

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

In Sicily & Malta

October 4th – 16th, 2018

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- Round trip air from New York
- First Class Hotels
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guide
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Porterage of one piece of luggage at hotels
- All taxes and service charges
- Daily Mass and Rosary

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Tour of Taormina
- Tour of Messina including a visit of the Messina Cathedral
- Visit the Santuario della Madonna Nera di Tindari
- Visit the Cathedral of Monreale
- Visit the Palermo Cathedral and the Palatine Chapel
- Visit the Santa Rosalia Sanctuary on Montpellegirino
- Tour of Marsala
- Visit of the Valley of the Temples
- Tour of Siracusa and Ortiga Island
- Visit of the Basilica of Madonna delle Lacrime
- St John's Church where St. Paul and St. Luke preached
- Tour of Valetta, Malta
- Tour of Mdina and Rabat in the footsteps of St. Paul

Pilgrimage Price: **\$ 3,799.00 per person Double/Triple**
 \$ 750.00 Single Supplement

Thu, Oct 4th: New York/Catania Depart on your overnight flight to Catania. Dinner served in flight.

Fri, Oct 5th: Catania Upon arrival at Catania airport you are met by your English speaking tour escort and transfer to the hotel near Taormina. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Sat, Oct 6th: TAORMINA – MESSINA – MILAZZO After breakfast visit Taormina, in particular the Roman-Greek Theater viewing the Etna volcano as well as Naxos bay, as well as the Sanctuary of Madonna della Rocca which was built in 1640 by limestone rock that acts as a cover to the interior. Our Lady of the Rock is one of the most popular tourist destinations spots in Taormina for the perfect panorama of the surrounding city and Mount Etna.

Next continue to Messina for a panoramic tour and visit of the Cathedral. The bell tower of the Cathedral of Messina contains the biggest and most complex mechanical and astronomical clock in the world. According to the tradition, in 42 AD St. Paul came to Messina to spread Christianity. Inspired by his impassioned words the people of Messina, sent their ambassadors to Jerusalem to pay their respects to the Virgin Mary. The Madonna gave them a letter addressed to the people of Messina, promising eternal protection to the city. The ending of the letter "Vos et ipsam civitatem benedicimus" (I bestow my benediction upon you and your city) is still written on the base which supports the gilded statue of the Virgin Mary, at the entrance to the port. In the scene represented on the bell tower, a little after noon, an

angel brings the letter to the Virgin Mary followed by St. Paul and the ambassadors. Each character bows when passing in front of the Madonna. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Sun, Oct 7th: MILAZZO – TINDARI – CEFALU' – PALERMO This morning we depart through the Northern Coast to Tindari, the most important Sanctuary in the area: Santuario della Madonna Nera di Tindari. Local legend tells that the lagoon was created after a pilgrim who came to see the Madonna refused to pray to the Madonna because she was black. The woman accidentally dropped her baby into the ocean and the Madonna made the land rise to save the baby. The sands of Marinello have taken shape of the profile of the Madonna. We continue to Cefalù, a splendid fishermen's village and seaside resort. Visit of the huge Norman Cathedral, founded in 1131 by Roger II. There are several hypotheses on the origins of the construction of the Cathedral of Cefalù. The marvels are without a doubt the gold dipped mosaics placed behind the altar, made in classical Byzantine, and perfectly preserved and shining in all their glory: Christ Pantocrator is placed in the upper section. We continue to Palermo for dinner and overnight at hotel.

Mon, Oct 8th: PALERMO – MONREALE – MONTEPELLEGRINO - PALERMO This morning we depart to Monreale to visit the Cathedral as well as the Benedictine cloister. Its construction was made by King William II, after the conflict with the powerful archbishop of Palermo. The structure has three naves, divided by 18 granite columns. All around the beautiful shimmering mosaics, with gold background, cover most of the surface of the walls, portraying characters and episodes from the Bible. At the center, above the altar, the famous Christ Pantocrator. The mosaics were made by Byzantine artists along with the Venetians and Arabs for what is today the most remarkable set of mosaics of Italy. The cloister built together with the Cathedral, is perfectly square in shape, with a long inner arcade, supported by as many as 228 columns.

Next, we visit of the Palermo Cathedral and the Palatine Chapel. The Cathedral was built for the Archbishop Gualtiero Offamilio in 1184. The Palatine Chapel was built by Roger II in 1130 and consecrated thirteen years later, it is one of the most exciting artistic examples of the Norman period. The Byzantine mosaics set on a golden background, fill nearly every space of the Chapel; among them, the famous Blessing Christ behind the altar.

This afternoon we go to Montepellegrino to visit the Santa Rosalia Sanctuary. Santa Rosalia, Hermitess, is greatly venerated in Palermo and in the whole of Sicily of which she is patroness.

Tue, Oct 9th: PALERMO – ERICE – MARSALA – AGRIGENTO After breakfast we depart to Erice and visit the small medieval village with its tiny and characteristic streets. It is located at the height of 750 meters, from which you can admire all its medieval glory. The alleys and courtyards make you feel like time has stopped. Next we visit Marsala, city of the famous Marsala wine. We visit the Cathedral which is dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury. Continue to Agrigento for dinner and overnight.



Wed, Oct 10th: AGRIGENTO – CATANIA – SIRACUSA This morning we visit of the Valley of the Temples where we will be able to admire the best preserved temples in the whole Magna Grecia. A Unesco World Heritage Site since 1997, it covers an area of about 1300 hectares in the south of the ancient city: today, the buildings that are still present date back, in most part, to the fifth century BC, the period during which Agrigento reached its maximum splendor. The most important temples were made in Doric style, built mostly with yellow tuff sandstone.

Continue to Catania and enjoy a panoramic tour of the second biggest city in Sicily, known for its baroque style buildings. Piazza Duomo is the beating heart of Catania. In the middle sits the famous fountain of

the elephant, a symbol of the city from the Byzantines, it symbolizes intelligence and longevity. Continue to Siracusa for dinner and overnight.

Thu, Oct 11th: SIRACUSA After breakfast, we visit the Basilica of Madonna delle Lacrime. From August 29th to September 1st 1953, a plaster plaque of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, placed over the headboard of the bed of a young couple, Angelo Iannuso and Antonina Giusto, at 11 Via degli Orti St., shed human tears. The phenomenon took place at more or less long intervals inside and outside of the home. Many saw, touched, gathered and tasted the salt of the tears.

On Sunday, August 30th, 1953 an amateur film maker of Siracusa, Nicola Guarino, was able to capture the event on film, making this one of the very few miraculous happenings with such documentation. On September 1st, at 11:00 a.m., a Commission of doctors from the Chancery of the Archdiocese of Siracusa went to the Iannuso home to investigate the happenings. They withdrew a sample of the liquid that flowed from the eyes of the plaque. The microscopic analysis verified: "They are human tears." After the scientific analysis, on the fourth day of the lachrymation, the weeping ceased.

Next we visit the Church of St. John the Baptist where St Paul preached. The building has an inscription in memory of the brief stay of St. Paul in Siracusa: "HIC OLIM SYRACUSIS TRIDUO MANENTIS". In a polychrome glass rosette is depicted the effigy of the saint.

The Catacombs of St. John contain some 20,000 Early Christian tombs. In Roman times, Christians were not allowed to bury their dead within the city limits, so they went outside the boundaries to create burial chambers in what had been used by the Greeks as underground aqueducts. The early Christians recycled these into chapels.

Siracusa has other subterranean burial grounds, but the Catacombs of St. John are the only ones open to the public. You enter the "world of the dead" from the Church of St. John, now a ruin. St. Paul is said to have preached on this spot, so the early Christians venerated it as holy ground. The church's roots go back to the 6th century. All that remains of the church today are roofless Norman walls and about half of the former apse, both overgrown. A beautiful rose window is still visible on the facade. Some faded frescoes and symbols etched into stone slabs can still be seen in the catacombs.

Fri, Oct 12th: SIRACUSA After breakfast we visit the historical center of Ortigia Island. Piazza Duomo is an ancient sacred area. The Cathedral is the most important building of the homonymous square, built on the ruins of an ancient Greek temple that forms the backbone. The spring of Arethusa has always fascinated visitors. Located on the waterfront under the cathedral, it is presented in a semicircular basin, in which papyrus has been planted.

Sat, Oct 13th: SIRACUSA -POZZALLO – MALTA

After breakfast we depart to Pozzallo Port to board our ferry to Malta. Upon arrival in Valetta, we check into our hotel.



Sun, Oct 14th: VALETTA – HARBOR CRUISE – ST. THOMAS BAY A full day of guided sightseeing includes 7,000 years of history beginning in the walled capital city of Valletta, a World Heritage site. Dotted with quaint cafés and shops, the city is today one of Malta's main tourist attractions, hosting among others, the majestic St John's Co-Cathedral, the imposing bastions and a treasure of priceless paintings. Enjoy the history told of the Knight's of St. John of Jerusalem. Relax on your harbor cruise providing a stunning snapshot of Malta's Grand Harbor, often described as the most beautiful in the Mediterranean. Drive to the ramparts where you begin a tour viewing some of the palatial inns and residences en route to St. Thomas Bay.

Mon, Oct 15th: MDINA – RABAT After breakfast, we have a full day excursion Mdina and Rabat. The first stop will be a visit of the site of St. Paul's shipwreck. Our tour will take you from the point of the shipwreck, along the route said to be taken by St. Paul where he preached, where he baptized the first Maltese at San Pawl Milqi Chapel (meaning "St. Paul welcomed"), to the place where he rested. Paul stayed for several months in the town of Rabat, here we will visit the St. Paul's Grotto, the actual place where the saint is known to have stayed. Next a visit to the "Mosta Rotunda" a magnificent domed church in Mosta. En route to Rabat, we will visit St. Paul's Church and Grotto, a church founded in 1575 over the ancient caves where according to some traditions, the Apostle Paul was held captive. Next we will walk through the streets of Mdina, Malta's first capital where we will visit the Cathedral dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Mdina is also located in the highest elevations of Malta where magnificent views of the entire island are possible. Concluding our sightseeing on the western shore, we view the spectacular Dingli Cliffs before turning toward our return route. The last stop of the day will be the Catacombs of St. Paul, a fascinating labyrinth of the 3rd century subterranean tombs and the earliest archaeological evidence of Christianity in Malta. Back to the Hotel for dinner and overnight.

Tue, Oct 16th: MALTA Breakfast at the Hotel. Transfer to the airport.

Reservation Form		Tour No. PAU1004	
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.		Expiration Date	
Contact in the USA		Telephone No.	Relationship
<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</p> <p>A \$700.00 DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE July 15, 2018</p>			
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Credit card () MasterCard () Visa () American Express	
Account #:	Expiration date:
Name (as it appears on your card)	
Billing Address:	
Amount to be charged: \$	
Signature:	Date:

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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 14 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.

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City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Are you a US citizen? () Yes () No	
Additional Family Members to be Insured		
<p>I will take the Insurance () Yes () No</p> <p>If you have a pre-existing condition please call for rates. If not, insurance information will be sent to you with receipt of deposit.</p>		
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Signature		Date