

**Great Shrines of France** 

Pilgrimage

# Your Pilgrimage Includes:

† Round-trip Airfare

† All Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges

† 11 nights accommodation at centrally located first class Hotels as follows: (or similar)

- ~ 3 nights: Oct 01 04: Grand Hotel Moderne, Lourdes
- ~ 2 nights: Oct 04 06: Grand Hotel de l'Esperance, Lisieux

~ 3 nights: Oct 06 – 09: The Pullman Paris Centre Bercy, Paris

- ~ 3 nights: Oct 09 12: Hotel B4, Lyon
- † Transfers as per Itinerary
- † Breakfast and Dinner daily
- † Wine and mineral water with dinners
- † Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- † Tour Escort throughout
- † Assistance of professional local Catholic guide(s)
- † Sightseeing and admission fees as per Itinerary
- † Mass Daily and Spiritual activities
- † Whispers
- † Luggage handling (1 piece per person)
- † Flight bag and PDF digital confirmation of all travel documents



<u>Spiritual Director</u>
Fr. Jerry John Daigle Jr.

Group Coordinator
Bettie Nolin

Sep 30 - Oct 12, 2024

\$6,267 per person from Shreveport (SHV)

\*All Pricing Based on Double Occupancy.

Pricing available from any airport.

# Sample Daily Itinerary

## Day 1, Mon, Sep 30: Depart for Lourdes

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Meals served on board.

## Day 2, Tue, Oct 01: Arrive Lourdes

Upon arriving at Pau or Toulouse airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrival hall, where you be greeted by your tour guide and/-or driver. Embark on the scenic drive to Lourdes. Check-in to your hotel, and then relax or explore before dinner. Following dinner, you will have free time to pray the Rosary and to attend the candlelight procession. These processions are lit by candlelight and guided by the Most Holy Rosary. Following this prayerful experience, you will return to your hotel.

### Day 3 & 4, Wed & Thu, Oct 02 & Oct 03: Lourdes

Over the next two days in Lourdes, you will pray and meditate in yet another site of Our Lady's apparitions. Our Lady first appeared to Bernadette in 1858 and announced herself as "The Immaculate Conception" near the Grotto of Massabielle. During the first two apparitions, little Bernadette prayed the Rosary with Our Lady. She left without exchanging any words. During the following apparitions, Our Lady emphasized God's love for us, penance, and the necessity of performing acts of penance for sinners. Throughout your time in Lourdes, you will have the opportunity to attend Mass at the Grotto, where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette. Here you have opportunities to watch a video presentation that explains in detail the story of Lourdes; and drink water from the miraculous spring that has healed many. You will have the opportunity to experience Christ's unconditional love as you meditate upon the "life-size" Stations of the Cross that overlook the Grotto of Massabielle. You will walk in and meditate upon the footsteps of St. Bernadette. You will have the opportunity to see Boly Mill, the birthplace of St. Bernadette, and the "Cachot," an abandoned prison where Bernadette's impoverished family lived. Each evening following dinner, you will have an opportunity to attend the candlelight procession and the Rosary before a restful overnight. \*Full immersion in the Baths is still prohibited. The Baths have now been replaced by the water gesture, a ceremony that takes visitors back to basics, followed by prayer and then venerating of the Status of the Virgin Mary.

### Day 4, Fri, Oct 04: Lourdes - Paris - Lisieux (St. Therese - The Little Flower)

Today, you will enjoy breakfast before departing for Pau or Lourdes airport for your short flight to Paris. Upon arrival in Paris, visit and attend Mass at the magnificent, Sacre Coeur Basilica that stands atop Montmartre Hill. The Basilica, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, was originally built in 1914, as an act of penance for the infidelity that France was experiencing during that time. While on your visit, in addition to the extraordinary artwork and architecture that forms the Basilica, you will see the beautiful mosaic of the Risen Christ, and the remarkable Grand Organ. Celebrate Mass at the Crypt that contains the Tombs of many notable Cardinals. Time permitting, you may have the opportunity during your free time to ascend a staircase to the Dome where you will take in a breathtaking panoramic view of the city of Paris. Following this visit, you will enjoy lunch on your own and depart for Lisieux. According to Pope Pius X, St. Therese of Lisieux was the "greatest saint of modern times." Her extraordinary love for God and service to humanity will come alive as you walk in the great Saint's footsteps. During your visit, you will see the beautiful Basilica of St. Therese, and the magnificent mosaics and stained glass that are contained within. Dinner an overnight at your hotel in Lisieux.

## Day 5, Sat, Oct 05: Lisieux - Normandy Beaches - Mont Saint Michel - Lisieux

This morning you will transfer to Normandy Landing beaches. The Normandy landings were the landing operations, which took place on Tuesday, June 6th, 1944 (termed D-Day) by the Allies, of Normandy, during World War II. As the largest seaborne invasion in history, the operation began the liberation of German-occupied northwestern Europe from Nazi control and contributed to the Allies' victory on the Western Front. Continue to visit The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, a World War II cemetery and memorial in Colleville-Sur-Mer, Normandy, France, honoring the American troops that died in Europe during World War II. Many of the brave American soldiers of World War II got buried here. It is encouraged to say a prayer in thanksgiving for their courage Next visit of Mont St. Michel, where the Monastery of Le Mont St. Michel, also known as "The Wonder of the Western World" is located. Its name given the monastery is surrounded by a magnificent bay, which has one of the greatest tidal ranges in Europe, resulting in a breathtaking view. In 709 Michael, the Archangel, requested that Aubert, Bishop of Avranches, built and consecrate this monastery. Since the ninth century, the Abbey has been home to a monastic community to ensure the continuation of a spiritual presence. For centuries, it has been a pilgrimage site for those seeking Eternal Life with God. You will return to Lisieux for dinner and overnight.

# Day 6, Sun, Oct 06: Lisieux - Charters - Paris

This morning, your day begins with an early breakfast, before we depart for Chartres, known worldwide for its massive Cathedral Notre Dame, and its incredible stained-glass windows from the 12th and 13th century. The World Heritage site, UNESCO, calls the Cathedral "the high point of French Gothic art" and a "masterpiece". You will have some free time for lunch in the quaint town of Chartres. After lunch, we will continue to Paris for check in at your hotel, followed by some free time before a delicious dinner and an overnight.

## Day 7, Mon, Oct 07: Paris: Miraculous Medal - Notre Dame

Today, you will enjoy a sightseeing tour of Paris. We start with Our Lady of Miraculous Medal, where we celebrate Mass, after which we will have to opportunity to view the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Laboure. The Saint's guardian angel led her to the chapel, where the Blessed

Virgin Mary appeared to her. During apparitions, Our Lady repeatedly instructed the making and purpose of the Miraculous Medal, as well as the green scapular. According to the Blessed Virgin Mary, those who wear the Miraculous Medal and scapular will receive special protection and abundant graces. Following your prayerful and reflective experience, we will walk to Saint Vincent de Paul Church, than continue on tour of Paris. Our panoramic tour, will take us to the most recognizable symbol of the city of Paris, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, Invalides, the L'Arch de Triomphe and the Champ-Elysees, one of the world's most famous boulevards. We will make a stop at La Madeleine, with the statue of Mary Magdalene carried to heaven by angels. Your busy day ends with a lovely meal and a comfortable overnight.

### Day 8, Tue, Oct 08: Paris: La-Sainte Chapelle

This morning visit La-Sainte Chapelle, or Holy Chapel, originally built to house the Crown of Thorns and a piece of the True Cross from Christ's Passion. St. Louis (King Louis IX) acquired the relics and ordered this chapel to be built. The relics were later moved to the Notre Dame Cathedral and survived the 2019 fire. One of the oldest surviving buildings in Paris, the chapel was consecrated on April 26, 1248 and was the royal residence of the French Kings until the 14th century. La-Sainte Chapelle in the Palais de la Cité, is a jewel of the Rayonnat Gothic period ornamented with over 1,000 detailed scenes in the 15 stained glass windows. The church also has a rich history and was at one time a used as a prison where Marie-Antoinette was held. Since 1862 La-Sainte Chapelle has been officially recognized as a national historic monument and is a very popular tourist attraction. Major renovations took place before celebrations for the 800th Anniversary of the birth of St. Louis in 2015. Reminder of the day is free to enjoy and explore Paris on your own. Dinner and overnight in Paris.

## Day 9, Wed, Oct 09: Paris - Paray Le Monial - Lyon

After breakfast, we continue our travelling on to Paray le Monial, the place where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque experienced visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the 17th century. In revealing His Heart to her, Jesus said: "Behold the Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing but has been poured out totally and consumed as proof of its love". After celebrating Mass in the Shrine of Paray-le-Monial, we will start a guided visit that features the Chapel of Apparitions, the place where St. Margaret Mary Alacoque experienced visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the 17th century, the room of the relics of St. Margaret Mary, the Diorama of St Margaret and the Eucharist Museum. Other highlights include the Basilica of Sacre Coeur and the Chapel of St. Claude in honor of St. Margaret Mary's Spiritual Director. After the visit depart Paray Le Monial to continue on to Lyon. Dinner and an overnight in Lyon.

## Day 10, Thu, Oct 10: Lyon - La Salette - Lyon

After breakfast, we depart for La Salette located in a high alpine pasture in the French Alps. La Salette is the site where the Virgin Mary appeared in 1846 to two shepherds, Melanie Matthew and Maximin Gird. Our Lady appeared to these shepherds crying, lamenting over the lack of observance of Sundays and the profaning of her Son's holy name. A spring forever marks the spot where the Virgin appeared and where millions of pilgrims come, in order to drink the fresh spring water and to pray. The stunning mountain scenery and lush mountain trails make La Salette one of the most spectacular pilgrimage sites in France, with a beautiful Basilica built to honor the Virgin Mary. In 1996, La Salette celebrated the 150th anniversary of Our Lady's first appearance. We return to Lyon for dinner and overnight.

## Day 11, Fri, Oct 11: Lyon - Ars - Lyon

Enjoy a nice breakfast before we start our day. Lyon stands on the site of the ancient Roman city called Lugdunum, founded in 43 BC, which was the capital of Gaul, and later, became a major Christian center. This city is filled with renowned history, culture, and architecture. This morning we will enjoy a tour of Lyon, including a visit to the Basilique Notre-Dame of Fourviere, which was built after the Franco-Prussian War when the people of Lyon had vowed to create a Marian sanctuary if their city was spared. The Basilica is a blend of Gothic and Byzantine styles with a richly decorated interior. Fourviere Hill provides a sensational panoramic outlook onto the city of Lyon. The views extend to the Croix-Rousse and the Terreaux districts, the Quartier Saint-Jean and the Place Bellecour. In the afternoon, we will depart towards Ars where we will visit the Shrine dedicated to Saint Jean Marie Vianney, the patron saint of the priesthood. In Ars, we will be able to visit the presbytery and the Basilica where we will find the incorrupt body of the Cure of Ars, and to enjoy a short documentary about his life. Return to Lyon for a delicious meal and restful overnight.

## Day 12, Sat, Oct 12: Return home

This morning, you will begin with breakfast and continue with a transfer to the Lyon airport for your return flight(s) home.