

OCTOBER 11 - 24, 2026

SACRED ITALY

PILGRIMAGE



**FR. HERMAN
MANUEL, SVD**
Chaplain

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Sacred Italy Pilgrimage with Fr. Herman Manuel, SVD | October 11 - 24, 2026

Day 1 | Depart for Italy

Our pilgrimage begins today as we depart for an overnight flight to Milan, Italy. Meals and refreshments will be served onboard as we begin our journey together.

Day 2 | Arrival in Milan

Upon arrival in Milan, you will be met at the airport by your tour manager and driver and brought to join the rest of the group. We will check into our hotel, and if time allows, we will have the opportunity to explore Milan before dinner. Overnight in Milan.

Day 3 | Turin

After breakfast, we travel west to Turin where we will visit the Turin Cathedral, home to the revered Shroud of Turin, believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus, and the burial place of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. We then visit the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians at Valdocco, an important Salesian site commissioned by Saint Don Bosco. Several saints are buried here, including Saint Dominic Savio, a young boy devoted to prayer and service who founded the Company of the Immaculate Conception to help Don Bosco minister to neglected youth. Dominic had a deep devotion to Jesus and Our Lady and died at the age of 14; he is now the patron saint of mothers with difficult pregnancies. After visiting his burial place, we will pass through the villages outside Turin where he grew up and died before returning to Milan for dinner. Overnight in Milan.

Day 4 | Day Trip to Pisa

This morning we depart for Pisa where we will visit the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa and the Cathedral of Pisa. We then continue to Santa Maria della Spina, where we will celebrate Mass. After Mass, there will be free time to explore before gathering for dinner at our hotel. Overnight in Florence.

Day 5 | Transfer to Assisi

After breakfast we begin our scenic drive to Assisi, enjoying views of the beautiful Umbrian countryside along the way. We make a stop in Siena, a city rich in Catholic heritage, where we visit the Basilica of San Domenico, home to relics of St. Catherine of Siena, Doctor of the Church and co-patroness of Europe. We will also visit the magnificent Siena Cathedral and explore the Piazza del Campo, famous for the Palio horse race. After celebrating Mass, we continue our journey to Assisi for dinner and overnight. Overnight in Assisi.

Day 6 | Assisi

Today begins with a guided tour of the Basilica of St. Francis, where we admire its remarkable frescoes and venerate the tomb of St. Francis. We then visit the Basilica of St. Clare, where the San Damiano Cross that spoke to St. Francis is preserved. After lunch, we walk through the charming streets of Assisi, visiting the birthplace of St. Francis and other significant sites before celebrating Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, home of the Porziuncola. We return to our hotel for dinner. Overnight in Assisi.

Day 7 | Assisi

Today we visit the peaceful Eremo delle Carceri, a hermitage in the hills where St. Francis and his companions retreated for prayer and contemplation. There will be time for personal reflection in this serene setting before we continue to the Church of San Damiano, where St. Clare lived and where St.

Francis received his calling. Later we visit the Sanctuary of the Spoliation, where we venerate the tomb of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first millennial to be beatified. After celebrating Mass, we enjoy a leisurely evening exploring Assisi's shops and cafés before dinner. Overnight in Assisi.

Day 8 | San Giovanni Rotondo

Today we travel toward San Giovanni Rotondo. Along the way we visit Montesilvano, known for its beautiful beaches and historic old town with medieval roots. We then continue to Lanciano, the site of the famous Eucharistic Miracle of the eighth century, before arriving in San Giovanni Rotondo to visit the shrine of St. Padre Pio. Dinner and overnight in San Giovanni Rotondo.

Day 9 | Exploring St. Padre Pio's Life

Today is dedicated to the town where St. Padre Pio lived most of his life. We visit the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, where the tomb of St. Padre Pio is located, and celebrate Mass. In the afternoon we visit the Sanctuary of Monte Sant'Angelo, an important pilgrimage site. Dinner and overnight in San Giovanni Rotondo.

Day 10 | Monte Cassino & Rome

After breakfast we set off for Monte Cassino, where the ancient Roman town of Casinum once stood. We visit the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino, founded by St. Benedict around the year 529 and considered the birthplace of the Benedictine Order. Here we enjoy lunch and celebrate Mass before continuing on to Rome for dinner and overnight. Overnight in Rome.

Day 11 | Vatican City & Papal Audience

Our pilgrimage in Rome begins with a visit to Vatican City, where we enter St. Peter's Basilica, the heart of the Catholic Church. If available, we attend the Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square with the Holy Father. After lunch, we tour the Vatican Museums, admiring the Church's artistic treasures including the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's famous ceiling. We celebrate Mass in a Vatican chapel before returning to our hotel for dinner. Overnight in Rome.

Day 12 | Castel Gandolfo

Today we visit the Papal Palace and Gardens of Castel Gandolfo, the traditional summer residence of the popes. In the afternoon we enjoy a wine tasting before returning to Rome, where the evening is free to explore the city at your leisure. Overnight in Rome.

Day 13 | Ancient Rome

Today we step back in time as we explore Ancient Rome. Our guided tour includes the Colosseum, symbol of the Roman Empire, and the Roman Forum, the center of ancient political life. We visit Palatine Hill, the legendary founding site of Rome, before walking along the historic Appian Way, one of the earliest roads of the Roman Republic. We also visit the Catacombs of St. Callixtus, where early Christians gathered and were buried. After celebrating Mass, we return to our hotel for dinner. Overnight in Rome.

Day 14 | Return Home

Today we transfer to Rome Fiumicino Airport for our flight home, carrying with us the spiritual graces, friendships, and unforgettable memories from our pilgrimage.

Your Pilgrimage Includes

- ✓ Flights from Los Angeles
- ✓ 4-star hotel accommodations
- ✓ Luggage assistance at hotels
- ✓ Private motorcoach transportation
- ✓ Breakfast & dinner served daily
- ✓ Wine served with some dinners
- ✓ Dedicated tour director
- ✓ Licensed guiding & admission fees
- ✓ Audio headsets when touring
- ✓ Daily Mass & spiritual activities
- ✓ Tips for hotel & dinner staff
- ✓ 9am-5pm (EST) reservation support
- ✓ 24/7 travel emergency support
- ✓ Name badge & luggage tag
- ✓ Magnificat prayer book
- ✓ Copy of the Canterbury Tales

Pricing (per person)

\$5,495 Double Room

+\$1,000 Single Room



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