

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!



**The Deaconate Ordination in Rome is happening within a year for our seminarian Brandon Guenther!** We are trying to get a head count for anyone who might want to attend as the planning has started.

There will be an 11-day pilgrimage to Rome for the Deaconate of Brandon Guenther next fall. It will be either the last week in September or the first week in October of 2018. The cost is approximately \$3,400. If anyone is interested, please contact the parish office no later than Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> so we can get an approximate head-count as a **total** of 34 people are needed from our Parish and from Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish in Wisconsin Rapids where seminarian Ethan Hokamp is from and will also be ordained. There will be an informational meeting in the near future to answer any questions and for the amount of deposit needed.

**Approximate Itinerary** (subject to change as the planning process continues, below is the itinerary that was followed previously):

**Day 1:** The pilgrimage begins as we pick up people via bus from set locations to get us to either MN airport or Chicago (to be determined). We will then depart for our trip to Rome. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

**Day 2:** Arrive Rome/Assisi – Upon arrival in the “eternal City” of Rome we will be met by our local tour director and transfer by coach north to Assisi, a town that welcomes us in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Claire into its peaceful interior. After check-in at our hotel we will celebrate Mass at a local church with the balance of the day free.

**Day 3:** Assisi – This morning we will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, sit of the Porziuncola, the tiny church in the woods where St. Francis began his ministry and where St. Clare began her religious life. Then proceed to the Basilica of St. Francis where the saint lies in rest, the Basilica of St. Clare and the Convent of San Damiano. For those with the stamina, take a walk up Monte Subasio to Eremo delle Corceri, the Saint’s favorite retreat. We will conclude the day with a visit to a local winery for some wine tasting.

Day 4: Assisi/Loreto/Lanciano/San Giovanni/Rotondo – This morning we will depart Assisi and drive south to Loreto where we will see the Shrine of the Holy House which is said to be the same house in which the Virgin Mary was born and raised in Nazareth. This is where she received the visitation of the angel announcing that she was the mother of Jesus and according to tradition the home was transported by four angels from Nazareth to its present resting place in Loreto. We will then proceed to Lanciano, site of the 8<sup>th</sup> century Miracle of the Eucharist, where bread and wine became real flesh and blood. After Mass in Lanciano we will proceed to San Giovanni Rotondo, the home of St. Padre Pio.

Day 5: San Giovanni Rotondo – This morning we will enjoy a tour of this quaint 11<sup>th</sup> century town where the famous Padre Pio spent most of his life. Visit the Capuchin Monastery where Padre Pio lived, the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, and the Padre Pio Pilgrimage Church which was completed in 2004 and Padre Pio's Tomb. Next drive up to Monte Sant' Angelo for a breathtaking view of the Gargano Peninsula and visit to the Grotto of Michael the Archangel.

Day 6: San Giovanni Rotondo/Manoppello/Rome – This morning we will depart San Giovanni Rotondo and drive to Manoppello where we will visit the Basilica of Volto Santo which contains an image on a thin veil which is known as the Holy Face of Manoppello and has been reputed to be the veil that covered Christ's face during His burial and resurrection. We will then continue on to the "Eternal City" of Rome.

Day 7: Rome – A full day of exploring Rome begins with Mass at St. Peter's Basilica. Our guide then takes us through the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel with its awesome frescoes painted by Michelangelo. In the afternoon our sightseeing includes visits to St. Mary Major Basilica, St. John Lateran and the Holy Stairs.

Day 8: This morning we will experience a highlight of our pilgrimage, attendance at the Papal Audience at St. Peter's (subject to the Holy Father's schedule). Join thousands of pilgrims from throughout the world to listen to the Holy Father and receive His Blessing. In the afternoon we will continue our sightseeing of Rome including visits to the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, St. Peter in Chains featuring Michelangelo's "Moses" and St. Paul Outside the Walls where Mass will be celebrated.

Day 9: Rome - Today is free for events surrounding the Diaconate Ordination of Brandon Guenther at the Vatican.

Day 10: Rome – This morning we will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving. The remainder of the day is free for personal activities or take an option tour of the Scavi Excavations which explore the necropolis underneath St. Peter's Basilica where the tomb of St. Peter is located (subject to availability). This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 11: Rome/U.S.A – Following breakfast we will transfer to the airport to catch our return flight home.

Tour Cost:

- \$3,399.00 per person based upon double occupancy, for single occupancy please add \$497.00.
- Roundtrip airfare from Chicago on nonstop flight to Rome (including taxes/fuel surcharges)
- Accommodation in First Class/4 star hotels (including taxes/service charges/baggage handling)
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Land travel by deluxe motorcoach
- Comprehensive sightseeing with professional local guides
- Professional tour manager
- All entrance fees as per itinerary and Daily Mass