



TEKTON MINISTRIES
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

WITNESS THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

YOU ARE INVITED ON A PILGRIMAGE
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS TO

ITALY AND FRANCE

May 15 - 26, 2023



A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages for more than 20 years. Working closely with your priest to create thoughtfully planned itineraries, we help make the Catholic faith more tangible to your daily life by taking you to the heart of our Mother Church today. Although we visit numerous sites in this holy and historic region, daily Mass and time for prayerful reflection are important parts of each day's experience.

We use only experienced Christian or Catholic guides, so you receive truthful explanations of scripture and the places we encounter. When the disciple Philip asked the Eunuch (who was reading Isaiah) if he understood what he was reading, the man responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:35) Just as Philip guided the Eunuch with "the good news of Jesus," your Tekton pilgrimage will guide you into a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. Our prayers, service, and love of our Lord go with you.

- **Day 1 - Monday, May 15**
Depart USA

Our pilgrimage begins with our overnight flight to Rome. Meals and drinks served aloft.

- **Day 2 - Tuesday, May 16**
Arrive Rome / Naples

Upon arrival at the airport in Rome, we are met by our tour manager who will be with us for the duration of our pilgrimage in Italy. We will begin our pilgrimage by traveling south to Naples, where St. Thomas first attended university, to check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (D)

- **Day 3 - Wednesday, May 17**
Naples / Pompeii / Naples

This morning we take an excursion to Pompeii to visit the ruined city that was dug out from the ashes rained on it by Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Pray at the shrine of the Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii, built by Blessed Bartolo Longo who was once a fallen-away Catholic. After his reversion to the faith, he developed a great devotion to Our Lady and took the religious name of Brother Rosario upon becoming a Third Order Dominican. Upon returning to Naples, visit the Cathedral of the Assumption of Mary – also known as the Cathedral of St. Januarius – built in the 14th century, and the Dominican church of San Domenico Maggiore, where St. Thomas lived and taught. See the crucifix from which Jesus spoke to Thomas, saying he had written well of Him. Visit the University of Naples, where St. Thomas Aquinas studied. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) Mass



- **Day 4 - Thursday, May 18**

- **Naples / Roccasecca / Montecassino / Fossanova / Rome**

Depart Naples this morning and drive to Rome – the Eternal City. Journey north to the Abbey of Montecassino. Montecassino is considered by many to be the birthplace of monasticism in Western Europe. St. Thomas Aquinas studied here, beginning at the age of five. Travel a little further north to Roccasecca, the birthplace of St. Thomas Aquinas, before continuing to Fossanova, and visit the Abbey where St. Thomas died in 1274. Afterwards, proceed to Rome where we, check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) Mass



- **Day 5 - Friday, May 19**

- **Rome**

We begin our day in Rome with morning Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, followed by a tour of St. Peter's including the Pieta and Adoration Chapel. Then we venture outside the city of Rome to visit the Apostolic Palace of Castel Gandolfo, the summer residence of the pope, and one of Italy's most scenic lake towns. The pope's former residence has its own gardens that are also now open to the public. Enjoy a tour of the villa and gardens before returning to Rome later this afternoon, with the balance of the day free to explore and enjoy dinner on your own at one of Rome's many restaurants. (B) Mass

- **Day 6 - Saturday, May 20**

- **Rome**

We begin today in St. Clement Basilica, which houses an original fresco depicting St. Clement celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, giving us a picture of Eucharistic worship at the end of the first century or the beginning of the second. We then proceed to the Basilica of St. John Lateran. The founding of the Dominican Order can be traced back to a dream of Pope Innocent III where he saw St. Dominic in a dream holding up the basilica, prompting Innocent to approve the new order. Travel through the heart of ancient Rome to Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, once the headquarters of the Dominican Order. Marvel at the Gothic interior and the New-Gothic restoration. Visit the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas – also known as The Angelicum. Afterwards, spend some time on your own wandering other historical and tourist sites in the area including the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Spanish Steps, and the Trevi Fountain, and enjoy another night out for dinner on your own. (B) Mass

- **Day 7 - Sunday, May 21**

- **Rome**

Early this morning we journey to Santa Sabina on Aventine Hill, the mother church of the Dominican order and the site where St. Thomas began writing his Summa Theologica. We then travel outside Rome to Orvieto, a walled town high on a hill that holds one of the greatest Eucharistic Miracles in its cathedral. In nearby Bolsena, in the 13th century, a priest doubted the Eucharistic Presence during Mass and the host turned to real flesh and the wine to real blood during the

consecration. The priest brought the blood-stained Corporal to Pope Urban in Orvieto, and it is now kept in a special reliquary for the faithful to view. It was also in Orvieto where Pope Urban IV called for a world-wide Feast of Corpus Christi and commissioned St. Thomas Aquinas to compose the Mass for this feast, featuring the great hymn "Pange Lingua Gloriosi." The desk he used while teaching in Orvieto is housed in the church of San Domenico, originally built in 1233 and one of the first churches of the Dominican order. After visiting this church, we return to Rome for our final evening in Rome. (B, D) Mass

to the first community of Dominican women, founded by St. Dominic, and also where Dominic debated the Cathars. Later this evening we will enjoy our farewell dinner together. (B, D) Mass

● **Day 8 - Monday, May 22**

Rome / Paris

Depart this morning for Paris, setting of much of St. Thomas's teaching career. It was here where Thomas met Albertus Magnus, who later appointed him as an apprentice professor and Master of Students in Cologne. Visit the University of Paris, where Thomas was regent, marvel at the Arc de Triomphe, and stroll along the Champs-Élysées before checking into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) Mass



Orvieto Cathedral



● **Day 12 - Friday, May 26**

Toulouse / USA

Our time pondering the life and faith of St. Thomas Aquinas comes to a close. We transfer to the airport for our return flight home cherishing all the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage.

B=Breakfast D=Dinner

** Please note that all rates and services are subject to availability and confirmation. We cannot be responsible for any increase in these rates or changes in services or flight and land arrangements in the event that government regulations change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

● **Day 9 - Tuesday, May 23**

Paris

Today we begin at Notre Dame Cathedral, still recovering from a massive fire that toppled the iconic wooden spire. Just a few blocks away on the same little island in the Seine we will visit Sainte-Chapelle, built in 1248 to house the Crown of Thorns, and which boasts one of the world's most captivating array of stained-glass windows. Proceed to St. Severin in the Latin Quarter of the city, St. Jacques, the Saulchoir Library and the nearby Leonine Commission. Proceed to the Louvre for an outside visit to discuss the history of this former royal palace and the importance of St. Louis IX and St. Thomas' visits there. Afterwards, you have the opportunity to explore Paris for dinner on your own this evening. (B) Mass

● **Day 10 - Wednesday, May 24**

Paris / Toulouse

We begin our morning with Mass at the Convent of the Annunciation. We'll then spend time this morning exploring this beautiful neighborhood. Afterwards, transfer to the train station where we board a high-speed train to Toulouse. Upon arrival, check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) Mass

● **Day 11 - Thursday, May 25**

Toulouse

Toulouse boasts the first house of the Dominican Order as well as the first church built by the Dominicans, the Eglise des Jacobins. Inside this church, we will venerate the tomb of St. Thomas Aquinas. Nearby, we will pray in the chapel that was once the dormitory where St. Dominic and the early friars lived. We will visit the home of Pierre Seilhan as well as the Church of St. Sernin. Wander the streets of nearby Prouille, before returning to Toulouse by way of Fanjeaux. This hilltop village is home



St. Thomas Aquinas

ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare **\$5,160.00**

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (applied to final invoice)

Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges **\$575.47**

(subject to change until final ticketing)

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **\$155.00**

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST \$5,890.47

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$1,065
- Land-only option: \$4,125 (no flights or gratuities included)

Final Payment Due

March 2023

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy airfare from Saint Louis on Delta Airlines/Air France
- 10 nights' accommodations, including taxes and service charges
- Portage of one piece of luggage at airports and hotels
- Knowledgeable, friendly, Catholic/Christian guides; whisper headsets; deluxe motor coach transportation to holy sites; all entrance fees listed on itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner as per itinerary (excluding drinks)

Base rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals, gratuities, COVID-19 testing (if required)

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms a part of your final payment which is due 90 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 89 days of departure must be accompanied by payment in full. Payments made by credit card will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 21 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for a smaller group size.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be in writing. The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$150.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$300.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$1,000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 14 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

Travel Documents: A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for Italy or France. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

Hotels: Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

Air Transportation: Air travel is in economy class on Swiss Air/Lufthansa. Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares and flight schedules are subject to change without notice. Note that any ticketing changes or cancellations made within 120 days of your departure date will incur airline penalties.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included in base price: Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$575.47 per person, but subject to change until the time of ticketing), gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records estab-

lishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

Trust Account Disclosure: California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"): George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

Responsibility Clause: Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their co-operating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.



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