

St. Gall Parish/St. Simon Chapel

**~ AMAZING ITALY ~
JUBILEE YEAR OF PRAYER
June 10 ~ 20, 2025**

Fr. Ricardo Castillo, *Spiritual Director*



Best Catholic Pilgrimages

Day One: Depart USA on a trans atlantic flight to Florence, Italy. (D/B) (Tues. June 10, 2025) (D/B)

Day Two ~ Arrival Florence Wed. June 11th

At the airport, meet and greet by our professional Italian tour escort, who will assist you to your private deluxe motor coach. Father will Celebrate Mass, and after Mass we may stop for a lunch break. Enjoy panoramic sightseeing before hotel check-in. Dinner and overnight in Florence. (D)

Day Three ~ Florence

After breakfast and Mass enjoy a guided walking tour that will include the Duomo, Baptistery Doors, Signoria Square and the Basilica de Santa Croce (Holy Cross) housing the tombs of Michelangelo and Galileo, and the famous two chapels with their fabulous frescoes. We will walk the Cloister of the Monastery to the Leather Design School, which is the largest leather design school in Italy. After time for lunch, we will visit the Academia Gallery to see Michelangelo's world-famous statue of David. The remainder of the afternoon is free for browsing the open markets in the square and the shops on the famous Ponte Vecchio Bridge, known for gold & silver, jewelry, cloth and religious items. Tonight, dinner at a local restaurant! Overnight Florence. (B/D)

Day Four ~ Florence /Siena/ Assisi

Today we continue to Siena, the home of St. Catherine of Siena and located in the central Italian region of Tuscany. Siena is a medieval walled city that still retains much of its charm. Visit the Basilica of St. Dominic, where St. Catherine had mystical visions which guided her in her pilgrimages across Italy, and which contains an authentic painting of her above the altar of the chapel. We will also visit the Basilica of St. Francis where Fr. Ricardo will celebrate Mass at the Altar of the Miraculous Hosts, which have remained intact after 270 years. Then we continue to Assisi, the mystical town of St. Francis and St. Clare, for dinner and overnight in Assisi. (B/D)

Day Five ~ Assisi Saturday June 14

Fr. Ricardo will celebrate Mass, then we will tour the Basilica of St. Francis, with its lower church containing the Crypt of St. Francis and actual articles belonging to St. Francis ~ his tunic, shoes, chalice and communion plate and time to pray at St. Francis crypt. The upper church houses the Frescoes of Giotto and Cimabue, depicting the life of St. Francis and the famous painting of Virgin and Child with Four Angels. We will see the Crucifix of San Diamiano, which spoke to St. Francis. After lunch we visit St. Mary of the Angels, Santa Maria deli angelic – containing the famous Porziuncola., the little chapel restored by St. Francis and the place of his death. We visit the Convent of St. Clare. The remainder of the afternoon is free to browse the many quaint shops, walk the monastery and gardens, or just relax Dinner and overnight in Assisi (B/D)

Day Six ~ Assisi/ Lanciano /San Giovanni Rotondo (Sunday)

After breakfast, we depart Assisi for Lanciano and the Church where a Eucharistic Miracle, the *Miracle of the bleeding Host*, took place, and visit the actual Church of the Eucharistic Miracle. It was here during Mass that the Host turned to flesh and the wine to blood, in 1263. The same chalice is still used during Mass today. Then we continue to San Giovanni Rotondo – Home of Padre Pio. Dinner and overnight San Giovanni Rotondo (B/D)

Day Seven ~ San Giovanni Rotondo

Today after breakfast, we will visit the Grotto of St. Michael the Archangel, where it was promised if you enter in true contrition, all your sins will be forgiven. Then we will visit the town, and places of St. Padre Pio' including the "Home for the Relief of Suffering," a famous charitable work of St. Padre Pio. Visit Padre Pio' cell (room) and see many of his personal items. In the old church see the confessional where he heard confessions and the Cross where he received the stigmata. We will also visit the Church of Santa Maria Delle Grazie, a newer church. Afternoon free time for personal devotions and visiting the main town square. Dinner and overnight in San Giovanni Rotondo. (B/D) Mass TBA

Day Eight ~ San Giovanni Rotondo / Rome

After breakfast and Mass, we depart early for Rome and stop in Pietracina, the small town closely associated with the life of Padre Pio, to see his childhood home and the local church. We will stop for lunch on the drive to Rome (on your own). **Benvenuti a Roma – La Citta' Eternal!** Upon arrival in Rome, hotel check-in and time to relax. Dinner and overnight in Rome. (B/D)

Day Nine ~ Rome ~ Papal Audience ~ Wednesday

This morning, we attend the Papal Audience at the Vatican. Following the Audience, time for lunch (on your own) in the Vatican area before we begin our afternoon sightseeing. Then we will visit the Cathedral of Rome and to the Catholic world, **the Basilica of St. John in Lateran**, and the "Palace of the Holy Steps" – the actual steps that Christ is believed to have climbed when he was brought before Pilate. We will enter through the **1st Holy Door** of our Jubilee. We then travel down the Old Apian Way to visit the catacombs and continue to the **Basilica of St. Mary Major** to pass through the **2nd Holy door**, and Fr. Ricardo will celebrate Mass at one of these 2 major Basilicas. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight in Rome. (B/D)

Day Ten ~ Rome ~ Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel / Christian & Ancient Rome

This morning, we will pass through **the 3rd Holy Door at St. Peters Basilica**, and Father will celebrate Mass in the Vatican Grotto (*subject to confirmation.*) Following Mass, enjoy a guided tour of the magnificent Vatican Museums, and the Sistine Chapel, where you will view some of the most inspiring works of art including Michelangelo's magnificent fresco of the Last Judgement. Also enjoy a guided tour of St. Peter's Basilica, allowing time to pray at the tomb of John Paul II. After lunch, we will continue with sightseeing of the highlights of Ancient & Christian Rome, including the Coliseum, Palatine Hill, Roman Forum, Circus Maximus and the Basilica of **St. Paul Outside the Walls**, to pass through the **4th Holy Door** for the Jubilee Year of Prayer. We will end our sightseeing at the Trevi Fountain, where you may either continue on your own to walk the Spanish steps and shop or transfer back to the hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant tonight. Overnight Rome. (B/D)

Day Eleven ~ Rome / USA Friday June 20, 2025

After breakfast transfer to Rome airport for the flight home to the USA (B/L)

INCLUDED:

- Round trip air from Chicago
- 4* Hotels
- Buffet breakfast and dinner daily (B/D)
- Hotel dinners with bottled water & wine
- Private deluxe motor coach
- Professional English/Spanish speaking Tour Manager throughout
- Professional licensed local guides
- Sightseeing & entrance fees per itinerary
- Luggage handling at hotels
- Listening devices/whisper sets
- Local city taxes
- Daily Mass

June 10 ~ 20, 2025

\$4058.00

Cash/check discount on final payment

\$3977.00

(Per Person / Double Occupancy)

FOR MORE INFORMATION & BROCHURES CONTACT:

Best Catholic Pilgrimages

info@religious-travel.com

1-800-908-BEST (2378) or

Fr. Ricardo Castillo



AMAZING ITALY~JUBILEE YEAR

Enclosed is my (our) reservation and deposit to secure my (our) place, in the amount of **\$300.00 p.p.** I understand the price is based on a group of 35 paying participants. If fewer than 35 there will be a \$100.00 increase pp for 30+ paying. I have read, understood, and agree to the tour conditions and non-refundable deposit policy. My (our) reservation & deposit constitutes agreement to the tour conditions. Single rooms are limited.

Pilgrimage Date: June 10 to 20th, 2025

Pilgrimage Price: \$4058.00 (per person / double occupancy)

Cash/check discount price: \$3977.00 (pp/dbl. occupancy)

Based on Euro 1.09

Departure city: CHICAGO / ORD

R/T air from Chicago is \$1599.00 including the air taxes/ fuel surcharges. Air is subject to change by the airlines, until ticketed.

Signature: _____

BCP 4612

Passport Name(s): Mr.& Mrs. Mr. Mrs. Ms. Rev.

1 _____

2 _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home / Cell: () _____

E-mail: _____

Roommate: _____

SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: \$740.00

\$300.00 per/person DEPOSIT DUE UPON REGISTRATION

DEPOSIT CHECK ENCLOSED: Payable to Best Catholic Pilgrimages

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION: I hereby authorize, Best Catholic Pilgrimages & Tours to charge my (our) credit card for the deposit, as my (our) form of payment. Final invoices will be emailed March 27, 2025.

1-800-908-BEST (2378)

Detach & email or mail to:
Best Catholic Pilgrimages
7495 W. Atlantic Ave.
Suite 200-329
Delray Beach, FL 33446

Credit Card Type: Master Card Visa Discover AMEX

Expiration Date:

Card Number: - - - / _____

Name as it appears on Credit Card: _____ **Signature** _____ **Date** _____

Is your home address the same as your credit card billing address? YES _____ NO _____

PAYMENT IS FOR: Italy group 4612 departing June 10, 2025.



Best Catholic Pilgrimages

The BEST of Catholic Tours
"Discover Our World"

Best Catholic Pilgrimages Inc.
Call Toll Free: 1-800-908-BEST (2378)
info@bestcatholic.com
info@religious-travel.com

TOUR CONDITIONS

Best Catholic Pilgrimages, Inc. (BCP) agrees to operate the tour (s) in this brochure, with the following terms and conditions:

RESERVATION AND PAYMENTS:

An initial deposit per person as stated in the brochure is required to confirm your reservation. Balance is due on the date stated on the brochure, or no later than 60 days prior to departure. For reservations made less than 60 days prior to departure, full payment is due immediately. A \$100 per person late fee will be applied to any final payment not received timely. Airline tickets will not be issued until full payment is received. Any additional cost for airline tickets will be the responsibility of the individual.

FORMS OF PAYMENT:

Personal Checks are acceptable, if received 65 days prior to departure. Every reservation must be accompanied by a signed reservation Form. We reserve the right to re-invoice, in the event of human or computer error, euro increase, airline fuel/security surcharge increase, or under the minimum number of participants printed on the brochure.

CREDIT CARDS:

We accept credit cards. We require a signed completed credit card authorization form for accepting payments and final balance. The final balance, including any additional cost, will be invoiced for payment due 60 days prior to the departure date. We reserve the right to re-invoice, in the event of human or computer error, euro increases, airline fuel/security surcharge increase, or under the minimum group participants printed on the brochure.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

Cost of passports, visa where required, portorage at home airport, portorage at airports where baggage handlers are unavailable, tips to motor coach drivers and guides, optional tours and any other items of a personal nature including beverages with included meals and mini-bar charges incurred in your hotel room. No responsibility is incurred by BCP for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings, or for lost airline tickets.

CANCELLATION BY BCP:

BCP reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, in which case a full refund will be given. This does not include air or land services booked on your own, separate from the published tour package. The above does not apply to insufficient participants due to a majority of participant cancellations, for reasons beyond our control. Please read changes in itinerary and/or hotels.

ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

BCP reserves the right to charge a \$50.00 per person administrative fee to anyone wishing to customize additional personal arrangements outside our published package and/or the published optional extension. Any airline penalties or fees charged for any changes for individual tickets, or re-issued tickets, are the responsibility of the passenger. Separate fees apply to cancellation.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:

Your right to a refund if you change plans is limited. Deposits are non-refundable. Cancellations will be accepted by phone but MUST be confirmed in writing. Once under deposit and confirmed, cancelled reservations are subject to any additional expenses incurred, including hotel charges, and/or any applied airline cancellation penalties. No refund can be made for cancellations less than 40 days prior to departure. Once ticketed, airline tickets are non-refundable.

PARTIAL OR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AFTER TOUR BEGINS: Once the tour is in progress, no refund will be made by BCP for ANY unused portion of the tour. BCP also reserves the right to withdraw your membership at any time if your actions impose upon or disturb other members of the tour. All additional cost to send a tour member home will be borne by the tour member.

CLAIMS:

Claims for refunds must be submitted in writing to BCP within 5 days of cancellation. Initial deposits are non-refundable. Please allow a minimum of six weeks to process a refund. Refund requests for airlines tickets, travel vouchers, or associated penalties, or for absenteeism during sightseeing, meals or other unused services, are not granted by BCP. Please refer to "Cancellation and Refunds" and/or "Travel Insurance."

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Travel insurance is not included! Optional information regarding purchase of travel insurance will be sent upon your registration deposit, in the International Travel Tips. No insurance premium is included in the tour price. This is your responsibility. Go to ~ www.insuremytrip.com Travel Insurance with **Cancel for any Reason, must be purchased within 14 days of registration.**

SCHEDULES AND DELAYS:

All travel times are based on the last timetable and best information available will be presented at the time your ticket and itinerary prepared. We cannot accept responsibility for airline or train seating assignments, losses or accidental expenses due to delays or changes in schedule by the airlines, hotel over bookings or defaults, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantines, riots or insurrections, political disorders of any type, or other such similar causes. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger.

POSSIBLE CHANGES IN ITINERARY OR HOTELS:

Occasionally, the land portion of your tour may be altered due to transportation schedules, airline or other delays, weather, strikes, road construction, or war, quarantines, riots or insurrections, political disorders of any type, or other unforeseen reason. BCP reserves the right to substitute hotels or any other tour elements mentioned in the tour brochure, including the right to alter the itinerary to substitute another city or country, when more than one country is included on the itinerary, for a package of equal duration and value when the trip is within 91 days of departure. Cancellation policies remain in effect.

HOTELS: We use the Government rated Hotels that are chosen based on location, cleanliness, services, and when possible, are typical of the local area. All rooms have private bath and toilet facilities. In all cases, hotel management assigns your room. Location, view, and size may vary. Rooms assigned are on a "Run of the House" basis. Because air conditioning is not a standard feature of most hotels abroad, we cannot guarantee it.

SINGLE ROOMS: A limited number of single rooms are available at supplements for each tour. We cannot guarantee a single room will be available. It is your responsibility to have a roommate, or you will be billed a supplement for single occupancy. If your roommate cancels and we do not have another person requesting to share accommodations, you will be billed for the single supplement and are required to pay it. Occasionally there

may be a shortage of single rooms, in which case you may be charged a higher supplement for a twin size room used as a single room.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The responsibility of BEST CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES (BCP) is strictly limited. As a tour operator, BCP organizes, promotes and sells tour programs consisting of certain travel services, including (but not limited to) surface transportation, sightseeing excursions, and hotel accommodations which BCP purchases or reserves from various suppliers. The suppliers providing travel services for BCP tour programs are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of BCP or any subsidiary company. BCP is not responsible for any act, error, omission, injury to person or property, loss, inconvenience, accident, delay, irregularity, upset, disappointment, whether physical or mental, or any other event which might be occasioned through or by reason of negligence, defect or default of any company and/or their employees, agents or servants, or facilities engaged in providing any of the services, accommodations or facilities in connection with these programs. It is expressly understood that BCP is not responsible for any delays in the departure of any flight or non-operation of any flight hereunder due to reasons beyond its control, and shall have no liability whatsoever regarding flight delays, including (but not limited to) liability for damage relating to shortened vacation. **BCP shall have the right to cancel or alter any scheduled itinerary, which, in its sole judgment and discretion, is justified for any reason, and to do so without liability for damage or liability for any loss to passengers. The payment for reservation on any tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in the "Tour Conditions" published herein.**

ADVERTISED SPIRITUAL LEADER OR PERSONALITY OR EVENT:

It is the intent of Best Catholic Pilgrimages, Inc. (BCP) to have every group accompanied by a priest or brother. However, if this is not possible, we reserve the right to substitute another person from the laity. In the event an advertised Spiritual Leader, Chaplain, or Personality (celebrity) cancels due to circumstances beyond their control, and therefore beyond our control, we reserve the right to substitute another individual of our choosing and depart the trip as scheduled. No refunds will be given for cancellations based on a substitute for a particular Spiritual Leader, Chaplain, advertised personality, individual, or substitution for any special event including, but not limited to banquets, dinners, meetings, religious ceremonies, reception, etc.

TOUR PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE UNTIL DEPARTURE AND BCP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE BILLING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY OR EURO-DOLLAR FLUCTUATIONS; ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICES; INCREASED AIRLINE TAXES, FUEL SURCHARGES, AIRLINE FARE ADJUSTMENT OR MINIMUM GROUP PARTICIPANTS. Effective 2022