

Spiritual Director Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Visiting Avila, Fatima, Aljustrel, Valinhos, Batalha, Nazare, Tomar, Lisbon, Evora, Sintra, Cascais, Madrid and the Papal Greeting and Mass with the Holy Father during World Youth Day Celebrations

## YOUR PILGRIMAGE INCLUDES:

- Round trip air from New York
- Four Star and Five Star Hotels
- · Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guide
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- · All taxes and service charges
- Daily Mass and Rosary

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- · Convent of St. Teresa of Avila
- Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima
- The Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary
- The Capelhina where Our Lady Appeared to the Children
- The Tombs of Lucia, Blessed Francisco and Blessed Jacinta
- Ajustrel, Home of the Children
- The Parish Church where the Children received the Sacraments
- Valinhos where the Angel Appeared to the Children in 1916 and where Our Lady Appeared in August 1917
- Monastery of Batalha
- The Fishing Village of Nazare
- Tomar city of the Knights Templar
- · Visit to St. Anthony of Padua's Birthplace
- Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Sintra, Cascais and the Roca Cape
- Medieval village of Obidos
- Papal Greeting and Mass at World Youth Day

## Pilgrimage Price: \$3,599.00 per person double or triple Single Sup \$750.00

## **Itinerary:**

Wed, July 26<sup>th</sup>: New York/Madrid: Depart on your overnight fight to Madrid. Dinner served inflight.

**Thu**, **July 27**<sup>th</sup>: **Madrid/Avila/Fatima**: Upon arrival in Madrid, we depart to **Fatima**. En route, we stop at **Avila** convent of St. Theresa of Avila. After our visit, we continue to Fatima.

**Fri**, **July 28**<sup>th</sup>: **Fatima/Aljustrel/Valinhos/Fatima**: This morning, we go to **Aljustrel** where we visit the homes of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco and Sister Lucia and perhaps meet some of their relatives. Then on to **Valinhos** where Our Lady appeared to the children in August 1917 and where the Angel appeared to the children in 1916. We continue to the Parish Church of Fatima where the children and their parents received the sacraments. After our visit, we return to Fatima. Remainder of the day is free day for private devotion.







Sat, July 29<sup>th</sup>: Batalha/Nazare: Morning departure to Batalha to visit the Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitória which was built in answer to a vow made by King John I to the Virgin Mary. Elected by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, it is a grand monument to the closing phase of Portuguese Gothic architecture. Next stop Nazare where, on hot days, the ancient local fishing art is brought to life, with the skipper calling the men down to the sea. The men run down to the beach and help push the "candil" - a small fishing boat - down to the sea. In the past this was a daily scene on Nazaré beach. Nowadays the fishermen still mend their nets on the beach, tell fishing yarns and prepare their equipment for bait fishing. In the afternoon we go to the upper city of Sitio.

The first church in Sítio was built over the grotto to commemorate a miraculous intervention in 1182 by the Virgin Mary. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century Portuguese knight Dom Fuas Roupinho while hunting deer one morning was caught in a dense fog and he accidently rode over the cliff. Through the intervention of Our Lady, he was miraculously saved. From the little Chapel that he had built in honor of Our Lady, you can see the hooves of the horse that is imbedded in the rock.







**Sun**, **July 30**<sup>th</sup>: **Tomar**: The town of **Tomar** is inside the walls of the Convento de Cristo, constructed under the orders of Gualdim de Pais, the fourth grand master of the Knights Templar in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century.

Tomar is one of Portugal's historical jewels and, more significantly, was the last Templar town to be commissioned for construction. Tomar was especially important in the 15<sup>th</sup> century when it was a center of Portuguese overseas expansion under Henry the Navigator, the Grand Master of the Order of Christ, successor organization to the Templars in Portugal.

Today we learn about the rich history of the Knights Templar in Portugal. We spend the day in Tomar learning about the Christian military force that contributed to the famous crusades during Europe's Middle Ages. We visit Almourol Castle, erected by the Knights Templar. We visit the incredible Convent of Christ, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This was the fortification where the knights resided.

Mon, July 31st: Fatima: Free day for private devotions.







**Tue, August 1**st: **Fatima/Lisbon**: Depart Fatima for **Lisbon**. Upon arrival we tour the city of Lisbon making stops at the Monastery of Jeronimos and the Belem Tower. After our tour, we check into our hotel.







Wed, August 2<sup>nd</sup>: FULL-DAY EXCURSION TO EVORA: After breakfast, we depart to Évora. We set out across the Vasco da Gama Bridge passing over the Tagus River. The Vasco da Gama Bridge is the second longest bridge in Europe after the Crimean Bridge and the longest one in European Union. It was opened to traffic on March 29, 1998.

Sit back and relax! Gaze across the beautiful Alentejo plains. Our guide will tell us about the cork and olive trees, vineyards and produce that populate this serene countryside. Upon arrival in the city of Évora you will discover an abundance of culture, heritage and history formed by centuries of influence. We learn why Évora became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We visit the Church of St. Francis, a well-preserved church built in Gothic-Manueline style. Inside we see the Chapel of Bones (Capela dos Ossos), built in the 16th century, which displays human skulls and bones upon its walls. Then we explore the Roman Temple remnants which date back to the 1st century and we visit the gardens around the palace of King Manuel where explorer Vasco da

Gama was commanded to find a route to India. Next, to the Cathedral of Évora (Sé de Évora) constructed between late 13th and 14th centuries. We walk along the charming streets and under Gothic arches in Évora's main Giraldo Square (Praça do Giraldo).

Grab lunch on your own and spend time in souvenir shops before rejoining the group.

After lunch, we return to our motorcoach and continue to Almendres Cromlech, one of Europe's largest stone complexes. Upon arrival, see an astounding structure of menhirs (huge stone monoliths positioned upright) dating back about 7000 years.

The Almendres Cromlech is a megalithic complex of more than 100 stones placed in a circular way and aligned with the solstices and equinoxes.

**Thu, August 3<sup>rd</sup>: PAPAL WELCOME:** After breakfast, you will have a free day until we attend the Papal Welcome event.







**Fri, August 4**th: **Sintra/Cascais/Roca Cape:** Today we have a full day tour of **Sintra** and **Cascais**. On this journey, we will visit Sintra Natural Park, the hidden trails and caves at Pena Park and the bluffs of Roca Cape the westernmost point of continental Europe.

We start our day at the Pena National Palace, the most famous of Sintra's monuments, located at the top of Sintra Mountain. Enjoy this 19<sup>th</sup> century Romanticist castle that looks and feels like a fairy tale. Admire its eclectic Neo-Manueline, Neo-Gothic and Neo-Renaissance styles. Observe the extravagant bedrooms that used to serve as a summer residence for the royal family.

Next, we drive along the Atlantic Coast to Cascais for a leisurely walk through town to its scenic beaches. We will have free time at Cascais Beach. We continue to the cliffs of **Roca Cape**, the westernmost point of continental Europe.







**Sat, August 5<sup>th</sup>: Obidos** Pousada do Castelo de Óbidos is situated in the village of **Óbidos** and is one of the 7 wonders of Portugal. This Inn has a huge presence with medieval characteristics of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. This Castle is one of the most impressive and romantic places you can visit. It has common spaces such as the restaurant and the bar in the Castle. There is an impressive view from the terrace next to the reception.

Today we journey back to medieval times to visit one of the oldest and best-preserved places in Portugal. The town of Obidos is the finest example of a Portuguese walled town and is one of

the best tourist destinations of the Lisbon region. Obidos was presented to the Queen of Portugal on her wedding day, a tradition that began with Queen Urraca in 1214 and continued until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Obidos is a charming town to explore; there are narrow-cobbled streets, traditional painted houses, and an imposing medieval castle. It's small but it is incredible!

**Sun, August 6<sup>th</sup>: PAPAL CLOSING MASS/Madrid:** This morning, we will attend the "Mass of Sending" where the Pope will concelebrate Mass with the Youths and thousands of Priests and Bishops from all over the world. After Mass we return to **Madrid** for a tour of the city. Dinner and overnight in Madrid.

Mon, August 7th: Madrid: Morning departure to Madrid airport for our return trip to the USA.

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