



TEKTON MINISTRIES
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

WITNESS THE LIVES *OF THE* SAINTS

Fr. Caleb Hile invites you
***ON A PILGRIMAGE TO
THE SHRINES AND SAINTS OF***

ITALY

August 30 - September 10, 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 - Friday, August 30**
Depart USA

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

- **Day 2 - Saturday, August 31**
Arrive Florence

Upon arrival in Italy, we are met at the airport by our tour manager, who will be with us for the duration of our pilgrimage. Depending upon our arrival time, enjoy an overview tour of this cosmopolitan city, including Mass. Then proceed to our hotel to check in before dinner and overnight. (D)



- **Day 3 - Sunday, September 1**
Florence

We'll enjoy a full city tour of this magnificent Renaissance city today. Where else can one admire Michelangelo's David, gaze at the famous Perseus statue by Benvenuto Cellini, eat the best food, and go into deep contemplation all in one day? See the famous dome on Florence's cathedral – Duomo di Firenze – that dominates the skyline, and walk along the Ponte Vecchio, the famous bridge designed by a Dominican friar. Visit the Baptistry chapel, where thousands have received the Sacrament of Baptism, with its bronze Gates of Paradise showcasing fabulous castings of the Old Testament that seem to come to life. Continue onto Santa Maria Novella Church whose religious artwork is prized throughout the world. Enter the Santa Croce Church with its 16 chapels of superb frescoes by Giotto and see where Italy's most famous Italians are

buried: Michelangelo and Galileo. The rest of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries. (B, D)

- **Day 4 - Monday, September 2**
Florence / Siena / Assisi

We will depart Tuscany today and travel to the region of Umbria, stopping in Siena, to celebrate Mass at St. Dominic's, St. Catherine of Siena's parish church where she attended daily Mass and went into ecstasy. The people of Siena wanted St. Catherine to be buried in her home church, but they were only able to procure her head, which is preserved for veneration in a reliquary in St. Dominic's. Adjacent to the church is her birthplace and childhood home, which has been renovated throughout the centuries into a museum, including several chapels and a cloister. Visit the cell where she fasted and prayed, then experience a highlight of our day in the Basilica of St. Francis: venerating the Eucharistic miracle of Siena. This afternoon we continue to the peaceful village of Assisi, a town which welcomes you in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare into its peaceful interior, and our home for the next three nights. (B, D)

- **Day 5 - Tuesday, September 3**
Assisi

This morning we will begin in the Basilica of St. Francis, where the saint lies in rest and where we will celebrate Mass at the Tomb of St. Francis. Afterwards, we'll 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 he consecrated St. Clare. This afternoon we'll tour the Convent of San Damiano where the miracle of the Eucharist of 1211 took place and visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix. The balance of the afternoon will be free to explore more of this peaceful town. (B, D)



- **Day 6 - Wednesday, September 4**
Assisi / Rome

This morning begins with Mass at the Basilica of St. Clare, after which we will view and venerate her incorrupt body. Then we will take a taxi up to Monte Subasio to L'Eremo delle Carceri (the Carceri Hermitage), the Saint's favorite retreat. There are many caves here that St. Francis and his followers retreated to for seclusion and prayer. After some time for prayer here, we will proceed to Rome, our home for the next 6 nights. (B, D)

- **Day 7 - Thursday, September 5**
Rome

We begin our first full day in Rome in St. Peter's Basilica, with a tour including the Pieta and Adoration Chapel. Afterwards, we walk

through the Vatican Museums which house artifacts from the around the world and Eucharistic art to 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. Later this afternoon, enjoy a tour through the peaceful Vatican Gardens, followed by free time to relax or explore other sections of the city, including dinner out on our own. (B)

● **Day 8 - Friday, September 6**

Rome

We go to the heart of ancient Rome to the Mamertine Prison where St. Paul was kept in chains for his preaching of the Gospel. We have outside visits to the Forum, an ancient Roman marketplace, and the Colosseum, before visiting St. Clement's Basilica. Built over the home of the fourth Pope, it holds great historical significance especially in its ancient fresco depicting Eucharistic worship at the end of the first century. At St. Peter in Chains, we see the actual chains that held St. Peter when he was imprisoned in Rome and view Michelangelo's magnificent statue of Moses. 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. (B, D)



St. John Lateran

● **Day 9 - Saturday, September 7**

Rome

This morning, we will journey to St. Paul Outside the Walls, originally built by Constantine in the fourth century over the site of St. Paul's tomb. After some time for prayer, we visit the Tre Fontane, site of three fountains and three churches, where St. Paul was beheaded. Afterwards, we proceed to the Catacombs of St. Callistus and venerate the martyrs and early saints of the Church. This afternoon, we will enjoy a walking tour to the Pantheon, Spanish Steps, and the Trevi Fountain where a coin thrown over your shoulder will guarantee you another visit to Rome. We will end near the Piazza Navona, where we will have some free time for dinner on our own before returning to our hotel. (B)

● **Day 10 - Sunday, September 8**

Rome

Today we join thousands of other pilgrims at St. Peter's Basilica to pray the Angelus with Pope Francis and receive his blessing – as his schedule allows. Afterwards, travel to St. Lawrence Outside the Walls, commemorating the martyrdom of St. Lawrence, one of the first deacons of Rome. Peek through one of the grates under

the altar and you might see some of the ancient tunnels that led to a catacomb where he was first buried. The remains of the martyrs St. Justin and St. Stephen are also beneath the altar. In addition, this gem of a church holds the body of Pope Pius IX who declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The rest of the afternoon will again be free for personal activities. (B, D)

● **Day 11 - Monday, September 9**

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. Afterwards, it's on to Rome's lovely Trastevere District 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. This evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate the end of our Italian pilgrimage. (B, D)

● **Day 12 - Tuesday, September 10**

Rome / USA

Our time pondering the history and faith of Italy comes to a close. We transfer to the airport for our return flight home cherishing all of the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage. (B)

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare **\$4,425.00**
Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges **\$656.00**

(subject to change until final ticketing)

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

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST \$5,241.00

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$1,289
- Land-only option: \$3,645 *(no flights included)*

Final Payment Due

May 2024

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Kansas City on Delta Airlines/Air France
- 10 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 11
- 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 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 - 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 Delta Airlines/Air France. 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 \$656.00 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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