



## 11 DAY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING ROME, SIENA, FLORENCE, ASSISI AND ORVIETO

(Overnights: 2 Siena, 2 Assisi and 5 Rome)  
*Please note, some details may be subject to change.*

### Day 1 - Wednesday, September 25: HOME/ROME

Depart from the home city airport on the flight to a gateway city and on to Rome. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. (M)

### Day 2 - Thursday, September 26: ROME/SIENA

Arrive in Rome and, after clearing customs, meet the tour leader. Proceed boarding the motor coach and enjoy a drive through the Tuscan countryside to reach Siena. Utilize the afternoon to unpack and adjust to the new time, then celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for a safe arrival, possibly at the Cathedral. Dinner will be served at the hotel. (D)

### Day 3 – Friday, September 27: SIENA/FLORENCE/SIENA

Leave the hotel early to board the coach for an excursion to Florence. On arrival, begin a guided, walking tour of the city which will include the **Academy** with Michelangelo's statue "**David**", the **Cathedral of St. Mary of the Flower and Baptistry**, the **Piazza della Signoria** and the **Church of Santa Croce**, where possibly Mass will be celebrated. There will be free time afterwards to explore further this Renaissance city. Stroll past the never ending "gold" boutiques that line the Ponte Vecchio, discover the city's flea market or visit the Uffizi Museum. Return to Siena and, on the way, stop in the Tuscan hills for an included dinner. (B, D)

### Day 4: Saturday, September 28: SIENA/ASSISI

Begin the day with Mass at the **Basilica of San Domenico**, holding the remains of the head of Saint Catherine. Begin here a guided tour, then move on to discover other treasures of Siena, the splendid **Cathedral** and **Piazza del Campo** where each year the famous and dangerous "Palio" horse race takes place. After free time for lunch continue through the Umbrian countryside referred to as the "green heart" of Italy to reach the peaceful town of Assisi. Dinner will be served at the hotel. (B, D)

### Day 5: Sunday, September 29: ASSISI

The morning is at disposal for independent exploration of Assisi. Some may wish to join an optional tour of the Church of San Damiano, the first monastery of the Order of St. Clare, and hike to the Eremo delle Carceri, the hermitage where St. Francis prayed, surrounded by grottoes where hermits came to dwell and meditate (\$50.00, p/p). After free time for lunch, a guided tour will include the **Basilica of St. Francis**, the **Basilica of St. Clare**, **St. Francis' birthplace** and the **Piazza del Comune**. Dinner will be served at the hotel. (B, D)

### Day 6: Monday, September 30: ASSISI/ORVIETO/ROME

Celebrate an early Mass, possibly at the Tomb of St. Francis. Afterward, depart for yet another lovely Umbrian town, Orvieto. On the way, stop at the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels** and visit the **Porziuncola Chapel**. Once you reach Orvieto, visit its **Cathedral**. Free time to browse the narrow streets and to grab a quick lunch before departing for Rome. En route to the hotel, stop at the **Catacombs** and admire a network of underground cemeteries which are a vivid sign of the origin of Christianity. Tonight, take a short walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner. (B, D)

#### **Day 7: Tuesday, October 1: ROME**

This morning, celebrate Mass, possibly in the Vatican Grottoes. Afterwards, led by North American College seminarians, tours of the **Scavi**, the excavations beneath the Basilica of St. Peter will take place, as well as a visit of the most magnificent of churches, **St. Peter's Basilica**. In the late afternoon, a special, afterhours visit of the **Vatican Museums** is scheduled, unveiling treasures of famous artists and the **Sistine Chapel**, with Michelangelo's masterpiece "The Last Judgment". Dinner will be served at a restaurant close to the hotel. (B, D)

#### **Day 8: Wednesday, October 2: ROME**

Begin the day bright and early with a walk to St. Peter's Square to attend the unforgettable **General Papal Audience** given by His Holiness Pope Francis. Mass celebrations will follow. In the afternoon, a guided tour features a panoramic view of the massive **Colosseum** and excavations of the **Roman Forum** and the **Church of St. Peter's in Chains**, housing the statue of **Moses** by Michelangelo. A prayer vigil will take place at a church selected by the Diaconate Class. Enjoy dinner before returning to the hotel. (B, D)

#### **Day 9: Thursday, October 3: ROME**

Today, the momentous occasion: the Ordination to the Diaconate. Accompanied by the tour leader, head for St. Peter's Basilica to attend the Ordination Mass. Afterwards, walk to the North American College to attend a reception for the newly ordained deacons. After a little rest, visit the **Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem**, housing the Passion relics brought to Rome from the Holy Land by St. Helena of Constantinople. The tour ends with the 4<sup>th</sup>-century **Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls**. In the evening, celebrate the newly ordained Deacon , at the special Diaconate Banquet. (B, L, D)

#### **Day 10: Friday, October 4: ROME**

This morning, take part in Deacon's first Mass celebration. After free time for lunch, discover some of the major basilicas of Rome, beginning with the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**, the largest Marian church of Rome. Continue to the **Holy Steps**, believed to be the actual ones Jesus climbed when He was sentenced to death, and the Cathedral of Rome, **St. John Lateran**. A little free time for last-minute shopping, or packing. In the evening, an "Arrivederci Roma" toast is in order at the Farewell Dinner. Let the wine flow as you tune in to some of Italy's most famous melodies. (B, D)

#### **Day 11: Saturday, October 5: ROME/HOME**

This morning you will be accompanied by your tour leader to the airport and assisted with check-in formality to board the flight home. You will be asking yourself "where did the time go?" (B, M)

M: Meals served on board – B: Breakfast – L: Lunch – D: Dinner



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