

A Spiritual Journey to Italy

Under the Spiritual Direction of Rev. Stephen Porter, S.T.L., KCHS
St. Catherine of Siena Church, Rialto, California
Group Coordinator: Maureen Villena

9 Days: December 3 to 11, 2012

\$2999 Special Cash Discount Price / \$3178 Standard Base Price
From Los Angeles (LAX), plus \$575 airport taxes, current fuel surcharges and \$125 tips



Travel Arrangements by: Catholic Travel Centre of Burbank, California

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US

Christmas Shopping in Rome!



Fr. Steve Porter

Joking of course, but yes, it will be possible, and Rome is a great city of culture and class. But seriously, I invite you to join me, once again, on a pilgrimage of life-changing character, as we journey in faith to the center of our Catholic Church – to Rome! La bella Roma, as the Italians call the eternal city. We will visit St Peter's, the Holy Father's private chapel (in reality one of the greatest basilicas in the world!), celebrate Mass there and view all the great art works that so inspire our faith. There'll be a visit to the Sistine Chapel, where popes are elected, and to many other places in and around Rome. Check out the awesome itinerary below. Did I mention Assisi, the home of St Francis? Did I mention great hotels and restaurants? Did I mention great guides and docents to explain everything to us? Did I mention some private after-hours walking tours with yours truly? Did I mention... well, I didn't, but it's all there, and we are just waiting for you to sign up and come along!

Blessings,

Fr Steve Porter

OUR DAILY ITINERARY

MON, DEC 3, DAY 1: DAY 1: DEPART USA: We depart en route to Rome with complimentary meals and beverages served aloft

TUE, DEC 4, DAY 2: ARRIVE ROME / ORVIETO / ASSISI: We arrive in Rome and are greeted by our Catholic Travel Centre representative, who will accompany us throughout our journey. We drive to the hilltop town of Orvieto. The town sits on a 1,000-foot high rock formation, poetically crowned by Italy's most renowned Gothic cathedral. Because of its strategic location, Orvieto for centuries served as a refuge for the popes in troubled times. But Orvieto's claim to fame is really much more significant:

"It was during one of Orvieto's papal visitations, in the 1260's (Urban IV), that the Miracle of Bolsena occurred. A Bohemian priest named Peter, passing through on his way to Rome, was asked to celebrate Mass in the town of Bolsena. Father Peter had long been secretly skeptical about the doctrine of transubstantiation, but during this Mass the Host itself answered his doubts by dripping blood on the altar linen. Marveling, Peter took the linen to the pope in Orvieto, who declared it a miracle and instituted the feast of Corpus Christi. Thomas Aquinas, also in Orvieto at the time, was instructed to compose a suitable office for the new holy day, while the pope promised Orvieto a magnificent new cathedral to enshrine the blood-stained relic." (Cadogan Guide).

We celebrate the opening Mass of our pilgrimage at the Cathedral. After enjoying an included lunch, we will have time for shopping (the area is famous for its lace and ceramics!) before continuing on to our hotel in Assisi to rest from our journey. Dinner tonight is at our hotel. (L, D)

WED, DEC 5, DAY 3: ASSISI: VISIT OF THE TOWN: Today we begin with Mass at the Basilica of St. Francis. After Mass we enjoy a tour of the Basilica followed by a walking tour of the city, visiting the major sites associated with St. Francis and St. Clare, including the Chiesa Nuova, built over the home of Francis' family, and the Church of San Rufino, with the baptismal font of the Saint. We then visit the Church of St. Clare, where St. Clare lies in repose. Here we see the

original 'San Damiano' crucifix that spoke to Francis, urging him to "rebuild My Church." Francis interpreted the dream literally and went to work on repairing the building at San Damiano. Only later did he understand the deeper meaning of the dream. We continue to the Church of San Damiano.

After some time for lunch on our own, we transfer to a village of Santa Maria degli Angeli where we visit the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, containing the Porziuncola, built by St. Francis and the Mother Church of the Franciscan Order. Nearby is the site of Francis' death. We return to our hotel for dinner and the evening. (B, D)

THU, DEC 6, DAY 4: ASSISI / SIENA: VISIT OF THE TOWN / ROME: Today we travel to Rome, stopping first at the ancient walled town of Siena. Set on three hills, the town of Siena is drawn together by winding alleyways and steep steps, with the Piazza del Campo at its center. Siena is popularly known for the festival of Il Palio, a twice-annual bare-backed horse race around the town's the Campo.

In mid-14th century Siena served as home to the Benincasa family, a family of wool-dyers. One of their twenty-five children was named Caterina Benincasa. History remembers her as St. Catherine of Siena. Because of her intervention with Pope Gregory XI, the papacy returned to Rome from Provence, France. She, along with St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux, is one of the few women granted the title of 'Doctor' in the Roman Catholic Church. Along with St. Francis, she serves as a co-patron saint of Italy. We will visit the sanctuary built over the former home of St. Catherine and celebrate Mass.

Next we make our way to the austere church of San Domenico, containing the only authentic portrait of Catherine, located in the chapel where she received the Dominican habit. We continue to the Duomo, originally designed and completed between 1215 and 1263. Our visit includes the Duomo Museum to see the masterpiece of Duccio. We will also pay visits to the Eucharistic Miracle in the Church of St. Francis and the nearby Oratory of San Bernardino. The main square of this medieval town is absolutely charming, and we will have some time to enjoy the atmosphere before continuing in the late afternoon to Rome for dinner at our hotel. (B, D)

FRI, DEC 7, DAY 5: ROME: ST. PETER'S BASILICA, SCAVI & VATICAN MUSEUM: Early this morning we celebrate Mass in the Vatican Grottos located beneath St. Peter's Basilica. We

will also pay a visit to the Tomb of John Paul II and continue with a guided visit and tour of the Scavi, the underground excavations beneath St. Peter's Basilica (these tickets are always subject to final confirmation by Vatican). We take some time for lunch on our own.

This afternoon we take a tour of the Vatican Museum, an incredible collection of art accumulated by the popes, and the Sistine Chapel, featuring Michelangelo's masterworks. We also visit the Basilica of St. Peter with our local guide. We will see Michelangelo's famous statue of the Blessed Mother holding her crucified Son. We know it as The Pieta. Dinner is at our hotel this evening. (B, D)

SAT, DEC 8, DAY 6: ROME: ANCIENT ROME, ST. PAUL'S OUTSIDE WALLS & AVENTINE HILL: This morning we enjoy a tour of some of the sites of Ancient Rome, including the Forum and Coliseum. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the emperors who built it in the first century after Christ. Coliseum refers to the 'colossal' statue of Nero that at one time stood at the entrance. We will drive by the Forum and enter into the Coliseum. We continue to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, built over the tomb of the St. Paul.

We will then have some time for lunch on our own. We then continue into the heart of Ancient Rome for a tour of Aventine Hill-one of the Seven Hills of Rome. Here we see the Church of Saint Prisca, an ancient Christian site built over the home of Priscilla and Aquilla, friends of Paul's. In the Letter to the Romans, Paul asks to be remembered to them: 'Give my greetings to Prisca and Aquila; they were my fellow workers in the service of Christ Jesus, and even risked their lives for the sake of mine. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Remember me also to the congregation that meets in their house.' (Rom: 16: 3-5)

We visit the church of Santa Sabina, where we celebrate Mass. Built in 422 AD, Santa Sabina is widely considered the best example of an early Christian church in Rome. The church is another example of the expansion of a Roman house-church (titulus) owned by a woman named Sabina. As was common in ancient Rome, the church preserved the name of the title holder by simply adding "Saint" onto her name. Although few of its mosaics survive, the church is famed for its 5th-century wooden doors carved with biblical scenes. In 1222, Santa Sabina was given to the newly created Dominican Order, in whose care it remains today. We'll stop to see the famous 'keyhole' vista of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica—wait for the surprise!

Next, we visit the "Boca dei Verita" or "Mouth of Truth," found in the atrium of St. Mary's in Cosmedin Church. This marble mask dates back to the 4th century B.C., according to popular legend, it is said that anyone who puts their hand in the mouth and swears falsely, cannot withdraw it. We return to our hotel for the evening. Dinner is on our own. (B)

SUN, DEC 9, DAY 7: ROME: SANTA SUSANNA, ANGELUS PRAYER, ST. MARY MAJOR AND HISTORIC WALKING TOUR: We begin with a concelebrated Mass at the Church of Santa Susanna. Then we transfer to the Vatican City for a noon Angelus prayer with Pope Benedict XVI (subject to the Holy Father's schedule). We take some time for lunch on our own.

This afternoon we visit the Basilica of St. Mary Major and then we enjoy a walking tour of the historic center of the city, starting at the Trevi Fountain, where we toss our traditional three coins. From here we continue to the Piazza Trinita dei Monti at the top of the Spanish Steps, affording a romantic panoramic view of the city of Rome. Our tour continues across the city to the Pantheon and Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, housing the tomb of the St. Catherine of Siena. We finish our walk at the Piazza

Navona. The balance of the day is at leisure to enjoy the Advent Fair in the Piazza. Dinner tonight is on our own. (B)

MON, DEC 10, DAY 8: ROME: MASS TBA, WALKING TOUR OF CAMPO DEI FIORI & TRASTEVERE: This morning we celebrate Mass at a local church. Afterwards, Fr. Steve will lead a walking tour of the Piazza Farnese, the Campo dei Fiori and Trastevere. We have some time for lunch on our own. This afternoon is at leisure. Tonight we gather at a local restaurant for our farewell dinner. (B, D)

TUE, DEC 11, DAY 9: RETURN USA: This morning we transfer to the Rome airport for our return flight to the United States, with memories to last a lifetime. (B)

Note: While no changes are anticipated, there may be unforeseen occasions when certain alterations become necessary to this itinerary, either due to changes in airline schedules or for other reasons. All Masses are subject to local church schedules and substitution with alternate Mass sites if churches mentioned are not available.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To make your reservation, simply complete the enclosed registration form and submit along with \$400 payment (mailed to the address shown on the bottom of the registration form). You will receive General Information (including *How to Obtain a Passport*), an invoice, and further information from Catholic Travel Centre via mail, usually within two weeks of our receipt of your deposit. *Please submit your registration form early, as all space is available on a first-come basis only.* Registrations are processed in the order they are received by Catholic Travel Centre.

YOUR PRICE INCLUDES

Price includes airfare based on non-refundable, economy class group fares on regularly scheduled IATA carrier from **Los Angeles (LAX)**, accommodations in First Class Hotels, or best available (all with private facilities), sightseeing, and meals per itinerary (B, L, D) and is based on a minimum of 20 fully paying passengers in the group. Airport taxes & security fees, current fuel surcharges, tips, and optional travel protection plan will be added separately on your invoice. No visa required for USA citizens - only a valid passport. Please see 'Registration Form' and 'Terms & Conditions' for more details.

OPTIONAL PASSENGER TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM (PTPP)

Optional Passenger Travel Protection Program (PTPP) is available. Your invoice will show the Program fee. You may choose to accept or decline coverage. Coverage begins only upon receipt of your Program fee. See 'PASSENGER TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM' under 'Terms & Conditions' on reverse side for full details.

FINAL PAYMENT

Final payment is due **90 days prior to departure**. This payment should be sent directly to Catholic Travel Centre. Instructions will appear on your invoice.

LOCAL CONTACT

Maureen Villena (909) 816-3032
Brochure/registration form:
www.funccatholictravel.com
Questions: funccatholictravel@gmail.com

TOUR NUMBER: 12-062-1203

Terms and Conditions

Making any payments (cash, credit card or otherwise) towards any tour constitutes your unconditional acceptance of all the terms and conditions stated in this tour brochure. Catholic Travel Centre shall be referred to as CTC within this document.

DOCUMENTS: US citizens require a valid passport. Other nationalities please inquire with the appropriate embassies. Passports must be valid for six months beyond the tour's return date.

REGISTRATION AND DEPOSITS: A deposit of \$400 per person is required upon registration along with a signed copy of the registration form. Registrations cannot be taken by telephone. Registrations are processed in the order received by CTC. Balance of payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Late payment is subject to \$50 late fee. Late registrations (fewer than 90 days) must be accompanied by full payment by cashiers check only (including the optional passenger travel protection program payment, if applicable), plus a \$50 late fee and are subject to availability. CTC reserves the right to cancel reservations that are not paid in full 75 days prior to departure and to charge cancellation fees/penalties indicated below. A \$25 fee will be charged on all checks returned by our bank.

CHANGES IN INVOICING: Please note that after initial invoicing, any requests for change in form of payment (cash discount vs. standard base) or in package (air inclusive vs. "land only") are subject to a \$50 per person per change processing fee.

INDIVIDUAL CANCELLATION FEES & REFUNDS: All cancellations must be received by CTC in writing via certified mail or facsimile. CTC will process your refund, minus a cancellation fee according to the following schedule:

- 1) \$150 if cancelled at least 150 days prior to the tour's departure date;
- 2) \$300 if cancelled 149 to 90 days prior to the tour's departure date;
- 3) \$400 plus any non-refundable amounts paid to and/or penalties assessed by airlines, hotels, or other suppliers of travel services (up to the total cost of the tour) if cancelled 89 to 8 days prior to the tour's departure date;
- 4) No refunds for cancellations received within 7 days of departure date.

The above cancellation fees and/or penalties will also apply if you register for an optional extension or airline routing, and you decide to cancel or change any of these. CTC strongly recommends the Passenger Travel Protection Program (see 'PASSENGER TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM' below.)

TOUR OPERATION & CANCELLATION: While no changes are anticipated, CTC expressly reserves the right to cancel all or any part of the tour or to make any changes to the itinerary, for any reason or whenever it deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience or safety of the tour participants. In the event of any alteration to the itinerary, every effort will be made to substitute the altered activity with a comparable replacement. If a tour is cancelled in its entirety, full refunds shall be issued within two weeks of such cancellation. This will constitute, in full, CTC's obligation to you and CTC bears no further responsibility beyond the full refund. CTC shall not be held liable and hereby expressly disclaims liability for any loss, expense, damage or inconvenience caused as a result of any tour cancellation or changes made to the itinerary. Furthermore, CTC is not responsible for any additional costs or fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets or other travel arrangements not made through CTC.

CANCELLATION BEYOND CTC'S CONTROL: CTC expressly disclaims any responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred due to cancellation or alteration of the tour resulting from, but not limited to: cancellations due to travel advisories or warnings issued by the State Department or any other relevant authority, acts of war, war, terrorism, acts of God, natural disasters or any other circumstance beyond CTC's control. In such case, CTC will assist you in requesting refunds for all services prepaid but not rendered, less a non-refundable \$200 per person administrative fee. CTC shall not be held responsible for any non-recoverable amounts disbursed to carriers or other service providers on your behalf.

PASSENGER TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM: Passenger Travel Protection Program is offered by CTC and is strongly recommended. A Travel Protection Plan brochure consisting of a full description of coverage provided and exclusions will be mailed with your invoice. The plan fee is based on the cash discount price and taxes (as well as single room supplement and airline add-ons, if applicable) and will appear as an optional item on your invoice. Travel Protection Plan cannot be purchased after you have made your final payment for the tour. All Travel Protection Plan fees are non-refundable.

HEALTH: Most foreign countries do not conform to the U.S.A. Disabilities Act standard. CTC cannot provide individual assistance to tour members for walking, dining, getting on and off motor coaches or other transportation vehicles. Participants who need such assistance must be accompanied by a qualified companion at all times and at their own expense. Furthermore, while CTC cannot accept responsibility for providing access to all facilities included in a tour, CTC will make every effort to assist in providing mobility aides to the extent feasible and with applicable costs borne by the participant. CTC assumes no responsibility for the participant's inability to fully participate in the tour, nor can CTC provide any refund for non-participation in any part of the tour.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: All airline tickets are round-trip economy class and are non-refundable unless specifically stated otherwise. Any cancellation, itinerary changes, or failure to use confirmed space would be subject to penalties and/or fees levied by the airline at the time of ticketing. Airfare, airline carrier, and airline schedules are subject to change without notice. Passengers arranging their own flights are responsible for meeting the group at the first hotel of the group's itinerary. CTC is not responsible for itinerary changes necessitated by changes in the airline's schedule. Airline and cruise fuel surcharges and security fee surcharges (if any) that occur after the date of printing of the brochure are the responsibility of the passenger.

DEVIATIONS: Deviations from the group flight itinerary are not possible. If you wish

to make your own airline arrangements and purchase the 'land only' version of the tour package, please contact your group coordinator for the 'land only' pricing.

AIRLINE SEATING, FREQUENT FLYER & MEAL REQUESTS: Seating is on a group basis only. CTC cannot accommodate any individual requests. CTC advises that you contact the airline for frequent flyer miles and special meal requests two weeks prior to departure.

BAGGAGE: Baggage is at risk at all times. We strongly suggest that you bring only one piece of checked luggage and one carry-on. Portage is included at hotels only for one piece of luggage; the passenger is responsible at all times for carrying carry-on luggage. No portage at airports.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS: Based on double/twin accommodations with private bathroom facilities (limited number of single rooms available). No reduction for triple rooms. Triple room consists of twin/double room plus a rollaway bed, and confirmation is based on availability. If no roommate is available for you or your roommate cancels prior to departure, a single supplement surcharge will apply. Meals are menu of the day as shown in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner).

SIGHTSEEING: By private motor coach with English-speaking guide/escort. Entrance fees included per final itinerary.

PRICES: Pricing is based on exchange rates, fares applicable at the time of quotation and on minimum number of paying passengers stated in the brochure, and is therefore subject to change.

NOT INCLUDED: Passports and visas, meals not mentioned, beverages with meals, extras beyond standard menu, excess baggage, telephone calls, fuel surcharges, laundry or any other items not explicitly stated as included.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER: Catholic Travel Centre ("CTC") hereby expressly disclaims any and all liability for any personal injury, property damage, loss of baggage, accident, delay or irregularity, any claim for special or consequential damages or any other loss which may be occasioned by the acts and/or omissions, whether negligent, wrongful or intentional of any air carrier, hotel/motel or other lodging operator, railroad operator, bus operator, public transportation, sea carrier, local sightseeing company, tour operator, tour leader or spiritual director, any employees thereof, or for any other entity or individual not under the direct supervision and control of CTC when engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour, or otherwise in connection therewith. CTC further disclaims any liability for any damages, losses or expenses incurred, or inconvenience caused, due to delay or changes in schedules, defaults, over booking of hotels or airlines, sickness, weather, strikes, quarantines, acts of terrorism, construction, war, force majeure or other such events which are beyond CTC's & control. CTC likewise disclaims any liability for statements, actions or inactions of any intermediary agents such as group administrators, spiritual directors or tour leaders, travel agents or any other intermediary involved with the selling, promotion or operation of CTC's tours. Furthermore, to the fullest extent permitted by law, CTC disclaims any liability for any damages or injuries, or other losses whatsoever, sustained or incurred as a result of the negligence of CTC. Group administrators, spiritual leaders and tour leaders likewise expressly disclaim any liability for the acts and/or omissions of any of the above entities and/or individuals not directly under their supervision or control. Please be advised that the liability of carriers as well as providers of hotel and lodging accommodations is limited by law and you may thus wish to consider purchasing the Passenger Travel Protection Plan and/or additional insurance to protect yourself against any losses or injuries suffered as a result of their acts and/or omissions. In no event shall CTC's liability exceed the amounts paid by you for participation in the tour, and subject to the provisions and cancellation fees as set forth in this Brochure. In the event that the tour leader and/or spiritual director named in a brochure or itinerary does not travel with the group and a substitute is not named therein, CTC reserves the right to make substitutions of its choosing for such person(s). CTC is not responsible for any misquotes contained in this brochure or other accompanying documentations and the contents therein may be changed at any time without notice and at CTC's sole discretion.

POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION: CTC does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation or status as a Vietnam or other veterans in the provision of its tour and pilgrimage services.

PHOTOGRAPHY: The photos shown in this brochure are intended only as samples of the sites visited by certain tours and unless specifically mentioned in this brochure's itinerary, no implication is made that these sites will be visited or seen on this tour. CTC reserves the right to take photographs during the operation of any tour and to use such photographs for promotional purposes. Any participant who prefers that their image not be used is asked to notify CTC in writing prior to departure.

LEGAL NOTE: The statements herein and the contract between tour participants and CTC are made and entered into in Los Angeles County, CA. It is hereby agreed and stipulated that any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to these Terms and Conditions, to the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, which cannot be amicably settled, must be litigated either in a state court in and for Los Angeles County, CA, or in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of CA and shall be governed by the laws of the State of California.

NOTE: Catholic Travel Centre is a registered Seller of Travel in the State of California: CST#: 2018667-40. "Registration as a Seller of Travel does not constitute approval by the State of California." Section 17550.24(f). Catholic Travel Centre subscribes to the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. Non-residents of California are not eligible to make claims to this fund.

Travel Arrangements by:

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Registration Form ~ Catholic Travel Centre
A Spiritual Journey to Italy
Under the Spiritual Direction of Rev. Stephen Porter, S.T.L., KCHS
Group Coordinator: Mrs. Maureen Villena

December 3 to 11, 2012

Tour Number: 12-062-1203

Enclosed please find my \$400 per person deposit for the above referenced trip. By submitting this payment, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and agree to the "Terms and Conditions" in the accompanying brochure. I agree to submit full payment 90 days prior to departure.

Please print in BLOCK LETTERS your complete Last Name, First Name and Middle Name as they appear on your PASSPORT.

Last Name _____ First and Middle Name _____

Name to appear on name tag: _____

Email: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Gender: M / F

Street Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Tel: (____) _____ Mobile Tel: (____) _____

Do you or will you hold an American Passport at the time of travel? _____ If not, what nationality? _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Rooming Information (Please select one)

- I wish to room with _____ (enter name) _____ (relation if any)
- Please try to find a roommate for me. I understand if per chance you cannot find a roommate for me, I will be obliged to pay the single room supplement. Age: _____
- I wish a single room at a supplement of \$545. *Subject to availability and confirmation*

↓ PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE TWO FORMS OF PAYMENT BELOW ↓

Cash Discount Price (applies for payment by personal check, cashier's check or cash)

- I wish to pay the cash discount price using my personal or cashier's check as my form of payment: **\$2999 from Los Angeles (LAX)** plus airport taxes, security fees & current fuel surcharges of \$575, tips of \$125 and optional Travel Protection Plan fee of \$219. Please return this form with \$400 deposit payable to Catholic Travel Centre.

Standard Base Price (applies for payment by credit card)

- I wish to pay the standard base price using my credit card as my form of payment: **\$3178 from Los Angeles (LAX)** plus airport taxes, security fees & current fuel surcharges of \$575, tips of \$125 and optional Travel Protection Plan fee of \$219.

Credit Card Payment Authorization (must be credit card of a traveling passenger)

I authorize Catholic Travel Centre to charge the standard base price amount, plus other fees outlined above to my credit card listed below (\$400 will be charged now; balance of payment will be charged to your card per the invoice due date.)

Credit Card Type: VISA MASTERCARD
Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Name as it appears on credit card _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Make Check Payable to: Catholic Travel Centre

Mail to: 4444 Riverside Drive, Suite 301, Burbank, CA 91505

Note: Further information on travel protection program will be sent within two weeks of receipt of your registration and deposit.