



Preparations for our Assisi Pilgrimage

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

With great excitement we anticipate this personal journey we will be embarking on together in May, 2021 (May 10-15). To prepare our hearts and minds for our time in medieval Umbria there are a couple books we 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, 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. (you'll be deeply moved by the last half of Chapter 5.)

Our Pilgrimage Experience will include:

- We will walk in the footsteps of St. Francis as we explore his life theme, "The Way of Joy." This journey will point us towards three unique aspects of the life of Jesus that are a prophetic word for the times we live in.
- 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 casts it's rays across the Umbrian plains.



Our journey will begin on the Monday evening, May 15th at 7:00 pm. You are free to depart anytime on May 20th before check out time, which is usually between 10:00 and 11:00. If scheduling flights from Rome, allow enough time to get to the airport by train (usually 2-3 hours). We will stay at Hotel Posta Panoramica, located just two blocks from the center of the city. Bed and Breakfast at the Hotel is as follow: Single = \$105/night at current exchange rate, Double = \$130/night (\$65 per person/night). We'll inform you if the U.S. dollar and Euro exchange rate change.

Everyone will cover their own meal expenses, and choose their own lunch. We will share our dinners together. 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. (We have good recommendations for those with, or without much money!)

The Pilgrimage cost is 435 Dollars US. 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, we 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 and "Mission MTN Travel," 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