Eastern Christian Pilgrimage to Italy

ASSISI • ORTONA • SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO • MONTE SANT'ANGELO • BARI • MONOPOLI • MATERA • ALBEROBELLO • LECCE • OTRANTO • ROME

June 7 – 18, 2027



Father Thomas Colyandro

A Pilgrimage of Preparation for the Feast of Orthodox Pentecost!

You are invited to join Rev. Dr. Thomas Colyandro on a 12-day pilgrimage to the saints of East and West whose relics rest on Italian soil. Stand at the tomb of St. Nicholas of Myra in Bari, where a dedicated Orthodox chapel in the crypt of the basilica hosts regular Divine Liturgy. Venerate the relics of St. Thomas the Apostle at Ortona and pray in the ancient grotto of the Archangel Michael on the Gargano. From Assisi to the Eastern Christian churches of Rome, this is a pilgrimage of veneration, prayer, and holy silence in the days before Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the Church. It is an opportunity to renew your mind, spirit and faith.

$5999.00 p.p. double

$6979.00 Single Occupancy

Land Only – $4999.00 per person, double/$5979.00 single

Tour Package with AMI Travel includes:

- **Round-trip non-stop airfare from Houston (IAH) to Rome in Economy Class**
- **Private Group Transfers**
- **Sightseeing in Deluxe Motorcoach with professional English-speaking tour guides**
- **10-Night Accommodations in 4-Star Hotels: 2 Nights - Assisi, 1 Night - Ortona, 4 Nights - Bari, 3 Nights - Rome**
- **Breakfast Daily, Dinner Nightly**
- **Entrance fees to sights on itinerary**
- **Divine Liturgy**
- **Personal wireless earphones – "Whispers"**
- **Baggage handling and hotel service charges**
- **Hosted by Father Thomas Colyandro**

Contact Marge Santo

630-399-5541 ~ marges@travelexinternational.com

TRAVELEX INTERNATIONAL

www.travelexinternational.com



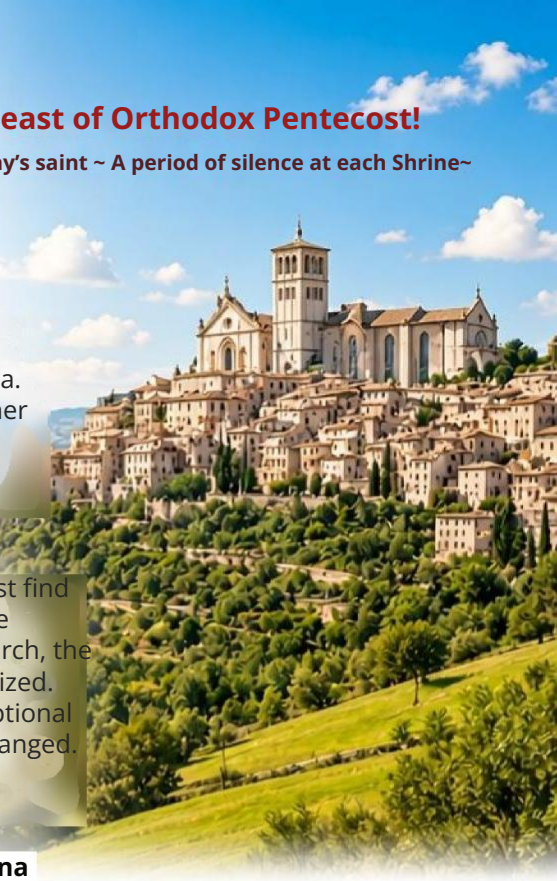
Your Host~

Fr. Thomas Colyandro, PhD, is an Orthodox priest, spiritual counselor and president of the Holy Silence Foundation, which teaches the tradition of silence, stillness, the Jesus Prayer, and the Holy Spirit Prayer. He is a Fellow at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, serves on the steering committee of the International Orthodox Theological Association's Asceticism and Spirituality Group, as well as on the board of the Orientale Lumen Foundation, and consults for St. Constantine College. Formerly a senior lecturer and administrator at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Theology and assistant executive director of its Center for Faith & Culture, he has written or edited ten books and led retreats, pilgrimages and master classes for two decades. His doctoral work named a theology of "uncreated silence," which explores the unspoken speech of the Holy Spirit, which is heard in prayer and lived as pastoral care. Fr. Thomas has prayed and studied at St. Catherine's on Sinai, St. Anthony's in the Eastern Desert of Egypt, St. Macarius in Scetis, Transfiguration Monastery on Mt. Tabor, St. John the Baptist Monastery in England, and with religious communities in Rome.

~Day-by-Day Itinerary~

A Daily Rhythm of Prayer: Each day we prepare our hearts for the Feast of Orthodox Pentecost!

~A simple morning prayer, before we set out ~ A Reflection, on the Holy Spirit and the day's saint ~ A period of silence at each Shrine~



Monday, June 7 – Depart Houston Airport on a non-stop flight to Rome, Italy.

Tuesday, June 8 – Arrive in Rome | Assisi
Arrive at Rome Fiumicino (FCO), where our escort meets the group after passport control and baggage claim. We allow generous time for luggage collection, coach loading and a comfort stop before the two-and-a-half-hour drive north into Umbria. Arriving in Assisi in the afternoon, we check in, rest and gather for a welcome dinner and orientation, at which Fr. Thomas introduces the journey as preparation for Pentecost. Dinner and overnight in Assisi. (D)

Wednesday, June 9 - Assisi
A full day in the hill town of St. Francis, a shared-heritage stop where East and West find common ground in the ideals of poverty, humility and love of creation. We visit the Basilica of St. Francis with its Giotto frescoes and the saint's tomb in the lower church, the Basilica of St. Clare, and the Cathedral of San Rufino, where both saints were baptized. Time is set aside for prayer and for a walk through the quiet medieval lanes; an optional descent to San Damiano or the Portiuncula at Santa Maria degli Angeli may be arranged. Dinner and overnight in Assisi. (B,D)



Thursday, June 10 – Assisi | Ortona
Morning departure across the Apennines to the Adriatic coast of Abruzzo, a scenic drive of about three and a half hours. We arrive in Ortona around midday with free time for lunch by the harbor. In the afternoon we visit the Basilica of St. Thomas the Apostle, which has held the relics of the Apostle since 1258, when they were brought from the Greek island of Chios. For an Orthodox pilgrim, this is a place of special resonance: Thomas, evangelizer of Edessa and India, rests here, venerated by East and West. Time for veneration and prayer at the crypt. Time for prayers of Ascension and reflection. Dinner and overnight in Ortona. (B,D)

Friday, June 11 – Ortona | San Giovanni Rotondo | Monte Sant'Angelo | Bari
A long but rewarding touring day south along the Adriatic into the Gargano promontory. Our first stop is San Giovanni Rotondo, the shrine of St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, where we see the friary church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, the crypt holding his tomb and the modern sanctuary designed by Renzo Piano. We continue forty minutes into the mountains to Monte Sant'Angelo and the Sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel, an ancient grotto shrine venerated without interruption by East and West since late antiquity and a UNESCO World Heritage site on the historic Lombard pilgrim route. Descending to the Apulian coast, we arrive in Bari in the evening. Dinner and overnight in Bari. (B,D)





Saturday, June 12 – Bari | Monopoli – The spiritual centerpiece of the pilgrimage. We spend the morning at the Basilica of St. Nicholas, resting place of St. Nicholas of Myra since 1087, whose Orthodox crypt chapel is one of the few places in the Latin West where the Divine Liturgy is regularly celebrated; arrangements for prayer at the relics are made in advance. We then walk the old town of Bari Vecchia, past the Cathedral of San Sabino and the Norman castle, with free time for lunch. In the afternoon, a short drive along the coast brings us to Monopoli and its Cathedral of the Madonna della Madia, home to the beloved Byzantine icon of the Theotokos said to have arrived by sea on a raft. Return to Bari for dinner and overnight. (B,D)



Sunday, June 13 – Matera Rock Churches and Alberobello
Full-day excursion inland to two of southern Italy's most remarkable towns, which pair naturally on one route. In Matera, a UNESCO World Heritage site, we explore the Sassi and include a guided visit to selected rock-hewn churches whose medieval Byzantine frescoes reflect the long presence of Greek monastic communities. After free time for lunch we continue to Alberobello, the unique town of whitewashed trulli with conical stone roofs, also protected by UNESCO. We stroll through the Rione Monti district and visit the trullo church of St. Anthony. Time for prayer and reflection. Return to Bari for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Monday, June 14 – Santa Maria di Cerrate | Lecce | Otranto
A full day in the far south of Puglia, the region where Greek was spoken and the Byzantine rite endured longest in Italy. We begin at the Abbey Church of Santa Maria di Cerrate, a remarkable Romanesque monastic complex outside Lecce whose medieval frescoes reflect strong Byzantine artistic influence. We then continue to Lecce, the "Florence of the South," for Piazza del Duomo, its honey-colored Baroque churches and the Roman Amphitheatre. After free time for lunch, we travel to Otranto, Italy's easternmost town and historic gateway to the East. In the cathedral we see the extraordinary twelfth-century Tree of Life mosaic floor and venerate the relics of the eight hundred Martyrs of Otranto. Return to Bari for dinner and overnight. (B,D)

Tuesday, June 15 – Bari | Grottaferrata | Rome
We leave Bari this morning and travel west across the Italian peninsula toward Lazio. En route we visit the Abbey of Santa Maria di Grottaferrata, founded in 1004 by St. Nilus of Rossano. This Byzantine Catholic monastery preserves the Greek monastic and liturgical tradition while remaining in communion with Rome, making it a particularly meaningful setting where Eastern and Western Christianity meet once again. We have time for lunch before continuing into Rome. Arrival is expected in the late afternoon or early evening. (B,D)



Wednesday, June 16 – Christian Rome
A full day devoted to Christian Rome. We begin at the Basilica of San Clemente, with its twelfth-century church built over a fourth-century basilica and, beneath that, a first-century house; the tomb of St. Cyril, Apostle to the Slavs, lies here. We continue to Santa Maria in Cosmedin, long the church of Rome's Greek community and home to the icon of the Madonna of the Passion, and to San Teodoro al Palatino, today entrusted to the Greek Orthodox Church. The afternoon takes in St. John Lateran, the cathedral of Rome, and the Basilica of St. Mary Major with its fifth-century mosaics. Dinner and overnight in Rome. (B,D)

Thursday, June 17 – Vatican, Catacombs and Historic Rome
Our second day in Rome continues the program at a comfortable pace. In the morning we cross to the Vatican for St. Peter's Basilica and the tomb of the Apostle. See Michelangelo's Pietà. We then visit the Catacombs of St. Callixtus on the Appian Way, burial place of the early Roman martyrs and a tangible link to the undivided Church of the first centuries. Pray at the tombs of the Saints. A farewell dinner brings the pilgrimage to a close. Overnight in Rome. (B,D)



Friday, June 18 – Departure
After an early breakfast, we bid farewell to the Eternal City and transfer to Fiumicino Airport for the return flight home, carrying with us the memories and blessings of twelve days in the footsteps of the apostles and saints. (B)

~Itinerary Subject to Change~

General Terms and Conditions

DEPOSIT*: $1000.00 per person (check only), insurance premium, if chosen (both non-refundable) along with completed Reservation Form and copy of passport valid for six months from return date.* Please add "Pilgrimage to Italy" in the memo field on your check. ***If you are applying or renewing a passport, please let us know immediately.***

FINAL PAYMENT: Due on or before February 24, 2027

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE & MAIL TO: Travelex International, 2500 West Higgins Road, Suite 850, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169.

FORM OF PAYMENT: For final payment, check or credit card. Note: Credit cards will be assessed a 3% processing fee. Please remember to add "Pilgrimage to Italy" in the memo on your check.

NOT INCLUDED: Cancellation/travel insurance, airline baggage fees, gratuities to drivers, tour guides and hotel staff, expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to: passport fees, entrance fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, beverages not included with meals, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED: Valid Passport – must be valid for 6 months from return date. Names on reservations must match passports. Copy of passport required. Citizens of countries other than U.S. - MUST contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements. We will inform you when the new ETIAS travel authorization goes into effect.

DOCUMENTS: I accept it is my responsibility to review the invoice receipt from Travelex International, travel documents and airline tickets for accuracy, including name spellings, travel dates and the itinerary and understand that I am responsible to contact Travelex International upon receipt if any information appears incorrect. I understand that changing any aspects of my travel arrangements may result in additional fees being applied to my purchase. I have been advised that the name, date of birth and gender must match my required documentation for travel. Printed documents are subject to a $35 shipping fee.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Premium and Business Class air is available but limited. Seat requests cannot be guaranteed however every effort will be made to accommodate seat requests. Subject to baggage rules and restrictions. Note: Currency rates & taxes subject to change until trip is paid in full and air is ticketed.

Travelex International is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. Routings are not guaranteed and are subject to change at any time. Seat assignments and upgrades may or may not be available and subject to additional fees. All airline terms and conditions, including baggage, departure taxes and fees and increases beyond our control are applicable. Frequent flyer miles may or may not be earned. Clients must retain boarding passes for any disputes.

In addition to any airline or tour-imposed change fees, an administrative fee of $50 per person will be charged. Deviations are subject to availability. May not be applicable on group air bookings. **Note:** Prices quoted during an inquiry cannot be guaranteed.

TOUR MINIMUM: 30 passengers for tour to operate.

GRATUITIES (Optional): Additional $225.00 per person to cover Drivers, Tour Guides and Hotel Staff will be added to your final payment.

CODE OF SAFETY: Participants must be able to stand and walk unassisted for an average of 45 minutes, often over uneven pavement. Participants must be able to climb stairs and get on and off a motorcoach unassisted.

CANCELLATION/TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend travel insurance. The optional travel insurance coverage may cover trip cancellation for covered medical reason, interruption, accident, baggage and medical and covered unforeseen circumstances. As with all insurance policies, cost is non-refundable and subject to change at any time. Travel insurance may protect you from the penalties listed below. Allianz Insurance has the right to change features and/or rates at any time and must be purchased with deposit. Modifications must be made within 14 days of any changes or additions to your itinerary. If you have questions regarding coverage, please reach out to Travel Guard at 1-800-826-8597 and reference their Deluxe Group Plan. Insurance is based on a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together. Insurance will be modified when any upgrades or additions are made.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you must cancel, the following per person penalties apply. Without exception, all cancellations must be in writing (letter, fax or email) to Travelex International and are effective the date of receipt. Any unused portions of the package are non-refundable. No shows or no written notice will result in 100% penalty. Cancellation penalties are as follows:

Date of Deposit to February 24, 2027, $1000pp + Insurance Premium is non-refundable.
February 25, 2027, to date of departure: 100% penalty of total charges.

Travel Guard Deluxe Group Plan Insurance Coverage

Coverage	Maximum Benefits	Coverage	Maximum Benefits
Trip Cancellation	Trip Cost	Medical Expenses	$20,000
Trip Interruption	125% Trip Cost	Emergency Medical Transportation	$50,000
Travel Delay	$500 (*Maximum of $150 per day*)	Baggage Delay	$500
Missed Connection	$500	Baggage & Personal Effects Loss	$1,000

Reservation is not confirmed until this form is signed and received by Travelex International.

Participation agreement: The purchase/payment of any travel services offered constitutes a contractual arrangement between the Traveler ("you") and Travelex International and its suppliers. As the lead traveler, you accept, and confirm you have authority and consent to accept, the Agreement with Travelex International for yourself and all members of your traveling party.

TRAVELEX INTERNATIONAL

Tour: _____ Travel Dates: _____

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I hereby agree to the foregoing Agreement with Travelex International, including the cancellation and refund terms.

Pilgrimage to Italy **June 7 – 18, 2027**

RESERVATION FORM

Please indicate:
_____ **$5999.00 pp., Double Occupancy** _____ **$432.00 Insurance per person, double**
_____ **$6979.00 Single Occupancy** _____ **$503.00 Insurance, single**

Land Only:
_____ **$4999.00 pp., Double Occupancy** _____ **$360.00 insurance per person, double**
_____ **$5979.00 Single Occupancy** _____ **$431.00 insurance, single**

IMPORTANT: Please use legal names as it appears on your passport. A copy of your passport is required with your reservation form and deposit.

Passenger 1: _____/_____/_____/_____
Title First Middle Last

Name for Name tag: _____ Birth Date _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Can we text you? Yes ____ No ____

E-mail address: _____ Preferred Method of Contact: _____

Are there any dietary or physical restrictions we should be aware of? _____

Will you be celebrating a special occasion? No ___ Yes ___ Occasion/Date _____

Emergency Contact (not traveling with you): _____ Phone: _____

Global Entry/TSA Number (if applicable): _____

Roommate name if not traveling with spouse: _____(fill out separate form)

Passenger 2: _____/_____/_____/_____
Title First Middle Last

Name for Name tag: _____ Birth Date _____

Home: _____ Cell: _____ Can we text you? Yes ___ No ___

E-mail address: _____ Preferred Method of Contact: _____

Are there any dietary or physical restrictions we should be aware of? _____

Will you be celebrating a special occasion? No ___ Yes ___ Occasion/Date _____

Global Entry/TSA Number (if applicable): _____

ENCLOSED: (please check)

____**Deposit:** $1000.00 per person deposit for ___Person(s) Plus Insurance. **Deposit amount:** $_____

____**Insurance:** Yes, I have included my insurance Insurance amount for name 1. $_____

____**Passport**: valid 6 months from return date Insurance amount for name 2. $_____

Total amount enclosed: $_____

____I decline the offered insurance. ***Opt out of special group insurance.***
By opting out, client is aware that they will not be protected against the cancellation charges, nor will they have any insurance protection while traveling.

Credit Card Payments: ____Visa ____ Mastercard ____ American Express NOTE: **Credit cards will be assessed a 3% fee.**

Name of card holder: _____

Card Number _____ Expiration _____ Security Code _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____