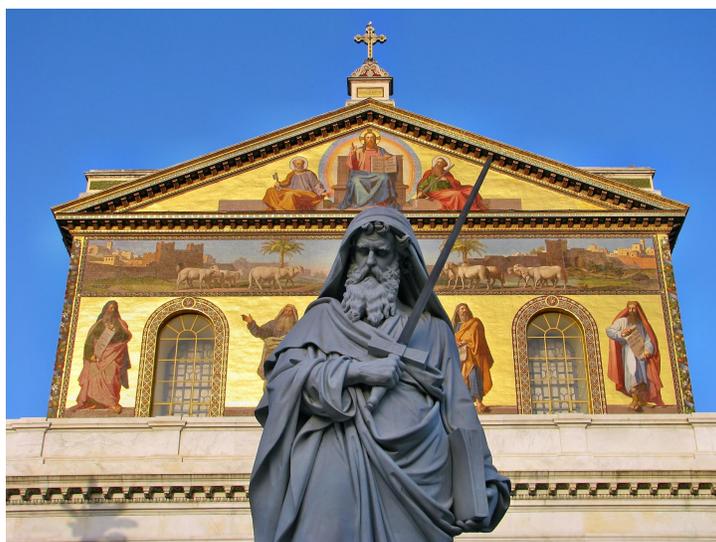


Pilgrimage to Southern Italy with Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky Vicar General Diocese of Jefferson City

Palermo ✚ Cathedral of Monreale ✚ Agrigento
Valley of the Temples ✚ Taormina ✚ Pompeii
Syracuse ✚ Naples ✚ St. Paul Outside the Wall
The Colosseum ✚ Rome ✚ Mass at the Tomb of St. John Paul II
Basilica of St. Peter ✚ Sistine Chapel

November 2nd - 14th, 2020

Spiritual Leader: **Monsignor Robert A. Kurwicky**
Vicar General Diocese of Jefferson City



Monday, November 2nd - We depart from our home city for an evening connecting overnight flight to Rome and then to Palermo. Dinner and breakfast served aboard.

D (dinner) & B (breakfast)

Tuesday, November 3rd - Palermo is Sicily's main port, nestled in the middle of a wide bay, a fascinating capital of the Province of Sicily. After check-in at our hotel our English-speaking Tour Manager takes us on a visit to Mount **Pellegrino (Pilgrim's Mountain)**, which offers a panoramic view of Palermo and the Sea. It is most famous for the **Sanctuary of Saint Rosalie**, patron saint of Palermo. This medieval Saint sought a hermit's life on Mount Pellegrino and many miracles were attributed to her intercession. The saint's bones were discovered in 1624. They were carried in procession throughout the city, and Palermo was liberated from the plague. Here at 2:00 PM we celebrate **HOLY MASS AT THE SHRINE OF SAINT ROSALIE**. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

D Palermo

Wednesday, November 4th - This morning we tour the beautiful city of Palermo, including the Old Center, the lovely Capo market, the Massimo Theater Square, the **Cathedral and the Royal Palace (Palazzo dei Normanni)** with its **Palatine Chapel**, considered one of the best monuments of Norman art in this part of the world. After a break for lunch and a little time on our own, we travel the short distance to **Monreale**, slightly south of Palermo on a panoramic upland overlooking the Conca d'Oro and the Oreto River valley. We visit the **Cathedral of Monreale (Santa Maria la Nuovo)** begun in 1174. The cathedral was built at the order of William II. The gorgeous interior walls of the Cathedral are completely decorated with mosaics. At 4:30 PM we celebrate **HOLY MASS IN THE CATHEDRAL OF MONREALE**. We return to our hotel and enjoy dinner together.

B & D Palermo

Thursday, November 5th - This morning we drive to the southern coast of Sicily to reach the city of **Agrigento**, one of the most popular tourist resorts in Sicily. It is celebrated internationally because it is an archeological, architectural and artistic center. We will visit the stunning **Valley of the Temples**, including the largest Doric temple in the world, the **Temple of Jupiter**. All that we see merits the title of a UNESCO World Heritage site. From ancient times to the present day, the Valley of the Temples' ruins, landscape and colors have inspired poets, writers and painters. This afternoon we visit the great Cathedral of Agrigento built in the 11th century. A very fine feature is its magnificent wooden ceiling added in 1508. We conclude our day at the **Shrine of Santa Maria dei Greci (St. Mary of the Greeks)**, where at 5:00 PM we celebrate **HOLY MASS**. Then we check in at our hotel for dinner and overnight.

B & D Agrigento

Friday, November 6th - Traveling east in Sicily we stop in a village called **Piazza Amerina**, known for the famous Roman **Villa del Casale**. The villa is one of the finest examples of Roman country dwellings on the island. The splendor of the mosaic decorations in the floors has made this ancient Roman villa world famous. As we continue driving to the East we will visit the highest volcano of Europe. At **Mount Etna** a local expert will help us take in some spectacular landscapes sculpted by nature. We will approach within a reasonable but safe distance of its crater. Then on the east coast we arrive at a lovely city called **Taormina**. After check-in to our hotel near the city center, we go to celebrate our **HOLY MASS in the CHURCH OF SANTA CATERINA** at 6:00 PM. Then we have dinner together.

B & D Taormina

Saturday, November 7th - This morning we drive to the south to enjoy many important sights in and around **Syracuse**. Upon arrival there we visit and at 10:30 AM celebrate **HOLY MASS at the SHRINE OF MADONNA DELLE LACRIME** (the Weeping Madonna). The old town of Syracuse has fascinating streets to explore. Then there will be time for lunch on our own. This afternoon we tour the **Archeological Park** with its ancient wonders of a Roman Amphitheater, a Greek theater and the marvelous **Orecchio di Dioniso** (Ear of Dionysus). Back in Taormina we have dinner and overnight. **B & D Taormina**



Sunday, November 8th - After an early breakfast we drive south to **Catania**. The patron saint of Catania is **Saint Agatha**, in whose veneration Catanians and devout pilgrims coming from afar join in celebration for 3 intense days of festivities each year on February 3rd, 4th and 5th (her Feast Day). Some years the crowd has numbered almost a million. **St Agatha lived 231 to 251 AD** (born in Catania or Palermo) and martyred under the Roman Emperor Decius for her steadfast faith and adherence to her virginity. The heroic virtue of this saint of those early days of Christianity is depicted in the **Cathedral of Catania** and several other Shrines. We will celebrate our **HOLY MASS in the Church of BADIA SANT'AGATA**. By late morning we go to Catania's airport to board a flight at 12:45 PM, which takes us to Naples Airport. Arriving in the afternoon, we will be guided into the center of **Naples** for a visit to the **Cathedral of San Gennaro** and as well as the **Naples Cathedral**. Here at The Naples Cathedral, the faithful gather three times a year to witness the liquefaction of St. Januarius blood. We will have time to visit other landmarks which display beautiful art and architecture of this historic and important city of Italy. We check in and have dinner together at our hotel. **B & D Naples**



Monday, November 9th - We drive a short distance to the east to reach a world-famous place called **Pompeii**. First, at 8:30 AM, we will celebrate **HOLY MASS at the SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**. After Mass we have a guided tour through the excavations of Pompeii, a Roman city, which was completely destroyed by the **volcanic eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD**. A delicious lunch will be provided for us today. We venture to L' Antica Pizzeria de Michele. A birthplace for Pizza. We have some leisure time this afternoon to explore Naples on our own. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. **B, L (lunch) & D Naples**

Tuesday, November 10th - This morning we journey north to Rome driving on the main highway called **Autostrada del Sole** (Highway of the Sun). We stop at the **Benedictine Abbey of Montecassino**, completely rebuilt after World War II. There in the Abbey Church at 10:00 AM we celebrate **HOLY MASS at the TOMBS OF ST. BENEDICT** and his sister **ST. SCHOLASTICA**. Reaching Rome, the **Eternal City**, we check in at our hotel and have dinner together. **B & D Rome**



Wednesday, November 11th - This morning we enter the **Basilica of St. Peter**, where at 8:00 AM at an altar on the right, just past the Altar of the Pietá, we celebrate **HOLY MASS AT THE TOMB OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II**. As we walk through this magnificent Basilica and we pray, our thoughts are flooded with the events that have taken place here and the people who have worshiped in this great center of the Church. After Mass we meet a guide for a tour through the treasures of the **Vatican Museum**, seeing especially the **Sistine Chapel** with its awesome frescos by Michelangelo. The tour concludes with an inside visit of the Basilica. This afternoon we have time to explore on our own. Some may be tempted to ascend to the top of the **dome of St. Peter's**. The effort will be rewarded with a marvelous view of Vatican City as well as a vast panorama of the city of Rome. This evening we gather for dinner near our hotel. **B & D Rome**



Thursday, November 12th - After our breakfast this morning, we head over to the **Roman Colosseum** for a guided tour. After the the tour and a break for lunch, we drive into the heart of Rome to the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**, the world's most illustrious church dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. In the *Confessio* beneath the high altar we can venerate the **relics of the Crib** that held the Infant Jesus. We see an ornate ceiling comprised of gold from the new world as well as a striking mosaic apse. This afternoon at 3:15 PM we celebrate **HOLY MASS IN ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH**, in a beautiful side chapel of this incredible Church. Here, the Frescoes are beautiful with three side Altars that are dedicated to and host Saints Such as **Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Saint Robert Bellarmino and Saint Joachim**. Here, we will celebrate **MASS AT THE ALTAR OF St ROBERT BELLARMINE**. After Mass, we are within walking distance of a favorite Roman gathering place, the **Trevi Fountain**. A few blocks further we reach the **Spanish Square**, where we see the beautiful **Spanish Stairs** leading up to Holy Trinity Church. Our bus carries us back to the hotel, and then we go out to a nearby restaurant for dinner together. **B & D Rome**

Saturday November 13th - Today, we start the morning off with Holy **MASS AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALPHONSUS**. Here you will see the original painting of **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** is, perhaps, the most widely-recognized icon in the world, which hangs above the main Altar. The rest of the day is free for our own activities. Much can be seen by walking through Old Rome: the **Piazza Navona**, the **Pantheon**, and countless church where tombs of saints and great masterpieces can be discovered. *Rome, the Center of the Roman Empire and Center of the Church!* Before dinner, we reconvene for **HOLY MASS AT THE CHURCH OF THE GESU**. *Soon after*, this evening we go out, celebrating together at a **Farewell Dinner** with wine and music. **B & D Rome**

Sunday November 14th - We check out of our hotel and transfer to the Rome airport for our return flight to the U.S., arriving this same day in our home cities

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

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