

JOIN THE DOMINICAN FRIARS  
ON A SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE TO

# Italy

HONORING THE 700TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS'  
CANONIZATION



DOMINICAN FRIARS  
Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus



SEPTEMBER 7-16. 2023

WITH AN OPTIONAL DAY EXTENSION TO NAPLES



PILGRIMAGES  
BY CORPORATE TRAVEL

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CALL 866-468-1420

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PRICE REFLECTS A \$100 PER PERSON EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS FOR DEPOSITS RECEIVED BEFORE MARCH 1, 2023  
& A \$150 PER PERSON DISCOUNT FOR THOSE PAYING THE TOTAL COST OF THE TOUR BY CHECK.

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QUESTIONS? VISIT [CTSCENTRAL.NET](https://ctscentral.net) TO BROWSE OUR [FAQ'S](#) OR CALL 866.468.1420 TO SPEAK TO A RESERVATIONS SPECIALIST.

# Itinerary

## DAY 1: Thursday, September 7: DEPART FOR ITALY

Depart USA for Rome, Italy via independent, overnight flights.

## DAY 2: Friday, September 8: ARRIVAL IN ROME

Arrive in Rome and meet your professional tour manager. Transfer by private motor coach to your hotel (rooms will not be available before 3:00 PM). Celebrate Mass. Balance of the day to freshen up. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Rome.

## DAY 3: Saturday, September 9: ROME | ROCCASECCA | FOSSANOVA

After breakfast, begin your pilgrimage by visiting the beginning (1225) and end (1274) of St. Thomas Aquinas' life. First, depart for Roccasecca, where Aquinas was born in a small mountain-top castle owned by his wealthy family. Sweeping views and the castle's ruins offer a beautiful backdrop from which to contemplate the Saint's early life. Next, proceed to Fossanova, where Aquinas died in a Cistercian monastery in 1274 AD while on his way to the council of Lyon. Centering around a magnificent cloister featuring an array of masterful sculptures, the church itself is a soaring gothic affair complete with rib vaults and a beautiful mullioned rose window. Celebrate Mass. Return to Rome for dinner on your own and overnight in Rome.

## DAY 4: Sunday, September 10: ROME | THE ANGELICUM

Following breakfast, head to the historic center of Rome and enjoy an optional private tour of the Rione Monti neighborhood around the Angelicum with Dominican friar, Fr. Benedict Croell, O.P. You'll visit St. John Paul II's favorite café and learn about the Eternal City's Christian history in the areas near the school. Celebrate Mass this morning. Next, we'll enter the renowned Dominican university bearing Aquinas' name: the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (The Angelicum) for a private tour and lectures on Aquinas and the history of the Order of Preachers. The remains of Bl. Hyacinthe-Marie Cormier, O.P., who approved the formation of the Western Dominican Province, lay in rest at the Angelicum. Following the tour, we'll head to the beautiful private garden of the friars for aperitivo and then on to dinner in the Angelicum's Sala Colonne Hall. Here we'll be treated to a very special presentation and time with the Rector Magnificus, Fr. Thomas Joseph White, O.P. Overnight in Rome.

## DAY 5: Monday, September 11: ROME | MONTECASSINO | MONTE SAN GIOVANNI CAMPANO | ROME

After breakfast, depart for Monti Cassino, the famous Benedictine Abbey perched high atop a mountain where Aquinas began his studies at the age of 5. Celebrate Mass. The monastery was founded and built by St. Benedict (patron saint of Europe) around 529 A.D. on the remains of a Roman fortification. Learn about the foundation of monastic life including the life of his sister, St. Scholastica. After time for lunch on your own, continue to Monte San Giovanni Campano, to visit its castle. Dating back to the end of the tenth century, it belonged to Aquino counts. Because of its strategic position, it has played for centuries the function of defending the southern border of the Papal States. It was destroyed by the troops of Charles VIII in 1495 and suffered serious damage in the earthquakes of 1703 and 1915, which forced the demolition of the upper floors, some of which were later restored. Between 1244 and 1245, St. Thomas Aquinas' family imprisoned him here to prevent him from joining the Dominicans. His family even attempted to undermine his chastity, but he successfully resisted, and two Angels girded him with a white chord representing his perpetual virginity. It was in this moment that the Angelic Warfare Confraternity traces its beginnings. Return to Rome for dinner on your own and overnight in Rome.

## DAY 6: Tuesday, September 12: Rome | Santa Maria sopra Minerva | San Clemente

Begin your day with a visit to Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. It is of great importance to the Church and Order, as it contains the tombs of 5 Popes, including two members of the Florence Medici family, the left arm of St. Thomas Aquinas, and the remains of St. Catherine of Siena and the famous Dominican artist, Fra Angelico. It also served as one of the early homes of the Angelicum. During your visit, you will also appreciate marble works by Michelangelo and Bernini, as well as paintings by Pilipino Lippi. In addition, next to the church, you will walk through the house of the Dominicans where the scientist Galileo was tried in the 17th century. Next, we'll proceed to the Basilica of San Clemente, housing the tombs of St. Cyril, St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Clement. San Clemente is built over a 4th century basilica, which rests over an incredible 1st century house church; the excavations ("scavi") under San Clemente are second only to those of St. Peter's Basilica. You'll also tour the Church's sanctuary with its stunning apse mosaic of the crucified Christ. Celebrate Mass. Enjoy lunch and dinner today on your own. Overnight in Rome.

# Itinerary

## DAY 7: Wednesday, September 13: PAPAN AUDIENCE | SCAVI TOUR | ROME 🍵🏰

Today is a day of rest and optional excursions. This morning, attend the Papal Audience (pending the Holy Father's final schedule), followed by the Scavi Tour (subject to confirmation) and see St. Peter's tomb below St. Peter's Basilica. The remainder of the day is yours at leisure to explore Rome on your own.

## DAY 8: Thursday, September 14: ORVIETO | ROME 🍵🏰

Following breakfast depart for the beautiful city of Orvieto, where Aquinas lived from 1261-1265. Orvieto is in the area where the famous Eucharistic miracle of 1263 took place. The blood-stained corporal and host were brought to Pope Urban IV in Orvieto. It inspired him to institute the feast of Corpus Christi and commission Aquinas to compose the Propers for a Mass. Aquinas thus wrote his famous hymns (still used today) including O Solutaris Hostia, Panis Angelicus, and Pange Lingua, which includes the Tantum Ergo. On arrival, enjoy a guided visit of this small Etruscan city perched on a rock cliff in Umbria, Italy. See the Duomo di Orvieto, dating from 1290, which has a mosaic facade and houses a marble Pietà sculpture. Celebrate Mass and see the famous cycle of frescoes by Signorelli. Lunch and dinner on your own this day with some free time to enjoy Orvieto's famous shops. Return to Rome for Overnight.

## DAY 9: Friday, September 15: ROME 🍵🏰

Celebrate Mass this morning in St. Peter's. Following Mass, visit the largest Church in Christendom, St. Peter's Basilica. This Basilica was built on the site where St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome, was martyred. It is here that you will view Michelangelo's Pietà. Continue to the famous Aventine Hill to visit the Order of Malta's beautiful Magistral Villa. The villa is next to historic Santa Sabina, headquarters of the Dominican Order. St. Dominic and St. Thomas Aquinas both lived at Santa Sabina, and it's a fitting end to the first portion of our pilgrimage. Visit the cell of St. Dominic, see the cypress door with the famous 5th century depiction of the Crucifixion, and tour the beautiful Church. Join friars of the Dominican Curia and end your visit with a private group dinner on the grounds of Santa Sabina overlooking Trastevere and St. Peter's in the distance. Overnight in Rome.

## DAY 10: Saturday, September 16: RETURN TO USA

This morning check-out of the hotel and depart for the Rome Airport for your flights to the USA.

### OPTIONAL NAPLES EXTENSION

## Day 10: Saturday, September 16: NAPLES 🍵🏰

Option to travel on an extension to Naples. Naples was home to Aquinas twice in his life, once as a child, and later just before he died in 1274. It was here, around the year 1240, that he entered the Dominicans at the Convent in Naples. Later, he would return and experience frequent ecstasies as he wrote his famous Summa Theologiae. During your stay, visit the Shrine of Madonna dell' Arco and learn about its unique Dominican history, as well as the beautiful Chiesa di San Domenico Maggiore church and monastery, founded by the Dominicans and located in the square in the historic center. Enjoy the final night of the extended pilgrimage with a superb group dinner (pizza or pasta) and celebration at Antonio Antonio with generous outdoor space, located on the water with excellent ambiance and an opportunity to walk the promenade.

## DAY 11: Sunday, September 17: RETURN TO USA

Depart on flights from Naples, Italy to return to the United States, inspired and renewed in the faith.

🍵 = CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST | 🍽️ = LUNCH | 🏰 = DINNER

\*Itinerary is tentative and subject to change; specified Masses pending confirmation



**Fr. Michael Sherwin, O.P.**, is Professor of Fundamental Moral Theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome as well as director of the Institute of Spirituality at the Angelicum (ISA). Before joining the Angelicum faculty, Fr. Sherwin taught for 19 years at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, where he served as the Founding Director of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Institute for Theology and Culture and the Pinckaers Archives. He has also taught at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California, where he received his initial formation as a Dominican and was ordained in 1991. He has authored several texts, including *By Knowledge and By Love: Charity and Knowledge in the Moral Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas* (CUA, 2005), and *On Love & Virtue* (Emmaus Academic, 2018).

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## TOUR INCLUSIONS

- 8 nights' accommodations at 4-star hotel in Rome
- Meals:
  - Continental breakfast daily
  - 3 dinners, including a Welcome and Farewell Dinner with wine, and Dinner at the Angelicum
- Luxury motor coach for airport transfers in Italy and specified sightseeing
- Local, Catholic tour manager while in Italy
- Local guides according to the itinerary
- Sightseeing and entrance fees according to the itinerary
- Arrangements of daily Mass including donations in unique and historical churches (all locations are tentative and subject to confirmation)
- Hotel & city taxes and portorage for 1 piece of luggage
- Gratuities payable to escort, guides, and drivers
- Private Sistine Chapel Tour
- Whisper sets

## THE TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Airfare; this package is sold land only
- Meals not specifically identified
- Beverages with meals unless specified
- Other personal expenses
- Items not specifically mentioned above
- CTS Tour manager from the USA

## EXCITING DETAILS TO COME!

- "Tour is confirmed" Email — Sent upon minimum number of travelers met and no later than 90 days prior to departure
- Hotel Information Email — Sent approximately 45 days prior to departure
- Final Travel Document Mailing — Sent approximately 10 days prior to departure

## PAYMENT & CANCELLATION TERMS:

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person due upon registration

SECOND DEPOSIT: \$1,500 additional due 190 days prior to departure (March 1, 2023)

THIRD DEPOSIT: \$1,500 additional due 150 days prior to departure (April 10, 2023)

FINAL PAYMENT: Balance due on or before 90 days prior to departure (June 9, 2023)

All payments are non-refundable, and subject to CTS Terms and Conditions including the CTS Liability Release. ***All cancellations must be received in writing.*** Penalties will be determined according to postmark date, or date of the fax or email sent by the cancelling passenger.

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