



TEKTON MINISTRIES

Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

WITNESS THE LIVES *OF THE* SAINTS

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

ITALY

March 9 - 19, 2026



A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages for more than 25 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, March 9**
Depart USA

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

- **Day 2 - Tuesday, March 10**
Arrive Rome / Assisi

After our arrival in the "Eternal City", we will be met by our tour manager at the airport and drive north, through the beautiful Umbrian countryside to Assisi, a town which welcomes us in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare. Here we journey first up Monte Subasio to L' Eremo delle Carceri, or the Carceri hermitage. These caves are where St. Francis and his followers first prayed and started their ministry to the world. Here, where St Francis often prayed, in the midst of the lush green forest and the singing birds, one gets a deep



sense of the Franciscan spirit. It is a peaceful and reflective way to begin our pilgrimage in the spirit of St. Francis. After some time for prayer and our own private reflections, we return to the valley of Assisi, where we will check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (D) Overnight Assisi

- **Day 3 - Wednesday, March 11**

Assisi: Basilicas of Sts. Francis and Clare, Bl. Carlo, San Damiano

We begin our day in the heart of Assisi at the Basilica of St. Francis, where we venerate this saint's burial place. Continue to 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 – set to be canonized soon as the first Millennial Saint – dedicated part of his short life to cataloging Eucharistic Miracles from around the world. 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. This afternoon we 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 bedridden, St. Clare got up and held the Blessed Sacrament in the air and saw the advancing army flee in terror, thus 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. We will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D, Mass) Overnight Assisi

- **Day 4 - Thursday, March 12**

Assisi: St. Mary of the Angels, Excursion to La Verna

Our day begins with a visit to 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 was consecrated. We then journey north on a day trip today through Tuscany, to the Sanctuary of La Verna, located on land that was donated to St. Francis by Count Orlando Cattani in 1213. In La Verna, we visit the Sanctuary of San Francesco, a site of constant pilgrimage over the centuries and a religious center known all over the world. The hermitage built here became a favored site for Francis and his followers, where they would come and retreat, spending long periods of meditation and prayer. In 1224, what would be St. Francis' last stay at La Verna, while absorbed in prayer, he had a vision and received the stigmata that he carried until his death two years later. We visit the Stigmata Chapel as well as Sasso Spicco, the great overhanging rock under which Francis delighted to pray, and the beautiful Chapel of the Birds, then spend the remains of the day in this retreat-like setting, reflecting upon the life and teachings of St. Francis, before returning to Assisi for our last peaceful evening in this serene setting.

(B, D) Overnight Assisi

- **Day 5 - Friday, March 13**

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. 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. After

venerating the site of this miraculous occurrence, we continue south to Rome, where we check into our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) *Overnight Rome*

- **Day 6 - Saturday, March 14**
Rome

Our day today is filled with wonder and awe as we steep ourselves in the beauty of St. Peter's Basilica, which beckons us into its interior through the arms of Bernini's Colonnade. Afterwards, enjoy a guided tour through the Vatican Museums which house artifacts from around the world as we prepare ourselves for the greatest masterpiece yet: The Sistine Chapel. Painted by Michelangelo, it is the most famous ceiling in the world under which popes are chosen to lead the faithful. This afternoon, we cross the Tiber to visit the Croatian Church of St. Jerome (Chiesa di San Girolamo dei Croati). Afterwards, walk to some of Rome's most famous tourist sites: the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. We can enjoy a little bit of free time here before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) *Overnight Rome*

- **Day 7 - Sunday, March 15**
Assisi

We begin this morning at another of the four major basilicas – St. Paul Outside the Walls. Though it was destroyed by a fire in 1823, it was originally built by Constantine in the fourth century over the site of St. Paul's tomb and was rebuilt in the 19th century exactly as it was before the fire. We then journey 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. This afternoon, we'll journey to the charming neighborhood of Trastevere, with medieval cobblestone streets and religious shrines decorating doorways. The main square is dominated by the 12th century Basilica di Santa Maria, a church full of classical wonders from glittering mosaics to the relics of the Holy Sponge and St. Apollonia. Our day continues with a visit to the Basilica di Santa Cecilia built atop her former home. One of the earliest martyrs of Rome, St. Cecilia survived a near-decapitation for three days and was the first saint whose body was found to be incorrupt. (B, D) *Overnight Rome*

- **Day 8 - Monday, March 16**
Rome: Day Trip to Subiaco

This morning, we travel a short distance outside of Rome to Subiaco, where we visit Benedict's monastery, built around the Sacro Speco (Holy Cave) where he lived for three years in prayer and seclusion. Here St. Benedict began to codify his Rule, which became the foundation of western monasticism. We will also visit St. Scholastica's Monastery, built by Benedict and his twin sister, Scholastica, originally one of twelve in this area. We will see the cloisters from the 6th and 11th centuries, as well as the medieval church decorated by Cosmati, before returning to Rome for the night. (B, D) *Overnight Rome*

- **Day 9 - Tuesday, March 17**
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. Nearby, we visit the Franciscan Papal University of Antonianum, one of the centers of the Franciscan order. This afternoon, we journey to St. Mary Major, the last major Papal Basilica of our pilgrimage, where 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. We will also have the chance to venerate the burial sites of St. Jerome and Pope Francis, who are buried here. Tonight, we can explore independently, including dinner on our own at one of Rome's numerous tasty restaurants. (B) *Overnight Rome*



- **Day 10 - Wednesday, March 18**
Rome

On our last full day in Rome, we 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, we enjoy a walking tour through ancient Rome, starting at the Piazza Navona with Bernini's lavish fountains and proceed to the Pantheon with its unique dome that inspired Michelangelo. Afterwards, venerate the resting place of St. Helena (mother of Constantine) and the Croatian Queen Katarina Kotromanic in the Franciscan church of Santa Maria in Aracoeli. We continue with outside visits to some of Rome's most famous ancient sites: the Forum and Colosseum, ending at the Circus Maximus. This evening, we celebrate our farewell dinner together at a local restaurant. (B, D) *Overnight Rome*

- **Day 11 - Thursday, March 19**
Rome / USA

Today we say "Ciao" to Italia and transfer to the airport for our return home, cherishing all the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage.

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare	\$4,450.00
Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges	\$483.21

(subject to change until final ticketing)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST **\$4,933.21**

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **\$160.00**
(estimated/pre-collected with final invoice)

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$1,218
- Land-only option: \$4,205 (no flights included)

Final Payment Due

December 2025

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Chicago O'Hare on United Airlines
- 9 nights' accommodation, including taxes and service charges
- Portage of one piece of luggage at hotels
- Knowledgeable, friendly, Catholic/Christian guides; whisper headsets; deluxe motor coach transportation to holy sites; all entrance fees listed on itinerary
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Rome on day 10
- Breakfast and dinner per itinerary (excluding drinks)

Rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due 90 days prior to departure - after receiving the final invoice. All pilgrimage registrations must be made online through our website. Reservations made within 89 days of departure (or after the final invoices are sent) must be accompanied by payment in full. Any credit card payments other than the deposit 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. Pilgrimage prices are based upon a minimum number of 22 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for smaller group sizes.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing (email or letter). 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, \$300 will be charged. If canceled 90 - 61 days prior to departure, \$1000.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, \$2000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 30 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 \$483.21 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 cooperating 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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