Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

Spiritual Guide – Fr. Richard Mangini

March 15 – 27, 2021

(13 days)

$5,199 from San Francisco

For Information and Reservations,
Contact Unitours – Marianna Pisano
Tel: 1-800-777-7432 (9 am – 5 pm EST)
or Camille Tompkins – The Catholic Voice
Tel: 510-419-108 or ctompkins@oakdiocese.org


View a video with helpful information about traveling
with Unitours at www.Unitours.com/traveler

THIS PILGRIMAGE INCLUDES:
Round trip airfare on American Airlines
Breakfast and dinner per itinerary
Specially selected hotel accommodations
Air-conditioned motor coach
Full-time tour manager
Departure tax and current fuel charge
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Dear Pilgrims,

Welcome to “the Bucket list” of Italian cities to see before you die and go to heaven!

Join me and let's visit Italy's most famous cities, and now is the time to go – before we get any older and are unable to travel.

We are going to stay two full days in Rome, Assisi, Florence, and Venice stopping along the way to see what is important to see, with a final one day in Milan – to view the Last Supper! There is much more than churches: the Italian countryside, the Italian cuisine, and the Italian hospitality. Our pilgrimage will be at a relaxed pace – comfortable for older and younger pilgrims alike – and as long as you are able to get around, you are certainly welcome! I am 79 and I enjoy the walking, seeing the sites and celebrating Mass in the most incredible Basilicas in the world. Let's go to ITALIA together!

Fr. Richard A. Mangini

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Marianna Pisano, Unitours, Inc.,
Tel: 1-800-777-7432 • Email: mpisano@unitours.com
Camille Tompkins at The Catholic Voice ctompkins@oakdiocese.org
or 510-419-1081 for a mailed brochure

Have questions about this pilgrimage? Ask us! Go to www.Unitours.com/questions.

Unitours will provide the travel arrangements for this tour. You will discover joining us is a wise choice, given Unitours’ extensive worldwide reputation for quality tours since 1957. Under the same American ownership since its founding, Unitours maintains close partners in Tel Aviv, Athens, Italy and London. Unitours has arranged for your transfers, hotels, meals, air-conditioned motor coach, English-speaking guides of the highest quality, sites for your Masses and other services along the way and every detail. You can rest assured that Unitours’ financial security, attention to detail and high standard of service will assure you the most memorable travel experience.
ITINERARY

Monday, March 15 – Day 1 – DEPART USA – Today we depart our San Francisco on an overnight flight to Rome aboard a wide-bodied jet. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner and breakfast aloft.

Tuesday, March 16 – Day 2 – ROME – We arrive in Rome, this morning, where we are met by our guide, who will remain with us for the duration of our pilgrimage. Our first stop is the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Wall where Father Mangini will celebrate our arrival Mass. This magnificent basilica with enormous marble columns and gold mosaics, is built over the grave site of St. Paul the Apostle, after he was executed in the first century AD in Rome. Portraits of each of our Popes grace the walls of the basilica, with a ray of sunshine lighting up the portrait of our current Pope, Pope Francis. Stop at Piazza Navona for free time for lunch. We walk by the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain and also visit the Pantheon. We continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Wednesday, March 17 – Day 3 – VATICAN CITY/ROME – This morning, after breakfast (included daily) we make our way to St. Peter’s for an audience with Pope Francis if he is in residence. We continue to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the largest church in Rome dedicated to our Blessed Mother, where we celebrate Mass. Our last stop today is St. Peter in Chains to view Michelangelo’s possibly most celebrated sculpture, the “Moses.” We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, March 18 – Day 4 – VATICAN CITY/ROME – We start our day at St. Peter’s Basilica, location of Michelangelo’s famous sculpture “La Pieta”, and tombs of many Popes, to celebrate Mass. After, we visit the Vatican museums and marvel at the many treasures including Michelangelo’s restored frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. After free time for lunch, we visit the St. John Lateran. It is here that St. Francis gained permission from Pope Innocent III for the Franciscan Order. We walk to the nearby Santa Scala, which are believed by many to be the staircase from Pilate’s palace in Jerusalem, brought to Rome by St. Helen in the 4th century. Tonight, we enjoy dinner in a local restaurant near the Colosseum. Overnight at our Rome hotel.

Friday, March 19 – Day 5 – ORVIETO/ASSISI – We depart the Eternal City to journey to the hilltop village of Orvieto to visit its magnificent Cathedral and pay homage to the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena. After Mass in the Cathedral, we have some free time for lunch and to explore this quaint hilltop town, discovering the famous olive oil and wine. Our next stop is Assisi the home of Saint Francis, the patron saint of Italy and Saint Clare, one of his early followers. Our first stop is in the lower town for a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, and the Portiuncula, Francis’ Church of the Little Portion. We continue to the upper village for dinner and overnight at our Assisi hotel.

Saturday, March 20 – Day 6 – ASSISI – We begin our day at the Basilica of St. Francesco with Mass and pray at the tomb of St. Francis. We view relics and beautiful frescoes by Giotto depicting the life of Italy’s patron saint, then we begin our walking tour of the village. We stop in at the famous temple of Minerva, a former pagan temple, now the Santa Maria Sopra Minerva Church in the Piazza del Comune. We visit the Basilica of Santa Chiara, the final resting place of St. Clare, where her body is preserved in the crypt and where the famous crucifix that spoke to Francis is preserved. We continue to San Damiano, to visit the dormitory where Clare slept and the chapel where the sisters prayed. This afternoon, we enjoy this picturesque, peaceful hillside village on our own. Dinner and overnight at our Assisi hotel.

Sunday, March 21 – Day 7 – FLORENCE – Today we journey north towards Florence. Upon arrival we visit the Academia Gallery, to view Michelangelo’s famous “David” and many other tremendous works of art. We continue to the Duomo, to celebrate Mass in the heart of the city. We admire the cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1436, and its campanile by Giotto. Outside, we view the Baptistry’s with its incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti. Free time for lunch and shopping or visiting the Grande Museo del Duomo, underneath the cathedral containing the crypt of Santa Reparata. Overnight and dinner at our hotel in the nearby spa town of Montecatini.

Monday, March 22 – Day 8 – FLORENCE – After breakfast, we travel to the Piazza della Signoria, dominated by the Palazzo Vecchio and its embellishment crowned tower. Across from the Palace, we visit the Loggia dei Lanzi with the statues of the Perseus by Cellini; Giambologna’s the “Rape of the Sabines” and “Hercules.” We also visit the Basilica of Santa Croce for Mass. Among the most famous interred here, lie Galileo, Rossini, Michelangelo and Machiavelli. We have free time for lunch and personal adventure. You may choose to visit the Medici Riccardi Palace Museum containing a vast array of spectacular art. We conclude our day in Florence with a drive to the “Piazzale Michelangelo” for a panoramic view of this spectacular city. Return to hotel in Montecatini for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, March 23 – Day 9 – PADUA – This morning we leave Montecatini and travel to beautiful Padua. Here we’ll visit the tomb of Saint Anthony, the tomb of Saint Luke, and the amazing Scrovegni Chapel. We celebrate Mass in Padua and enjoy free time before continuing to our hotel on the outskirts of Venice. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Mestre.

Wednesday, March 24 – Day 10 – VENICE – After breakfast, we journey together to the heart of Venice and see the famous Rialto Bridge, which spans the river and is lined with picturesque little shops. We walk into the pigeon filled Piazza San Marco and enter the most famous Basilica for Mass. After, we enjoy a walking tour of the city, including a stop at the Bridge of Sighs! We also view the Torre Dell’Orologio, the Renaissance clock tower and the Museo Civico Correr. Our last stop is Doge’s Palace, a palace built in Venetian Gothic style, and one of the main landmarks of the city of Venice. The palace was the residence of the Doge of Venice, the supreme authority of the former Venetian Republic, opening as a museum in 1923. We continue to our hotel in nearby Mestre for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, March 25 – Day 11 – VENICE – This is your day for exploring Venice! You may decide to take one of the many half day trips offered to the small islands — including Murano — or you may take the elevator to the top of the campanile for a spectacular view of the city. You might enjoy a gondola ride and the tremendous shopping and restaurants. This evening we gather together for our farewell dinner in Venice. Overnight at our hotel in Mestre.

Friday, March 26 – Day 12 – MILAN – This morning we drive to Milan. Upon arrival we visit one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in the world, the Duomo. We visit the crypt to celebrate Mass and pay homage at the tomb of Saint Charles Borromeo, the great reformer and Cardinal of Milan. After, conditions permitting, we visit the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, to view the Leonardo da Vinci’s Last Supper. Undoubtedly one of the most famous paintings in the world, is a fresco painted on a dining room wall. Dinner and overnight in Milan.

Saturday, March 27, Day 13 – RETURN TO USA – Today we make our way to the airport for our flight home. Our memories of our time in Italy will never fade! ARRIVEDERCI ITALIA!
Total Tour Price: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect November 26, 2019. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. Refunds CANNOT be granted for any accommodations, services or events that are not used nor if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 45 pilgrims participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

Passport And Visa Requirements: A valid passport is required. At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports DO NOT REQUIRE visas or immunization for the country or countries being visited. Passport MUST be valid until September 27, 2021 or later. Citizens of countries other than U.S. – please contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

Air Transportation: International flight reservations are being held on American Airlines. No stopovers are permitted. Any changes after ticket is issued, carries a mandatory charge of $200. Once the tickets are issued, they are NON-TRANSFERABLE and NON-REFUNDABLE. Any requests to change a ticket once issued will incur a reissue fee of $200 plus any fare differential will apply. Cancellation of air seat within 90 days of departure will incur a $200 penalty.

Domestic Airfare: For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, your tour host and Unitours strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

Hotel Accommodations: Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of $817 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

Meals: Breakfast and Table D’ Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

Tips And Taxes: Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, porterage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of $119 plus current fuel surcharges of $350 are included (subject to change). TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF $131 ARE NOT INCLUDED. One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs. total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip.

Not Included: Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to: passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc.

Deposits And Cancellations: A deposit of $500 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received at Unitours after 45 days before departure must include a $25 late payment fee. (This does not apply for new reservations made after 45 days of departure.) Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment. Amex, Discover, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final payment due date including insurance. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior to departure – $100 processing charge plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 31 days of departure – $150 processing charge plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. There can be no refund for any services for cancellations received within 30 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc.

Bank Fee: A fee of $50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

Deviations: A service charge of $50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, (where possible), PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

Travel Insurance: Optional Travel Insurance is strongly recommended for your trip. See www.Unitours.com/Travelinsurance for full details including optional Cancel for any reason coverage. (NOT AVAILABLE FOR NEW YORK RESIDENTS.) Cost of travel insurance for this trip starts at $169. To cover pre-existing conditions, insurance must be purchased with your reservation. (See reservation form.) If paying by check, add insurance cost to your deposit. Insurance can also be purchased at the time of your final payment.

Land Arrangements: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

Responsibilities: Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tour. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or errors during the time passengers are on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. Optional travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment. This pilgrimage is not sponsored by the Diocese of Oakland or The Catholic Voice.

Spiritual Guide: If unable to travel -- the right is reserved to substitute guide.

Errors: In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

Catholic Italy Pilgrimage with The Catholic Voice
March 15 – 27, 2021 – 13 Days – $5,199 from San Francisco

Please complete and mail to:
Unitours, In., Attn: Marianna Pisano, 10 Midland Ave., Ste. 202, Port Chester, NY 10573

Please reserve ______ seat (s) on this trip. Enclosed please find deposit of ______ ($500 per person). Make check payable to UNITOURS, INC. Please enclose a copy of your passport (PASSPORT must be valid until September 27, 2021 or after.)

TO BOOK THIS TRIP ONLINE, CLICK HERE

Name(s) (as it appears on passport) __________________________

My roommate is: __________________________

Name(s) to use on nametag(s) __________________________

Address: __________________________________________

City, State, Zip: ______________________________________

Telephone: __________________________ Email: __________________________

Charge my deposit to: [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] AmericanExpress [ ] Discover [ ] American Express [ ] MasterCard

PARISH: ______________________________________ (Optional)

Card # ______________________________________ Exp. Date __________Signature (Required)

I understand that certain charges such as air taxes, fuel surcharges and rates of exchange can affect the final cost and I agree to pay such costs should adjustments be necessary. I have read and understand the deposit and cancellation fees. Signature: __________________________