



Sciacca

# 13 Day Pilgrimage to Italy

Palermo ♦ Sciacca ♦ Siracusa ♦ Taormina ♦ Cosenza  
Paola ♦ San Giovanni Rotondo ♦ Assisi ♦ Orvieto ♦ Rome

**October 12 – 24, 2025**

**\$4,590.00 Per Person From Miami**

***Includes:*** Roundtrip Air Transportation From Miami, First Class Hotels, Double Occupancy, 2 Meals A Day - Breakfast And Dinner, Daily Sightseeing, Bilingual Guides, Airport Taxes, Fuel Surcharges - Which Are Subject To Change, And Tips To Drivers And Guides.

**Spiritual Director:**  
Fr. Alex Vargas  
St. Thomas More Catholic Church – Boynton Beach, FL



## 13 DAY TRAVEL ITINERARY

### DAY 01 USA / PALERMO

Depart on your overnight flight to Palermo. Dinner served in flight.

### DAY 02 PALERMO / SCIACCA

Upon arrival in Palermo, you are met by your guide and driver and transferred to Sciacca. The remainder of the day is free. Head back to your hotel for dinner and overnight in Sciacca.

### DAY 03 SCIACCA / VALLEY OF THE TEMPLES / SIRACUSA

Morning departure to Agrigento to visit the Valley of the Temples. The archaeological area known as the Valley of the Temples is one of the most important archeological sites in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998. Along a long rocky scarp, chosen as the southern limit of the town, are sited the great temples of ancient Akragas. Ancient Akragas, in its hey-day, was a flourishing cultural center: it gave the world Empedocles, the pre-Socratic philosopher, whose concept of matter was divided into four elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water, was the foundation of science for many centuries to come. The city attracted poets like Simonides and Pindar who described it as "the most beautiful of mortal cities". After our visit we continue to Siracusa for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 04 SIRACUSA

This morning we visit the Basilica of Madonna delle Lacrime which holds the plaque of Our Lady of the Tears. From August 29th to September 1st, 1953, a plaster plaque of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, placed over the headboard of the bed of a young couple, Angelo Iannuso and Antonina Giusto, shed human tears. The phenomenon took place inside and outside of the house. Many saw, touched, gathered and tasted the salt of those tears. After Mass we visit the wonderful city of Siracusa where historic cultures are evident in the narrow streets and lovely courtyards of the old houses. It is the birthplace of Archimedes and, at one time, it rivaled Athens as the most important city of the Greek world. Our first stop is the Church of St. John the Baptist. It is the oldest church in the West, second in age only to its Eastern counterpart located in Antioch, Turkey. In its crypt, Saints Paul and Luke were said to have preached to the Christian community. Next, we visit Ortigia Island where we find the Duomo which is one of the town's most celebrated sights. The building records the many ages of the town. Once it was the Greek Temple of Athena, with a giant gold statue of the goddess on its roof. The massive Doric columns of the temple are still visible. The wall above the columns along Via Minerva, with battlements, is Norman in origin, while the Baroque facade

was a replacement after the 1693 earthquake. Inside the Duomo, you can see more evidence of the temple origins of the building, and more of the original structure. Inside we see the relics of St. Lucy in a small room is the shrine to Santa Lucia, the patron saint of Siracusa. St. Lucy is loved so much that Siracusa awards her two festivals a year, in May and in December, with the saint's statue being ceremonially removed from her side-chapel and placed in front of the main altar, before a succession of traditional festivities and the carrying of the statue through town in a colorful procession. Siracusa became a World Heritage Site in 2005. Return back to your hotel for dinner and overnight in Siracusa.

### DAY 05 SIRACUSA / TAORMINA / COSENZA

After Mass at Madonna delle Lacrime, we depart to Cosenza. En route we stop at Taormina. We are transferred to the upper city where we will be free to have lunch, on our own, walk around the city and just enjoy the views of Mount Etna. Taormina is a jet set town and this is evident in the local boutiques and jewelry shops. Take time to visit the Greek Theatre. Teatro Greco - Taormina's historic theater owes much of its present appearance to the Romans, the Greeks' successors in Sicily. Designed with an unsurpassable backdrop of blue sea, coastline, distant smoking Etna, and inland mountains, the theater was begun by the Greeks in the third century BC. In the first century AD, when Taormina was a significant Roman town, the Romans adapted the theatre to suit their more barbaric spectacles, stripping out seating to make more room for gladiatorial shows. It would be hard to beat the views from Taormina on a clear day. Some of the best places for enjoying the vista are the panoramic terrace of Piazza IX Aprile on Corso Umberto. After our visit we follow the Mediterranean Coast arriving at Messina. We board our ferry to cross the Strait of Messina. Upon arrival at the port of Villa San Giovanni, we continue along the Coast of Calabria en route to Cosenza. Head to your hotel for dinner and overnight in Cosenza.

### DAY 06 COSENZA / PAOLA / SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Morning departure to Paola. Upon arrival in Paola, we go to the Basilica of San Francesco di Paola for Mass. Francis was born in Paola on March 27, 1416, to Giacomo Martolilla and Vienna Fuscaldo. Being advanced in years, his parents attributed the birth of their eldest child to the intercession of St Francis of Assisi. This is the reason why they named him Francis and promised to make him wear the votive habit of the Franciscans for a year. At the age of fifteen Francis went to the monastery of the Friars Minor Conventuals in St Marco Argentano (Cosenza) to fulfill the vow made by his parents. Here Francis showed his disposition to prayer and his devotion, along with those supernatural powers which made him famous as a wonderworker afterwards. From the very beginning



Taormina

Francis was a famous wonderworker. He worked wonders for his entire life, from the building of his first monastery till his time in France. His powers were on behalf of the poor and of people who were oppressed by the frequent embezzlements of the powerful. Thanks to Neapolitan merchants Francis' fame reached the court of the French King Louis XI. Since the king was very ill, he asked Pope Sixtus IV to send the hermit to his deathbed. This was the beginning of the "diplomatic chapter" of Francis' life. The Pope, wishing to sign a treaty with France, granted Louis XI's request willingly and so did the King of Naples. Francis lived in France for about twenty-five years. There he led a simple life, working a piece of land, and he was a reformer of religious lifestyle. Because of his austere lifestyle he was chosen as a spiritual guide by some Benedictines, Franciscans and hermits, who left their religious orders to follow him. This made his Calabrian congregation international. Francis started the Order of Minims, then the secular Third Order and finally the Cloistered Nuns. Their Rules were definitively approved by Pope Julius II on July 28, 1506. Francis died in Tours on Good Friday, April 2, 1507. The fame of this wonderworker spread through Europe thanks to the three branches of his order and contributed to his beatification on July 7, 1513 and his canonization on May 1, 1519, which took place after only twelve years since his death. After Mass, we continue to San Giovanni Rotondo for dinner and overnight.



St. Pio – San Giovanni Rotondo

### DAY 07 SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO / ASSISI

Today we visit the Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie and the Chapel of the old Church where Padre Pio said Mass. Next we visit the English Office for a talk on Padre Pio. After our visit, we visit the new Church of St. Pio of Pietrelcina to see Padre Pio's Tomb. Continue back to your hotel for dinner and overnight in Assisi.

### DAY 08 ASSISI

This morning, we celebrate Mass at the Basilica after which we tour all of Assisi. This city of birds and silence under the protection of St. Francis is built of pink stone and spread in a fan shape on the slopes of Monte Subasio. Mementos of St. Francis and St. Clare, combined with a poetic setting and gentle light, give Assisi a moving beauty all its own. Balance of day is at leisure. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight in Assisi.

### DAY 09 ASSISI / ORVIETO / ROME

Morning departure to Orvieto, the site of the Eucharistic Miracle and visit the Cathedral. View the Holy Corporal containing the Blood from the Eucharistic Miracle of Orvieto in 1263, which occasioned the proclamation of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Continue to your hotel for dinner and overnight in Rome.

### DAY 10 ROME

Then on to Rome to see the Basilicas of St. Mary Major, one of the four major Basilicas built by Pope Sixtus III. View the high altar, which contains the remains of St. Matthew the Evangelist. On to St.

John Lateran (the Cathedral of Rome) which was founded by Emperor Constantine in the 4th century. Climb the Holy Stairs on your knees that are believed to be the steps on which Jesus walked to Pilate's place, then onto Holy Cross in Jerusalem, which contains fragments of the true cross, brought to Rome by St. Helena. This afternoon visit the Basilica of Aracoeli-Jesus Bambino that lays the famous Christ Child Statue of Aracoeli. The statue was carved from olive wood by a Franciscan friar from the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem during the 15th century. It is said that the statue could heal terminally ill people; it would even have the power to raise people from the dead. Continue to see the beautiful Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Before ending your day, stop by the Trevi Fountain and then return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 11 ROME

Today we visit Vatican City, including St. Peter's Basilica, the largest of all Christian churches, the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, and see Michelangelo's magnificent "Pieta". See the Tomb of Blessed John Paul II in St. Sebastian Chapel. Visit the Church of St. Peter's in Chains, containing the statue of Moses by Michelangelo. Visit the Roman Forum, Arch of Titus and Arch of Constantine, and then proceed to visit the Coliseum, drive by and view the marble monument of King Victor Emmanuel II, often called the "Wedding Cake", before ending the day at your hotel for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 12 ROME

This morning we begin our day at St. Peter's Basilica for an audience with the Holy Father, if he is not traveling. Then visit the Church of St. Paul Outside the Walls, built by Constantine in the 4th century on the site of St. Paul's Tomb. Surrounding the nave are the medallions of each Pope, from Peter to Benedict XVI. Stop and see the Trevi Fountain, it is the largest Baroque fountain in the city and one of the most famous fountains in the world and see the Spanish Steps. Visit the Basilica of St. Laurence Outside the Walls, which is one of Rome's five patriarchal basilicas and dedicated to St. Laurence the Deacon and Martyr. Continue to see the vault inside the basilica which has the bodies of St. Stephen, protomartyr, St. Laurence, the Deacon, and St. Justin, the presbyter and martyr. Finish the day with a visit to the Church of 3 Fountains; a church dedicated to St. Paul the Apostle, at the presumed site of his martyrdom in Rome. Dinner and overnight in Rome.



Rome / Vatican

### DAY 13 ROME / USA

Morning departure to Rome airport for our return flight to the USA.

**For Further Information, Please Contact:**

**Fr. Alex Vargas • Tel: 561-737-3095**

**St. Thomas More Catholic Church**

**EARLY REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED  
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS**



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### The Tour Price Includes:

**Air Transportation:** Airfare is based on special contract agreements with various international airlines and include certain restrictions and deadlines. These fares are subject to cancellation penalties, and once tickets are issued, they are **NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE AND CANNOT BE USED TOWARDS FUTURE TRAVEL**. Please refer to our CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY below. Airfare and tour prices are based on prices effective as of **JANUARY 1, 2025** and are subject to change without notice.

**Surface/Land Transportation:** All surface/land transportation described in the itinerary will be provided by modern motor coach, designed for highway travel. Groups will be met and transferred upon arrival and departure.

**Hotels:** We only use first-class hotels. Hotel accommodations are based on double occupancy (2 per room). We reserve the right to substitute hotels of similar quality for those specified in the itinerary.

**Single Room Supplements:** If you would like a single room, there is an additional cost of **\$1,200.00** that will be added to the tour price. Single rooms are limited and will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. If you request a roommate and none is available, you will be considered a "forced single," and charged one half (½) of the Single Room Supplement cost.

**Meal Plan:** Meal plans include two (2) meals per day, breakfast and dinner, with timing depending on the itinerary. Taxes and service charges normally appearing on restaurant bills are included in the tour price for these meals. **A list of any and all dietary requests or food allergies must be emailed to [cathy@inspirationaltoursinc.com](mailto:cathy@inspirationaltoursinc.com) for hotel / airline accommodation at least seven (7) days before departure.** We cannot guarantee any dietary accommodations but will make all efforts to secure special dietary requests. In the event airlines or hotels are unable to accommodate dietary requests, you will be responsible for your meals; it is the individual's responsibility to choose appropriate foods while on the tour. Unused meals will NOT be reimbursed.

**Baggage:** Inspirational Tours, Inc. restricts all passengers to one (1) piece of checked luggage (max. 50 lbs.) and one (1) carry-on (max. 18 lbs.). **All passengers should check with the airline for up-to-date baggage weight/dimension information and restrictions, which are subject to change at any time before departure.**

**Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges:** are included in the tour price and are subject to change.

**Tips On The Tour:** Tips to guides, porters, headwaiters, and drivers are included in the tour price, unless otherwise specified.

**The Tour Price Does Not Include:** Expenses related to issuance/renewal of passports, laundry, mineral waters, wine & liquor, after-lunch/dinner tea, coffee, or food not included in the meal plan above; additional baggage; expenses of carriages, guides, sightseeing or other services other than those specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary; insurance for baggage or personal trip or health insurance; all items of a personal nature, in addition to those not listed above as being included in the tour price.

**Booking Conditions: Deposits and Payment:** **A non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person**, payable via cash, check or money order, is required at the time of registration. No registration will be processed without a deposit. Invoices for final balances are issued at or near 90 days before departure. Full and final payment is due 60 days before departure. Registrations received within 90 days of departure require payment in full. If there is any outstanding balance by the Final Payment due date listed on your invoice, all travel services will be subject to automatic cancellation and cancellation fees will apply. A service reinstatement fee may be added to your invoice and must be paid in advance in order to apply for reconfirmation of services. **WE ONLY ACCEPT CASH, CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS FOR THE REGISTRATION FEE.** Payment by credit card is accepted **ONLY** for final balances or payments towards final balances; all credit card payments will be assessed a **3% non-refundable** convenience fee, which will be added to the total amount being charged.

**Cancellations and Refund Policy:** All cancellations **MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING VIA FAX, E-MAIL OR U.S. MAIL**. The date of the cancellation request is the date used for purposes of any assessed cancellation fees. Please note that some Registration Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE as stated on the Registration Form. Cancellation fees (as to any monies paid over the deposit for a tour with a non-refundable deposit) depend on the timing of the cancellation request, and are as follows: request received between time of registration and up to 59 to 45 days prior to departure—cancellation fee of **50%** of tour cost; request received 44 days or less prior to departure through date of departure—assessed **100%** of the tour cost (air and land, and any deviation fees) as the cancellation fee. Additional charges/fees for deviations and/or upgraded seats may require full payment at time of booking/confirmation, and may be non-refundable; **if a non-refundable air ticket has been issued prior to receiving notice of a cancellation request, you will be 100% responsible for those fees, in addition to the cancellation penalties listed above.** Package cancellation fees include airfare. Once airfare is purchased, either at time of booking, including but not limited to, deviations or seat upgrade requests, or at time of full payment, airline tickets will be issued and are always subject to a 100% penalty. Once full payment is received, Inspirational Tours, Inc. will issue airline tickets, which are non-refundable. If the tour is canceled for any reason, including but not limited to, tour leader's decision, decision of Inspirational Tours, Inc., weather or natural disasters, strike, acts of war, terrorism, acts of god, quarantine, disease, virus, epidemic, pandemic, compliance with government orders, travel restrictions issued by the U.S. Department of State, or any other force majeure event, Inspirational Tours, Inc. reserves the right to charge a minimum \$300.00 administrative fee per person, plus any non-reimbursable expenses incurred from airlines and/or overseas operators. **ALL RESERVATIONS ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON.**

**Deviations/Seat Upgrades:** Deviation policies vary by airline and are normally allowed only on the return journey, **from the same departing city as the group, and is subject to availability.** There is a **minimum** change fee of \$150.00 per person, plus any additional airline charges. Seat upgrade requests may also require additional fees by the airlines and vary. Any additional fees required to be paid by the airline for deviation requests and/or seat upgrade requests will need to be approved by the passenger in writing before confirmed/reserved, and

if the request requires payment at the time of confirmation, this must be paid by the passenger at the time requested, and may be non-refundable. **ALL deviation or seat upgrade requests must be made in writing, at least 90 days prior to your departure date.**

**Tour Prices:** All tour prices quoted for transportation and land arrangements in this tour are based on rates, (including foreign exchange rates), in effect at the time of the original tour agreement with your tour host and Inspirational Tours, Inc. and are subject to increase without notice prior to departure. **NOTE:** Our tours are based on a minimum number of participants. We reserve the right to cancel or reschedule any tour for any reason including insufficient participants, or events beyond our control. Any cancellation will be advised at the soonest date possible. Inspirational Tours, Inc. will not be held responsible for any costs related to the issuance and/or cancellation of airline tickets or visa fees that are not refunded by those entities.

**Travel Insurance:** To protect your travel plans, **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE OF TRIP INSURANCE.** A brochure for a company we recommend will be provided with your deposit confirmation letter, upon our receipt of your registration and deposit. We do not sell travel insurance and travel insurance is not included in the tour price.

**Passports: It is your responsibility to provide us with a copy of your current passport with your Registration Form. Validity date on passports must be for at least six (6) months after the date of return of the tour as per the tour dates, or any deviation request.** If we do not receive a copy of your current passport, the information you provide on your Registration Form will be used for ticketing purposes. If ANY information provided (name, date of birth, etc.) does not match what is on your passport, you may be subject to penalties or fees for corrections to airline tickets, and/or may be denied boarding by the airline. Any name change, including minor spelling corrections, may require reservations to be canceled and re-booked. Reservations will then be subject to availability and pricing at the time of re-booking; any increase in airfare will be borne by the passenger. Inspirational Tours, Inc. will not be held responsible for the denial of services by a carrier due to any name or passport discrepancies. If you have a passport issued from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to contact the embassies of the countries to be visited to determine if a visa will be required, and if so, it will be your responsibility to obtain such visa before departure. Please contact us for further information if this applies to you.

**Travelers Needing Special Assistance:** We recommend you please select a tour suitable to your physical capabilities. Our tours are often-times fast paced and may require lengthy walks over uneven terrain and/or steps. If you require any form of mobility assistance or for any sight/hearing disabilities, you are required to notify us before registering so we can best assist you and/or determine if this tour is suitable. Inspirational Tours, Inc., tour leaders/coordinators, guides, drivers or other tour, hotel, transfers or ship personnel will not provide individual services, such as assistance with walking, pushing wheelchairs, or helping one embark/disembark motor coaches, cruise ships, etc. We reserve the right to reject participation or remove an individual from a tour in the event that notification was not provided and/or when, in our sole judgment, continued participation would significantly hinder the services to be provided to all guests. Expenses, including cancellation fees and/or costs for alternate travel plans or to return home, will be the responsibility of the passenger. All unused services are non-refundable. **Wheelchairs & Walkers:** certain features of tours may not accommodate wheelchairs, scooters, or other special equipment. We cannot provide individual assistance to travelers with wheelchairs or other mobility devices. We regret that some itineraries cannot accommodate these devices. You are required to notify us before registering of a need for a wheelchair, walker or other mobility devices.

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**Photos and Videos During The Tour:** Inspirational Tours, Inc. reserves the right to take photographs and videos during your tour and to use them for its purposes thereafter. By booking with Inspirational Tours, Inc., you agree to allow images, whether photographic or video, to be used for promotional or commercial use. Please advise us in writing any time prior to your departure should you prefer that your images not be used, and please notify your local tour guide of the same at the beginning of your tour.

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