

Eternal Rome

Plus Assisi and Orvieto!

November 10th - 20th, 2008

An 11-Day Catholic Pilgrimage to Italy

With **Fr. William Vernon**

From the Diocese of Madison, WI

Pastor of St. Pius X in Cambridge, WI
and St. Joseph, in Edgerton, WI

A Mater Dei Tours™
Catholic Pilgrimage



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Fr. William Vernon in front of St. Peter's Basilica

11-Day Trip Inclusions:

- **Fr. William Vernon**, Roman Catholic Priest from the Diocese of Madison, WI, as Spiritual Director.
- Non-stop Air transportation between Chicago and Italy (per itinerary). Airfare available from other cities. Please call for price difference.
- Private Motorcoach in Italy with driver for featured tours.
- Airport Transfers in Italy (for those flying with the group)
- Baggage Portorage (1 checked bag per person).
- Accommodations in Assisi and Rome
- **Papal general audience** (*pending on the Holy Father's schedule)
- Professional Licensed Tour Manager throughout your stay.
- Expert guides on featured walking & coach tours
- Tour Director: **Juan Landa**, from Mater Dei Tours.
- Touring program (admissions to featured visits).
- 14 Meals (9 Breakfasts, 1 lunch & 4 Dinners)
- Full documentation packet with luggage tags & re-usable wallet
- Spiritual program including daily Mass in unforgettable places (Rosary, Meditations, Sacrament of Reconciliation) (Note: Mass arrangements may change slightly from original schedule)
- Hotel sales tax, Italian hospitality taxes & service charges.

Does not include:

- **TAXES:** US/Europe airport, departure, connection and transportation taxes and fuel surcharges (approximately \$350)
- Tour Guide's and Motorcoach Chauffeur's gratuities

(See registration for price, terms & Conditions)

The Holy Father has decreed a plenary indulgence for those faithful and repentant pilgrims visiting the Basilica of St. Paul in Rome during the "Year of St. Paul"

NOTE: Although a motorcoach is included for tour transportation, it is important to point out that all Italian tours require a considerable amount of walking.

DAY-BY-DAY TENTATIVE ITINERARY

INCLUDED MEALS LEGEND: M= Airplane Meal B= Breakfast L= Lunch D= Dinner

Day 1: Monday, November 10th: Depart U.S.A:

Depart Chicago's O'Hare Airport for Italy (Airfare available from other cities. Please call for additional cost and more information). Enjoy dinner, refreshments and breakfast onboard as you fly **non-stop to Rome**. (M)

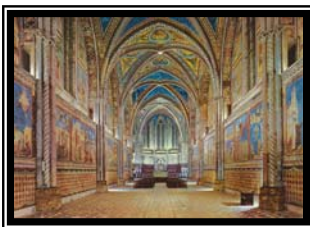
Day 2: Tuesday, November 11th: Arrive Rome, travel to Assisi:



After clearing **Italian** immigrations & customs, travel to the beautiful Umbria region. Arrive in **Assisi**, land of St. Francis and St. Clare. Upon arrival, a thanksgiving **Mass** is celebrated at the **Basilica of St. Clare** for a safe voyage. This church houses the remains of **St. Clare** and the famous **Cross of San Damiano**

(the cross which spoke to Francis). Spend the next two nights inside the walls of this quaint and historical medieval town. This evening enjoy a group **dinner**. (M, D)

Day 3: Wednesday, November 12th: Assisi: Start the day with **Holy Mass** celebrated at **St. Francis Basilica**. After Mass, enjoy a guided walking tour of Assisi. Tour features the **Basilica of St. Francis**, including the **tombs of St. Francis and his disciples**. The **Lower and Upper Basilicas** are filled with world famous **Giotto frescoes**



that depict the lives of Jesus and St. Francis, as well as other saints. Later, visit other important sights such as **San Francesco Piccolino**, an oratory commemorating the place where St. Francis was born; also stop by the **Bernardone Home**, where he grew up; visit the

City Hall Square where a 1st century Roman temple dedicated to the goddess Minerva was converted into a beautiful church. Time permitting, visit the **Cathedral of San Rufino**, where you can find the remains of the 3rd century Saint Martyr. Next to this Cathedral is the **old home of St. Clare**. After the tour, enjoy a **group lunch** with your fellow pilgrims. For the adventurous, **Fr. William Vernon** will be leading an optional walk to the **Church of San Damiano**, the church re-built by St. Francis and his first followers. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner on your own tonight. (B, L)

Day 4: Thursday, November 13th: Assisi & Orvieto & Rome:

Travel this morning to "lower Assisi" and visit the **'Poziuncula'** (the first Franciscan house), the **Transit Chapel** (where St. Francis died), and the **thorn-less rose garden**, all inside the stunning **St. Mary of the Angels Basilica** (the Head Basilica of the Franciscan Order). Afterwards, travel through the beautiful Umbria region and arrive at the hill-top town of **Orvieto**. Very famous for its white wine and fine pottery, but more importantly, Orvieto is the location for the Cathedral that houses the **Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena**. Marvel at the preserved Corporal still exhibiting the **Blood stains** of the Eucharistic Miracle. Learn about this miracle and enjoy the fascinating façade of the Cathedral as well as the beautiful art inside. **Holy Mass** is celebrated here. After Mass, relax and enjoy the ride towards the Capital of Italy and ancient home of the greatest empire in western civilization, **Roma (Rome)**. This evening enjoy a "Welcome to Rome" group **dinner**. (B, D)

Day 5: Friday, November 14th: Christian Rome (Part #1): After breakfast, embark on an unforgettable excursion of the treasures of our faith. First, travel south down the **'Via Apia'** (Apian Way) for a powerful journey experiencing how our early brothers and sisters survived and persevered in preserving our Lord's Church. Tour through an amazing complex of underground tunnels with an unending number of crypts, mausoleum tombs and chapels that fill every passageway that comprise the **Catacombs of St. Callixtus**.

One of the highlights of this visit will be the place where the body of St. Cecilia was found. A very realistic statue that marks this place portrays the way her body laid, giving a final and resounding testimony to the



Blessed Trinity at the time of her death. **Holy Mass** is scheduled at the Catacombs complex. Then visit the Basilica of **St. Paul Outside the Walls**, one of the 4 Patriarchal Basilicas of the Church. Although mostly rebuilt in the 19th century, this Basilica conserves the shape of the original St. Peter's Basilica. In addition to having portraits of every Pope, St. Paul Outside the Walls is most famous for housing the remains of **St. Paul** (*the Holy Father has announced a plenary indulgence for pilgrims visiting this Basilica during the year of St. Paul*). After this visit, travel to **St. Mary Major** (another one of the 4 Patriarchal Basilicas) where you can see relics of the **Manger from Bethlehem**. Commissioned in the year 360AD approximately, Santa Maria is the first Basilica to be dedicated to the Virgin Mary (Our Lady of the Snows). The famous icon of **Mary, Health of the Roman People**, believed to be painted by St. Luke, can be found in the beautiful **Capella Paolina** built by Paul V. Afterwards, if time allows, those who have a devotion to **'Our Mother of Perpetual Help'** can join the tour director to view the original icon (also accredited to St. Luke – one block away from St. May Major). (B)

Day 6: Saturday, November 15th: Imperial Rome: Today, enjoy a **tour of Rome's imperial monuments**, including a visit inside the famous **Coliseum** (Flavian Amphitheater) built in 72 AD, flanked on one side by the **Arch of Constantine** and surrounded by the massive **Roman Forum**. Walk the ruins of the old streets of Rome

and visit the **Mamertinum**, the place where Peter and Paul where imprisoned (this place is frequently closed). From the coach, see the massive **Circus Maximus**, the **Vittorio Emanuel II** monument ("wedding cake building" – housing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier), **Piazza Venezia** (featuring the old Venice embassy building, used by Mussolini to give his famous speeches) and the **Capitoline Hill**.



Holy Mass at St. Pietro in Vincoli (St. Peter in Chains), housing the chains with which Peter was shackled in the Mamertine Prison. This church also has the famous statue of **Moses by Michelangelo**. Remainder of the day is at leisure. Dinner on your own tonight. (B)



Day 7: Sunday, November 16th: Sunday Angelus address, prayer and blessing by Pope Benedict XVI, and optional walking tour of Rome's Monuments:

Start the day with an early morning **Mass** at St. Peter's Basilica, the 3rd Patriarchal Basilica we have seen on our pilgrimage so far. After the Mass, proceed to the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament for a **Holy Hour**. Afterwards, go under the main Altar of St. Peter's Basilica to visit the Crypt of St. Peter, where the **remains of St. Peter**, the first Pope lay, surrounded by the tombs of many Popes. Here there will be a chance to pay respects to **John Paul the Great** at his **tomb**. Then go to outside to St. Peter's Square for a brief explanation of the square and its history. Pray the Holy Rosary in the square while we wait for the Holy Father to appear outside his Papal apartment window to hear his message and pray with him the Angelus prayer. Afterwards, you may opt to join a free optional walk through the old streets of Rome to see famous and classic places like **Piazza Navona, The Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps**. If time allows, visit St. Ignatius Church, housing the remains of St. Aloysius, and Gesu Church, housing the tomb of St. Ignatius of Loyola. (B)

Day 8: Monday, November 17th Christian Rome (Part II):

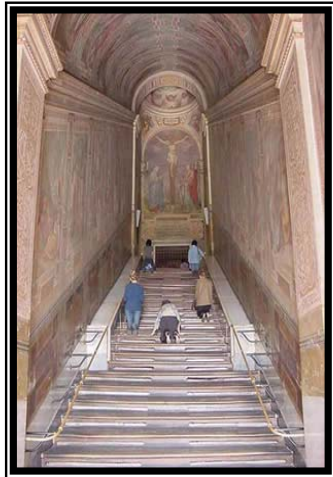
Continue today our tour of Christian Rome with a visit to **San Giovanni Laterano** (St. John Lateran), the Cathedral of Rome and



another one of the Church's four major Basilicas. **Holy Mass** is celebrated here. Originally dedicated to Christ Our Savior, then to St. John the Baptist, then to St. John the Evangelist. Adjoining is the Lateran Palace

which was the official residence of the Popes before the Avignon captivity. Afterwards, visit the **'Scala Sancta' (Holy Stairs)** where

you may climb the same steps Our Lord climbed on the way to see Pontius Pilate. The climb may only be done on your knees. Approximately on every 5 steps, a small circled glass window allows the pilgrim to see the real marble steps below the wooden protective cover. It has been said that at one point pilgrims could still see the marble with drops of the blood of Christ through these small windows. Continue on to **'Santa Croce in Gerusalemme'** (Holy Cross of Jerusalem), where incredible



relics can be found (fragments of the **Holy Cross, one Nail, part of the inscription INRI, two thorns from the Crown of Thorns, fragments of the pillar of the scourging and of the rock of the Holy Sepulcher**). We owe these beautiful relics, including the Holy Stairs, to St. Helena, the mother of Rome's first Christian Emperor, Constantine. Enjoy a **group dinner** tonight. (B, D)

Day 9: Tuesday, November 18th: Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel & St. Peter's:

Tour the impressive **Museo Vaticano (Vatican Museum)** with a fascinating collection of historical artifacts and precious objects of art, including the **Capella Sistina (Sistine Chapel)** with the famous **Michelangelo**



frescoes featuring the **Last Judgment**. Afterwards, tour the largest Church in the world, the **Basilica di San Pietro (St. Peter's Basilica)**. **Holy Mass** celebrated in a chapel at the **Crypt of St. Peter**. Time for lunch and shopping follows (remember to bring all these religious articles to the Papal audience the next day). Remainder of the day at leisure. (B)



Day 10: Wednesday, November 19th: Papal Audience, Villa

Tevere and Farewell Dinner: After breakfast, join pilgrims from all over the world for a once in a lifetime experience, an **Audience with the Pope** at the Vatican (pending on the Holy Father's schedule).



After the Pope's message, the Holy Father will impart his blessing on you and your family (bring your personal religious articles – rosaries, etc... - as they will be blessed too). After the audience, return to the hotel for packing time. This afternoon depart for the Prelatic Church of **Santa Maria della Pace** (St. Mary of Peace) where we celebrate our Farewell Mass and have time for Confessions. Afterwards, enjoy a memorable farewell dinner with your new family. (B, D)

Day 11: Thursday, November 20th: Return to U.S.A.:

Board your coach to the Fiumicino Airport. Say 'ciao, ciao' to our escort and board the plane bound for the USA. As our airplane takes off, take one last look at a beautiful land that now holds a special place in our hearts, and say **Arrivederci Italia!** (B, M) Upon arrival in the USA, clear US Immigrations and Customs. **Welcome Home!**

General Conditions

Purchaser and/or traveler of this tour (you) acknowledges that Landa Cleary Travel Company, Inc (d.b.a = doing business as Mater Dei Tours and Relevant Journeys) is acting as an independent intermediary (travel agent) between you and suppliers of goods and services, which are not directly supplied by Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc., such as air transportation, hotel accommodations, ground and sea transportations, tours, tour guides, escorts, etc. and shall not be responsible for actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers, which may result in any loss, damage, delay or injury to you or your travel companions or group members. Landa Cleary Travel Company, Inc. and any religious or private organization contracting its services shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages or losses caused to any traveler in connection with social or labor unrest, mechanical or construction difficulties, diseases, local laws, climatic conditions, war, terrorist activities or any other actions omissions, or conditions outside their control.

By embarking upon his/her travel, the traveler(s) voluntarily assumes all the risks, and is advised to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against them. Your booking shall constitute a consent to the above and engaging the company, acknowledges these conditions and agrees to hold the company blameless in making the arrangements of his/her behalf, and agrees that restitution or damages, if any are claimed, shall be sought directly from the suppliers.

Deposits: A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure your space to Landa Cleary Travel Company, Inc. Deposits will be refunded in the event the tour does not meet the minimum quorum necessary to make the trip possible. If you use a credit card as payment, you agree that if any cancellation penalties are due, Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc. is authorized to charge the penalties to your credit card above.

Final Payments: Full payment must be made no later than **100 days** prior to departure unless otherwise stated. Payments may be made by check, Visa or MasterCard. If payment is not received as scheduled, your reservation may be automatically canceled and your deposit payment becomes forfeit. If you use a credit card as payment, for your convenience, you may opt to have Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc charge your balance to the same authorized credit card on the registration form by simply calling us with your verbal authorization.

Tour Membership: To ensure a positive experience, the Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc reserves the right to reject any client whose conduct is incompatible with the interest of the group. Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc is not responsible for lost persons and for the expenses incurred while being lost. Each traveler assumes responsibility for staying with the group.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing to our company prior to tour departure during normal business hours (9:00am to 5:00pm CST, Mondays through Fridays). All Cancellations are subject to the following per person penalties prior to departure:

- 95 days or prior \$300.00
 - 94 to 65 days 50% of tour
 - 64 to 35 days 75% of tour
 - 34 to 0 days No Refunds
- No refund can be made for non-refundable airfare.

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Travelers with Special Needs: Passengers who require attention must advise the tour operator at the time of booking. A qualified and physically able companion must accompany travelers who need such assistance and must assume full responsibility for their well being. Coaches are not equipped with wheelchair accessible ramps, therefore all tour members must be able to mount 3 to 5 steps into the coach. **Participants should expect to walk an average of 1 to 5 miles per day.** Walking surfaces may at times be uneven. Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc. is not responsible for denial of service by any suppliers.

Young Travelers: Travelers who are less than 18 years old on the departure date must be accompanied by an adult and must share the adult's accommodations. If a child will be traveling with adults other than the parents or with only one parent, it is highly recommended that a notarized letter be written by the parents or non-traveling parent granting authorization to travel, including the dates of travel. We suggest that you also contact the appropriate consulate and airlines because they may have additional requirements.

Air Transportation: We have selected airlines that are most suitable with land arrangements. All fares are subject to government approval and are subject to change without notice. Airfares are guaranteed once they have been paid in full and ticketed. Name changes required after tickets have been issued are subject to cancellation and re-ticketing at a higher fare or subject to change fees. Some airlines do not allow you to earn frequent flier miles for group bookings.

Airline Seating: Passengers who require specific seating due to medical conditions need to obtain Doctor's Orders so the airlines have proof of the condition and may accommodate the order. Passengers who desire a specific non-medical related seat are requested to contact the airline directly 30 days prior to departure for preferred seating. Group seating is solely under control of the airline.

Voluntary changes to itinerary: Independent voluntary changes to an individual passenger's itinerary are usually not permitted by most tour suppliers. Some exceptions may be granted by the suppliers in a case-by-case basis. If passenger purchased a land only package, they are free to plan their own itinerary before or after the trip (read Land Only Bookings for restrictions). All change requests must be made prior to 45 days before departure.

Not Included: All items of a personal nature (room service, beverages, telephone charges, laundry, etc) and meals not specified on the tour itinerary are not included and must be paid by the passenger.

Accommodations and Itinerary: Land arrangements are provided as described in the tour program. The tour company reserves the right to change or substitute (1) hotels for accommodations in similar categories (2) or features of the itinerary in order to accommodate changes in the schedule.

Meals: Meals are provided as specified in the tour program. If you require special meals due to dietary restrictions, we must receive written details of your requirements at the time of booking.

Passports: Obtaining a passport is the sole responsibility of the passenger. Passports must be current and valid beyond the dates of travel. **Your airline ticket name must match your passport name or you may be denied boarding the airplane.** Passengers who are denied boarding due to discrepancies between ticket and passport names or because of expired passports accept full responsibility and are subject to the cancellation terms of the tour. Some countries such as Israel require that your passport be valid 6 months beyond your travel dates.

Smoking: Smoking is not allowed on the motorcoach but frequent stops are made throughout the day.

Tips: Gratuities for baggage, hotel and restaurants detailed in the itinerary are included. **Gratuities for Tour Guides, Local Guides and Motorcoach Drivers are not included – please see your final documents for recommendations on tipping.**

Total Group Cancellation: If it becomes necessary to cancel an entire tour prior to departure, Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc. will offer the next available date or will make a full refund of money paid. Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc. cannot accept responsibility for any additional costs or fees relating to such a tour booking or for any cancellation penalties due to non-refundable airfares, unless ticket is purchased as part of our negotiated group booking.

Land Only Bookings: Passenger(s) who desire to book their own airfare do at their own risk. Land only passengers are responsible for connecting with the group at the hotel. Passenger(s) accept all responsibility for costs incurred due to misconnections with the group. Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc. cannot accept responsibility for any additional costs or fees relating to such a tour booking or for any cancellation penalties due to non-refundable airfares, unless ticket is purchased as part of our negotiated group booking.

Luggage: Handling of one piece of luggage per person is included in the cost of all tours. Luggage is carried at owner's risk throughout the tour (insurance suggested). Hand baggage and small articles such as coats, umbrellas or cameras are entirely in the care of the passenger. Size and weight limitations for carry-on and checked baggage vary from airline to airline and even according to destination, and are becoming more restrictive. Check your final documents for details of acceptable luggage dimensions and weight allowed on your tour.

All baggage and personal effects are at all times and in all circumstances at the risk of the passenger. Baggage insurance is recommended.

Validity: Rates in this brochure are valid from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008 and are quoted on a per person sharing twin/double room basis. All prices are show in U.S. Dollars and are calculated on currency rates and fares exiting on January 2nd 2008. Landa Cleary Travel Co., Inc. reserves the right to alter prices at any time prior to departure and without prior notice due to currency exchange rates, taxes or fee increases.

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Travel Insurance: Landa Cleary Travel Company, Inc. has automatically added travel insurance to your reservation in addition to your deposit or balance. You may choose to decline this option by checking the appropriate "decline insurance" box on the registration form. Preexisting conditions can only be covered if premium payment is made within 15 days of your initial trip deposit. Landa Cleary Travel Company, Inc. uses Travel Guard, AIG insurance exclusively. Please see policy insert for details of coverage. Travel Guard does not cover general strikes in France and/or Israel. An insurance brochure is available, please ask for one.

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See application for price, taxes & fees
Registration Deadline: 01 August 2008 ←→ **Balance due: 01 September 2008**