

CTU ROME AND ASSISI, ITALY TOURGRIMAGE ORIGINS OF FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY (SH5002B)¹

13-22 February 2025²

DR. GILBERTO CAVAZOS-GONZÁLEZ, OFM, STHD

Cost per credit student: \$2700 plus tuition

Cost per auditor: \$3350³

Airfare not included

Single room supplement - \$400.

ITINERARY

This Tourgrimage begins at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025 and ends after supper on Friday, February 21, 2025.

Non-students (auditors) are very welcome in this trip. Auditors are encouraged to take SH4002a/SH5002a during the A Term (Spring 2025), but are not required to do so.

For credit students, this trip is the follow up to SH4002a/SH5002a during the A Term (Spring 2025).

Please contact Prof. Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM (jdsctus@ctu.edu) for information and application.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10	11	12 Travel Day	13 Arrive in Roma	14 Franciscan Roma	15 Go to Assisi, Francis's and Clare's home	16 Francis's and Clare's journey of conversion
17 Franciscan family's Birthplace	18 Visit Tombs and Return to Roma	19 The Lord Pope and our Catholicity	20 Rieti Shrines: Incarnating the Gospel	21 The Virgen made Church	22 Going home again	23

¹ Sponsored by the John Duns Scotus Chair of Franciscan Spirituality and CTU's Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry Department.

² You will need to travel on or before Feb 13, 2025 to arrive on time and depart on or after Feb 23, 2025.

³ Price includes shared accommodations, half pension (breakfast plus 1 meal) in Rome, full pension (breakfast plus 2 meals) in Assisi, train/bus fares, museum tickets. Cost does not include airfare.

Itinerary is subject to change

We will visit several of the shrines dedicated to the memory of the original members of the three orders of the Franciscan family. This itinerary is designed to help us experience the spirituality and art of the Franciscan tradition. For this reason, we have prepared an itinerary to help us get the most out of our time in Italy. What follows is our proposed itinerary of site visits. We will try to follow this itinerary as much as possible, but it is subject to change because of weather and changes in museum and Church schedules.

PART A: INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

We will gather at CTU and on Zoom to get to know each other and prepare for the trip. We will schedule this for a Tuesday evening in January.

GETTING TO ROMA

On or before the 12th of February: Fly to Roma Fiumicino Airport. You will need to arrive in Rome on your own and be checked into the Domus Helena by the start of the Tourgrimage.

PART B: ROMA FRANCESCANA

We will visit places important to the Franciscan Tradition of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Orders.

DAY 1 – (THURSDAY 13, FEB) GETTING USED TO BEING IN ROME

Arrive in Rome around midday and make your way to the hotel. We will gather in the lobby at 3:00 pm (15:00) and begin to orient ourselves to the Laterano/Esquilino area of Rome. We will slowly make our way to [Alle Fratte in Trastevere](#) for **Cena together**.

In Roma we will be staying at

[Domus Helena](#) Franciscan Guest House
Via Ferruccio, 25,
00185 Roma RM, Italia

DAY 2 – (FRIDAY 14 FEB) FRANCISCAN SITES

We will begin our tourgrimage by focusing on the Franciscan spiritual and intellectual tradition. We will spend the morning at the [Pontificia Università Antonianum](#), present day home of the almost 800 year old Franciscan school of thought. We will visit the magnificent Defense Hall dedicated to the Franciscan spiritual and intellectual tradition (Aula sant'Antonio). Afterward we will visit [Santa Maria in Aracoeli](#), the oldest Franciscan Church in Rome.

In the afternoon, we will visit the [Vatican Museums](#). These museums were begun by the Franciscan Pope Julius II and are connected to the Franciscan Popes Clement XIV and Sixtus IV. The heart of the Vatican Museums is the Niccoline Chapel, decorated by the Franciscan artist Fra Angelico.

PART C: FRANCIS AND CLARE'S (RE)BIRTH

[Assisi](#) is the birthplace of both Francis and Clare of Assisi. It and it's surroundings is the place where the first brothers came to be with Francis, where Clare abandoned her first-class life to

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join the second-class brothers in living the Gospel. From here, the Gospel way of life reached out even to secular Christians who wanted to follow the simplicity of Francis and Clare by becoming the brothers and sisters in penance.

DAY 3 – (SATURDAY 15, FEB) GO TO ASSISI: FRANCIS AND CLARE’S HOME

Today, we say goodbye to Roma. We will catch the morning train to Assisi. In Assisi we will be staying at

[Dei Priori Boutique Hotel](#)
Corso Giuseppe Mazzini, 15,
06081 Assisi PG, Italia.

In the afternoon, we will visit [San Rufino](#), [Chiesa Nuova](#) and [Santa Maria Maggiore](#), shrines connected with Francis and Clare’s home life and youth.

DAY 4 – (SUNDAY 16, FEB) FRANCIS AND CLARE’S JOURNEY OF CONVERSION

Christian conversion is not a once-in-a-lifetime event; rather, it is a lifelong journey of conforming to the image of Christ, imprinted in us. We will visit two places of Francis’s initial journey of conversion, the [Carceri](#) and [San Damiano](#). We will focus our visit to San Damiano on Clare’s lifelong conversion journey and mystical prayer, remembering Francis’s stigmata.

DAY 5 – (MONDAY 17, FEB) PORZIUNCOLA: BIRTHPLACE OF A NEW FAMIGLIA

Francis and Clare both call us to love each other with a love that is greater than a mother’s love. Family imagery is at the heart of Franciscan spirituality. Today, we visit the place that gave birth to the Franciscan family, [Santa Maria degli Angeli](#) (the [Porziuncola](#)).

In the afternoon, we will visit the [Basilica of Santa Chiara](#), where the first sister of St. Francis is buried. We will see her remains, her relics and the [San Damiano Crucifix](#), before which she prayed most of her life.

DAY 6 – (TUESDAY 18, FEB) GOODBYE ASSISI

Today we return to Roma, but before we go, we will visit the [Basilica of San Francesco](#), where St. [Francis is buried](#). This is also the first Franciscan convent, and the place that led to many quarrels in the Franciscan family. Today it houses the [oldest Franciscan library](#) with some of the oldest Franciscan documents, including [Ms 33](#) which is the first collection of Francis’s Opuscula.

In the afternoon, we will take the train back to Roma and the Domus Helena Franciscan Guest House.

PART D: CALLED TO LIVE THE GOSPEL

The early Franciscan form of life was a mix of Catholic identity, contemplative life and apostolic ministry. The friars would spend three Lenten periods a year (Lent, Advent and the Lent of St. Michael) in a hermitage praying and studying Shrines and to then go out on preaching cycles. Francis spent his lents in various hermitages in central Italy, The hermitages around the Rieti Valley have remained as particularly special to the Gospel Life of the Franciscan Family, they focus on the Incarnation of God’s Word, the Promise of God’s Mercy, Life in Fellowship and most especially the Rule of Life based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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DAY 7 – (WEDNESDAY, 19 FEB) OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Francis and Clare both cherished their Catholic identity and could not imagine living the Gospel outside of the Church. They turned to the pope for advise and approval of their way of life. Today we will spend the morning with Pope Francisco and thousands of Christians from around the world.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Cathedral of Roma, [San Giovanni in Laterano](#), where Francis met with the pope. We will also visit the apse of San Giovanni, which was renovated and enhanced by Franciscan artists.

DAY 8 – (THURSDAY 20, FEB) GRECCIO AND FONTE COLOMBO

Both Francis and Clare were amazed at the incarnation of God's Word. The love of God for humankind was so great, he chose to become one of us. In 1223, Francis celebrated Christmas in a cave outside of the town of Greccio. We will do the same at the Shrine of Greccio.

In the afternoon we will visit Fonte Colombo where Francis wrote the Rule of the Friars Minor, encouraging the brothers to incarnate the Gospel of Jesus in prayer, community life and ministry.

DAY 9 – (FRIDAY 21 FEB) THE VIRGEN MADE CHURCH

Today we will focus on the mother of Christ, Santa Maria. Francis and Clare's Marian devotion was one of imitation. Francis encourages us to imitate Maria's relationship with the Trinity as individual children of the Father, mothers, sisters and brothers of the Son, spouses and temples of the Holy Spirit. And as Church he invites us to be an extension of the Virgen Mother of God. We will visit the [Pontificia Accademia Mariana Internazionale](#) and [Santa Maria Maggiore](#), the oldest temple dedicated to the Mother of Jesus. The apse of Santa Maria Maggiore was also renovated by Franciscan artists. We will also visit the second oldest temple to Mary, Santa Maria in Trastevere. We will also visit [San Francesco A Ripa](#) home of the first Franciscans in Rome. We will end with a festive cena at Alle Fratte in Trastevere my favorite restaurant in all of Italia.

PART E: BACK HOME AGAIN**SATURDAY 22 FEB**

Today you are free to fly back home or to continue your visit of Italia on your own.

For more information or the course syllabus contact

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