

1: Ebook In The Footsteps Of Saint Clare as PDF Download Portable Document Format

The Footsteps of Francis will offer plentiful opportunities to encounter God's peace in the holy "thin spaces" of Assisi where monks and travelers have encountered God's peace for centuries. Jeff Johnson's Selah worship experience is a blend of contemplation, prayerful meditation, sung worship, and silence.

Sep 19, M Pau rated it it was amazing This is a page book about St. Francis of Assisi the patron saint of animals and ecology. How he abandoned his life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity. This book has all the facts and information of his early life and what motivated him, his faith and his belief in following God's footsteps. I think that leaving that as a small chapter at the end would have worked better. It made me want to search out other books about him. So there is that. Oct 04, Deborah F. Morales rated it it was amazing Great reading! Interesting parallels between Saint Francis and Pope Francis. My heart and eyes are more widely opened! Sep 03, Darren Poquette rated it really liked it Very informative. I liked it I wish it had some suggestions or references of what a true follower of St. Francis is like. Other than that, I enjoyed it Sep 29, Robert Acquesta rated it really liked it Interesting fast Read This book does a great job outlining some key contributions St. Francis had on the modern Catholic church and I was touched to learn of his relationship to the nun Alice. His story would make a great movie or perhaps a historical narrative. The writer also connected our Holy Father Francis. Then when it ended there were views of other books. Learned a lot about him and his life that I did not know or had forgotten, even after a Catholic education. A good book to reflect upon. He is one of my favorite saints, along side Saint Anthony. I highly recommend this informative spiritual look into the life of Saint Francis. Apr 13, LaVerne MacDonald rated it really liked it Getting back where we need to be I liked that this book is a good reminder of how we are to live our lives daily. The Gospel needs to continue to be spread and live the Gospel as instructed.

2: Franciscan Friars Third Order Regular - Assisi, Italy

Home | Footsteps Retreats.

For more information on Assisi, visit: Arrive in Rome on Monday, May 25th, a day before the pilgrimage begins and be met at the airport Fiumicino. We will take the train into Rome and stay at Fraterna Domus, near St. You will have the opportunity to rest, visit the Vatican, walk around Rome and have dinner together along the Tiber. On Tuesday, we will travel together to Assisi. Specific walking tours, led by Margaret and Rachel will be organized based on the interest and energy of the participants. We request that for an airport escort, you arrive by noon on Monday, May 25th. Cost of this Pre-Pilgrimage Day includes lodging, train from the airport to Rome, dinner Sunday evening and breakfast Monday morning. The cost does not include other meals, souvenirs, or train fare to Assisi. As a Quaker and a spiritual director, she finds great inspiration from Saints Francis and Clare. Rachel is a practitioner and scholar of peace-building, interreligious dialogue and community development. She holds a graduate degree in teaching from Towson University and a religious studies graduate degree from the Earlham School of Religion. Rachel is a member of the Religious Society of Friends Quaker, a community that she shares with Margaret. Pairing her passions in interreligious dialogue and nonviolence with her gifts in storytelling and vocal ministry, Rachel often travels to share her experiences with others. Pilgrimage as part of life is central to her current reflections and writings. Rachel walked the Camino de Santiago in , where she started cultivating a love and practice of traditional Christian contemplation into her life. She also volunteers with Christian Peacemaker Teams on the Steering Committee and participates in the Soul of Leadership Program, a program that integrates contemplation practices with leadership skills. Rachel is thrilled to serve as program assistant and work with Margaret on this pilgrimage to Assisi and beyond. What time should I arrive on the first day of the pilgrimage? The pilgrimage will begin at 4: You may arrive earlier to settle into your room if you would like. How physically active will we be? We will be walking each day. Assisi is quite hilly, so you need to be comfortable walking up and down hills. You should be in relatively good health. Do I need to read anything in advance? No reading is required, and no prior knowledge of the saints is required. What should I know about train travel? Getting through immigration and customs at the airport can sometimes take an hour or more, so be sure to allow enough time to get to your train if you purchase a ticket in advance. Either way, you must validate your train ticket at the machines on the train platform before boarding the train or you could get a hefty fine when the conductor comes through the train to collect tickets. If you purchase your ticket online, most routes will take you to the main train station in Rome Termini and then out to Assisi. If you buy your ticket at the airport, you can bypass the main train station in Rome. From Assisi, you can take a cab ride or city bus to the convent where we will be staying. What is the easiest way to access money while in Italy? Your bank may want to know the dates you will be in Italy, so that they know it is you using your ATM card, and not someone else. Can I use my mobile phone in Italy? If you want to use a mobile phone while in Italy, you should check with your service provider to arrange a plan that works in Italy. What should I wear? Dress is casual, although pilgrims are asked to not wear shorts at sacred sites. Sleeveless tops are also discouraged unless covered by a shawl. Bring supportive walking shoes if you would like them for our longer walks. What should I bring? Our pilgrimage will have a contemplative pace: Does the convent have a washing machine and dryer? No, the convent does not have a laundry facility. However, a laundromat is located within meters of the convent. Does the convent have hair dryers? Yes, the convent has hair dryers. How else can I prepare? Please bring any medical information you would like doctors to know in case of emergency. Pilgrims interested in learning Italian might consider using the Mango Library Edition app from Mango Languages free for patrons at participating libraries. For questions or comments, please contact mabbott executivesoul.

3: Pope to Visit Assisi Sunday - ZENIT - English

Assisi offers the walker many attractions and stupendous views of the Umbrian countryside. Here are some tips for walking Assisi and Mt. Subasio in the footsteps of St. Francis. Walk in the Footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

In the Footsteps of St. Francis My trip to Assisi by Donna Kendall A balmy welcome from Rome lures the buoyant traveler into its ancient arms, steeped in history, art, culture and spirituality. Our first stop at the Salesianum reminds us that in every great city one may find peace, serenity and a harmony with nature. The palms and umbrella pines invite us into a stillness of spirit and encourage a prayerful mind frame for our pilgrimage. Our sojourn at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome is an integral starting point on our path to spiritual renewal. Paul the apostle, whose own journey was changed by the grace of God, was martyred and buried outside the walls of Rome in the first century. His followers erected a shrine over the grave, but later it was the Emperor Constantine who discovered the secret burial site and built a church in A. The present Basilica was built over the site of the original church later in the 4th century. We learn that a Basilica differs from a cathedral in purpose. A basilica is a special church consecrated by the Pope because they contain special, altars, or tombs of saints. A cathedral, by contrast, is an official church of the Bishop. We understand that churches in Rome such as St. Maria Maggiore are Basilicas, while the church of St. John Lateran is considered to be the official Cathedral of the west. We awaken on the 5th of October to a classic Italian breakfast of Crostata, purposeful Espresso coffee and pastries. Our leader, Bret, guides us to the Catacombs of St. Callixtus along the Appian Way. As we approach the intersection at the entrance to the Catacombs we see the church of Quo Vadis on the left. This humble chapel marks the spot where Peter, after escaping from prison in Rome, heads down the Via Appia and encounters the risen Jesus. Where are you going? Our stocky bus maneuvers carefully through the gates to the ancient catacombs and we find ourselves bathed in amazement at the antiquity of the mausoleum drawing us deeper into its vault of sacred burials. Before entering the chamber, a white dove flies overhead, reminding us of why we have taken this journey. We are escorted into the grotto-like quarters housing the statue of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music. Her sculpture lies as it did in death with her throat severed and three fingers extended on one hand while one finger is extended on the other, symbolizing the Trinity: The silent footsteps of many pilgrims tread the caverns below the earth where , souls were laid to rest, at least of which were martyrs, popes and bishops. Mass for the martyrs is celebrated by Father Bailey in a cavern near the family tombs. He reminds us of our faith, firmly embedded in traditions, celebrations, and the sacrifices of the martyrs. We honor those who died for the beliefs we hold dear and repeat the traditions of sacrifice and celebration through the Eucharist. As we emerge from the darkness of the crypts, into the wonder of Italian sunshine, life pulsates through our spirits infusing us with renewal and strength. Donatello, our minister of transportation charmingly tells us that the famed Italian actor, Carlo Verdoni was at the catacombs at that moment with a group of film students. We pass a billboard on our trek through Rome and Bret regales the saying near the Basilica of St. On Sunday the 7th of October we are humbled and honored to celebrate the holy Mass in one of the holiest places in Rome, in the chapel in front of the Tomb of the Fisherman, St. Peter, and the Apostle. Later in the day we await the Angelus in St. Pope Benedict XVI appears at the window of the papal apartments and bestows his blessing on the crowds assembled there. Our travels continue to Assisi along a road which parallels the Flaminia, another ancient Roman road built over 2, years ago. As we meander the mountains into the region of Umbria, Bret points out that we are passing the town of Narni, Italy, where C. The lush green valleys and hills continue to unfold before us in a pattern which resembles life, full of peaks and vales, beauty, sunshine, clouds and rain. Our arrival in Assisi is fraught with the overwhelming presence of activists marching for Peace from Perugia to Assisi, prompting us to remember the message of St. We tread on the very pavement where Francis walked, prayed, wept, laughed and transformed his life into a living example of message of Jesus Christ, the Word of God. We assemble at the foothills of Assisi at Santa Maria degli Angeli Saint Mary of the Angels , the church which holds within its very heart the tiny, archaic Porziuncula, and the precious place where Francis prayed with his friars in the 13th century. Sister Katia, a Franciscan nun we meet in the Piazza of Santa Maria degli

Angeli greets us with warm smiles and a plethora of significant Franciscan concepts. Securities become the starting point from which she launches her discussion about changing our lives. Assisi, on the hill above, is surrounded by protective stone walls guarding the city from those who are unwelcome to enter. Below, in the piazza where we stand, is where St. Francis and his early brothers lived and prayed, without the benefit of secured Assisian walls. Sister Katia asks us to reflect for a moment on our own securities. Is it our homes, our families, our jobs? The vocation of Francis is the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 10, when Jesus names the twelve apostles, calls them together and outlines their mission: We are called to follow the word as witnesses. Priests, nuns and religious wear garments and habits that exteriorly demonstrate their vocations and beliefs. As for non-religious and lay people, we wear no exterior garb to display our internal spirituality so it falls upon us more greatly to live the witness. We often hear a voice within us reminding us that we are sinners. Sister Katia explains that the Plenary Indulgence we may receive at the Porziuncula restores us to the purity of the first day of our Baptism. When we were baptized there was a magnificent light that shone from our eyes. At some point the light seems to go out. When did we lose that light? The message of St. Francis is to restore that light to our eyes through Peace. The miracle of St. Francis is that we become instruments of Peace. Jesus Christ is Peace. By opening our hearts and allowing Jesus to work through us we become His instruments of Peace to others in the world. Francis sets this example in the garden of the roses. Francis is overcome by the pain of temptation and vanquishes the invitation to sin by rolling in the roses and thorns until the temptation ceases. He purifies his body as well as his mind and leaves himself open to allow Jesus Christ back into his spirit. In this way our lives must become a sign of another presence, the presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Can someone look at my life and see it as a sign of Christ? This is the Joy of Life. Can someone tell you are a Christian by looking at you? Francis died near the Porziuncula, outside the secure walls of Assisi, within the security of having lived his life as Jesus Christ asks us to. On the morning of October 8th we arrive at the Basilica of St. The lowest level of the Basilica houses the tomb of the venerated Francis, the poor man of Assisi. Oh Master, grant that I may never seek, So much to be consoled as to console To be understood as to understand, To be loved as to love with all my soul. Can we walk in his footsteps as we make our way through our pilgrimage? Can we fill his shoes as we stride through the intricacies that life presents us with once we leave this special place? It became a sign of his pledge to serve the least of humanity. Through his life Francis brought heaven down to earth, and thereby influencing the world on many levels including art. The 2-D images of Byzantine iconographic art are transformed to the pivotal force of the Renaissance where the other-worldly becomes real. We hear stories of Francis and the wolf of Gubbio where the townspeople were frightened by a menacing wolf until the day Francis comes along, speaks to the wolf and tames it. The wolf represents our fears. Our discoveries on the pilgrimage through Assisi include the history of the Hill of Hell, where criminals were once executed in the region "the place of shame becomes the place of honor as the church is built on the hill to transform death into the hope of new life. Our travels through Assisi take us to the Chiesa Nuova, in the area where Francis was reputed to have been born. The little chapel of San Francesco Piccolino stands just behind the Chiesa Nuova, possibly a stable at one time, and the place where Donna Pica was told by a pilgrim to go and give birth to her child, Francis. She gave the baby the name John, for John the Baptist, but when Peter returned home he renamed the child Francis for he had just returned from France. We see the cell where Peter imprisoned Francis following the beginnings of his conversion and strange behavior. At the foot of the steep hill leading from Assisi down to San Damiano we embark on a descent through the lush Assisian panorama into the simplistic world where Francis hears the words of Jesus telling him to rebuild the church and where Clare spent the remainder of her life. We are told that it is here that Francis wrote the Canticles of all Creatures. One look around the gentle landscape and we can see why Francis might have been inspired to write: To you alone, Most High, do they belong, and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name. And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor, Of You Most High, he bears the likeness. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair. Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire, through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong. Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us, producing varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs. Praise be You my Lord through those who grant

pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial. Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned. Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death, from whom no-one living can escape.

4: New Beginnings on the Journey

I watch with interest as Pope Francis embarks on his first trip to Assisi, a pilgrimage with eight cardinals, to celebrate the feast day of St. www.enganchecubano.com Francis walk in the footsteps of the.

To understand the impact of Pope Francis and his inspiration to the Catholic Church, indeed people of all religions, we turn to the two saints who are his inspiration, Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi and the great love of their spirituality. Eight hundred years ago when the Church had fallen into scandal and hard times, Saint Francis and Saint Clare lifted the Church to new life, new beginnings. Today the Church suffers the same crises. Today Pope Francis is looking at the heart full spirituality of Saint Francis and Saint Clare to lift the Church with less pomp and ceremony and more embracing the poor and unwanted. What would be their thoughts, dreams and hopes for a new Church? Can he rebuild the Church into a living Church, a church less concerned with rules and order and more about forgiveness and compassion? In the silence of our hearts, in giving to those in need, Saint Francis, Saint Clare, and Pope Francis offer a new vision for us all to become instruments of true peace and joy. For twelve years he and his wife, Ruth, lived in Assisi, Italy the historic home of these remarkable saints. Read more About the author Bruce Davis, Ph. Through the years he traveled and lived in many cultures in different parts of the world. But it was in Assisi, Italy, the historic home of Saint Francis and Saint Clare, that he found a peace and inner path which seemed universal in its language and presence. In Assisi, pilgrims from every part of the world, of all religions find a spirituality that speaks of simple peace. After years of bringing groups to Assisi, Bruce and his wife, Ruth, decided to live in Assisi. Their center was given an official blessing by Pope John Paul. The Assisi Retreat Center was listed as one of the top ten meditation retreats in the world by Travel and Leisure Magazine. More recently CNN listed the center again as one of the top ten meditation centers in the world. After many years of leading retreats, Bruce found the main ingredients for personal transformation included spending time in silence, nature, and heartfulness meditation. The peace and quiet of silence helps people to discover an inner presence in the heart that is lost by many in our busy world. Ruth has created a movement practice called Sacred Movement Ritual which is prayer through movement. Bruce is the author of several books including: Bruce is also a frequent contributor to the Huffington Post. The Love Letters hopes to support the remarkable events happening with new Pope Francis, the Church, indeed the world, so many can come to know this love including its humility, service, and grace.

5: In the Footsteps of St. Francis, Oct. 8 to 15, | The Assisi Workshops

In the footsteps of Francis The word 'friar' means "brother", and the Order of Friars Minor, or "Order of Lesser Brothers", is first and foremost a brotherhood. Franciscan Friars seek to follow Jesus Christ more closely, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and in accordance with the Rule of Life composed by St Francis of Assisi.

In the Footsteps of St. In the book she traces the life of St. Francis from his childhood to his death. She gathered her research while living in Assisi, Italy for a year. The tour unfolds his life, traveling from his childhood home, culminating in a visit to La Verna, the dramatic precipice where he received his famous stigmata. Murray is considered an expert on St. Francis based upon the extensive and detailed research she conducted while living in Assisi. The Franciscan community in particular has enthusiastically endorsed her book. With book in hand, the pages will come to life as the trip participants experience the pages become reality. Registration is available at: Airfare is not included. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please do not let this opportunity pass you by. The tour is sure to make history come alive in retracing the steps of so astonishing a figure. And having lived in Assisi for a year of research and writing, Wendy Murray knows every inch of the Franciscan terrain in Assisi and throughout Umbria. We will follow his footsteps to the home and school of his childhood; to the streets of his wild young adulthood as a party-loving playboy; to the spots related to his early years as an aspiring knight and warrior; and the hidden getaways where he went when he began to turn away from the wild life to seek God. We will travel to local medieval towns where he preached. We will stand upon the precipice where Francis received the five wounds of Christ known as the stigmata. There is no end to the mystery and effervescence the region offers. Fly from Boston to Rome Alitalia: Arrive from Boston to Rome flight ; travel by bus from Rome to Assisi; settle into rooms; afternoon visit to the tomb of St. Francis; evening stroll through Piazza del Comune. Crisis and Conversion Breakfast 8: Where Francis stayed often with this wealthy citizen of Assisi who became the first to follow him Rivo Torto: Francis need to confirm. The Active Years Breakfast at 8: The Final Years Breakfast at 8: Where Francis received the 5 wounds of Christ known as the stigmata Bag lunch 2: Breakfast and debriefing 8: These include hotel s , local co-sponsors and facilitators who can reach you in-country at all times. The workshop sponsor will also need a list of emergency contact numbers for the participants in case of changes in plans or emergencies that require making contact. Other independent activities include a trip to Deruta; local wineries and olive producers; art galleries and theater performances.

6: The Footsteps of Francis in Italy - Wonder Voyage

*Contents Dedication Introduction * Divine Love: A Way In A Wedding of Souls: Clare and Francis of Assisi * Footsteps: Assisi, Beginnings, The Man, The Woman, A World Like Ours, Chivalry, The Stranger, Touching the Untouchable, Family, There Would Come a Day, Brother Sun, Sister Moon, A Wedding of Souls, A Risk for Love, He Obeyed, The Witness, Intimacy, Eros and a Dream of Francis, She Obeyed.*

Francis Where we visit: A group intention setting ceremony and welcome introduction will lead us into the evening. A discussion about St. Francis, his life and our journey will conclude the first day. Dinner and Overnight in Rome Meals: Dinner Day 2 - Where we visit: Day 2 - Tuesday, May 13, San Damiano is among the most important and authentic sanctuaries of Franciscanism. Clare lived until her death. Take a comfortable minibus to our luxury accommodation destination; Castello di Petrata. A true oasis of peace, Petrata Castle is an ancient 14th century fortress and its annexed chapel, nestles in the midst of gentle hills on a quiet and sunny plain only 5 km from Assisi. Upon arrival, engage in a yoga class, meditation session or enjoy a walk in nature on the expansive property of this 5 Star private residence. A special, private presentation with a Friar of Assisi has been arranged for the evening! Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 3 - Where we visit: Day 3 - Wednesday, May 14, After an early morning meditation session, we take a short drive to Assisi and walk through the village where St. Francis spent his early years. Rufino Cathedral, family homes of St. After lunch, we visit the square of Santa Maria Maggiore. It was in this crowded, public square that the young Francis, stripped off the very clothes he was wearing and gave them back to his father after being put on trial in front of the Bishop. We proceed to St. Clare Basilica where we see the original crucifix which spoke to St. In the crypt of this church are the remains of St Clare. Optional yoga, meditation, free time and nature walk. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 4 - Where we visit: Day 4 - Thursday, May 15, We begin our day with yoga and meditation before taking a short drive to the Monastery of Santa Croce. Here, passing pilgrims and sick people could find solace and medical assistance. The imposing enclosure that originally surrounded the building protected the sisters from dangers such as attacks by wolves, military sorties and banditry. We will engage in a special spiritual ceremony in the enchanting chapel of the monastery. We will walk in the forest on an year old pilgrim route back to Assisi for lunch. This showcase of Italian Gothic art boasts frescoes of the greatest painters from the 13th and 14th centuries. The architecture is a daringly unusual structure envisioned by Brother Elias. The presence of St. Free time in Assisi to absorb the rich culture of this ancient city. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 5 - Where we visit: Day 5 - Friday, May 16, In the morning, we have optional yoga, meditation, and nature walk. There can be no more beautiful road in Umbria then the one to Gubbio; up through the sunny valley, curving through fields, olive groves then down again through vineyards with neat rows - and finally we see the walled medieval city of Gubbio. We see a bronze statue of Francis with the wolf to commemorate the event which took place just nearby of the little church which was erected in So powerful was the story of the wolf among early Franciscans that in the Bishop of Assisi persuaded the Benedictines to give Francis and his friars La Vittorina. This little church became a Franciscan monastery and is a stunningly beautiful site. After lunch, we spend some free time in Gubbio and then visit the Church of San Francesco to see the living quarters of St. Francis and learn of his many miracles. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 6 - Where we visit: Day 6 - Saturday, May 17, Attend an optional yoga or meditation class before we visit peaceful Lake Trasimeno where St. Francis secretly spent 40 days and nights of Lent, fastening in prayer and solitude on Island Isola Maggiore. We celebrate our connection with nature and animals as we participate in a ceremony on the beach and learn about St. We have lunch in the old city of Cortona. We visit Le Celle; a beautiful Franciscan convent standing strong in the middle of nature beside a rushing mountain stream and waterfall. Francis spent the last months of his life here, where he wrote his testament in the isolated peace of nature. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 7 - Where we visit: Day 7 - Sunday, May 18, Participate in an optional hike in nature, yoga or meditation class before we drive to Santa Maria di Rivortorto to visit the shed where Francis and his early Friars spent several years. There is a life size statue of Frances with a leper washing his rotting fingers. We will drive up Mount Subasio to the Hermitage of Carceri and enjoy a picnic in the place where

Francis came to retreat. When he came here, this mountain was a desolate place with many caves that were used occasionally by hermits and criminals. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 8 - Where we visit: This Cathedral displays the letter Francis wrote in his own hand to brother Leo. Spoleto is also the place where Francis turned around from his attempt to become a knight after a connection with the divine. On the way to Monteluco, we stop at the twelfth century Church of San Giuliano. On the way to the Sanctuary of Monteluco, we follow a path through a stand of giant ilex whose roots radiate above ground, some high enough to sit on, for at least thirty feet. The sanctuary is a quintessential Franciscan hermitage consisting of seven crude and tiny wooden cells that Francis built along the edge of the mountain next to a twelfth century chapel dedicated to St Catherine of Alexandria. It is easy to imagine him here, sleeping on the wooden plank that remains in one of the cells, looking out the small casement window to nothing but open sky. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 9 - Where we visit: Day 9 - Tuesday, May 20, We begin the day with optional early morning meditation, yoga and a nature walk. In Arezzo, we visit Piazza Grande, one of the most beautiful squares in all Italy. It has been the centre of life in Arezzo since the 13th century. Walking across the square, passing the 16th century fountain and the Palace of the Lay Fraternity in Gothic Renaissance style brings you back in time. Through the winding, narrow walkways, we find the beautiful Basilica of San Francesco. A Renaissance shrine, this basilica boasts a series of powerful frescos. Inspired by the thirteenth century Golden Legend by Jacopo da Varagine, there are no words which can describe these beautiful paintings. The church emanates an unbelievable feeling of energy and power - it is like the walls, the frescos and the scenery brings you right into the heart of your spirit. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 10 - Where we visit: Day 10 - Wednesday, May 21, After yoga, meditation or a walk in nature, we pack our picnic lunch and drive to La Verna to view the very special Procession of the Stigmata. Francis was the very first person to receive the miracle of the stigmata. We visit the place where he received the wounds of Christ for the first time. After lunch, we have free time to explore this hermitage and the surrounding forest. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 11 - Where we visit: Day 11 - Thursday, May 22, We enjoy an optional morning yoga class and meditation session before driving to Santa Maria degli Angeli. The friars left from here on all their missions - as they still do today in the Province of Umbria. The Porziuncola is the center feature. It is a tiny church within the huge basilica. There is certainly a mysterious, reverent silence in this tiny chapel. As an option, you can take time to explore the St. Francis Museum, take the shuttle to the town of Assisi or relax in our accommodations at Castello di Petrata. We regroup in the evening for meditation. Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Day 12 - Where we visit: Francis followed over years ago. The beauty of the country remains unchanged. Surrounded by thick vegetation, the Sanctuary of Fonte Colombo is the cave where the saint wrote the final Rule. We find the log from the oak tree where Christ is said to have appeared. When St Francis first arrived here, there was only the Chapel of the Magdalena with the hermitage belonging to the Abbey of Farfa. We eat lunch in Greccio, where St. Each year, there is a performance of the nativity scene on Christmas. Following our visit to Grecco, we drive back to Rome for a celebration dinner, and evening of joyous reflection of our journey together.

7: Ad Imaginem Dei: St. Francis of Assisi

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land is a rare and privileged event. Every person of faith should make such a trip a priority in one's life. However, great care is needed to make sure the experience reflects the intent of the traveler.

Going through Assisi means meeting the history and the stories that are bound to Francis. Although it can boast Roman origins, its present-day appearance, because of the buildings and also the urban structure. Apart from religious buildings too important to not be considered solely the heritage of Assisi such as the basilica of St. Francis, the tourist can also visit the churches of St. Assisi Talking About his hometown, Assisi, brother Francis told the following words, a few days before his death: But now, thanks to your big mercy, along the time, I see this town turned into the home for all those who know you and praise you, giving off a scent of holy life, of right teaching and a good name among the Christian people. Therefore I pray you, oh my Lord Jesus Christ, father of mercy: May this town always be a land and home for everybody who knows you, and glorifies your holy name, for ever and ever. Amen" Legend of Perugia, One can study history but one must track down stories. The city seems almost made for this task with its alleys and corners, archways and taverns, churches and chapels. There lies the story of his call at San Damiano; of the beginnings which entwine themselves around the Portiuncula; pictures of a man torn between the marketplace and the isolation of the Carceri; the fascination in the Church of St. Clare; stories and ideas that became stone, color and life in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi is all that and more, and such can it become for those who make their way there. But the experience is not of a museum dedicated to the preservation of history. Rather, it places people into earlier, distantly believed realities which prove themselves as present, although on a higher level. One does not need fantasy for such an experience because it is not about creating a historical stage with images, but about picking up and putting on the life-filled spirit which flows into every stone, every flower, every corner, every stairway, every church wall and every cry from a bird. Francis and enter into communion with him, you must visit the places that were significant for him and which became significant because of him! Just as the room where a famous author or painter worked is often left untouched as it was on the day of his death so you can see traces of them in this place so familiar to them just as you can in their works. A Place for you These places are presented so that you can draw power from them and each has a special mystery which can be entered into. It is like listening to the sounds of the sea in a sea shelf. Sometimes a particular place has not escaped modernization or the inundation of tourists being hurried along by guides. But there are still Franciscan places which seem to be as Francis left them Many times he saw the same horizon we see, the unchangeable outline of the hills, the Tevere river and the brooks, and loved it all and sang of it in his Praises. For those fortunate enough to actually be visiting these places, these pages can help you to know Francis the Penitent of Assisi better and, perhaps, be a means of being renewed in your vocation. Afterwards, they can be used to return and rediscover what you have visited and lived. For those friars who cannot actually visit these places, may these pages help you to go on a pilgrimage in spirit and to have access to the grace of peace and conversion. The enchanting winding streets of this little town easily carry us back to the time of Francis. They help us recall his youth and his conversion. Legend of 3 Comp. They lead to places rich with our history: Francis evolved into the Third Order Regular. The old Monastery of St. The house next to the Monte Frumentario where the friars regrouped after the civil suppression and expulsion from the original St. The House of St. The Temple of Minerva It is not too difficult to mentally picture Francis in these streets, on the steps of this Temple, in this Piazza at the different stages of his life. The portico and side buildings are from the 16th century. A wooden staircase was suspended from it and at night was drawn up to protect the household. We know this was so here because at the "wake" in after the death of Agnes, the sister of S. Clare, so many people were standing on the wooden stairs waiting to view the body that the chains snapped and the stairway fell! Later, in the houses of the city when more peaceful times prevailed these types of higher doors had stairs built up to them and the lower doors to shops or stables were cemented over the "legendary" doors of the dead! When Francis heard the Voice, according to the Legend of the 3 Companions, there was only the chapel and the little wing with the residence of the priest where the refectory stands. When the priest would

not accept the money he threw the bag onto the ledge of this window. Legend of the 3 Companions, 13 He had to learn that God did not need his money but needed Francis to give of himself so begged stones and worked with others to repair walls as he probably had on the walls of Assisi when the Rocca was torn down by the people of Assisi. Legend of Perugia, The Canticle of the Creatures written here? After the death of S. Francis, Clare lived here for 27 years. The famous Legend of the route of the Saracens story of St. Clare facing the Saracens from the doorway with the Custodia held aloft and they ran away. Idea expressed in statues of Clare. Reflect upon the Prayer before the Cross of San Damiano The prayer of St. Francis during his process of conversion, becoming a Penitent attached to San Damiano. In front of this place used to run the Via Francesca, the road from Rome to France. Here stood the 13th century leprosarium "San Salvador of the Walls. So, it has to be near here that Francis had one of the most liberating experiences of his life From this spot he looked up and gave his final blessing to his beloved city of Assisi. In these places he volunteered his service to care for these poor "Brother Christians" LP 99 and, knowing the value of this contact and this charitable exercise, made it an experience of the first novitiate: At that time, when postulants presented themselves, whether nobles or commoners, they were forewarned that among other things they would have to serve the lepers and live in their hospitals. They founded or supported leprosariums by contributing their material goods and personal services to the lepers. Poverty for them was the practical virtue of seeing Christ "Who made Himself poor for us" in the poor and ministering to His needs. In terms of formation, how important is it to be in contact with "lepers"? Does this example of Francis and the Brothers and Sisters of Penance say anything normative about the choice of life-work the brothers are to take or be interested in? If you were to write your own Testament, what "lepers" would you have to embrace before truly "leaving the world. Francis, Bible of the Poor, p. Mary of the Angels or Portiuncula. All that he was familiar with is gone If we think on it, it helps us to remove the "romantic" ideas of Franciscan life that we might be tempted to copy We have to grasp the essential ideas of his life and spirituality so that we can live them in our contemporary society. Legend of Perugia 8: The Benedictines "rent" the chapel to Francis. It might be good to reflect on our General and Provincial Chapters and see that we continue in this line of coming together as brothers to make decisions. A place of Mission: From here Francis sent out his friars to evangelize the world. Are we conscious that this is an essential aspect of our life and how is this communicated to those in Formation? Francis with his own hands. There is a third church which constant tradition identifies as the church which St. Petriano, in the zone of Rivortorto. Fortini cites a document dating from which mentions it for the first time. Unfortunately, while two of the churches St. Francis repaired, San Damiano and Santa Maria degli Angeli, are in their glory as places of prayer and pilgrimage, the this third church is again derelict, used as a barn for the storage of hay and farm implements. The family which owns the property also has the original bell cote and a painting of St. Francis which hung in the church. It needs someone to listen again to the words Francis heard from the Crucifix! A member of the SFO in one of our fraternities has proposed that this would be a good task for the followers of the Poverello of Assisi to undertake The little chapel of St. Peter in Assisi and the great basilica in Rome symbolized for Francis the faith of the Church. What does it mean to share the faith of the apostles? What was the relationship of St. Francis and his followers to the Pope and to the priests and bishops? The Secular Franciscan Order has always found encouragement by the Successors of Peter as a means to revitalize the Church. What is the relationship between us and the SFO? How can you encourage and better serve these Franciscan brothers and sisters? Happily, here there are no ornaments of gold or silver. We see the sarcophagus of rough stones under which Francis was buried. Francis lived divested of riches and divested he remains, his spirit is not profaned. No miracle interfered with the natural process of the disintegration of his body. Here he awaits the Resurrection surrounded by the remains of his faithful friends:

8: Oscar Niemeyer: The Leftist Who Built Brasilia - www.enganchecubano.com

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A Growing Vocation Program. In June Glenmary had four men in formation. Today we have Later this summer, Crispine and Aaron will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. Brother Craig will soon be assigned to a mission by the new Executive Council. A Renewed Vision for Mission. After a Sunday Mass last February at St. Francis of Assisi in Logan, W. Glenmary needs to be starting churches! This summer we will implement the first phase of that plan when we open new missions and ministries in three counties in the Diocese of Knoxville, Tenn. In June the impact and repercussions of the sexual abuse crisis within the Catholic Church were being felt. As painful and heart-wrenching as this issue has been for me-and all Catholics-I feel it was also a call to conversion for Glenmary and an opportunity for hope and healing. As a result, Glenmary has responded to the call for more accountability and transparency in how to protect children, handle allegations of sexual abuse and reach out to victims by: Revisiting and Implementing Policies. Although Glenmary has had policies on sexual misconduct in place since , the policies have been revised to reflect the current national standard for those who work with minors. Creating a Review Board. The Glenmary Review Board examines any accusation of sexual misconduct with a minor by a Glenmary priest or brother. Facilitating Ongoing Member Education. Over the past eight years, Glenmarians have gathered as a whole and in smaller groups for ongoing education on maintaining ethical ministry with minors. Applying for and Receiving Accreditation. In December and again in March , Glenmary received accreditation from Praesidium, a national leader in abuse risk management. Receiving accreditation means that Glenmary is in compliance with the highest national standards for protecting children. Today, Glenmary continues its commitment to conversion, working to maintain ethical ministry with minors and ensuring that no minor shall ever be put at risk. Our mission efforts could not go forward and would not exist without the generosity and prayers of our donors. On behalf of all Glenmarians, our coworkers and those we serve: This column originally appeared in the Summer Glenmary Challenge.

9: ITALY PILGRIMAGE - Executive Soul

*Footsteps in Assisi [Sara Lee Jobe] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Beautiful art captures the soul of both people and places. Footsteps in Assisi journeys through the little walled city of Assisi that tenaciously clings to the slopes of Mt. Subasio.*

Assisi, Umbria In the 13th century, a wealthy young man from Assisi began questioning the decadence of the Catholic Church and of society as a whole, preaching poverty and a simple life closer to nature instead. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan order and, since , the patron saint of Italy. Francis of Assisi is fascinating. Opt for a guided tour of Assisi to see the places where Francis himself lived and be inspired by the stories your guide will recount of his extraordinary life, which led him to be canonized just two years after his death. The upper church is Gothic, full of light, and houses frescoes depicting scenes from the life of St. Famous Basilica of St. The Basilica was badly damaged during an earthquake that struck the area on September 26th, ; part of the vault collapsed, killing four people inside the church and destroying a fresco by Cimabue. The building underwent a painstakingly, two-year restoration. Another must-see stop on any Assisi tour is the Chiesa Nuova, a church built in on the site of the presumed birthplace of St. The building was erected after the Spanish Vicar General of the Franciscans, on a visit to town, saw that the original home of St. Francis was becoming dilapidated and decided to raise funds to save it. Chiesa Nuova, Assisi Assisi was the birthplace of another important religious figure, Saint Clare, a close friend of St. Francis was praying when he is said to have been asked by God to rebuild the crumbling church he was in “ the Church of San Damiano “ that today preserves a replica of the cross in its original position. Franciscans cherish this cross as a symbol of their mission from God. Eremo delle Carceri, Assisi The Assisi Cathedral, known as Duomo of San Rufino , built in Umbrian Romanesque style, is important in the history of the Franciscan order because it was here that Saint Francis , Saint Clare and many of their original disciples were baptized. Four kilometers above Assisi, in a steep forest gorge on Mount Subasio, stands the Eremo delle Carceri, a small monastery with a church where St. Francis retreated and preached to birds. The convent is still occupied by Franciscan nuns. Santa Maria degli Angeli, Assisi credits: Radomil “ Wikimedia It is fitting to conclude a tour of Assisi at the majestic Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli , the seventh largest Christian church and the beginning and end of St. It is the most sacred place for the Franciscans. The Porziuncola is also the place where, in , Francis died, leaving a legacy of humanism and equality that anticipated the Renaissance movement.

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