

# THE FAITH & ESSENCE OF ITALY

ITALIAN PILGRIMAGE: MAY 21 TO JUNE 1, 2023

12-DAYS VISITING THE CITIES OF ROME, SIENA, ASSISI, VENICE, FLORENCE, PADUA AND MUCH MORE!



WITH THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF  
**FATHER XAVIER DE PINTO**  
PASTOR OF PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH  
CELEBRATING HIS 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

COME AND PRAY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MIGHTY SAINTS — LIKE ST. PETER, ST. FRANCIS AND ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

## ITINERARY

**DAY 1 SUNDAY MAY 21** FLIGHT(S) TO VENICE  
We fly from Toronto to Venice. Sit back, relax and enjoy your flight. Group seating for our flight will be pre-assigned by the airline.  
*Overnight on board*

**DAY 2 MONDAY MAY 22** VENICE-PADUA  
Ciao Italy! Upon arrival and clearing customs and immigration, we meet our tour manager and board our bus to drive us to Padua. We Check-in at our hotel and enjoy time to rest. Our pilgrimage officially begins with prayers at the Basilica of Saint Anthony and devotion by the tomb of the Saint followed a Welcome Dinner with all the members of our group.  
*Overnight: Padua* Dinner

**DAY 3 TUESDAY MAY 23** EXCURSION TO VENICE  
Today we take the vaporetto through the Grand Canal to Venice. We'll see Piazza San Marco, the Doge Palace, famous bridges of Venice, pray at St. Mark's Basilica and enjoy a Gondola ride. For lunch we suggest you do what Venetians do, head out to a bacaro or wine bar, for some cicchetti or small bites of traditional Venetian fare and a glass of wine (a similar concept to Spanish tapas). Return to Padua. Dinner including pizza and Bigoli pasta (typical from this region).  
*Overnight: Padua* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 4 WEDNESDAY MAY 24** BOLOGNA-FLORENCE  
You may want to join other pilgrims for early prayers at the Basilica before breakfast. We leave Padua for Bologna well known all over the world for their pasta and cured meats. We'll enjoy a food extravaganza tasting Parmigiano Reggiano, local charcuterie and sip aged balsamic vinegar. We'll take time to stroll through the Piazza Maggiore and see the city's two famous towers, the Torre degli Asinelli and Torre della Garisenda. Lunch will be on our own. Our guide has great recommendations for restaurants highlighting Emilia-Romagna cuisine if you are interested. Continue to Florence, the "Cradle of the Renaissance". Tonight you will learn why there's no such thing as "Italian" food. We'll start with an aperitivo, then a typical starter of classic Tuscan soup, savour artisanal cheese and cured local meats paired with the perfect local vino and end your meal as Florentines do with a gelato (invented here in Florence).  
*Overnight: Florence* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 5 THURSDAY, MAY 25** FLORENCE  
This morning pray at the Cathedral Santa Maria del Fiore. Visit the Accademia Gallery to admire Michelangelo's David and enjoy a walking tour to see the Baptistery, Piazza della Repubblica, the sculpture-studded Piazza della Signoria and the Ponte Vecchio. You'll have the afternoon free to stroll and explore. Dinner tonight will include the famous "Bistecca alla Fiorentina" (steak Florentine style), one of the glories of Tuscan Cuisine.  
*Overnight: Florence* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 6 FRIDAY, MAY 26** TUSCAN COUNTRYSIDE-SAN GIMIGNANO-SIENA  
We depart Florence and drive through the heart of Tuscany and the Chianti region to San Gimignano, one of the most charming and picturesque hill towns in Tuscany. There will be free time to wander through the narrow streets, climb the "Torre Grossa" and take pictures of the gorgeous landscape. We visit a local winery and experience a farm-to-table lunch in one of the most beautiful settings in San Gimignano. Continue on a short drive to Siena, birthplace of St. Catherine. We arrive at our hotel, get settled and enjoy the rest of the afternoon and evening at leisure. Dinner is on your own.  
*Overnight: Siena* Breakfast, Lunch

**DAY 7 SATURDAY MAY 27** SIENA  
This morning we visit the Duomo of Siena, one of Italy's greatest cathedrals. Wander through medieval cobblestone alleyways, see splendid Renaissance palaces, Piazza del Campo and pray at the Church of St. Dominic which houses the reliquary containing the incorrupt head and thumb of St. Catherine. The afternoon is at leisure. Tonight we learn how to cook the Italian way and get to enjoy our own creation. This is going to be fun!  
*Overnight: Siena* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 8 SUNDAY MAY 28** SIENA-ASSISI  
Today we drive to Assisi, the town of St. Francis and St. Clare. Assisi is a spiritual treasure and one of the most peaceful spots in Italy. We visit the Basilica of St. Francis, which contains many of the possessions of St. Francis and a series of frescoes depicting his life. You will have a chance to see where St. Francis knelt before the crucifix and heard Jesus ask him to rebuild His church. We will also visit the Basilica of St. Clare and pray before the Holy Crucifix from which God spoke to Francis. We check in at our hotel and enjoy some time to rest and explore on our own before a delicious meal with regional Umbrian specialties and wines.  
*Overnight: Assisi* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 9 MONDAY MAY 29** ASSISI-ROME  
We depart towards Rome for the last leg of our pilgrimage. We arrive at our hotel and check-in for 3 nights. In the afternoon begin our sightseeing of Rome with a stop at the Colosseum (outside view) for a picture opportunity. Continue with a leisurely walk through the historic center of Rome to see the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps and Piazza Navona including dinner with traditional Roman dishes at one of its trendy restaurants for people watching and enjoy the ambiance of the Piazza.  
*Overnight: Rome* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 10 TUESDAY MAY 30** ROME  
Today we learn the stories and legends of early Christianity visiting three of the major basilicas: St. John Lateran, the oldest Basilica in Rome and the official seat of the Pope. Across from it we visit the Holy Stairs, regarded as the stairs climbed by Jesus on his way to face Pontius Pilate. Continue to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, believed to be the burial ground of St. Paul and finally the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of the oldest shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. The afternoon is at leisure. We'll meet again for supper and enjoy a classic of the Italian cuisine: Lasagna alla Bolognese.  
*Overnight: Rome* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 11 WEDNESDAY MAY 31** PAPAL AUDIENCE & VATICAN CITY  
Today is a very emotional day. We arrive at St. Peter's Square to participate in the Papal Audience and to be blessed by the Holy Father (providing His Holiness is in residence). We will also have some free time to shop for religious souvenirs, stroll and explore on our own. In the afternoon we embark on a visit to the Vatican Museum and the incomparable Sistine Chapel. We end our visit at St. Peter's Basilica. Built on the site where St. Peter was martyred, is the largest church in Christendom. A visit to St. Peter's Basilica is awe-inspiring, breathtaking, speechless. Tonight we toast to a fabulous trip and new friends, and enjoy a Farewell Dinner at one of the best restaurants in the heart of Trastevere.  
*Overnight: Rome* Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 12 THURSDAY JUNE 1** FLIGHT TO TORONTO  
Our pilgrimage has come to an end. We celebrate closing prayers and depart for the airport for our return flight.  
*Overnight: Breakfast*



PRICE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**\$ 5,795 CAD**

Price includes Fuel Surcharge & Airport Taxes (\$ 759.57 CAD) and are subject to change without notice until time of ticketing  
\*\*\*See next page for complete list of inclusions\*\*\*

To register and for more information please contact:



30 Wertheim Court # 20, Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1B9  
(905) 889-1681 Toll-Free 1-800-268-0900 Ext. 233  
[edgar@gateways-international.com](mailto:edgar@gateways-international.com)  
TICO Reg. #2171876

**THE TOUR INCLUDES**

- ✓ Round trip airfare from Toronto
- ✓ 10-night accommodation in 3\* & 4\* hotels, std rooms, double occupancy
- ✓ Breakfast daily, 1 winery lunch in San Gimignano and 9 Dinners showcasing regional Italian cuisine at local restaurants
- ✓ Mineral water and Italian wine with all meals
- ✓ Gastronomic Tour in Bologna including tasting of Parmeggiano Reggiano cheese, aged Balsamic Vinegar and cured meats
- ✓ Wine & Olive Oil Tasting in San Gimignano
- ✓ Cooking class in Siena
- ✓ Private coach transportation throughout
- ✓ Entrance fees, tours and visit to holy sites as per the itinerary with English speaking escort and local guides where applicable
- ✓ Gondola ride in Venice
- ✓ Daily Mass and/or Spiritual activities
- ✓ Hotel taxes and service charges
- ✓ Fuel surcharge & Airport taxes (at time of printing \$ 759.57 CAD, subject to change at any time without notice until time of ticketing)
- ✓ Gratuities to hotels and restaurants

**NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE**

- ✓ Meals and drinks not mentioned above
- ✓ Passports: Canadian citizens require a valid passport for more than 6 months after the return date
- ✓ Gratuities to guides and drivers and other local staff: € 180.00 per participant collected in cash ahead for your convenience
- ✓ Costs of personal nature, optional excursions, excess baggage charges
- ✓ Insurance for medical, Cancellation and Interruption, baggage (strongly recommended)

**BOOKING**

A deposit of \$500.00 CAD per person is required at time of booking. If you opt to purchase Cancellation/Interruption or All-Inclusive insurance, it must be purchased at time of first deposit. See payment schedule below. Bookings after February 7, 2023 are subject to availability and full payment is due at time of booking.

**PLEASE NOTE ALL PAYMENTS ARE 100% NON- REFUNDABLE.**

**CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES**

If you must cancel, Gateways International must be informed in writing immediately. **All payments are 100% Non-Refundable.** A \$75 CAD fee will be applied for any changes you wish to make to the group's itinerary. Changes after full payment is received will be treated as cancellations.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Participants on this tour take full responsibility for being fully able to participate in the daily scheduled activities of the group, noting that tours organized by Gateways International require physical fitness. There is daily walking, sometimes up or down slopes, and at times sidewalks and uneven terrain. One may choose not to participate in parts of the sightseeing; however, there is no refund for missed sightseeing.

**OPTIONAL TRAVEL HEALTH & CANCELLATION INSURANCE**

CAD \$Premium per person	All-Inclusive	Non-Medical	Staying in a single room add
up to 59 years	359.00	322.00	45.00
60-64 years	433.00	367.00	54.00
65-69 years	520.00	409.00	62.00
70-74 years	677.00	467.00	69.00
75-79 years	1,025.00	656.00	107.00
80-84 years	1,306.00	819.00	133.00

- ✓ **All-Inclusive Worldwide Plan** provides coverage for *cancellation and interruption* up to sum insured, trip delay, \$ 10 million emergency medical, baggage & personal effects, baggage delay, personal money loss, passport loss, airlift accident and travel accident.  
*On February 28, 2022, the Canadian Government has lifted the global 'non-essential' travel advisory, and Emergency Medical coverage for COVID-19 will be available only for fully vaccinated individuals or those not medically eligible.*

See the [Policy Brochure](#) for the full description and eligibility.

- ✓ **Non-Medical Plan** provides coverage for *cancellation and interruption* up to sum insured, trip delay, baggage & personal effects, baggage delay, personal money loss, passport loss, airlift accident and travel accident. There is no coverage for Emergency Medical.
- ✓ For people living outside the province of Ontario, insurance will be processed by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.
- ✓ Premium per person is subject to change without prior notice

Travel insurance is designed to cover losses arising from sudden and unforeseeable circumstances. Please contact us to get a copy of the policy. It is important that you read and understand the policy before you purchase as the coverage is subject to certain limitations, conditions or exclusions.

**All participants must hold Trip Cancellation/Interruption + Emergency Medical Insurance to travel with us. Proof of coverage if purchased elsewhere must be provided at time of booking.**

COVID-19 is known event and is excluded from cancellation coverage. However, if you contract COVID-19 prior to departure, you may be covered for trip cancellation, if you have a confirmed and documented diagnosis at the time of departure due to COVID-19.

**All participants must comply with the travel regulations and guidelines of Public Health and the Ministry of Health of each country we visit. Proof of vaccination and further testing may be required at time of travelling.**

**Please contact us if you live outside the Province of Ontario and for other types of coverage.**

**\*\*\* FATHER XAVIER DE PINTO, FAITH & ESSENCES OF ITALY, MAY 21 TO JUNE 1, 2023 DEPOSIT REGISTRATION FORM \*\*\***

Name (as per passport): First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have any Dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have any medical problems? \_\_\_\_\_

I am departing from Toronto  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (fare supplement and flight details to be informed accordingly)

Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  Enclosed is a photocopy of my passport (page showing name and photo)

I have a Roommate  I need a Roommate (subject to availability)  I would like a Single room and pay \$ 995 CAD Supplement

Enclosed is my **deposit of \$500 CAD – Cheques payable to Gateways International, for credit card complete below**

I authorize Gateways International to charge a deposit of **\$500 CAD** now, and/or balance of **\$5,295 CAD** (plus or minus changes in Airport taxes and Single Supplement if applicable) by **February 7, 2023** on my credit card listed below

Credit Card Type: VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_ AMERICAN EXPRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**INSURANCE:** Please add the following Travel Insurance to my package (Payment will be collected separately)

All-Inclusive Worldwide Policy  Non-Medical Policy  I decline insurance. Proof of my own policy attached.

**My signature below indicates that I have read and agreed to the Terms and Conditions outlined by Gateways International in this brochure. I also understand that Gateways International strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation and interruption insurance, which is not included in the trip price, and that Gateways International's cancellation policy cannot be waived for any reason. If I do not purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance, I will hold Gateways International not liable in any matter that would have been covered or not by this added insurance.**

**Signature of Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO: GATEWAYS INTERNATIONAL, 30 WERTHEIM COURT # 20, RICHMOND HILL, ONT L4B 1B9**