



## Preparations for our Assisi Pilgrimage

"A geographical pilgrimage is the symbolic acting out of an inner journey." ~ Thomas Merton

With great excitement I anticipate this personal journey we will be embarking on together May 14th. To prepare our hearts and minds for our time in medieval Umbria there are a couple books I would like to recommend. A good novel that's both interesting and fun read, with a very intentional post-modern bent is Ian Morgan Cron's - Chasing Francis; A Pilgrim's Tale. However those who love history, like myself, Donald Spoto's book "Reluctant Saint" is both thorough and insightful in it's approach to the life and times of St. Francis. For those who appreciate both the wit and charm of G. K. Chesterton's works you will enjoy his book on St. Francis as well. (I was deeply moved by the last half of Chapter 5.)

Our Pilgrimage Experience will include:

- Historical teachings and tours of this beautiful and culturally rich part of Italy, as well as of the life of St. Francis.
- An exploration of Contemplation and Prayer, after which we'll enjoy an afternoon of Silence and Solitude on the slopes of Mount Subasio that towers above Assisi.
- Indulging in many different flavors of Gelato, a couple times a day, since it's only 1 Euro!
- Watching the sunrise next to the ruins of Rocca Maggoire Castle, above Assisi, as it's casts it's rays across the Umbrian planes.
- Making friends with local friars, and learning more about our Axiom Monastic Community.



Our journey will begin on the Sunday evening of May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Each attendee is free to depart Assisi anytime Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, before check out time, which is usually between 10:00 and 11:00, at both the hotel and the hostel. Weve narrowed down our accommodations to two places: Hotel Posta Panoramic, that is two blocks from the center of the city, and Hotel Grotta Antica, a hostel that is also nearby. Bed and Breakfast at the Hotel is 55 Euros for single room, and 85 Euros for doubles. Accommodation only (no breakfast) at the hostel costs 37 Euros per person . Let Roger know as soon as possible which is your preference. (rog.andruss@me.com)  
(\*please note – prices could change ... we will verify these quoted prices toward Spring 2017)

Everyone will cover their own meal expenses, and chose their own lunch and dinner destinations, both as we tour together, as well as during free time. Some have expressed a desire to experience various Italian cuisines during the pilgrimage, some have mentioned they are on a strict missionary budget, and a few may fast a meal or two. This gives freedom for this variety. (I have good recommendations for those with, or without much money!)

The Pilgrimage cost is 350 Dollars US (approx. 335 Euros). This covers a small part of the preparatory work and materials required for the pilgrimage, our meeting room, and transport to and from Mt. Subasio.

Flights: For US travelers, I recommend two flight agencies that specialize in ministry discounts; just mention you are part of an Axiom Pilgrimage. One is called "Worldhopper Ministry Travel," [www.worldhopperministry.com](http://www.worldhopperministry.com) and "Mission MTN Travel," [www.mmtnet.com](http://www.mmtnet.com). Europeans are familiar with the cheap airlines of Easyjet and Ryan air. Assisi is a beautiful two hour train ride north of Rome, from Roma Termini. Arriving at either Rome airport one is required to take public transport to the Roma Termini train station. (Always remember before boarding a train in Italy you need to go by and make sure your train ticket is stamped by a stamp machine that is always right next to each train you board. Regional trains are the cheaper ones, versus express.)

Let's prepare our hearts for wonder, for challenge, and change...

"True seeing is the heart of spirituality today." Richard Rohr

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." Marcel Proust