

The Padre Pio Foundation of America



presents a

14 Day Pilgrimage including 8 Days in Italy

visiting Savona, Venice, Padua, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotondo,
St. Michael's Cave, Pietrelcina, Rome

and a 6 Day Cruise on the Costa Serena

sailing to Naples - Valletta, Malta - Corfu, Greece – Dunbrovnik, Croatia & Venice

April 19 – May 2, 2009

Sun, Apr 19th: Newark/Milan – Depart Newark airport on your overnight flight to Milan. Dinner served in flight.

Tue, Apr 20th: Milan/Savona – Upon arrival at Milan airport we are picked up and transferred to Savona. Upon arrival in **Savona**, we are checked into our hotel. Free day to enjoy Savona on your own. (D)

Tue, Apr 21st: Savona – Morning departure to the port of Savona to board the **Costa Serena** for our **Mediterranean Cruise**. The Costa Serena was inaugurated in 2007. **We set sail for Naples at 5:00 PM.**



Costa Serena

The new Costa Flagship is the ship of space and light. Its name symbolizes harmony and serenity. Costa Serena and her sister ship Costa Concordia, are the largest and longest ships in the fleet. The prestigious Samsara Spa spreads over two decks and will be a haven of wellness and relaxation. The beautiful Samsara Suites have direct access to the Spa. Over 500 cabins have balconies. Choose from 13 bars and 5 restaurants. There are 4 swimming pools, two with retractable glass roofs. The decks are spacious and panoramic, and the stylish public areas are designed with your comfort and relaxation in mind.

Wed, Apr 22nd: Naples

Arrival in Naples 12 Noon Departure for Valetta 7:00 PM. Optional tours will be offered.

Neapolis: the new city. The origins of the city are very ancient. It is an extraordinary historical and cultural centre, with cuisine and musical traditions successfully exported all over the world. The legend tells that the mermaid Parthenope was lying on the shores of **Naples**, giving her beauty and fortune to the land. Actually, historical evidence shows that the city was founded in approximately 600 BC by Greek colonizers. Naples preserved Greek habits until the Romans came, three hundred years later, enriching it with a series of villas and settlements still witnessed by many remains and evidence. Naples obtained its freedom when it was annexed to Italy, immediately after Garibaldi's passage in 1860.

Dominated by Mount Vesuvius, whose plume of smoke can be seen from any corner in the city, Naples is undoubtedly charming both for its geographical position and for its historical and architectural masterpieces. Naturally, Pompeii is worth mentioning. Its museum is the most visited in Italy. A sudden eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD destroyed the town, which was covered by a thick layer of ash. The excavations, opened in 1754, revealed thousands of objects presently

preserved in Naples Archaeological Museum and in Pompeii Museum. Capri, Ischia and Procida, the islands in the Gulf of Naples are similarly very attractive and popular thanks to the cinema, literature and international music successes, besides the famous Posillipo promenade. In particular, Capri is undoubtedly the most visited not just by Italian tourists but by foreign tourists as well for whom a picture with the Faraglioni as a background is an absolute must.

Thu, Apr 23rd: Valletta, Malta

Arrival in Valetta at 12 Noon Departure to Corfu 6:00 PM. Optional tours will be offered

The Mediterranean island of **Malta**, situated between the North African coast and Sicily, is a land of history and mystique. The ancient Greeks claimed the island had divine origins and was the province of the Calypso nymph who lived on nearby Gozo. In Homer's *Odyssey*, Ulysses landed on the island during his epic journey to Ithaca. St. Paul was shipped wrecked on Malta. St. Paul converted the Island inhabitants during his three months stay. **During the Pauline Year, you will receive an Indulgence for visiting places associated with St. Paul.**

In the Middle Ages, the Crusaders partially fortified the island during their expeditions to the Holy Land, giving rise to the powerful Maltese Knights of St John. Following the Crusades, Malta enjoyed a period of commercial prosperity generated by the maritime transport of profitable cargoes such as grain, oil, wine and spices. In the 16th Century, Malta's peaceful existence was violently interrupted when the Turks invaded and laid siege to the island, eventually fought off by the heroic knights. The battle prompted the Maltese substantially to improve the island's fortifications and it was now that the fortress of Valletta was built, named after the knight who led the battle. There are also several architectural remains from the period of the Maltese Knights. During the Napoleonic era the island suffered invasion again, this time at the hands of the French, and it was only with the help of the British that they were repelled. This led to an extended period of British colonial domination that lasted until 1964 when the island gained autonomy. Under the British the island became a major naval base and during World War II was subjected to months of blockade and bombing. Today, Malta is a centre of fishing, craftsmanship and tourism, and the busy, walled city of Valletta is its administrative, commercial and political capital.

Fri, Apr 24th: Corfu, Greece

Arrival in Corfu 2:00 PM Departure to Dubrovnik 7:00 PM Optional tours will be offered

Corfu is the northernmost of the Ionian Islands, located in the heart of the Mediterranean. The Greek place name Kerkira was renamed Corfu by the Venetians, who paraphrased the word "Korifi" which was used to indicate the towers of St. Mark's fortress.

Corfu is covered in lush vegetation, thriving in a climate that is tempered by the wind without being too dry. Its coastline is very long, seemingly never-ending: over 200 kilometres. The terrain is quite varied, at times sandy and at others rocky and broken up by Mediterranean bush, olive, cypress and citrus trees.

Sat, Apr 25th: Dubrovnik, Croatia

Arrival in Dubrovnik 8:00 AM Departure to Venice 1:00 PM Optional tours will be offered

A charming port by the Dalmatian coast, set in front of a picturesque hillside, **Dubrovnik** is one of the most beautiful destinations on the Adriatic Riviera. It has been extensively restored since suffering during the Balkan hostilities of the 1990s and, some would say, is more beautiful now than ever. The city's style and architecture is strongly rooted in its historical Venetian and, to a lesser extent, Turkish influence. This part of the Dalmatian coast played a vital role in the success of the Venetian Republic.

The most attractive section of Dubrovnik is the old city, Stari Grad, lined with cobbled streets, fountains, museums and churches. Its Venetian heritage is apparent in the family names of many of the residents. The main division between the two sections of the old city is called 'stradun', a word of Venetian origin.

The largely intact city wall, some of which was built 700 years ago, is one of the finest examples of its kind in the world. The importance of religion in the city's past and present culture is reflected in a number of impressive Franciscan and Dominican convents and churches. The relics of St. Blaise can be found in the Cathedral which is just beyond the city wall.

Sun, Apr 26th: Venice/Padua

Arrival in Venice 9:00 AM Optional excursions will be offered

Upon arrival in Venice you will be met by your guide. If you have taken an **Optional Excursion** in Venice, your luggage will be collected and you will go on your tour. After your tour, you will meet the rest of your group and be transferred to your hotel in Padua. This afternoon you will visit the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua. (B,D)

Venice is considered the city of art, romance and prestige. The extraordinary architecture was built on an archipelago of small islands separated by a network of canals crossed by approximately 400 bridges, once wooden and then replaced by stone.

The Grand Canal is the main city artery. It is crossed by three bridges and has the shape of an upside down "S" dividing the city in two parts and in their turn divided into six "sestieri" (districts): Cannaregio, San Marco and Castello on the left side; Santa Croce, San Polo and Dorsoduro on the right side of the canal. Water transport undoubtedly prevails over land travel, with gondolas, ships, ferries, and yachts serving as taxis to transport people and goods. There are few main roads and several small "calli" (narrow streets) developed along canals, "campi" (squares adjacent to churches), bell towers and "fondamenta" (streets along the canals) where motor vehicles are not allowed. Refugees from Spina Adria and Aquileia after the invasion of the Huns in the 5th century AD founded Venice.

The Doge under the protection of the Byzantine Empire governed it by "maritime tribunes" and later, in the 9th century the city became a very important commercial port, connecting the eastern and western markets through the Adriatic Sea. Its commercial power soon resulted in military power. Within a few years, Venice dominated all the eastern Adriatic coast, reaching the East, colonizing the territories and conquering important markets, competing with Genoa and with the other Maritime Republics to assert its power.

The Turks chased the Venetians from many eastern colonies. The repercussions of the French Revolution affected this perfect aristocratic government where commerce and military power supported each other. In 1797 Venice was weak and after the Campoformio treaty, it was subject to Austria and subsequently annexed by Italy. The Grand Canal, offers a quick view of the most beautiful palaces in Venice: the Academia, the Cà d'Oro, the Casino, the palace of the Biennial, the University, the Chiesa della Salute and the popular Rialto bridge, up to Piazza San Marco where the canal opens into a wide area.

The square is the heart of Venice and its symbol. It is an architectural jewel and one of the most beautiful squares in Italy; a miracle built in trachyte and Istrian stone. In the past, religious and civil ceremonies took place in this square and also the famous Carnival. At its end there is the Basilica and the Clock Tower. The coffee bars and restaurants surrounding it are pleasant meeting places. Glass blowing is particularly interesting and takes place on the Island of Murano.

Mon, Apr 27th: Padua/Assisi - Morning departure to Assisi. Upon arrival, we visit the Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare, where we see the Tombs of the two Saints. Next we visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli where we see the Porziuncola (the little church St. Francis built). (B,D)

Tue, Apr 28th: Assisi/San Giovanni Rotondo – Morning departure to San Giovanni Rotondo. Today we travel south, and along the Adriatic Coast, passing through the regions of Marche, Abruzzo and Apulia to **San Giovanni Rotondo** to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Grace. During

our stay we will have an **Extraordinary visit to the Tomb of Padre Pio to view his exhumed body** (B,D)

Wed, Apr 29th: San Giovanni Rotondo/St Michael's Cave/Benevento - Today we go to the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie for Mass. We continue to the English Office for a talk on Padre Pio. Next we visit the new Church of St. Pio of Pietrelcina. This afternoon we visit **St. Michael's Cave** where St. Michael the Archangel appeared. After our visit, we continue to **Benevento** for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Thu, Apr 30th: Benevento/Pietrelcina/Rome - This morning we travel to **Pietrelcina**, birthplace of **Padre Pio**. We visit his home, the Church of Santa Ana, where he was baptized and we have Mass at Santa Maria degli Angeli. Next we stop at **Piana Romana** to visit the place where Padre Pio received the invisible stigmata. After our visit we continue to Rome. Upon arrival in **Rome** we stop at St. Paul Outside the Walls for Mass. **During the Pauline Year, you will receive a Plenary Indulgence for visiting St. Paul Outside the Walls.** (placed on conditions of indulgences). After our visit, we check into our hotel. (B,D)

Fri, May 1st: Rome - This morning we have a "Rome Tour" including a visit of St. Peters Basilica. (B,D)

Sat, May 2nd: Rome/USA – Morning departure to Rome airport for our return flight to the USA. (B)

Due to the recent increase in Fuel it may become necessary to increase our rate by the Fuel Surcharge.

13 Day Tour & Cruise on the Costa Serena

Tour Includes: Air Fare from Newark, Three & Four Star Hotels, Deluxe Motorcoach, Sightseeing as per itinerary, Continental or Buffet Breakfast & Dinner, Porterage (one piece of luggage) at hotels, Taxes and Service Charges. **All Meals on board the Costa Serena. Excursions on board the cruise ship are optional and at your own expense.**

Tour & Inside I2 Cabins: Cabin Description - Two Lower or one Queen

*** Rate: \$ 3,749.00 Double per person**
Triple not available in this category

Outside E1 Cabins: Cabin Description – Outside Two lower or one Queen in Double Outside Three lower or one Queen and one single in Triple

*** Rate: \$ 3,849.00 Double per person**
\$ 3,639.00 Triple per person

Veranda B2 Cabins: Cabin with a Balcony - Two lower or one Queen in Double Cabin with Balcony - Three lower or one Queen and one single in Triple

***Rates: \$ 3,989.00 Double per person**
\$ 3,799.00 Triple per person

Please call for rates on Suites and Samsara Spa Suites.

The above rates do not include Excursions on board the cruise ship. Excursions are at the expenses of the passenger.

RESERVATION FORM	Tour No. PIO0419CR	
Name (as it appears on your passport):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:

Telephone:		Email address:	
Will your room be a: () single (limited) () double () triple			
Name of Roommate:			
Are you a US citizen? () Yes () No		Date of Birth	
Passport No.	Date of Issue	Date of Expiration	
<p>Please indicate which cabin you prefer:</p> <p>I2 Inside Cabin ____ E1 Outside Cabin ____ B2 Veranda Cabin</p> <hr/> <p>Please return this form with your check to: LITTLE FLOWER TOURS & TRAVEL, LTD. 145 Fieldstone Road, Staten Island, New York 10314 ☎ 718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373 Website: www.littleflowertours.com Email: susan@littleflowertours.com A \$ 700.00 PER PERSON DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE January 15, 2009</p>			
<p>TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cancellation made by passengers. Of the \$700.00 deposit, \$300.00 is non-refundable in case of cancellation. 70 days to 46 days a \$ 1,500.00 penalty is imposed. 45 days to 16 days a \$1,500.00 penalty PLUS any penalty imposed by the airlines and hotels and cruise ship lines. 15 days or less may result in loss of entire cost, depending on what we can recover. Once travel has commenced, no refunds for unused portions can be made. TRAVEL INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE AND ADVISABLE</p>			
Signature:		Date:	

If you would like to use Master Card, Visa or American Express Card you will be charged 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ % for the charge.



Credit card () MasterCard () Visa () American Express	
Account #:	Expiration date:
Name (as it appears on your card)	
Billing Address:	
Amount to be charged: \$	
Signature:	Date:

“EVERYONE MUST FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SIGN IT BELOW.” If you are **NOT** taking the Travel Insurance you must still fill out the Insurance form below and indicate **NO** in the premium box and return it with your reservation form.

Please note that insurance is strongly recommended but is optional. If you want to receive a waiver for pre-existing conditions, your premium must be

received by Little Flower Tours within 10 days of your initial trip deposit/payment, provided you are not disabled from travel at the time of your premium payment. Insurance payments are non-refundable.

Tour Number	Tour Name	Premium
PIO0419CR	14 Day Tour & Cruise	Adult \$ 237.00 *

* Based on double or triple. Single will be quoted at the time of booking.

Insurance Form		Tour Number PIO0419	
Name			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Telephone:		Are you a US citizen? () Yes () No	
Additional Family Names			
I will take the Insurance () Yes () No			
Premium \$ 237.00 Adult per person double or triple			
Please make your Insurance Premium check payable to Little Flower Tours & Travel Ltd.:			
LITTLE FLOWER TOURS & TRAVEL, LTD.			
145 Fieldstone Road,			
Staten Island, New York 10314			
☎ 718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373			
Website: www.littleflowertours.com Email: susan@littleflowertours.com			
If you want to receive a waiver for a pre-existing condition, your premium must be received by Little Flower Tours within 10 days of your initial trip deposit			
Signature		Date	

All Excursions are Optional. They can be booked prior to departure or on board. Some of the more popular tours sell out early.

These are just two Excursions that are offered on this cruise. There are many more and you will have the opportunity to book these excursions before departure or onboard the Costa Serena

Port of Naples, Italy

THE POMPEII EXCAVATIONS AND SORRENTO ABOARD THE NAPLES EXPRESS

Your guide will meet you at the port and accompany you by coach to the busy Porta Nolana station. Here you will board the Napoli Express, a recently introduced train service for cruise passengers, which will allow you to travel in great comfort and avoid the city's traffic. En route your guide will delight you with the history and intriguing accounts of the area through which you are travelling: the villas of the Miglio d'Oro, the evocative coastal views and imposing Vesuvius. Your first destination will be the archaeological gem of Pompeii. Just a few years after being damaged by a terrible earthquake, this ancient city founded by the Oscans was completely buried beneath a hail of lava and ash during the spectacular eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. The excavations, which began during the eighteenth century and were conducted systematically over the last century, have unearthed priceless finds that have survived the passage of time practically intact. You will then return to the train and travel along one of the most beautiful peninsulas in the world, arriving in Sorrento. Here you will enjoy a guided walking tour of the town centre, with its picturesque narrow streets where time seems to have stood still. Following the tour you will have some free time to wander among the characteristic craft workshops, savour a rum baba or sip the delicious Limoncello liqueur. You will then return to Naples by train.

Excursion Price - 78 Euro (Approx. \$ 125.00) Price is subject to change 5 ½ Hour Tour

Port of Valletta, Malta

TOUR OF MDINA AND MOSTA

This excursion will first take you to Mosta to see the famous dome of the parish church, one of the biggest domes in the world. You will then proceed to Mdina, the ancient Capital of Malta, a typical medieval town, located almost exactly in the centre of the island. Here you will visit the Cathedral which was last reconstructed in 1700. Legend has it that Publio, who was a Roman governor at the time of Saint Paul's reign in Malta, and who later became the first Bishop of Malta, used to have his home there. Finally, you will head to Ta Qali village where you will have the possibility to visit a few handicraft factories and take home a nice local souvenir.

Excursion Price - 44 Euro (Approx. \$ 70.00) Price is subject to change 4 Hour Tour