



Dear Friend and Possible Fellow Pilgrim,

Thank you for inquiring about Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages. Our Easter 2016 pilgrimage will be our 26<sup>th</sup> since we began Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages in 2008, and each one has been unique. 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 Vatican Cardinals and Monsignors, the Swiss Guards in Rome and even ourselves, the pilgrims.

If you would like to join us after you read through the attached Registration Packet, please mail the following completed forms to our US office: (space is very limited, so I suggest you act quickly!)

1. **Registration Form**—one per person with a copy of the picture page of your passport
2. **Deposit** - Check for \$1,000.00 per person of which \$500 is non-refundable. Please make checks payable to *Urbi et Orbi Communications*.
3. A \$1,500 donation to the *Urbi et Orbi Communications* will be included in your final payment. You will receive a tax-deductible donation letter for your taxes.\*

Our US office address is:

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

**Final Payment is due Friday, January 15, 2016.**

If you choose the Land Package, we require you to arrive in Italy on Monday, March 21, 2016, one day before the Land Package begins on the morning of Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Please contact our office for more information.

Theresa Norris, our US Office Manager, will be able to assist you with the registration process. Theresa's email is [TNorris@InsideTheVatican.com](mailto:TNorris@InsideTheVatican.com). If you should have any questions about the pilgrimage, please feel free to call me. We can both be reached at 1.202.536.4555.

I hope to greet you in Rome!

Deborah B Tomlinson  
Chief Operating Officer  
*Inside the Vatican* magazine

\* A special \$1,500 charitable donation to *Urbi et Orbi Communications*, which publishes *Inside the Vatican* magazine, is included in the cost of the pilgrimage. These funds will be used to help finance the magazine, as well as to fund a scholarship for Orthodox seminarians to study in Rome or elsewhere in the West. The scholarships are part of the work of the Urbi et Orbi Foundation, a project of *Urbi et Orbi Communications*, which works directly with the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity to fund its scholarship program.



***Inside the Vatican magazine's Easter 2016 Pilgrimage  
Assisi, Norcia, Manoppello and Vatican City  
March 21 – March 31, 2016***

***A Personal Invitation from Dr. Robert Moynihan:***

For the past 8 years, *Inside the Vatican* pilgrimages have been so unique and so special that our former pilgrims say they were “once-in-a-lifetime” experiences. I would like to invite you to join us for our next Easter pilgrimage to Assisi, Norcia, Manoppello and Vatican City, and see exactly what they mean.

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.

**Our Easter pilgrimage** will begin a few days before Easter in Assisi, in the Umbrian hills -- the city of St. Francis -- which is one of the prettiest and most serene cities in the world. We will spend two nights there. The Franciscan friars who live there will hear confessions and we will attend Mass next to the tomb of St. Francis himself.

The third day, Holy Thursday, we will travel to Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict. Norcia is tucked in under sparkling white, snow-capped mountains in the center of Italy, and seems a city that time forgot. It is a most charming and undisturbed place. Here we will begin the Easter *Triduum* together with the Benedictine monks of Norcia, many of whom are Americans (they are refounding the Benedictine abbey in the city center, and using the ancient Latin liturgy in their daily round of prayer). We will spend Holy Thursday and Good Friday here, in a place that truly seems timeless. The town of Norcia honors Good Friday with a very poignant procession of live Stations of the Cross, which takes place after dark.

After the solemn procession and liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we then journey to Rome for the joyous celebration of Easter at the Vatican. The Easter Vigil Mass will be celebrated in St Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis. We will also attend Easter Sunday Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on Easter Sunday morning. These liturgies, celebrating the triumph of Jesus Christ over sin and death, are among the most splendid and joyous in the Church's calendar.

Monday, the day after Easter, is *la Pasquetta* (“little Easter”) in Italy. It is an Italian national holiday in order to continue the joyous Easter celebration. We, too, will continue our celebration by traveling about 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.

While in Rome, I will introduce you to a number of friends of the magazine and we will share many special stories about important Vatican events that have occurred in the last few years. Please consider joining me on this journey – we will have many hours together as we come to better understand this special time in our Church. Holy Week should be a time of peaceful yet profound reflection on Our Savior's death, while Easter should be a joyous time, with many hours devoted to prayer and meditation, in the places once walked by St. Francis, St. Benedict, and St. Peter, and very close to Pope Francis.



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

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

## *A Note from Deborah Tomlinson*



Welcome to *Inside the Vatican* Pilgrimages. We began leading *Inside the Vatican* pilgrimages in 2008, and since then we have led over 20 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, 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. Moynihan and I will be traveling with you for the entire pilgrimage. Robert is an expert on all things Vatican and 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, 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 there. Father Cassian, our friend and founder of the current Benedictine monastery in Norcia, will meet with us there to share a reflection. These moments with Father Cassian are for some pilgrims the highlight of our trip.

On Good Friday morning, we will take a very special journey, about a 90 minute ride, to the other side of the Sibillini National Park where we will have the privilege to visit one of the many hermits who live in and around the Sibillini National Park. The Sibillini Mountains and the valleys which surround them have been a gathering place for hermits and monks since the great monastic exodus from the East in the mid 400s, just before St. Benedict's time. We will go where no other pilgrimage group has gone before – to a solitary hermitage for one hermit. We will hear about what is like to be a modern-day hermit and why. Afterwards, we will proceed up the same mountain road to the very top, where we will spend the next few hours in an old Benedictine monastery, which is now a Franciscan monastery. Here we will pray Good Friday liturgy, in English, and the Stations of the Cross in a small, yet very ancient and holy chapel.

From the land of the monks, 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. From Rome, we depart for Manoppello to visit the Shrine of the Holy Face and the remarkable image of a Man of Sorrows, venerated as that of our suffering Savior.

While in Rome, we will visit special places inside the Vatican and in Rome. Attending Pope Francis' Wednesday audience and visiting the 4 major basilicas and little-known churches are just some of the extraordinary experiences during our days in Rome. Robert and I will share our knowledge and experience gained from working in Rome and the Vatican. Robert will expound upon his experience of the past 25 years as one of the leading Vatican journalists and scholars. We 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.

In the information to follow, I explain the one-of-a-kind schedule we will follow. If you would like to join us, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office, 202-536-4555. Space is very limited.

I hope to greet you in Rome!

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



**Monday in Holy Week, March 21 – Leave from the US.** You have packed lightly, but taken all you need for this unique pilgrimage. Safe flight!

### Assisi

**Our Holy Week and Easter 2016 Pilgrimage** will begin 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 a spiritual center: the temple of Minerva, which two thousand years ago was the centerpiece of Roman Assisi, can still be visited today. We will spend 3 days and 2 nights at the St Anthony Guesthouse, which has been run by our friend, Sister Sue, for over 10 years. She and the other Sisters are waiting to greet you and welcome you to their home in Assisi.

**Tuesday in Holy Week, March 22 – 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. While looking out over Lazio and Umbria, we will give you your 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 at the serene St. Anthony’s Guesthouse, with its beautiful outside gardens. As you stand in the gathering room of the Guesthouse, you will have a panoramic view of the St. Clare’s Basilica and the town of Assisi. The 360-degree views will take your breath away. Our friend Sister Sue will be there to welcome you.



*View of St. Clare’s Basilica from St. Anthony’s Guesthouse our home in Assisi for 2 nights*

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



*Brother Alessandro singing to our pilgrims*

**Wednesday in Holy Week, March 23 – Assisi.** Attending Mass at the tomb of St. Francis will begin our second day in Italy. It is a short walk downhill through the streets of Assisi to the Basilica of St. Francis. There, we will be greeted by our friends who oversee the Basilica, the Franciscan Friars, who will give us a guided tour after Mass. After our visit to there, our bus will drive us to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, in the valley at the bottom of the hill. Brother Alessandro always welcomes us with his beautiful smile, joined perhaps to a delightful song. His story is amazing and his voice is angelic.

After our visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels, we will stop to recollect our morning over a wonderful Italian lunch. We will return to St. Anthony's guesthouse for a rest before our visit to San Damiano, the church connected with Saint Francis' encounter with Christ. Brother Euan, who is from England, now resides there and will greet us and explain further this story. Our last visit will be to the Basilica of St. Clare before we end our day with a meal at another one of our favorite restaurants, where we will share local wine, wonderful local food and our thoughts about the day.

**Holy Thursday, March 24 – Assisi.** After a leisurely breakfast, Marcella, our friend who was born and raised in Assisi, will guide us through the historic streets of Assisi, pointing out many of the hidden gems along our stroll; we will enter several important churches along the way, such as the Basilica of St. Clare and San Rufino (St. Rufinus), and come to a better understanding of the time of St. Francis. We will have lunch in the Piazza del

Comune, the main piazza in the city center, one of the most beautiful piazzas in Italy. After lunch, we will depart Assisi for 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. So what we have in Norcia is a "link" to that ancient world which perished with Rome's fall, but which, through the mediation of Benedict and Benedictine monasticism, came down to us through the so-called "Dark Ages" after Rome's fall, those centuries from 500 to 1000 A.D., where civilization and learning were restricted to the little enclaves of Benedictines monasteries.

However, for the last two centuries, there has been devastation. The monastery that had flourished for a millennium was closed under the secularizing Napoleonic legislation introduced into Italy two centuries ago, in 1810. So, for 200 years, there were no monks here.

It seemed as if the link with the past had been broken. However, all of this changed with Father Cassian Folsom, an American Benedictine, who has been a friend since 1990. Father 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. And so he came to Norcia with two companions, and by themselves, with no help, they brought the ancient monastery back to life. What they were doing raised eyebrows, but bit by bit, 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 desired, to go to confession to him or to another one of the priests. Then we will attend the Mass celebrated by the monks in their chapel. You may also join them as they chant their prayers each morning and evening in the crypt church.

**Holy Thursday, March 24 – Norcia.** The Palazzo Seneca will be our home for the next 2 nights and is 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. A spa and cooking school are just two of the impressive 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 or cappuccino. The family-owned hotel is sophisticated, simple and luxurious, which 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.



*Palazzo Seneca*

After a rest, we will make our first visit to the Benedictine monastery of Norcia, built precisely over the place where Benedict and Scholastica were born.



*Our dinners in Norcia are enjoyed in front of this wood-burning grill.*



*Holy Thursday - Washing of the Feet with Father Cassian in the Basilica of St. Benedict, Norcia, Italy*

In the early evening of Holy Thursday, we will participate in the Liturgy of The Lord’s Supper. Afterwards, we will have dinner at a restaurant, next to our hotel, with a huge stone fireplace and oven at one end of the dining room (*photo above*). In mid-spring, when we come here, this provides needed warmth, but you will appreciate the fireplace for its ambiance more than for its warmth. Some of the monks will join us for dinner, and we will begin to learn their story—one of the most remarkable in the Church today. These dinners are times for thoughtful conversation in the heart of Italy as we enter yet deeper into the mystery of Christ’s Death and Resurrection.

## Ancient Wisdom Continues in the Sibillini Mountains

The region around Norcia, in central Italy, is filled with rugged mountains and steep valleys. This makes it a perfect area for hiking and breathing the fresh clean air, far from the crowded cities of Italy and the rest of Europe.

After Christian monasticism began to flourish in the desert areas of Egypt, and then of Syria—in the Christian east—during the 300s and especially during the 400s, gradually some monks began to travel westward to Italy and southern France. In the time of St. Augustine (354-430 A.D.), in the decades just before the birth of St. Benedict in 480 A.D., the valleys around Norcia began to be populated by dozens of these monks. Many were hermits, living a solitary life. Others lived in more or less interconnected small groups, which provided an early model for what would become the communal life of St. Benedict's monks.

Over the centuries, this eastern monastic experience was transferred to central Italy, and influenced first Benedict himself, and then many others.

Today, strikingly, there is a return to Norcia of Benedictine monasticism in the community headed by Father Cassian Folsom, whom we will visit.

But what is little known is that there is also a new flourishing of hermitic monastic life in the region outside of Norcia, in the valleys and on the mountain slopes of the Sibillini mountains. No one knows exactly how many hermits are living there. All that is known is that these hills and valleys have become, once again, a “vineyard of the Lord,” where many seek to grow closer to God through a disciplined life of prayer and reflection. These hermits are not entirely isolated; they sometimes receive guests. And on our pilgrimage, we will have the opportunity to go into the mountains and meet with one or more of the hermits, listen to their spiritual reflections and learn from them.

We have made an appointment with Sister Maria, who lives near Amendola, in a small hermitage on the side of a mountain which is sometimes inaccessible due to winter snowstorms. She will receive our pilgrims and spend time with us. This extraordinary experience with a woman hermit in the Sibillini Mountains will be one of the highlights of our pilgrimage.

**Good Friday, March 25 – Norcia/Amandola.** We wake to the most solemn day in the Church year, Good Friday. Although some may choose to fast, there will be a delicious breakfast spread in the quaint garden room filled with the morning light. Fresh fruits, local cheeses, eggs cooked to order and a variety of breads, all food is local and fresh.



*Amandola, Italy and the Sibillini Mountains in the background.*

It is fitting to visit a hermit on this solemn day – someone who lives alone with the Alone each and every day of the year. A 90 minute drive around the Sibillini Mountain National Park will bring us to Amandola, where we will visit a hermit and seek her wisdom.

We will return to Norcia for a bowl of soup before preparing to have Good Friday liturgy with the monks. The monks chant the liturgy in Latin. It is a solemn moment, yet 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 you will be able to follow everything without confusion. Later, we will have our evening meal before the warm glow of the brick fireplace to reflect and share our impressions of the day.



## A Medieval Tradition Continues...

**The Good Friday Procession of Norcia, Italy—** On Good Friday, at 9:00 p.m., we will begin our short walk to one of the main piazzas inside the ancient, walled city of Norcia.

Once we have arrived at the piazza, we will take our places alongside the many Italians who have also journeyed here year after year, from all over the Italian “boot,” to witness and participate in, and, in a way, relive, the poignant events of the First Good Friday. Everyone is here for the living Stations of the Cross, all the local people of Norcia—many of whom are actors with roles in the sacred performance—as well as devout

visitors, pilgrims, religious, and clergy.

The crowd grows with the presence of the horses that will carry the Roman soldiers, as they trot into the procession. For many, what begins is the transporting of Jerusalem to Norcia, and it borders on the extraordinary.

The sacred drama begins with the conferring of a priestly blessing. We see -- but more than that, we experience -- the touching scenes of key Stations portraying Jesus Christ making His way to Calvary.



At the same time, we, too, make our walk outside the walls of the city. As we stop at each of the Stations depicted, we find ourselves perhaps stepping back in time to that Night of

Nights of two millennia ago.

From His arrest and appearance before Pontius Pilate, to meeting His sorrowful Mother, to encountering the weeping women of Jerusalem, and culminating at the hill of the Cross, we pilgrims witness the Passion of Christ as few Christians can. This moving experience, one and one-half hours long, is the memory of a lifetime.



## Rome and Vatican City

This is a unique time in Rome, as Pope Francis continues to define his pontificate, and Pope Emeritus Benedict continues to reside in Vatican City in a small convent inside the Vatican gardens, not far from the *Domus Santa Marta* — the residence of Pope Francis. The Vatican is very busy during Holy Week, culminating with many pilgrims filling St. Peter's piazza for Easter Sunday Mass and Pope Francis' *Urbi et Orbi* blessing. In these moments, we will feel the universality of the Church as we come together for these Easter Celebrations at St. Peter's Basilica, 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.



### Holy Saturday, March 26 – Norcia/Vatican City.

We wake to our last meal in Norcia followed by a reflection by Father Cassian. Father Cassian has been battling with a debilitating form of blood cancer, but his suffering has only deepened his spiritual vision, and some are beginning to say, in and around Norcia, that he is a living saint. So we feel very privileged to spend 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.

After we spend time with Father Cassian, we depart, at last, for **Rome**, and for the **Vatican City State**, the heart of the Church, where we will attend the Easter Vigil Mass celebrated by Pope Francis.

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 arrive to our hotel for the next 5 nights, Hotel Michelangelo. We plan to have enough time for a brief rest before dinner. After dinner we depart for St. Peter's Basilica for the Easter Vigil Mass with Pope Francis.

**Easter Sunday, March 27 – Vatican City.** We begin this joyous day with breakfast. Easter Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Piazza is a jubilant celebration. The piazza is filled with flowers, and song fills the air from St. Peter's choir. Pope Francis will deliver his *Urbi et Orbi* blessing immediately following the Easter Sunday Liturgy.

Easter Sunday lunch will be at one of our favorite restaurants near the Vatican. Our afternoon will be quiet, allowing time for pilgrims to reflect, rest or explore Rome.



*Pope Francis delivers his Urbi et Orbi Blessing*



In the late afternoon/early evening, we will taxi to the Spanish Steps, where we will begin our slow walk to the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon, and the Piazza Navona (**photo above**). We will also visit the Basilica of Sant'Andrea delle Frate, where Our Lady appeared to Alphonse Ratisbonne, an avowed anti-Catholic Jew, in 1842, effecting his miraculous conversion. This special church is also where St. Maximilian Kolbe offered his first Mass. As always, we will be pointing out the historical and religious significance of the important places we will encounter along our afternoon stroll. On the walk back to the Vatican area, we will stop at another fine restaurant for dinner before we return to our hotel, The Michelangelo.

#### **Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano**

Lanciano, which translates into “the lance,” is named after the lance of Longinus, the Roman soldier, who thrust his spear into Our Lord’s side. Lanciano bears this name because it is the birthplace of St. Longinus. Around the year 700, a Basilian monk offered mass in Lanciano’s small church of St. Legontian. The monk, who had doubts about transubstantiation, wondered if the bread and wine really became the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

At the words of Consecration, the doubting priest witnessed the bread transform into living flesh and the wine transform into five actual drops of blood, which then congealed. The five drops, of course, represent the number of wounds Christ suffered.



**Easter Monday, March 28 – Rome/ Lanciano / Manoppello.** Today is *la Pasquetta* (“little Easter”) in Italy. It is a national Italian holiday in order to continue the joyous Easter celebration. We, too, will continue our celebration by traveling to two very important shrines which house the most important miracles in Italy – the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano and the Shrine of the Holy Face.

We will be up early to travel about 2 ½ hours, across Italy to the Adriatic Sea, to the town of Lanciano in the rugged Abruzzo region. Once we arrive in Lanciano, we will enter the church that houses the Eucharistic Miracle (*photo previous page*) to behold the wonders of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ made visible. After venerating the miraculous substance, we will listen to the Franciscan Friars to learn more about the Eucharistic miracle.

We then will turn back towards Rome, heading to the little town of Manoppello, Italy (population 157 — yes, it’s tiny!) still in the Abruzzo region. Our drive is short -- only 40 minutes. There, we will visit the Shrine of the Holy Face — the shrine which contains a mysterious cloth (*photo right*) 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 and celebrate Mass. Pope Emeritus Benedict visited this Shrine in 2006 to venerate the Holy Face of Manoppello. Before our visit to the shrine, we will first 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! After a few hours in Manoppello, we depart for Rome and enjoy another snack or meal in an Italian Autogrill. This will be the second of two meals on your own.



*Father Cucinelli, Rector of the Shrine of the Holy Face*

**Easter Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Vatican City.** We will wake to have our breakfast, then 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 fourth 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. We will have a private Mass at one of these Basilicas.



In **St. Mary Major**, there is a painting of Mary (*photo left*), which is believed to be painted by St. Luke himself, making it the oldest painting of Mary in the world. It is called the *Salus Populi Romani* (English: *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 Pope Francis’ prayer 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. And, he has continued to honor this important Basilica, visiting it over six times since his election.

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.”

**St. John Lateran (photo right)** 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. So, it was the first church built in 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*. In ancient Rome, it was the baptism church. The Archbasilica was built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324.

St. John Lateran contains several important relics: an ancient baptistry built by Constantine; beneath the High Altar, which can only be used by the Pope, contains a relic said to be part of St. Peter’s communion table; and the Altar of the Holy Sacrament containing a cedar table that is said to be the one used by Christ at the Last Supper.



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

Because we only have a few hours to see these magnificent, historic 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 stop along the way for a quick café and light lunch.

We will end our afternoon back at the Hotel Michelangelo and you will have some free time to shop, rest or to visit St. Peter’s Basilica again on your own before dinner.



**Wednesday, March 30 – Vatican City.** Our last full day together begins with breakfast at the Hotel Michelangelo. We then head to the Papal Audience, which begins at 10:30 a.m.

During the audience, Pope Francis will share a small teaching and reading in Italian, but it will be translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Polish, Portuguese, and sometimes other languages, depending on the groups visiting.

The Pope will follow with a greeting to all gathered in St. Peter's piazza. At the end of the Audience, the Pope will lead us in the Our Father in Latin. This prayer will be printed on the back of the Papal Audience ticket. After the Our Father, Pope Francis will impart his Apostolic Blessing upon the crowd, which also

extends to our loved ones at home. He will bless any item that you may have purchased along our journey together.

After the Papal Audience, we will have lunch together near the Vatican. A visit to one of our cardinal friends in his apartment will follow lunch. These encounters remain with our pilgrims for many years as they are intimate and personal. We will hear stories about the universal Church from a very wise man who has lived many decades in Rome at the service of the popes.

Later that afternoon, following our meeting and lunch, we will have a brief rest or free time. 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.

**Thursday, March 31 – 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 will 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. Many of these are unexpected encounters as we walk near the Vatican.

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

## Pilgrimage Overview

### Assisi (the birthplace of St. Francis, born 1181)

- Spend 3 days and 2 nights 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 the Portiuncula of St. Francis
- Visit the Basilica of St. Clare and pray at her tomb
- Confession should be available to prepare for our pilgrimage
- Meet some of our Franciscan friends in Assisi
- Accommodations will be at the St. Anthony's Guest House, which has a beautiful view of Assisi



*Entrance to St Anthony's Guesthouse*

### Norcia (the birthplace of St. Benedict and his twin sister, St. Scholastica, born in 480)

- Spend 2 nights at the Palazzo Seneca in Norcia and dine superbly in one of Italy's most distinguished culinary towns.
- **Holy Thursday** – the Mass of the Lord's Supper at the Monastery of St. Benedict with the Benedictine monks of Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica.
- **Good Friday morning** – excursion to Amandola to the hermitage of Sister Maria, where we will learn about her daily life as a modern day hermit.
- **Good Friday afternoon** – the celebration of the Passion of our Lord at the Monastery of St. Benedict with the Benedictine monks of Norcia.
- **Good Friday evening** – participate in a live Stations of the Cross procession around the walled medieval city of Norcia.
- **Easter Saturday morning** – a reflection 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).



*Palazzo Seneca's breakfast room*

### Rome

- Spend 5 nights at the Hotel Michelangelo.
- **Holy Saturday** – Easter Vigil Mass at St. Peter's Basilica celebrated by Pope Francis.
- **Easter Sunday** – Easter Sunday Mass with Pope Francis, and attendance at the Pope's *Urbi et Orbi* message in St. Peter's Square.
- **Easter Monday** – pilgrimage to Manoppello to visit the Shrine of the Holy Face and to Lanciano to visit the Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano.
- Walking tour of Baroque Rome – Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon and Piazza Navona.
- Visit 4 major Basilicas of Rome.
- Attend the Papal Audience.
- Meet friends of *Inside the Vatican* magazine.



*Hotel Michelangelo steps away from St. Peter's Basilica*

## Additional Information

- Deposit of \$1,000.00 by check made payable to *Urbi et Orbi Communications* is required at the time of booking.
- Number of pilgrims is limited to **12 pilgrims** to allow for a peaceful and personal experience.
- Dr. Robert Moynihan, editor of *Inside the Vatican* magazine, and Deborah Tomlinson, the magazine's COO, will greet you at the airport and be with the pilgrims for the entire pilgrimage.
- A portion of the pilgrimage proceeds will be donated to the Monks of Norcia and the Medical Dispensary inside Vatican City, adjacent to the *Domus Santa Marta*.
- Dinners with Dr. Robert Moynihan and special guests and friends of *Inside the Vatican* magazine.



## Cost

- **Land and Air Package**—\$7,495.00 per person. This includes a \$5,995.00 charge to cover all costs of the pilgrimage, and a special \$1,500.00 charitable donation to *Urbi et Orbi Communications*, which publishes *Inside the Vatican* magazine. These funds will be used help finance the magazine as well as to fund a scholarship for Orthodox seminarians to study in Rome or elsewhere in the West. The scholarships are part of the work of the *Urbi et Orbi Foundation*, a project of *Urbi et Orbi Communications*, which works directly with the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity to fund its scholarship program. Included in the \$5,995.00 cost is a \$1,000.00 air allowance.
- **Land Package**—\$6,495.00 per person. This includes a \$4,995.00 charge to cover all costs of the pilgrimage, and a special \$1,500.00 charitable donation to *Urbi et Orbi Communications* which publishes, *Inside the Vatican* magazine. These funds will be used help finance the magazine and to fund a scholarship for Orthodox seminarians to study in Rome or elsewhere in the West. The scholarships are part of the work of the *Urbi et Orbi Foundation*, a project of *Urbi et Orbi Communications*, which works directly with the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity to fund its scholarship program. Airfare is **not** included in this package.
- **Single Room Supplement**—\$900.00
- **Insurance** – Comprehensive travel insurance is included.
- **Meals** –9 breakfasts, 8 dinners and 8 lunches are included. (All meals are included, *except* one dinner and one lunch which will be on our travel days.)

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

**For more information or to reserve your spot, contact our US Office at 1-202-536-4555  
or email us at [Pilgrimages@InsideTheVatican.com](mailto:Pilgrimages@InsideTheVatican.com)**





## Terms & Conditions Easter 2016 Pilgrimage

**Rates and Payments:** Rates are based on applicable rates as of June 10, 2015. Total Cost: (\$1,500.00 donation is included. Single Supplement fee is \$900.00.)

**Land and Air Package—\$7,495.00** (a \$1,000.00 air allowance is included)

**Land Package—\$6,495.00**

There are two payments:

1) **Deposit: \$1,000.00** – Due at time of booking. **\$500.00 is non-refundable and not covered by travel insurance**

2) **Final Payment: Land & Air Package—\$6,495.00** Due Friday, January 15, 2016, 65 days from departure.

**Land Package—\$5,495.00** Due Friday, January 15, 2016, 65 days from departure.

**Note: Add \$900.00 Single Supplement fee, if applicable.**

**Reservations, Payment Schedule and Donation:** A \$1,000.00 deposit is due at the time of booking to make your reservation, and \$500.00 of this deposit is non-refundable. Balance is due 65 days prior to departure. If your reservation is received less than 65 days prior to departure, then full-payment is due at the time of booking. You will receive an IRS donation letter for the \$1,500 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 only participants are responsible for purchasing their own air flights. Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages require all participants who purchase the Land Package to arrive one day before the Land Package start date, if your flight is not the same as the Land and Air Package 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 covered. **The \$500.00 deposit and the \$1,500.00 donation are not covered by travel insurance. Total cost covered by travel insurance: Land & Air Package—\$5,495.00 Land Package—4,495.00.**

**Travel Documents:** A valid passport is required for travel to 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 pilgrimage. 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. Travel insurance may cover the remaining *insured amount* depending on the circumstances of the cancellation.

Monies will be refunded, minus the **cancellation fee, as follows:**

Insured Amount: Land & Air Package - \$5,495.00; Land Package - \$4,495.00, plus single supplement and domestic air\*

65 - 35 days prior to departure: Cancellation Fee – 50% of the insured amount\*

35 days prior to departure: Cancellation Fee - 100% of the insured amount\*

\*Insured Amount: Land & Air Package or Land Package. In addition, domestic air, if purchased through Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages and the single supplement, if applicable. (\$2,000.00 is non-refundable – \$500.00 deposit plus \$1,500 donation – and not covered by travel Insurance)

**US State Department & Other Agencies:** From time to time the US State Department ([www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)) and the Center for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov](http://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.

**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.

**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 as being detrimental to the pilgrimage. In addition, all participants must adhere to the rules of Vatican City and the Rules and Restrictions of the *Domus Santa Marta* in the event that we visit the *Domus Santa Marta*. In the event any participant is removed from a trip, Inside The Vatican Pilgrimages is not obligated to refund to such person that portion of the payment allocable to unused services.

**Final Package:** A final package containing documents, applicable airline ticket information, local contact information, a pilgrim book, and travel tips will be mailed to each participant about 2 weeks prior to departure.

## Registration Form

Assisi/Norcia/Rome/Manoppello/Lanciano Easter Pilgrimage  
March 21 – March 31, 2016

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 Easter Pilgrimage, **March 21 – March 31, 2016**. By payment of my deposit, I accept and agree to all of the Terms and Conditions. I also agree that Inside the Vatican Pilgrimages cannot be held liable for any injury or loss sustained during the pilgrimage.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Witness *(a non-family member)* \_\_\_\_\_

Witness *(print name)* \_\_\_\_\_