

## **11 Day Pilgrimage to Italy & Sicily**

visiting Palermo, Sciacca, Siracusa, Agrigento, Taormina, Paola,  
Cosenza, St. Michaels Cave, San Giovanni Rotondo, Pietrelcina & Rome

**Spiritual Director**  
**Rev. Deacon E. Gary Villanueva**

**September 16<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

### **YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:**

- Round trip air from JFK or Newark Airport -Taxes included (call for add-ons from other cities)
- First Class Hotels
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guide
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Porterage of one piece of luggage at hotels
- All taxes and service charges
- Daily Mass and Rosary

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Panorama of Palermo
- Benedictine Abbey of Monreale
- Valley of the Temples in Agrigento
- Mass at Basilica of Madonna delle Lacrime, Siracusa
- Tour of Siracusa
- Church of St. John the Baptist, oldest Church in western Europe
- Day trip to the beautiful city of Taormina
- Ferry from Messina to Villa San Giovanni, Calabria
- Basilica of San Francesco di Paola
- Visit St. Michael's Cave
- Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie
- Visit the Tomb of Padre Pio
- Mass at Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza
- Pietrelcina home town of Padre Pio
- Mass at Santa Maria degli Angeli
- Tour of Rome

**Pilgrimage Price: \$ 3,699.00 Double/Triple per person**  
**\$ 650.00 Single Supplement**

## Itinerary:

### Sun, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>: New York/Palermo

Depart JFK or Newark airport on your overnight flight to Palermo. Dinner served in flight



### Mon, Sept 17<sup>th</sup>: Palermo/Sciacca

Upon arrival in **Palermo** we are met by our guide and driver. We start our pilgrimage with a *Panorama of Palermo* and a visit of the famous *Benedictine Abbey of Monreale*. Situated on the slopes of Mount Caputo about four miles south of Palermo, Monreale overlooks the Conca d'Oro, the beautiful valley beyond Palermo. The 12<sup>th</sup>c. Cathedral houses fine mosaics representing a complete cycle of the Old and New Testaments, and the Cloisters. Monreale is world-renowned for its dazzling mixture of Arab, Byzantine and Norman artistic styles framed by traditional Romanesque architecture. The beautiful mosaics in Monreale Cathedral are said to be one of the world's largest displays of this art, surpassed only by Istanbul's Basilica of Saint Sofia. Monreale's mosaics cover every inch of the vast interior - more surface than the Church of Saint Mark in Venice. After our visit, we depart to **Sciacca**. Looking to the sea and dominated by Mount Kronio on its east side, Sciacca has the oldest terme baths of Sicily and one of the biggest towns on the southeast coast. Upon arrival we check into our hotel. We have a free afternoon to enjoy this seaside resort. Visit the potters' shops along the main street for original works by the local people. Or, walk down to the seashore to see the colorful fishing boats.

### Tue, Sept 18<sup>th</sup>: Agrigento/Siracusa

Morning we depart to **Siracusa**. En route we stop in **Agrigento** to visit the archeological area known as *the Valley of the Temples* — one of the world's most important archeological sites. We have a guided tour of the valley and the temples. After our tour we journey across the central part of Sicily passing Enna, a hillside town in the very heart of Sicily. Late afternoon arrival in Siracusa.

### Wed, Sept 19<sup>th</sup>: Siracusa/Taormina/Siracusa

After breakfast we depart to **Taormina**. Upon arrival we are free to enjoy this beautiful town. Some say it is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Walk around the tiny streets and alleyways. This is the city of the "jet set" and the shops and boutiques reflect this. Stop for espresso at a sidewalk café. Sit in the Square which overlooks Mt. Etna, and watch the world go by. There are many good restaurants here. Choose one that overlooks the Sea and have a delightful lunch. Don't forget to visit the Amphitheatre. Afternoon return to Siracusa.

### Thu, Sept 20<sup>th</sup>: Siracusa – Tour of Siracusa

This morning we visit the *Basilica of Madonna delle Lacrime* which holds the plaque of Our Lady of the Tears. From August 29 to September 1, 1953, a plaster plaque of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, placed over the headboard of the bed of a young couple,

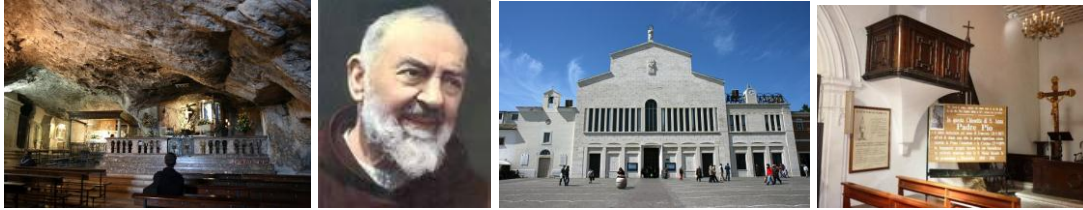
Angelo Iannuso and Antonina Giusto, shed human tears. The phenomenon took place at intervals inside and outside of the house. Many saw, touched, gathered and tasted the salt of those tears. This afternoon we visit the *Church of St. John the Baptist*. It is the oldest church in the West, second in age only to its Eastern counterpart located in Antioch, Turkey. In its crypt, Saints Paul and Luke preached to the Christian community. In the ruins of the church wedding ceremonies are regularly conducted today. We continue to *Ortygia Island* to visit the *Duomo* and see the *Chapel of St. Lucy*. St. Lucy was born in Siracusa and she is their patron saint. A walk through this village is a step back in time. Enjoy the delightful old houses and squares. We stop at the square where St. Paul preached to the people of Siracusa.



### **Fri, Sept 21<sup>st</sup>: Siracusa/Paola/Cosenza**

After breakfast we depart to **Paola, Calabria**. We travel to Messina to board our ferry to Calabria. We disembark in **Villa San Giovanni, Calabria** and travel north to **Paola**. Upon arrival in Paola we stop for Mass at the *Basilica of San Francesco di Paola*. Francis was born in Paola on March 27, 1416. His parents attributed the birth of their eldest child to the intercession of St Francis of Assisi. This is the reason why they named him Francis and promised to make him wear the votive habit of the Franciscans for a year. At the age of fifteen Francis went to the monastery of the Friars Minor Conventuals in St Marco Argentano to fulfill the vow made by his parents. Here Francis showed his disposition to prayer and his devotion, along with those supernatural powers which made him famous as a wonder-worker. From the very beginning Francis was a famous wonder-worker. He worked wonders for all of his life, from the building of his first monastery till his time in France. He used common objects to work miracles so that everyone understood that it was God who really restored people to health or solved problems. Francis started the *Order of Minims*, then the secular *Third Order* and finally the *Cloistered Nuns*. Their Rules were definitively approved by Pope Julius II. Francis died in Tours, France on April 2, 1507 and was canonized on May 1, 1519, which took place after only twelve years after his death.

After our visit, we continue to **Cosenza** where we have a free afternoon. Cosenza is a small city in the southern part of Italy. It is located at the confluence of the Busento and the Crathis rivers. Cosenza has a rich cultural and historic past; the Cosentian Academy was one of the earliest academies in Europe. One of the best places to shop in Cosenza is Corso Mazzini; it has almost everything that you would want when you are on a shopping spree. Corso Mazzini is a pedestrian street that is lined with shops, cafes and restaurants. The shops located here sell a variety of products, both branded as well as locally made. The open air museum is also located here, so you could gaze at the modern art sculptures placed on the road while you shop.



### Sat, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>: Cosenza/St. Michaels Cave/San Giovanni Rotondo

Morning departure to **San Giovanni Rotondo**. En route we visit *St. Michael's Cave*. In the year 492 a man named Gargan was pasturing his large herds in the countryside. One day a bull fled into the mountain, where at first it could not be found. When its refuge in a cave was discovered, an arrow was shot into the cave, but the arrow returned to wound the one who had sent it. Faced with so mysterious an occurrence, the person concerned decided to consult the bishop of the region. He ordered three days of fasting and prayers. After three days, the Archangel St. Michael appeared to the bishop and declared that the cavern where the bull had taken refuge was under his protection, and that God wanted it to be consecrated under his name and in honor of all the Holy Angels. Upon arrival in San Giovanni Rotondo, we visit the *Basilica of Our Lady of Grace*. During our stay we visit *Padre Pio's Tomb* and the *Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza* founded by Padre Pio. ***This evening join the midnight Mass and procession.***

### Sun, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>: Feast Day of Padre Pio

Join the activities at the Shrine. In the afternoon join the procession into town ending at the city center.

### Mon, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>: San Giovanni Rotondo/Pietrelcina/Rome

Morning departure to Rome. En route we stop at **Pietrelcina**, *birthplace of Padre Pio*. We visit his home, *the Church of Santa Ana*, where he was baptized and we have Mass at *Santa Maria degli Angeli*. We stop at *Piana Romana*, where Padre Pio received the invisible stigmata. Upon arrival in **Rome** we are transferred to our hotel. Remainder of the day is free.



### Tue, Sept 25<sup>th</sup>: Tour of Rome

After Mass we have a *Tour of Rome* including the *Roman Forum*, the *Coliseum*, the *Monument to Victor Emmanuel*, *Piazza Navona*, the *Pantheon* and the *Trevi Fountain*.

### Wed, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>: Rome/USA

Morning departure to Rome airport for our return flight to the USA.

## Reservation Form


<b>Tour No. SIT0916</b>		
Name (as it appears on your passport):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Email address:	
Will your room be a: <input type="checkbox"/> single (limited) <input type="checkbox"/> double <input type="checkbox"/> triple		
Name of Roommate:		
Are you a US citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Date of Birth	Passport No.	Expiration Date
Contact in US	Relationship	Telephone No
<p><b>Please return this form with your check to:</b></p> <p><b>LITTLE FLOWER TOURS &amp; TRAVEL, LTD.</b>            145 Fieldstone Road,            Staten Island, New York 10314            ☎ 718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373  <b>A \$700.00 DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING</b>  <b>FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE July 1, 2012</b></p>		
<p><b>TERMS AND CONDITIONS:</b> Cancellation made by passengers. Of the \$700.00 deposit, \$300.00 is non-refundable in case of cancellation. 70 days to 46 days a \$700.00 penalty is imposed. 45 days to 16 days a \$700.00 penalty PLUS any penalty imposed by the airlines and hotels. 15 days or less may result in loss of entire cost, depending on what we can recover. Once travel has commenced, no refunds for unused portions can be made. <b>TRAVEL INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE AND ADVISABLE</b> If you have a pre-existing condition, it is important that you take Travel Insurance within 10 days of booking.  <b style="color: red;">Insurance on this trip is \$ 215.00 per person double or triple. \$ 250.00 per person single</b></p>		
Signature:		Date:

Credit card <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> American Express	
Account #:	Expiration date:
Name (as it appears on your card)	
Billing Address:	
Amount to be charged: \$	
Signature:	Date:

**“EVERYONE MUST FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SIGN IT BELOW.”** If you are NOT taking the Travel Insurance you must still fill out the Insurance form below and indicate NO in the premium box and return it with your reservation form.

**Please note that insurance is strongly recommended but is optional.** If you want to receive a waiver for pre-existing conditions, your premium must be received by Little Flower Tours within 10 days of your initial trip deposit/payment, **provided you are not disabled from travel at the time of your premium payment. Insurance payments are non-refundable.**

Tour Number	Tour Name	Premium
SIT0916	11 Day Italy & Sicily	\$ 215.00 Double/Triple \$ 250.00 Single

Insurance Form		<b>Tour Number SIT0916</b>	
Name			
Address:			
W	City:	State:	
Zip:			
Telephone:	Are you a US citizen? ( ) Yes ( ) No		
Additional Family Names			
<b>I will take the Insurance ( ) Yes ( ) No</b>			
<b>Premium \$ 215.00 per person Double/Triple \$ 250.00 per person Single</b>			
<b>Please make your Insurance Premium check payable to Little Flower Tours &amp; Travel Ltd.:</b>			
<b>LITTLE FLOWER TOURS &amp; TRAVEL, LTD.</b> 145 Fieldstone Road, Staten Island, New York 10314  718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373			
<b>If you want to receive a waiver for a pre-existing condition, your premium must be received by Little Flower Tours within 10 days of your initial trip deposit</b>			
Signature		Date	