

Pilgrimage of Hope

A PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

with Fr. George Nellikunnel

St Aloysius and St Cabrini Parishes, Springfield, IL

October 5 - 15, 2026

DAY 1: Monday, 5 October DEPART FROM THE USA to Rome

DAY 2: Tuesday, 6 October - ARRIVAL IN ROME

Meet our English-speaking Tour Manager, drive to Basilica of St. Paul, outside the Wall to Celebrate Mass. Drive to the Hotel to check in dinner and overnight (D)

DAY 3: Wednesday, 7 October - PAPAL AUDIENCE / VATICAN MUSEUMS

This morning, we will transfer to the Vatican City to join the pilgrims from around the world for an audience with His Holiness, the Pope (subject to the Holy Father's schedule and health). Then we will visit the Vatican Museums, which house what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world. Highlights include The Tapestry Gallery, The Raphael Rooms, and The Sistine Chapel with Michelangelo's incredible masterpiece. The tour will continue in St. Peter's Basilica to enter our second Holy Door. Today the mass will be celebrated in a local church. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 4: Thursday, 8 October - BASILICAS / BAROQUE SQUARES

After breakfast, we will visit the major Basilicas of Rome to enter the Holy Doors at St Mary Major and at St John Lateran. We will see also the Holy stairs. Celebrate Mass. After lunch, we will enjoy a walking tour from Navona Square to Trevi Fountain. We will visit St. Ignatius church where St. Aloysius Gonzaga is buried and celebrate Mass. Some time at leisure before going back to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 5: Friday, 9 October ROME - SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO

Today we will continue our drive to San Giovanni Rotondo (approx. 6 hrs. drive). Upon arrival, we will honor the work of St Pio as we will visit his tomb, his cell, his confessional and the Capuchin Monastery of Our Lady of Grace We will also visit the new Church of Santa Maria Delle Grazie. Celebrate Mass. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 6: Saturday, 10 October - SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO - LANCIANO - LORETO - ASSISI

At 7:30am we will drive to Lanciano to visit the Church of St Francis, the site of the Eucharistic Miracle that occurred in the eighth century and celebrate Mass. Then we will continue to Loreto to visit the Shrine of the Holy House of Nazareth. Then we depart Loreto - Our destination for today is Assisi.) Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)



DAY 7: Sunday, 11 October - ASSISI

After breakfast, we will visit Assisi, the birthplace of the beloved St. Francis. We will start with the Basilica of St. Clare, to see her tomb and the cross that spoke to St. Francis, the Cross of San Damiano. Then we will walk throughout the medieval streets to visit the Santuario Della Spogliazione, where Blessed Carlo Acutis' tomb is placed. Carlo is the first millennial to be declared Blessed who loved the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Finally, we will reach St. Francis Basilica and explore the upper and the lower parts of the Basilica to see the tomb of St. Francis. Here we will celebrate Mass. Balance of the day at leisure. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D) we will celebrate Mass. After lunch, we will continue to Assisi. Upon arrival, we will stop at Basilica of St Maria degli Angeli to see the Porziuncola. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 8: Monday, 12 October - ASSISI - MANTOVA - PADOVA

After breakfast we depart Assisi towards north - We will reach Castiglione delle Stiviere, the birthplace of St Aloysius Gonzaga. Break for lunch. In the afternoon we will visit the Shrine of Sant' Aloysius and celebrate Mass. Continue to Padova, Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 9: Tuesday, 13 October - FULL DAY VENICE

From the dock, by private motorboat, we will reach Venice, nicknamed La Serenissima, in 30 minutes by sea. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a guided tour to see the Doge's Palace, home to the political leader of the Republic of Venice, and the magnificent Basilica of St. Mark, a Byzantine wonder covered in golden mosaics and art treasures. Mass will be celebrated. In the afternoon we will have time at your leisure to explore the city on our own and take that gondola ride if we wish. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 10: Wednesday, 14 October - Milan

Today we check out, before leaving Padova, we visit the Basilica of St Anthony. We will see his incorrupt tongue over 760 years ago, more than 30 years after his death. The relic may be venerated in the Chapel of the Treasury in the Basilica, which is visited each year by millions of pilgrims. Celebrate Mass Continue to Sant'Angelo Lodigiano. We will visit the house where Mother Cabrini was born - Our destination for today is Milan. Some time at leisure for a fast panoramic tour, and to visit the Duomo. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

DAY 11: Thursday, 15 October - RETURN TO USA

LIMITED
SEATING

\$4,995 per person
on double occupancy basis
*\$995 extra per single room

The price includes

- Round-trip airfare, including all airlines taxes/fuel surcharges
- Accommodation in superior hotels including all hotel taxes and portages
- Meals as per itinerary (Breakfast and Dinner)
- Land Transportation by deluxe motor coach and entrance Fees
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary with a licensed Christian Guide.
- Private boat transfers IN and OUT central Venice
- Private taxi in Assisi to reach San Damian's heritage

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