



**TEKTON MINISTRIES**  
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

# WITNESS THE LIVES *OF THE* SAINTS

***YOU'RE INVITED ON A PILGRIMAGE TO  
THE SHRINES AND SAINTS OF***

# ITALY

**May 27 - June 6, 2024**



# 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 27**  
**Depart USA**

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart on our overnight flight to Rome. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

- **Day 2 - Tuesday, May 28**  
**Arrive Rome**

After our morning arrival in the "Eternal City," we will be met at the airport by our tour manager, who will be accompanying us throughout the duration of our pilgrimage. Depending upon our flight arrival time, we may have time for an overview tour of the city, including the Colosseum, Forum, and Circus Maximus, as well as catching our first glimpse of the magnificence of St. Peter's Basilica... Transfer to our hotel for check-in and dinner. (D)

- **Day 3 - Wednesday, May 29**  
**Rome**

Join thousands of pilgrims from around the world to be with the Holy Father at his Papal Audience at St. Peter's Basilica. Always subject to the Holy Father's schedule, this unique event lets us listen to the Holy Father's words and receive his blessing in person. In the afternoon travel to St. Paul's Outside the Walls, originally built by Constantine in the fourth century over the site of St. Paul's tomb. We then descend into the lives of the martyrs as we visit the Catacombs. Here Christians celebrated the Mass in secret and buried the martyrs, including several popes. Afterwards, we will have free time to continue exploring at leisure, including dinner out on our own. (B)

- **Day 4 - Thursday, May 30**  
**Rome**

Our day today is filled with wonder and awe as we steep ourselves in the beauty of St. Peter's Basilica. Here we see the life-like Pieta statue by Michelangelo, stunning paintings, and the importance of Eucharistic Adoration at the chapel renovated under the direction of St. John Paul II. We then tour the Vatican Museum that hosts artifacts from around the world, some of the greatest depictions of the Eucharist in art, papal apartments, hand-woven intricate tapestries, and the stunning hallway of maps from the 1500s. The most famous ceiling in the world awaits us inside the Sistine Chapel. Popes are elected under this ceiling and the faithful have continued to come and be awed by its splendor for centuries. Later this afternoon, we visit the Spanish Steps, a favorite people

watching site in Rome and throw a coin into the Trevi Fountain with hopes to return to this glorious city. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

- **Day 5 - Friday, May 31**  
**Rome**

The Scala Santa, or Holy Stairs, are prayed this morning by climbing them on your knees because they are so sacred. Christ walked on these 28 marble stairs at the home of Pontius Pilate to be condemned to death. For those who cannot climb the stairs on their knees there are other stairs available for walking up that also lead to the chapel at the top. Our prayerful experience continues with a visit to St. John Lateran, the Mother Church of the Roman Catholic faithful and the oldest basilica in Europe. At St. Mary Major we venerate the crib of Christ, view the famous icon painting attributed to St. Luke, and see inestimable artwork that makes Rome renowned throughout the world. Continue on to the Piazza Navona and then you will be free for the remainder of the day for shopping or visiting another of Rome's famous churches or piazzas. (B, D)



- **Day 6 - Saturday, June 1**  
**Rome / Orvieto / Assisi**

Depart Rome and drive north to Orvieto, a walled town high on a hill that holds one of the greatest Eucharistic Miracles in its cathedral. In nearby Bolsena, 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. See the steps of the Papal summer residence where Pope Urban IV held up the blood-stained corporal and announced his intention to institute the Feast of Corpus Christi. After venerating the sacred Eucharistic miracle, proceed to Assisi, a town that welcomes us in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare into its peaceful interior, and our home for the next three nights. (B, D)

- **Day 7 - Sunday, June 2**  
**Assisi**

We begin our day in the heart of Assisi in the Shrine of Renunciation within St. Mary Major church. This shrine was built to commemorate the spot where St. Francis renounced his wealth and family and began

his life of poverty and service to the Lord. It is now where the tomb of Bl. Carlo Acutis lies. Bl. Carlo – the first millennial saint – dedicated part of his short life to cataloging Eucharistic Miracles from around the world. After venerating his resting place, journey to the Basilica of St. Francis to venerate this saint’s burial place. Afterwards is the Basilica of St. Clare, which holds the famous San Damiano Crucifix that spoke to St. Francis, and where the golden locks of St. Clare’s hair and St. Francis’ poor patched tunic are kept. The remainder of the day will be free for personal prayer and activities. (B, D)

Francis led shepherds to the top of a nearby hill where they gathered in a stable sheltering an ox and a donkey. According to legend, the Baby Jesus miraculously appeared in the manger. On this spot the Franciscan convent of Greccio was built, and the Chapel of the Crib was erected in 1228, the year St. Francis was canonized. Continue to Rome to check into our hotel near the airport for our last night of our pilgrimage. (B, D)



● **Day 8 - Monday, June 3**  
**Assisi**

Witness where the power of the Eucharist turned away an army. The invading Saracen army was about to attack the Convent of San Damiano where St. Clare lived with her nuns in 1241. Even though bed-ridden, St. Clare got up and held the Blessed Sacrament in the air and saw the advancing army flee in terror establishing “The Miracle of the Eucharist of Assisi.” Also in the convent, we will visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix, then proceed to the valley below. Here we will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, site of the Porziuncola, the tiny church in the woods where St. Francis began his ministry and where St. Clare began her religious life. This afternoon we will travel up Mt. Subasio to L’Eremo delle Carceri (the Carceri Hermitage), St. Francis’ favorite retreat center, where he could remain in seclusion and prayer. Enjoy some personal prayer time in this peaceful location before descending back into Assisi for the evening. (B, D)

● **Day 11 - Thursday, June 6**  
**Rome / USA**

Today we say Ciao to Italia and return home, cherishing all the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage. (B)

B=Breakfast D=Dinner

● **Day 9 - Tuesday, June 4**  
**Assisi**

This morning will be free for personal activities and exploration of Assisi. This afternoon we will come together and journey to a local winery for a tour and tasting. Afterwards, return to Assisi where we will enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant to celebrate the almost end of our pilgrimage. (B, D)

● **Day 10 - Wednesday, June 5**  
**Assisi / Cascia / Greccio / Rome**

This morning we will depart Assisi and journey south, stopping in Cascia to visit the Shrine of St. Rita and venerate the Eucharistic Miracle of Cascia. We then proceed to the medieval town of Greccio. Greccio itself, set on a beautiful mountaintop, is famous for its cool summer climate and its mineral springs. However, it is even more renowned for its connections with St. Francis of Assisi and as the birthplace of the Christmas crèche. On Christmas Night 1223, St.



# ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
[TektonMinistries.org](http://TektonMinistries.org)

## PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare \$4,185.00  
Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges \$678.20

*(subject to change until final ticketing)*

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff \$150.00  
*(estimated/pre-collected with final invoice)*

**ESTIMATED TOTAL COST** \$5,013.20

## OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$977
- Land-only option: \$3.321 *(no flights included)*

Final Payment Due

February 2024

## BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Indianapolis on United Airlines
- 9 nights' accommodation, including taxes and service charges
- Porterage 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
- Farewell dinner on day 9
- Breakfast and dinner per itinerary (excluding drinks)

*Rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals*

**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. Late payments may be subject to a late fee and/or possible removal from the pilgrimage. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 26 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 - 46 days prior to departure, \$300.00 will be charged. If canceled 45 - 15 days prior to departure, \$1000.00 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. 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 United Airlines. 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 \$678.20 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 establishing 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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