



JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE

With Fr. Gio Schiesari

MILAN - VERONA - FLORENCE - ASSISI - ROME

Join us for a Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to

Italy with... Fr. Gio Schiesari



February 3rd - 13th, 2025

Milan - Verona - Florence - Assisi - Rome

For more information or to register, contact Trinity Tours at info@TrinityTours.ca or call 604-845-7495

**Itinerary subject to change*



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WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR?

The practice of a jubilee year has ancient roots in the Jewish tradition, and evidence for it can even be found in the Old Testament (ie. Leviticus 25). The jubilee year was called every fifty years, and was a time for forgiveness. It stood as a reminder of God's providence and mercy. The dedication of a jubilee year, provided the community with a time to come back into right relationship with one another and with God. As the practice of the jubilee year was adopted into the Catholic Church, these themes of mercy, forgiveness, and solidarity continued.

During a Jubilee Year, the Catholic Church offers the faithful a plenary indulgence - the remission of sins for themselves or for deceased relatives. The most exciting and tangible rite of a Jubilee Year is the opening of the Holy Doors. These special Jubilee Doors are only open during the Jubilee Year. There is a Jubilee Door in the four major basilicas of Rome: St. Peter's Basilica, Archbasilica of St John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St Mary Major.

In addition to many other incredible experiences throughout Italy, during the pilgrimage, we will have the great blessing and privilege of walking through all four of these Jubilee Doors lead by our beloved Pastor, Fr. Gio.

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Date: February 3rd - 13th, 2025

Cost: \$6295/person (with airfare) or \$5495 (land only)

**Based on double occupancy; single supplement: \$750*

***Price reflects a cash/cheque/e-transfer discount. A surcharge of 3.9% will be applied to packages paid by credit card or PayPal.*

Includes:

- 9 Nights at 4 Star Hotels
- All breakfasts & dinners (2 glasses of wine with dinner included)
- All Entrance Fees
- Portage Fees, Gratuities, Transportation
- Professional Photography Service (a high resolution digital image gallery of your entire trip)

Does not Include:

- Travel Insurance
- Lunches - our guide will bring us to specific areas everyday, where there are various places to eat, for all budgets (ie. Pizza & Soda for 5 Euros — 3 course meals for 30 Euros, and everything in between). Our breakfasts are always very large, so many people won't need more than a light snack.
- Alcohol beyond the 2 glasses of wine included at dinner. You may purchase any other alcohol, with lunch or dinner, that you would like to consume.
- Souvenirs/Shopping
- Collection plate at mass (optional)

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Feb. 3rd — **Day 1: Depart Vancouver Airport**

~ Departure Time 9:05AM from Vancouver International Airport (AC304)

Feb. 4th — **Day 2: Arrive - Milan**



~ Upon arrival in Milan, we will be greeted by our guide and driver. We will drive to the city centre for a guided tour, including the very imposing, gothic Duomo di Milano (Milan Cathedral). The cathedral took nearly six hundred years to complete, and is the 3rd largest church in the world. Here, we will celebrate Mass. Afterwards, we will carry on to Verona where we will check into the hotel, have dinner and get some much needed rest.

Feb. 5th — **Day 3: Verona**

~ Following breakfast, we will go on a guided tour of the beautiful medieval city of Verona, related to the Legend of Romeo and Juliet (and Fr. Gio's hometown!). We will visit the Verona Arena, built in 30AD, and still in use! We will go to the San Zeno Basilica, constructed between 967 and 1398 AD, known not only for its Romanesque architecture, but also as the crypt where

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Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet were married. We will celebrate mass at the Verona Cathedral, which is dedicated to S. Maria Assunta. It is the central structure of a complex of beautiful architectural buildings. The afternoon will be at your leisure, where you may want to visit the famous Juliet's balcony, enjoy some time shopping, or simply get some more rest. We will reconvene for a wonderful dinner.

Feb. 6th — **Day 4: Olive Oil Mill - Florence**

~ After breakfast, we will depart for Florence. On the way we will visit an Olive Oil Mill near the Lake Garda, a millenary tradition. The "green gold" is produced all over the Mediterranean area, but this region has a special "secret" to obtain the high quality Olive Oil they enjoy. We will then make our way to Florence, where we will check into our hotel.



For the balance of the afternoon, we will have a guided panoramic walking tour, and discover why Florence is the undisputed cradle of the Renaissance era. Here, art and culture permeates the air - in its charming medieval streets, in craftsmen's workshops, Renaissance palaces, and the world renowned museums, all found within the downtown area of Florence. The memories of the Medici family are united with the splendour of the works of illustrious artists such as Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Botticelli. We will see the

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Feb. 8th — **Day 6: Assisi**

Baptistry of St. John, the religious historic jewel of the city with its exquisitely beautiful *Gates of Paradise*;

Feb. 7th — **Day 5: Florence - Assisi**

Paradise; it is believed that the creation of these art pieces marked the beginning of the period to be known as the Renaissance. We see the Piazza della Signoria, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, and Giotto's Bell Tower. We celebrate mass and end our day with a wonderful dinner together. ~ Following breakfast, we will celebrate Mass at the largest Franciscan church in the world, and the burial place of many famous Renaissance artists - the Basilica of Santa Croce. Next we will visit The Academia Gallery, the location of Michelangelo's incredible marble statue of David! Afterwards, we will visit the famous San Lorenzo Market in the heart of the city. The swarm of colours and delicious smells will transcend you, with its plethora of artisan breads in all shapes and sizes,



tables overflowing with fruits and vegetables fresh from the farms, and surrounded by an immense variety of cheeses and cured meats. We will have a couple of hours to further explore this magical city at our leisure. A site not to be missed is the Ponte Vecchio, a bridge covered since medieval times with

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goldsmiths' shops featuring a Florentine specialty—handcrafted gold jewelry, with other unique creations. In the late afternoon we depart Florence and make our way to Assisi, where we will have a lovely dinner, and get some much needed rest.

~ After breakfast, we will celebrate mass at the Tomb of St. Francis in the Basilica. We will explore the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi's complex, which is actually composed of two churches, built one atop the other. Beneath both churches is the crypt that houses the tomb of St. Francis. The lower Basilica dates from 1228 to 1230, and is richly decorated with beautiful stained glass windows, and paintings done by some of the most important artists of the 13th and 14th centuries. In the upper Basilica, built from 1230 - 1253, we will marvel at the monumental frescoes painted by Giotto, which depict scenes from the life of St.



Francis. We will visit the Basilica of St. Clare, the first and most important heroine of the Franciscan movement, view her remains and see the miraculous Crucifix. In the afternoon we will visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. Crowned by the magnificent dome designed by Alessi, this great Basilica was built in 1569. It enclosed the shrine of the "Porziuncola" or the Little Portion Chapel around which the first Franciscan community was centred, the place where Clare received the habit from Francis, and the Capella Del Transito, which marks the spot where the Saint died.

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Feb. 9th — **Day 7: Imperial Rome & St. Paul Outside the Walls**

~ Following breakfast this morning, we check out of our Assisi hotel and drive to Rome. Upon arrival, our first stop is at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the walls. Here we will **walk through the first Holy Door of our Jubilee Year Pilgrimage**, where we will celebrate Mass. Originally founded by Emperor Constantine in the 4th century, the Basilica is where the great Apostle Paul is buried. Following lunch, we will enjoy a walking tour of the Imperial Rome area. We will start



at the Colosseum (outside visit). Then we will continue to the Roman Forum - the religious, political, and commercial centre of ancient Rome, and for centuries, the entire civilized world. We will see the Arches of Constantine and Titus. We will visit the Church of St. Francesca Romana. Also known as Santa Maria Nova, it is located between the Roman Forum and the Temple of Venus and Rome. According to tradition, the place where the basilica stands was the one where Simon Magus died. A stone commemorates the

event: on this one we would still see the marks of Peter's knees, who knelt in prayer. We will then get settled into our hotel, our resting place for the balance of our trip.

Feb. 10th — **Day 8: Appian Way - Catacombs - Basilica of St. Mary Major**

~ After breakfast, we will drive to the Appian Way, the earliest road of Ancient Rome, to reach the Catacombs and the Basilica of St Sebastian. We will also visit the Church of Domine Quo Vadis. According to tradition, the apostle Peter, fleeing the city to avoid martyrdom, met Jesus on the road, and said to Him "*Domine, quo vadis?*" (Lord, where are you going?), and the Lord replied "*Venio Romam iterum crucifigi*" (I am coming to Rome to be crucified again). Peter,

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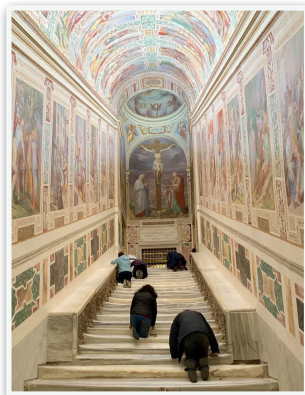
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understanding the rebuke, went back to face his fate and Jesus disappeared. But in disappearing, He left his footprints on the road. As evidence of what happened, inside the Church there is a stone with the imprints of His Holy feet (the stone is actually a copy: the original is kept in the Basilica of San Sebastiano). In the late afternoon we will visit the Basilica of St. Mary Major, **walking through the 2nd Holy Door** of our pilgrimage. This Basilica is one of the oldest and most important shrines in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is here that we will celebrate mass.



Feb. 11th — **Day 9: St. John Lateran - Holy Stairs - Fountains & Squares**



~ Following breakfast, we will go to the Basilica of St John Lateran where we will walk through **the third Holy Door of our trip**. This Basilica is the seat of the bishop of Rome - Pope Francis. In addition to magnificent artwork, the Basilica houses wood from the table used at the Last Supper. After our visit, we will walk to the Shrine of the Holy Stairs (Scala Sancta), so named because they are the steps which led to the praetorium of the Roman Procurator Ponzio Pilato (Pontius Pilate). Our afternoon

tour includes the most beautiful monuments of the Baroque Rome area, including, Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. We will also have some free time this afternoon for some shopping or relaxation.



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Feb. 12th — **Day 10: Papal Audience - Vatican Museums - St. Peter's Basilica**



~ This is an early morning, but so very worth it. This morning, we will go to Vatican City to attend the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square with Pope Francis. This is our chance to see Pope Francis, and receive the Papal or Apostolic Blessing from the successor of the Apostle Peter. At the end, as Head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis will impart his Apostolic Blessing upon the crowd which also extends to

loved ones that are sick and suffering and blesses any religious articles that people have brought with them for the purpose of the blessing. After lunch we will visit the Vatican Museum where we see world-famous masterpieces including the incomparable Sistine Chapel. We will continue on to St. Peter's Basilica, the largest Christendom Church in the world.



At the Basilica we walk through ***the fourth Holy Door*** of our trip. Here, we will celebrate Mass, and then enjoy an incredible guided tour of the Basilica. St. Peter's was built on the site where St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome, was martyred. It is here that we view Michelangelo's Pietà and pray at the tombs of St. Peter and St. John Paul II.

Feb. 13th — **Day 11: Departure**

~ At breakfast, we will enjoy our last meal together as a group, and cherish the memories we have made, before departing for the airport, embarking on our journey home. Departure 12:55pm (AC891) from Leonardo Di Vinci Airport (FCO).

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