

PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE

*Lourdes * Ars * Paray-le-Monial * Cluny * Nevers * Bourges * Chartres * Lisieux * Paris
* Mont Saint - Michel * Normandy*

Spiritual Leader: Fr. Raymond Buehler
Pilgrims of St. Francis Borgia and St. Gerard Majella

March 26 – April 6, 2019

B = breakfast **L** = lunch **D** = dinner

Tuesday, March 26 – Depart from St. Louis for an overnight flight to Paris. Dinner and breakfast served aboard.

Wednesday, March 27 – Arriving in Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport early this morning, we take a connecting flight to the city of Toulouse in southern France, which is only a short drive to **Lourdes**, the birthplace of **St. Bernadette** and the site of the 1858 apparitions of Our Lady under the title of her Immaculate Conception. We check in and are served lunch at our hotel. We will have time on our own to visit the grounds of the Shrine of Lourdes. Then we celebrate **HOLY MASS** in a chapel of the **Basilica of the Immaculate Conception**. Dinner will be provided at our hotel. **B, L & D Lourdes**

Thursday, March 28 – We begin our day by **HOLY MASS** celebrated at the **GROTTO** where the Blessed Mother first appeared to Bernadette, and where the miraculous spring of water was unearthed by this saintly peasant girl. At the Information Center we can view the Lourdes video that gives the history of the apparitions. In this holy place of spiritual and physical healing we have the opportunity to take the “Baths” in the waters of Lourdes. During our stay we can go on a self-guided walking tour of Lourdes, providing the opportunity to see especially the places where St. Bernadette lived, at **the Boly Mill and the Cachot**, the 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. At 5:00 PM is the **daily procession of the Blessed Sacrament** with Blessing of the Sick. **Candlelight Procession** is available this evening. **B & D Lourdes**

Friday, March 29 – This morning we drive northeast to Toulouse, to visit the tomb of St. Thomas Aquinas. Afterwards we board a TGV (high-speed) train, arriving in **Lyon** this afternoon. As we drive from the train station through the historic old town, we hear highlights of the history of this important French city. Late afternoon we go to the top of Fourviere Hill to celebrate **MASS in the BASILICA OF NOTRE DAME DE FOURVIERE**. Then we check-in and have dinner together at our hotel. **B & D Lyon**

Saturday, March 30 – A short distance north we arrive in **Ars**, where we will celebrate **HOLY MASS in the PARISH CHURCH** made famous by **St. John Vianney, the Cure of Ars**. We can see the confessional where he spent long hours in the care of souls. Just to the west we reach **Cluny Abbey**, notable for its stricter adherence to the Rule of St. Benedict and the place where the Benedictine Order was formed. The Abbey was acknowledged from the 10th to the 12th centuries as the leader of western monasticism. We continue our journey west, arriving at **Paray-le-Monial** to visit the chapel in the Monastery of the Visitation Sisters. There we venerate the **Tomb of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque**, who was privileged by apparitions of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave her the mission to spread **devotion to the Most Sacred Heart**. From this sprung the pious practice of First Friday devotions. This evening we reach **Nevers**, the city where St. Bernadette spent the latter part of her life as a nun. At our hotel we check in and have dinner together. **B & D Nevers**

Sunday, March 31 – This morning in the Convent of St. Gildard we will celebrate **MASS at the TOMB OF ST. BERNADETTE**, reflecting on the Life of this holy peasant girl who was favored with eighteen apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes. Later this morning we enter the beautiful Loire Valley and reach **Bourges**. As we pass through the city we can gaze upon one of the great masterpieces of Gothic art, the **Cathedral of St. Stephen**. After time for lunch on our own, we move north to reach **Chartres**, still important today as a center for Christian pilgrims. Our guided tour late this afternoon will be within the city’s world famous Cathedral,

where we are shown its wonderfully colored stained-glass windows dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries. Those windows display a predominant color of “blue of Chartres.” We check in at our hotel and there enjoy dinner together.

B & D Chartres

Monday, April 1 – Today as we drive to the northwest we stop for lunch on our own. Our destination will be at **Mont Saint-Michel**, one of the wonders of the western world, built on a granite island just over one-half mile in circumference and 260 feet high. It is surrounded by the sea at high tide. We will celebrate mass in the chapel at the monastery. This afternoon our journey takes east to a small town, **Lisieux**. As we pass through Normandy there will be opportunities to stop and sample cider a product made famous in Normandy. We arrive Lisieux for dinner and overnight.

D Lisieux

Tuesday, April 2 – We drive to the north to visit the **Normandy Beaches**. It will be with strong feelings that we see some of the areas where the allies fought to recover freedom. We will reach **Arranches** on the Normandy coast, a major focal point of the invasion in 1944. We stop to see Pegasus Bridge, which was a key and a strategic supply line secured by the Allies on opening day of the invasion, and made famous in the film *The Longest Day*. On a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach is the **American Cemetery**, containing remains of 9,387 American military. At 12 noon in the cemetery’s chapel we will celebrate **Holy Mass**. Nearby we see **Pointe du Hoc**, a 100 foot cliff, fortified by the German army with concrete casements, but which was captured by the U.S. Army Rangers, who scaled the cliffs. There will be time for lunch on our own. Close by is a town called **Bayeux**, the first French town to be liberated, and which was miraculously saved from bombardment. We will view the famous **Tapestry of Bayeux**, a work which is 76 feet long and 1 ½ feet high, which retraces the epic of William the Conqueror’s expedition to England. Costumes, ships and arms of the Middle Ages are presented with astonishing realism. Back in Lisieux we have dinner together at our hotel.

B & D Lisieux

Wednesday, April 3- This morning we visit **Les Buissonnets**, the family home of St. Theresa in Lisieux. Her life of doing the simple things well on her path to sanctity has been so inspiring to so many. Her parents, Louis and Azelie Martin, raised five daughters, all of whom entered the religious life. Their cause, as a married couple, is currently under consideration for canonization. We visit the **Carmelite Monastery Chapel** and there venerate the **Tomb of St. Therese**. On the edge of town is the place where we will celebrate **HOLY MASS in the BASILICA OF ST. THERESE**. Inside this magnificent church we ponder her life, depicted on the beautiful mosaic interior, and reflect on how this young woman of faith and Doctor of the Church, called the **Little Flower**, reached sainthood. Before leaving, we visit the tombs of her parents, located in the Crypt behind the Basilica. We have dinner together in our hotel.

B & D Lisieux

Thursday, April 4 – We check out and drive to **Paris, the City of Lights**. There we head directly to the magnificent **Cathedral of Paris, Notre Dame on the Ile de la Cite**, for an inside visit and celebration of **HOLY MASS in a CHAPEL OF NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL**. With our Tour Manager as escort, we go by cable car to the top of **Montmartre** to visit on our own and pray at the imposing white structure on top of the hill, the **Basilica of Sacre Coeur**. Nearby the church we will find **Place du Tertre**, the famous artists’ square atop Montmartre. After descending from Montmartre our bus takes us to our hotel for check in and dinner together. Late this evening we will embark on a relaxing **Seine River Cruise**, lasting a little over an hour and in sight of many famous monuments of the City of Lights.

B & D Paris

Friday, April 5 – The day begins with a trip to the **Louvre Museum for a tour**. There is a food court in the Museum where we can find a bite to eat. In the afternoon we go to the **Shrine of the Miraculous Medal** on rue du Bac. On the way we have a **panoramic view of Paris**: the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees, and the Place de la Concorde. **St. Catherine Laboure** was in the religious order of the **Daughters of Charity**. In their convent chapel on rue du Bac Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine and gave her the image of the Miraculous Medal. The chair where Our Lady sat during one of the apparitions can be seen in the Chapel. We will celebrate **HOLY MASS in the CHAPEL OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL**. This evening we are treated to a Farwell Dinner of delicious French cuisine with wine.

B & D Paris

Saturday, April 6 – This morning we are transferred to Paris airport for our return flight home, arriving back home this same day.