

# Diocese of Scranton Pilgrimage Italy Tour August 31 – September 09, 2025

## **Day01 Sunday, Aug.31**

Depart Wilkes Barre & Scranton for the Newark Int'l Airport  
Fly Non-stop from Newark to Rome

## **Day02 Monday, Sept.01**

Morning arrival and transfer with your private deluxe motorcoach to the eternal city of **Roma**, built on 7 hills in the middle of an undulating plain. This marble city was created by Augustus and, according to legend, was founded by Romulus in 753 B.C. and by many considered the cradle of Western Civilization and the heart of Catholicism. Prior to arrival at hotel (check-in time after 3 pm) celebrate **mass with Bishop Bambera at Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls**  
**Welcome dinner** at local restaurant **D**

## **Day03 Tuesday, Sept.02**

After breakfast you will have the unique opportunity to participate in rarely experience visit to the **SCAVI** -guided tour of the necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica, culminating at the tomb of St. Peter. (arranged by Msgr. Washington),  
Following **Mass at St. Mary Major (Papal Basilica Maria Maggiore)**,  
After lunch break (optional) your afternoon tour - **Basilica St. John Lateran - Coliseum (outside visit)** – walking tour Rome - Dinner at hotel **BD**

## **Day04 Wednesday, Sept.03**

### **Papal Audience**

Early morning transfer to the Vatican –  
**07:00 am Mass with Bishop Bambera**  
Afterwards get seated for the **Papal Audience**. After lunch (on own) enjoy the remainder of the day for individual activities. Dinner on your own **B**

## **Day05 Thursday, Sept.04**

on the way to Assisi we have **Mass** at the famous **Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli** housing the **Portiuncula**, the “little church that St. Francis built,” the thorn-less rose bush, and the ever present doves at the cave where St. Francis retired for prayer.  
We continue to the magical and enchanting town of **Assisi**, home of **St. Francis and St. Clare**, surrounded by its ancient walls, spread over the green slopes of **Mount Subasio** with its colorful houses of pink stone, narrow streets and flower-decked balconies. Visit the **Basilica of San Francesco** to view the cycle of Giotto's frescos with its twenty eight episodes from the life of St. Francis. Visit the Church of St. Clare housing the **incorrupt body of St. Clare** and the **Cross of San Damiano** which spoke to Francis telling him to “build my church.” Remainder of the day at leisure to stroll the winding streets and discover the peace that still remains in this small village. Dinner and overnight in Assisi. **BD**

### **Day06 Friday, Sept.05**

#### **08:00 AM Mass at the tomb of St. Francis.**

Morning departure, we continue leisurely north through hilly countryside dotted with Chianti vineyards and olive groves to old **Siena**, the best preserved medieval town in Italy. Visit the **Cathedral** with frescos by Pinturicchio and the pulpit by Nicola Pisano. Visit **St. Dominic Church** which houses the **incorrupt body of St. Catherine of Siena**, doctor of the Church. St. Catherine's letters are considered among the most brilliant writings in the history of the Catholic Church. Not to be missed is the famous shell shaped **Piazza del Campo** where the famous **Palio** (annual 75 second flag-waving horse race) is held every summer.

Arrive at the spa town of Montecatini Terme for dinner at hotel

**BD**

### **Day07 Saturday, Sept.06**

#### **Morning mass at Basilica Santa Maria Assunta**

After breakfast departure to **Florence** - the "Cradle of the Renaissance" Your guided city tour includes the Cathedral with its immense cupola by Brunelleschi, the Bell Tower by Giotto, the "Door of Paradise" by Ghiberti, and other historical masterpieces. Sufficient time to visit the jewelry shops and leather workshops on the Ponte Vecchio for some serious shopping and individual lunch break. Late afternoon return to Montecatini Terme.

You might take the historic funicular up to Montecatini Alto (great view over Tuscany – good restaurants at the piazza!) Dinner on your own

**B**

### **Day08 Sunday, Sept.07**

Drive through the beautiful Tuscany countryside to the city of **LUCCA** – one of the Italian's "Città d'arte" (Art towns) with a very well preserved historic center – visit Piazza dell'Anfiteatro and Guinigli Tower, a 45-metre tall tower that dates from the 1300s. The whole city is surrounded by enormous city walls.

**10:00 am Mass at the cathedral of S. Martino.** Continue to the winery "Fattoria il Poggio" in Montecarlo for a light Tuscan lunch and wine tasting.

Dinner at your hotel

**BD**

### **Day09 Monday, Sept.08**

Depart south along the freeway – along the shores of Lago Trasimeno – Perugia to **Gubbio**, Located on the slope of Mt. Ingino and Sister City of Jessup, PA. This ancient pre-Roman town is famous for the discovery of the Eugabine Tablets, a set of bronze tablets featuring the largest surviving text in ancient Umbria. After arrival at **Gubbio Duomo** celebrate mass with **Bishop Bambera**.

Lunch at Taverna del Lupo. In the afternoon continue south direction **Rome**. light dinner at your Rome airport hotel

**BLD**

### **Day10 Tuesday, Sept.09**

Early morning departure to Rome Airport for USA / Newark flight.

**B**

Arrival Newark, transfer back to Wilkes Barre & Scranton. (Welcome Home!)

**DIOCESE OF SCRANTON  
ITALY PILGRIMAGE TOUR  
AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**



GROUP RATE: \$4,995.00 per person double Occupancy  
\$5,995.00 per person single Occupancy

**The Features of this Pilgrimage Tour Include:**

- Roundtrip motorcoach transportation to the Newark Int'l Airport
- Roundtrip (non-stop) Flights from Newark to Rome
- Mass Celebrated Daily by Bishop Bambera at (various Basilicas & Cathedrals)
- 3-Nights: First Class Hotel: Starhotel Michalangelo, Rome
- 1-Night: First Class Hotel: BV Grand Hotel, Assisi
- 3-Nights: First Class Hotel: Hotel Tamerici, Montecatini Terme (Tuscany/Florence)
- 1-Night: First Class Hotel: Rome, TBA (last night in Rome/near Airport)
- Private deluxe motorcoach throughout
- Tour Guides: Nick Tozzi & Willi Flicker (2 of the Top Guides)
- Buffet Breakfast Daily
- Dinners as indicated in itinerary including wine & mineral water
- 2 Lunches including Wine Tasting & Gubbio
- All sightseeing & admissions per itinerary
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person
- All local taxes, service fees, departure taxes
- Vox Whispers
- Services of TravelWorld Escorts

**Rev. Andrew Hvozdovic  
Diocesan Director of  
Pilgrimages**

**Terms & Conditions:**

Initial deposit: \$500.00 per person to confirm. Optional Trip Cancellation Insurance is available & highly recommended. (Ask your Booking Agent) Full & Final Payment due: June 2, 2025 Book early. Trip is limited. A Valid US Passport is Required for this trip. All Payments are Non-Refundable, Again Travel Insurance is available.

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