

Pilgrimage to Spain & France with Father Anthony Ochoa

Lourdes ✚ Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
Madrid ✚ Saint Ignatius Loyola ✚ Sagrada Familia - Barcelona
Montserrat & Manresa ✚ Albi - Cathedral of St. Cecile
Sagrat Cor ✚ Burgos ✚ Loyola
Saint Bernadette of Lourdes ✚ St. Thomas Aquinas

October 13 - 25, 2024

Spiritual Leader
Father Anthony Ochoa



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October 13: We depart St. Louis on an overnight flight to our Pilgrimage destination; Spain & France. Dinner, breakfast and drinks will be served on international flight.

October 14: This morning, our flight touches down at 10:45 AM in Madrid, Spain. We gather our luggage and meet our Tour Manager Alexandre. Soon, we transfer from the airport to the heart of **Old Town Madrid**. A first glimpse of Madrid provided by a scenic tour will allow us to appreciate the dimension and beauty of this city as well as its vital points such as **Paseo de la Castellana, Gran Vía, Alcalá Street and Plaza de España**. Nearby we find one of the best examples of the Bourbon urban layout: the **Paseo del Prado** with its fountains, gardens and museums. Of special interest are the **Mile of Art, Prado Museum, the Reina Sofia Museum and the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum**. We will also visit its **Cathedral of Santa María la Real de la Almudena** as well as the historical center with the Main Square and the **Puerta del Sol**. **We will Celebrate Mass in the Cathedral La Almudena**. After, we check into our hotel for overnight and dinner.

B & D Madrid

October 15: After breakfast, we go to **the Basílica Pontificia de San Miguel**. Built between 1739 and 1746, by order of Queen Isabel de Farnese, on the site of the old parish of Saints Justo and Pastor, which dated from the 13th century and was demolished at the end of the 17th century, the basilica resembles a Roman style church. In the heart of Madrid de los Austrias is this Basilica that is, despite its small dimensions, one of the most relevant architectural constructions of the Spanish Baroque, due to the unique convex shape of its façade, unusual in the country and unique in the Madrid baroque. In 1984 it was declared a National Monument. **Here, we Celebrate the Mass**. After, we visit more of Madrid and see sites like **Iglesia de San Jerónimo El Real and the Royal Oratory of Caballero de Gracia & tomb of Guadalupe Ortiz de Landáuzuri Fernández de Heredia**. After Lunch, we board our motorcoach for a short excursion to the **Old quarter of Alcala de Henares. Travel to Alcalá de Henares**. This town near Madrid, birthplace of the illustrious Miguel de Cervantes, author of "Don Quixote", and home to one of the most prestigious universities in Spain -where Saint Ignatius studied- has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Its rich monumental heritage, formed by churches, convents and university buildings, gives us a glimpse of life in Castilia during the Spanish Golden Age. Return to Madrid and afternoon at leisure. Overnight and dinner at the hotel in Madrid.

B & D Madrid

October 16: After Breakfast, we check out of our hotel and board our motorcoach which will take us to our first stop in **Zaragoza** located in the **State of Aragon**. The city has important monuments including **the Aljafería - the ancient palace of the Arab emir-, its Gothic Cathedral the Seo of San Salvador and the Basílica del Pilar, site of the Virgin's appearance to apostle Santiago**. **Here we Celebrate Holy Mass**. After Mass, we have a light lunch & some free time. We then continue on to the town of **Montserrat** where we check into the hotel for dinner and overnight.

B & D Montserrat

October 17: After breakfast, we explore some of the history of **Montserrat**. In 880 when a small group of shepherd children saw a bright light descending from the sky in the Montserrat mountains. In the same moment, the children heard angels singing, and the music filled their hearts with a radiant joy. Over a period of a Month, the people of the town saw the visions that occurred in the same location in a cave on Montserrat mountain. When this cave was explored by the religious elders of the community, they found an **image of the Virgin Mary**. And from that moment on the cave became a holy sanctuary for religious pilgrims. Today the site of the visions has been marked by a Holy Grotto on the mountain. **Here we Celebrate Mass in the Cambril Chapel at Our Lady of Montserrat. Married Couples will also have the opportunity to renew wedding vows**. After a light lunch, we are given a treat by taking in the **Famous Montserrat Children's Choir**. After, we will visit **Manresa** with its **Old Quarter, Basílica Santa María, the old bridge Pont Vell and Santa Cova, the Manresa Cave**

where Saint Ignatius stayed during 11 months and practiced rigorous asceticism. The houses of Manresa are arranged around the Basilica of Santa María de la Seo. This structure combines both Romanesque and Renaissance elements, although its mainly a Gothic building. The reredos are also medieval, and constitute important examples of Catalan-Gothic painting. In the historic quarter we find remarkable buildings such as the City Hall, the Palace of Justice, and Pont Vell. This bridge is associated with the worship of Saint Ignatius of Loyola in Manresa, as well as the architectural compound of Santa Cova. This sanctuary was the home of St. Ignacio de Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, when he stayed in the city. We return to Montserrat for dinner and overnight.

B & D Montserrat



October 18: After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and make our way to Sagrat Cor (Temple Expiatori del Sagrat Cor) for Holy Mass. A Minor Basilica located on the summit of Mount Tibidabo in Barcelona, Catalonia. The construction of the church, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, lasted from 1902 to 1961. The idea of building a Catholic church on the summit of the Tibidabo emerged in the late 19th century amidst rumors about the construction of a Protestant church and a hotel-casino at that location. This motivated a "Board of Catholic Knights" to acquire the ownership of the field and give it to Saint John Bosco in 1886, when he was visiting Barcelona. From this arose the idea of a building dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a dedication very popular at that time thanks to the impetus given by Pope Leo XIII, and following in line with the church built in Rome by Bosco himself (Sacro Cuore di Gesù a Castro Pretorio) and the famous Sacré-Cœur in Paris. After, we make our way to Barcelona and have lunch. We are then given a walking tour of sites like Barrio Gotico (Gothic Quarter) with stops at Santa Maria del Mar and end at St. Eulalia where we Pray the Rosary together.

B & D Barcelona



October 19: Today we make our way to Sagrada Família. The Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família (Expiatory Temple of the Holy Family) is considered to be the symbol of Barcelona by many residents, and the one place you shouldn't miss when you visit the Catalan capital. Dreamed up by Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí, the Basilica exemplifies Gaudí's philosophy that nature is the work of God. Gaudí sought to combine Christian speech and Biblical allegories with complex natural symbols like organic, geometric shapes which are prominent in every column, pinnacle and stained glass window of the basilica. The end result is an astounding architectural masterpiece which, despite being unfinished and under construction for nearly 140 years, has become one of the most visited monuments in Spain. Initially intended to be a simple Roman Catholic church dedicated to Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the church ultimately became the most prominent example of Catalan Modernism. Pope Benedict XVI declared it a Basilica in 2010. Here, we Celebrate Mass and have a tour. After, we have the day for exploration on our own. We will reconvene at the hotel for a dinner outside the hotel.

B & D Barcelona



October 20: Today after breakfast, we check out and make our way towards France. As we meander near the Mediterranean and over the Pyrenees Mountains, we take in this beauty of the Iberia. About mid day, we arrive that the Couvent des Jacobins (Church of the Jacobins). Here, are the relics of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Thomas Aquinas was the father of Thomism, which argued that reason is found in God. Certainly he was one of the great thinkers of the Catholic faith (he is a Doctor of the Church), sometimes called "the Aristotle of Christianity". Here we have a tour & time to Venerate this great Saint. After, we make our way to Albi, France. Our destination is Sainte-Cécile Cathedral, the largest brick Cathedral in the world, which has the appearance of a fortified castle. To those who open the door, a striking vision of colors, paintings, sculptures and statuary is revealed. We will tour the Choir of Cannons, the Fresco of the last Judgement as well as the Treasure room. Here, we also Celebrate Holy Mass. After, we check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

B & D Albi



October 21: After breakfast, our motorcoach takes us into the Pyrenees to Lourdes. Lourdes is the site of the 1858 apparitions of Our Lady under the title of her Immaculate Conception. Upon

our arrival, we will celebrate **MASS in the CHAPEL OF ST. ANNE in the BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**. After a light lunch, we view the **Lourdes video** that gives the history of the apparitions. After, we go on a **walking tour of Lourdes** to visit the places where **St. Bernadette lived: at the Boly Mill and the Cachot**, an abandoned prison which was their family home at the time of the apparitions. We can see the parish church and font of Bernadette's baptism. Again there is ample time for devotion during our "mini-retreat" in Lourdes. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered throughout the day. This evening we can participate once again in the Candlelight Procession. Dinner and overnight in the hotel. **B & D Lourdes**

October 22: This morning we will **Celebrate HOLY MASS at the very GROTTO**, where the Blessed Mother first appeared to the saintly peasant girl, Bernadette, and where she unearthed the miraculous spring of water. In this holy place of spiritual and physical healing, we have the **opportunity to take part in the water ritual** in the waters of Lourdes. This day in prayer in Lourdes can include the Way of the Cross, time spent in Eucharistic Adoration and other personal devotions. At 5:00 PM is the daily **Procession of the Blessed Sacrament with the Blessing of the Sick**. Candlelight Procession is available this evening. Dinner & Overnight in Lourdes. **B & D Lourdes**

October 23: This morning we depart the Lourdes Sanctuary and Travel to **Azpeitia**, home of the birthplace of the Loyola family and discover Loyola with its Basilica and **House of Saint Ignatius**. Work of the famous Italian architect Carlo Fontana, the Basilica was inaugurated in 1738. It is baroque in style, with a circular floor plan and a 65 metre-high dome. A few metres from the Basilica you can visit the old **Loyola House-Tower, where Saint Ignatius was born in 1491**. **Here we will Celebrate Holy Mass in the Conversion Chapel (Santa Casa del Loyola)** and have a Tour of the Sanctuary. Time permitting we go to **Pamplona**, the City where St. Ignatius was wounded. We then make our way to Burgos for dinner and overnight. **B & D Burgos**

October 24: In the morning, we will discover Burgos - one of the most important stops on the Path of Saint James with its outstanding Gothic Cathedral, World Heritage site. After we will **Celebrate our Final Mass of the Pilgrimage in the Church of St. Nicholas**. After a light lunch, we depart for Madrid where we have the afternoon for exploring or last minute shopping. We will reconvene for a **farewell dinner in Madrid**. **B & D Madrid**

October 25: This morning after breakfast, we drive to the airport for our 12:45 PM flight back home. We arrive in St. Louis after a connection in Toronto at 7:57 PM.

✠ ✠ ✠ Included Features ✠ ✠ ✠

- Round-trip airfare from St. Louis
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Sequence of itinerary can change due to crowds and guide recommendation.
You will see all as listed in this brochure and more.

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U.S.citizen(s)? Yes No Smoking Non-Smoking Handicap Information _____

Please be aware that walking may be involved in this pilgrimage.

Name: _____ Date of birth _____ Airline Seating _____

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WINDOW/AISLE

Passport Number: _____ Exp. date _____ (Must not expire earlier than 6 months

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Check the following: I (We) request: Single Room _____ Double Room (2 people) _____ Triple Room _____

I(We) want my (our) Name (s) on the name badges as follows: _____

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