, it holds the title of *Archbasilica*.

St. Paul’s Outside the Walls (*photo right*) is dedicated to St. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, who was beheaded in Rome, and contains his tomb. This magnificent church contains the images of all the Popes in little circular portraits.

Because we only have a few hours to see these historic, impressive basilicas, we will concentrate on the meaning of each of the buildings, and the life and work of each of the saints to whom these basilicas are dedicated.

We will end our day back at one of our favorite restaurants, where we will enjoy a farewell dinner. Our farewell dinner, hosted by Dr. Robert Moynihan and Deborah Tomlinson, will be a celebratory feast and special friends and guests of *Inside the Vatican* magazine will be joining us. After dinner, you will have more free time to bid a fond farewell to those special people and places you will have come to cherish.



Monday, December 28 – Farewell. After an early morning Mass, breakfast, and farewell, your driver will escort you back to the airport for your return home. Farewell to all our fellow pilgrims, our friends, until we meet again...

Not mentioned in this sketch of our itinerary are perhaps the two most important points...

1) During our days in Rome, we hope to have the chance to meet with a number of Vatican monsignors, and perhaps even an archbishop or cardinal, who will listen and respond to pilgrims’ questions and concerns about the Church today, about issues of concern to Church members, and about working alongside Pope Emeritus Benedict and Pope Francis. These meetings change from pilgrimage to pilgrimage, but they are always remembered by pilgrims as special moments to be close to the Pope as he leads the Church in this difficult period of history.

2) We prefer to schedule Mass in the morning, but there is a possibility that Mass times can fluctuate due to circumstances and Vatican events. Each Day we will have the opportunity to attend Mass. The Mass schedule for the Rome portion of our pilgrimage will be finalized closer to the time of departure.

Pilgrimage Overview

Assisi

- Spend two days and one night touring the delightfully beautiful Assisi, a medieval city seemingly untouched by time
- Attend Mass at the tomb of St. Francis
- Visit the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, inside of which is St. Francis' Portiuncula
- Visit the Basilica of St. Clare and pray at her tomb
- Meet some of our Franciscan friends in Assisi
- Confession will be available to prepare for our pilgrimage
- Accommodations will be at the San Francesco, next door to the Basilica of St. Francis



Norcia

- Spend 2 nights in Norcia and dine in one of Italy's most distinguished culinary towns
- Visit the birthplace of St. Benedict and his twin sister, St. Scholastica, born 480
- Attend Mass at the Monastery of St. Benedict with the Benedictine monks of Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict and his sister, St. Scholastica
- Listen to reflections on Advent given by Father Cassian Folsom, OSB, prior and founder of the restored Benedictine monastery
- Join in praying evening vespers and the morning office with the monks (optional)
- Visit Castelluccio in the Sibillini Mountains National Park and view the breathtaking snow-capped mountain peaks (*photo right*)



Manoppello

- Spend an afternoon in the Shrine of Manoppello and witness what many believe to be the resurrected face of Christ
- Lunch at the same restaurant Pope Benedict XVI dined at during his visit in 2006

Castel Gandolfo

- Visit the city of the Popes' summer home and have a café while looking out over beautiful Lake Albano

Rome

- Spend 4 nights at the Hotel Michelangelo
- Attend midnight Mass with Pope Francis
- Dine with Dr. Robert Moynihan and special guests and friends of *Inside the Vatican* magazine
- Experience Rome and Vatican City at Christmastime
- Visit the 4 major Basilicas of Rome
- Walking tour of Baroque Rome – Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and Piazza Navona
- Visit and pray in the famous Basilica Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, where Mary appeared to Ratisbonne -- the catalyst for the arrival of the Miraculous Medal devotion to Rome



Join Inside the Vatican for this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage!

Cost

- \$7,700 per person – Land and Air Package. This includes a \$6,700 charge to cover all costs of the pilgrimage, and a special \$1,000 charitable donation to the Urbi et Orbi Foundation, which will be used to fund a scholarship for Orthodox seminarians to study in Rome or elsewhere in the West. The Urbi et Orbi Foundation works directly with the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity to fund its scholarship program. Included in the \$6,700 cost is a \$1,300 air allowance.
- \$6,400.00 per person – Land Package. This includes a \$5,400 charge to cover all costs of the pilgrimage, and a special \$1,000 charitable donation to the Urbi et Orbi Foundation which will be used to fund a scholarship for Orthodox seminarians to study in Rome or elsewhere in the West. The Urbi et Orbi Foundation works directly with the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity to fund their scholarship program.
- \$500 additional fee for a single room
- Comprehensive travel insurance is included
- All meals are included except 2 lunches and 1 dinner – on our travel days

Additional Information

- A deposit of \$1,500 by check made payable to *Urbi et Orbi Communications* is required at the time of booking.
- We require a Letter of Recommendation for this pilgrimage. This requirement is waived for all returning pilgrims.
- The number of pilgrims is limited to 12 pilgrims to allow for a peaceful and personal experience.
- Dr. Robert Moynihan, CEO of *Inside the Vatican* magazine, and Deborah Tomlinson, COO of *Inside the Vatican* magazine, will greet you at the airport and will accompany the pilgrims for the entire pilgrimage.



We will make every effort to adhere to the printed program and itinerary. On rare occasions it may be necessary to adjust arrangements due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control (including such circumstances as the weather, airline schedule change, hotel requisitions, political disturbances, or transportation mechanical problems). Should such adjustment be necessary, substitution will be made to the best of our abilities.

**For more information or to reserve your spot, call 202-657-4833
or email Pilgrimages@InsidetheVatican.com.**





Terms & Conditions

Christmas 2015 Pilgrimage

Rates and Payments: Rates are based on applicable rates as of August 25, 2015. If the exchange rate increases, we will invoice participants accordingly. Total cost: **Land and Air Package--\$7,700; Land Package--\$ 6,400.00; Single Supplement -- \$500.00 per person. (You will receive a \$1,000 IRS donation letter for the \$1,000 donation.)**

- 1- Payment:** \$ 1,500.00 – Due at time of booking. *(\$1,000 donation; \$500 deposit)* **This is non-refundable and not covered by travel insurance**
2- Payment: \$ 6,200.00 (plus \$ 500.00 supplement if applicable) – **Land & Air Package** - due 60 days from departure, Tuesday, October 6, 2015.
 \$ 4,900.00 (plus \$ 500.00 supplement if applicable) – **Land Package** - due 60 days from departure, Tuesday, October 6, 2015.

Reservations and Payment Schedule: A \$1,500.00 non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking. Balance is due 60 days prior to departure. If your reservation is received less than 60 days prior to departure, then full payment is due at the time of booking. You will receive an IRS donation letter for the \$1,000 donation from Urbi et Orbi Communications. This donation is non-refundable.

Transfers: Transfers to and from the airport in Rome are included only if you purchase the Air & Land Package; otherwise you are responsible for your own transfers to and from the airport in Rome. Although Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages can book these transfers, if requested, the participant still will be financially responsible for the transfers.

Air Schedule: The Land and Air Package flights will be booked upon receipt of final payment. Land Package participants are responsible for purchasing their own air flights. Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages requests that all participants who purchase the Land Package arrive one day before the package begins, if your flight is not the same as the group flight.

Insurance: Included is comprehensive travel insurance covering against trip cancellation, trip interruption, lost or damaged luggage, personal injury or hospitalization, according to the terms of the travel insurance policy. A brochure will be included in your final packet. The cost of the travel insurance premium is non-refundable and is part of the deposit. Travel insurance becomes effective with receipt of the final payment. Only the package purchased is insured; therefore, if the Land Package is purchased, your air flights are not insured.

Travel Documents: A valid passport is required for Italy and **must remain valid until at least 6 months after your departure date from the United States.**

Unused Services: There will be **no refund** for any unused portions of the program. Refunds will not be made to participants who miss any part of the pilgrimage for any cause whatsoever.

Itinerary: Although Inside The Vatican Pilgrimages and its agents and representatives will make every effort to adhere to the printed program and itinerary, on rare occasions it may be necessary to adjust arrangements due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control (including, but not limited to, such circumstances as the weather, airline schedule change, hotel requisitions, political disturbances, or transportation mechanical problems). Should such adjustments be necessary, substitutions will be made to the best of our abilities. A refund will not be given. Any additional costs necessitated by such changes are the full responsibility of the participant. We do not guarantee entrance into Papal events/Masses or preferred seating at these events, due to circumstances beyond our control such as, but not limited to, long security lines, fewer seats available than the actual number of tickets distributed, etc.

Cancellations and Refunds: Cancellations must be received in writing and will be processed according to the date the written notice is received. Although a verbal cancellation is appreciated, it will not be accepted as official notice. Please mail the cancellation notice to the address below. Monies will be refunded, **minus the cancellation fee, as follows:** *(Travel insurance may cover the remaining amount depending on the circumstances of the cancellation.)*

90 – 60 days prior to departure: \$1,500.00 (This is the deposit; travel insurance will not cover the deposit.)

59 – 30 days prior to departure: 50% of total cost*

Less than 29 days to departure: 100% of total cost*

*Cost includes: package cost – Land Package or Land and Air Package; domestic air – if purchased through Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages; and single supplement, if applicable. Travel insurance cost is non-refundable.

US State Department & Other Agencies: From time to time the US State Department (www.state.gov) and the Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov) and other government agencies and departments issue travel advisories or warnings for one or more of the destinations that you may be visiting on the pilgrimage. We encourage you to contact these agencies directly to obtain the most current information. Inside The Vatican Pilgrimages cannot change the cancellation terms or conditions based on the issuance of any such warning or advisory or the occurrence of any terror, health, or other incident in one or more of the places this pilgrimage is scheduled to visit. All cancellation penalties will remain in full force and effect as outlined on this form. Travel insurance may or may not cover these possible causes for cancellations. Please call Travelex Insurance for more information at 800.965.8859.

Photography: Agents of Inside The Vatican Pilgrimages may take photographs or videos of its trips and trip participants. Participants grant Inside The Vatican Pilgrimages permission to do so and allow Inside The Vatican Pilgrimages to use such photos and videos for promotional or commercial use. These photos will be available on our photo website, InsideTheVaticanPhotos.com, following the pilgrimage. A minimum fee is required to download all photos from the Christmas 2015 Pilgrimage gallery.

Participation: Inside The Vatican Pilgrimages reserves the right to decline, accept, remove or retain any participant on any of its pilgrimages if, in its sole discretion, it deems accepting or retaining any such participant might be detrimental to the pilgrimage. In addition, all participants must adhere to the rules of the State of Vatican City. In the event any participant is removed from a pilgrimage, Inside The Vatican Pilgrimages is not obligated to refund to such person that portion of the payment allocable to unused services.

Letter of Recommendation: Due to the restricted private areas to which we may have access during our pilgrimage, participants may be asked to provide a letter of recommendation from their bishop or pastor, on his official Church stationery, with official embossed parish/diocesan seal. If this is requested, we will provide a sample letter of recommendation, which lists our requirements. This letter must be received within 30 days after receipt of your deposit or request, whichever is first, and at the latest, 30 days prior to departure. In the event that you are having difficulty obtaining the letter, please contact us. However, if no letter of recommendation can be arranged, and this has been requested, your reservation, regrettably, will have to be cancelled, and the cancellation policy will apply. Travel Insurance will not cover this type of cancellation.

Final Package: A final package containing documents, airline ticket information, local contact information, a pilgrim book, and travel tips will be sent to each participant about two weeks prior to departure.



Letter of Recommendation

Due to the restricted private areas to which we may have access to during our pilgrimage, all participants must provide a letter of recommendation from his or her bishop or pastor, on his official Church stationery, with an official embossed parish / diocesan seal.

This letter must be received within 30 days after receipt of deposit, and at the very latest, 30 days prior to departure.

In the event that this letter is not obtainable, please contact us. However, if no letter of recommendation can be arranged, your reservation, regrettably, will have to be cancelled, and the cancellation policy will then apply. *This type of cancellation is not covered by the travel insurance.*

Returning pilgrims are not required to provide a letter of recommendation.

A Sample Letter: (letter must be on official parish/diocesan stationery, with the embossed parish/diocesan seal, signed by the pastor/bishop)

September 28, 2014

Dear Deborah,

I have known John/Jane Doe for X years. I understand that they would like to join the Inside the Vatican pilgrimage to Rome and the Vatican. I understand that he/she/they may have access to restricted private areas inside Vatican City. From my encounters with John/Jane, I have every reason to believe that he/she/they will act in a discreet and proper manner befitting the privilege of being a guest inside Vatican City. Therefore, I can recommend that he/she/they join your pilgrimage.

Sincerely,

Father John Smith

Mail letter to:

Theresa Norris
Inside the Vatican magazine
14 W Main Street
Front Royal VA 22630

Registration Form
Christmas Pilgrimage 2015
Assisi, Norcia, Manoppello, Castel Gandolfo, Castelluccio and Rome
December 20 - 28, 2015

Please check one: ☐ Land and Air Package **Airport of Origination:** _____
☐ Land Package

Name as it appears on your passport: *(Enclose a copy of the picture page of your passport with this form.)*

_____ **Name you prefer** _____

Address _____ **City** _____

State _____ **Zip** _____ **Country** _____

Home Number _____ **Office** _____ **Cell** _____

Fax _____ **Email** _____

Passport Number _____ **Expiration Date** _____

Date and Place of birth: *(Required by hotels in Italy and Vatican City)*

Hotel Accommodation: ☐ Single ☐ Double/Twin ☐ Triple ☐ Matrimonial

Name of Roommate _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Physical Limitations: *(Please note any physical limitations or medical conditions that will impede you from walking long distances, standing, or climbing stairs.)* **Do You Use:** ☐ walker ☐ cane

Emergency Contact _____ **Relationship** _____

Contact Numbers _____

I have received and read the Terms and Conditions for the **December 20-28, 2015 Pilgrimage**. By payment of my deposit, I accept and agree to all of the Terms and Conditions. I also agree that *Inside The Vatican* cannot be held liable for any injury or injuries sustained during the pilgrimage.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Print Name _____

Witness *(a non-family member)* _____

Witness *(print name)* _____