

SHRINES OF ITALY

May 8th - 17th, 2012

Optional extension to Medjugorje May 17th - 23rd

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: Fr. HIPPOLETUS TOPPO



St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City



San Giovanni Rotondo



Assisi



St. James Church, Medjugorje

ITINERARY

MAY 8 / TUESDAY USA - Rome Transatlantic flight to Rome, Italy

MAY 9 / WEDNESDAY ROME - ASSISI Upon arrival your escort will greet you. Transfer to Assisi. Settle in your hotel. Orientation tour of Assisi. Visit the Family Home and Birth Place of St. Francis. Mass at the Chiesa Nuova where Francis was imprisoned. Dinner in your hotel.

MAY 10 / THURSDAY ASSISI Visit and tour of St Francis Basilica. Celebrate Holy Mass at the Crypt Tomb of St. Francis. Tour the relics of St. Francis, his stigmata and tunic. Visit San Damiano Church. Pray in the chapel where Jesus spoke to St Francis from the Cross. Visit St Mary of The Angels Basilica where St. Francis spent most of his life. Here we will see: the Chapel, Portiuncola, the rose bush, and the cave where St Francis retired for prayer. Dinner in your hotel.

MAY 11 / FRIDAY ASSISI - LORETO - LANCIANO - SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO Enjoy breakfast in your hotel. We head towards Loreto to visit the Holy House of Nazareth and the beautiful Madonna of Loreto. It is said that this is the house where the Holy Family live, and where Jesus grew up. It was transported by angels to his hill back in 1924. Continue to Lanciano to visit the Eucharistic Miracle and celebrate Holy Mass. Then, on to San Giovanni Rotondo for dinner and overnight.

MAY 12 / SATURDAY SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO - Michael The Archangel Cave Breakfast. Celebrate Holy Mass at the tomb of Padre Pio. Tour the sanctuary, the old church, Padre Pio's confessional, and the crucifix from which he received the stigmata in 1918. Visit the Grotto of Michael the Archangel, a shrine consecrated by St Michael himself in 490. St. Francis and many Popes have knelt in prayer at this grotto. Return to San Giovanni Rotondo for some free time, dinner and overnight.

MAY 13 / SUNDAY SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO - MONTE CASSINO - ROME Breakfast. Depart San Giovanni for Rome. On the way, stop at Monte Cassino, a gorgeous town founded by St. Benedict in 529. Celebrate Holy Mass in Monte Cassino. Arrive Rome late afternoon. Dinner in your hotel.

MAY 14 / MONDAY ROME Enjoy a tour of Rome's Basilicas which includes: the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the Holy Stairs, the Basilica of St. John the Lateran, St Paul Outside the Walls, and the Appian Way -- the oldest road from Roman times-- (we will celebrate Holy Mass in one of the Basilicas) plus the famous Domino Quo Vadis Chapel; see the ancient Baths of Caracalla, Arch of Drusus; Tomb of Celilia Metella, and the catacombs of St Callixtus where the early Christians hid themselves to escape persecution. Enjoy a visit of the Trevi Fountain before dinner in your hotel.

MAY 15 / TUESDAY ROME Today, we visit the Vatican's Museums filled with art treasures and the unique Sistine Chapel (Michelangelo's Masterpiece). Then we will visit St. Peter's Basilica (the largest church in all of Christianity) built on the site where St. Peter was martyred. We will also visit the grave of Pope John Paul II located underneath St Peter's Basilica. Celebrate Holy Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. Enjoy some time on your own before dinner and overnight.

MAY 16 / WEDNESDAY ROME (Pope's audience) This morning we go the Vatican to attend the weekly Papal Audience or blessing given by His Holiness Pope Benedict (pending pope's schedule and health). Enjoy an afternoon free for personal activities. Dinner. (Those going to Medjugorje will depart this evening).

MAY 17 / THURSDAY ROME - USA Morning transfer to Rome's Airport to catch our return flight home.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION - MEDJUGORJE MAY 17 - 23, 2012

MAY 16 ROME - MEDJUGORJE Afternoon transfers to the airport. Flight to Croatia and transfer to Medjugorje. Dinner.

MAY 17 - 21 MEDJUGORJE During our stay, we will share our faith with thousands of people from all over the world. Each morning at 10:00am, we meet at St. James Church for the English language Mass. Our local bilingual tour guide will escort us to the Hill of Apparitions where the visionaries first saw Our Blessed Virgin Mary. Pray before the statue that symbolizes the place of the first apparition. In 1933 the villagers built a 30' high cross on the anniversary of Jesus' crucifixion on top of Cross Mountain (Križevac). We will climb the mountain through the Stations of the Cross. Also, visit and pray at "Blue Cross". A place of healings and graces at the foot of Apparition Hill. We will have the chance to attend meetings and talks with the visionaries (subject to their availability and health during our trip). We will also visit the community of Cenacolo (a rehab center). In the evening, we can join the villagers at 5:00pm (or 6:00pm daylight savings time) to pray the rosary. Followed by Croatian Mass during which there is the blessing of the items you have with you. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. And Veneration of the Holy Cross is on Thursday evenings. We will also have time for personal prayer and reflection.

MAY 22 MEDJUGORJE - ROME Afternoon transfer to the airport to catch our flight to Rome. Dinner and overnight.

MAY 23 ROME - USA Transfer back to the airport to catch our flight back home.

Package price per person: \$1,095.00 plus taxes & fuel surcharges of approximately \$150.00

Single room supplement: \$240.00

Package includes: round-trip airfare between Rome and Croatia; round-trip transfers in Medjugorje and in Rome; six nights accommodations in double rooms at the Two Hearts Hotel; one night accommodations in double rooms at an airport hotel in Rome; breakfast and dinner daily; services of bilingual tour guide while in Medjugorje; escorted visits to all places of interest in Medjugorje; meetings with visionaries and parish priests (pending availability).

Not included: Tips, lunches, travel insurance, items of a personal nature.

SHRINES OF ITALY

May 8 - 17, 2012

Package price from Miami, FL: \$3,350.00
(does not include taxes of approximately \$545.00)

Single room supplement: \$650.00
(single rooms based on availability)

PRICES AND TAXES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

SHRINES OF ITALY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

round-trip airfare between USA and Rome - eight nights accommodations in double rooms in 4 star hotels - breakfast and dinner daily - portrage at hotels (one suitcase per person) - English speaking tour guide - all transportation in a deluxe fully equipped motor-coach - all touring and sightseeing as specified in the itinerary - Chaplain will provide daily private Masses at the holy places listed in the itinerary - entrance fees where applicable - all local taxes, road taxes and VAT.

HOW TO JOIN THIS PILGRIMAGE... fill out registration form on the back of this flyer - send a \$500 deposit along with your signed registration form - balance is due 60 days prior to departure - Checks should be made payable to CROATIAN MIR CENTER 4700 Sheridan St., Suite J, Hollywood, FL 33021. (Sorry, credit cards are not accepted)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

CROATIAN MIR CENTER

1-800-220-7729 croatia@mircenter.com

