

**SH4002B / SH5002B**  
**ORIGINS OF FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY (PART B)**

2-13 June 2023

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This study tourgrimage<sup>1</sup> sponsored by the John Duns Scotus Chair of Franciscan Spirituality in combination with the Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry department of the Catholic Theological Union provides students/auditors with a survey of the spirituality arising from the movement/family begun by Francis and Clare of Assisi in the thirteenth century. Besides reviewing the origins of the Franciscan Way of Life, special attention will be given to the priorities of Franciscan-Clarian life:

- 1) Having a Contemplative Vision of Reality
- 2) Being Minors with a Preferential Option for Poverty
- 3) Being Missioned in Eucharistic Communion
- 4) Being Brothers and Sisters in Universal Fellowship
- 5) Having an On-going Formation in the Sign of the Cross

The tourgrimage will visit several of the shrines dedicated to the memory of the original members of the three orders of the Franciscan family. Therefore, the course will take place in

- A) Some online sessions in preparation of the study tourgrimage.
- B) [Franciscan Rome](#): encountering our catholicity
- C) [Inspirational Assisi](#): Francis and Clare's birth and rebirth
- D) [Mystical La Verna](#): mountain of the Stigmata
- E) [Evangelical Rieti](#): called to live the Gospel

Pilgrimages and Study tours are wonderful ways to experience the spirituality, history and art of our Franciscan tradition. For this reason, we have prepared an itinerary to assist us in getting the most out of our time in Italy. What follows is our proposed itinerary of lectures and 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 1: INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL**

### **Prerequisite Course: Origins of Franciscan Spirituality, Part A (May 2023)**

Synchronous event: Sometime in May, we will gather at CTU and on Zoom to get to know each other and prepare for the trip.

You will need to arrive in Rome on your own and be checked into the Domus Helena by the start of the Tourgrimage (Study and Prayer Tour).

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<sup>1</sup> A Tourgrimage is a pilgrimage that combines elements of prayerful pilgrimage with the comforts of tourism like hotels instead of hermitages, good food instead of abstinence and mortification. The tourism aspected is kept in check in favor of prayerful experience and an invitation to ongoing conversion.  
N.B. Itinerary is subject to change.

## **PART 2: ROMA FRANCESCANA: ENCOUNTERING OUR CATHOLICITY**

We will go to San Giovanni in Laterano to see the famous statue of Francis holding up the Cathedral of Rome and [Mater et Caput of Christianity](#). We will also see the Franciscan mosaics in the Apse of the Cathedral. [While in Rome](#) we will also visit other places important to the Franciscan Tradition of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Orders.

### **Day 1 – (Friday 02 June) Getting used to being in Rome**

Opening Session

Visit: [San Francesco a Ripa](#) where Francis stayed and Bl Ludovia Albertoni prayed

Festive Cena at [Alle Fratte](#), one of the best restaurants in Italia

### **Day 2 – (Saturday 03 June) Franciscan Sites**

Visit [San Giovanni in Laterano](#) where Francis and Pope Innocent III met

Visit [Santa Maria Maggiore](#) Apse designed and executed by Franciscan artists

Visit and lecture on the Shrine to the Franciscan Spiritual and Intellectual Tradition

### **Day 3 – (Sunday 04 June)**

Attend the Papal Angelus at San Pietro in Vaticano

Possible Visits to other Franciscan churches: [San Lorenzo](#), [Santa Maria in Aracoeli](#) and [Santi Apostoli](#)

## **PART 3: INSPIRATIONAL ASSISI: FRANCIS AND CLARE’S (RE)BIRTH**

Assisi is the birthplace of both Francis and Clare of Assisi, however the birthplace of the Franciscan family is the little town of Santa Maria degli Angeli in the valley outside Assisi. It is the place where the first brothers came to be with Francis, where Clare abandoned her first-class life to 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 their brothers and sister in penance.

### **Day 4 – (Monday 05 June)**

Take train to [Assisi](#)

Settle into the [Domus Pacis](#)

Visit [San Rufino](#) where Francis and Clare were baptized

Visit [Chiesa Nuova](#) the supposed home of Francis and his famiglia

### **Day 5 – (Tuesday 06 June) Portiuncola**

Spend most of the day praying and visiting [Santa Maria degli Angeli](#), home of the Porziuncola where Francis lived and died and where the Franciscan Family was born.

### **Day 6 – (Wednesday 07 June) San Damiano and Carceri**

Visit [San Damiano](#) the place that Francis repaired and was the home of Clare and her sisters who spent much time praying before the famous crucifix

Spend part of the afternoon at the [Carceri, the caves](#) where Francis, Leo, Rufino, Angelo, Masseo and so many others spent time in prayer and silent recollection.

Possibly visit [Santa Maria Maggiore](#), the place where Francis stripped himself of everything to call God alone, Father.

### **Day 7 – (Thursday 08 June) [Santa Chiara and San Francesco](#)**

Visit Santa Chiara, the home of the original community of Poor Ladies and chapel of the original San Damiano Crucifix as well as Clare's body.

Visit San Francesco the old dumping grounds where San Rufino and his deacon were martyred and where Francis is buried. Home of the Famous Giotto cycle of Francis's life

Possibly visit the Oldest Franciscan Library at the Sacro Convento and see the original manuscript of Francis's writings.

### **Day 8 – (Friday 09 June) [Mystical La Verna](#): mountain of the Stigmata**

We will take a day trip to visit Francis's mountain where we will consider Francis's struggle and the "invention" of the stigmata. It was on this mountain that the Franciscan mystical theologian Bonaventure di Bagnoreggio wrote *the Soul's Journey into God*.

## **PART 4: EVANGELICAL RIETI: CALLED TO LIVE THE GOSPEL**

One hour from Rome, we find the town of Rieti, where Pope Honorius III resided surrounded by mountains. It was in these mountains that Francis and the friars would go for their hermitage experiences or prayer and recollection before going to preach the Gospel.

These [old hermitages are now the shrines](#) of Fonte Colombo where Francis wrote the Rule for the Second Class Brothers (Fratrum Minorum), La Foresta where Francis taught a young friar the need to eat, Greccio where Francis reenacted the poverty of Jesus's birth at the Christmas Mass and Poggio Bustone where Francis experienced God's profound mercy.

### **Day 9 – (Saturday 10 June) Return to Rome**

We will return to Rome on a tour bus and stop in [Greccio](#) to celebrate Christmas in the place that gave rise to the nativity set (creche).

### **Day 10 – (Sunday 11 June)**

The morning is free for you to worship with either the two English speaking communities in Rome or with any of the Italian communities in Rome or the Vatican.

Take the afternoon to visit the [Roman Forum](#) or the [Vatican Museums](#) or any of a number of other tourist attractions.

**Day 11 – (Monday 12 June)**

We will take a tour bus and visit [Fonte Colombo](#) and [La Foresta](#). If we have time we will visit [Poggio Bustone](#) before returning to Rome.

**Day 12 – (Tuesday 13 June) Feast of Saint Anthony**

We will celebrate Sant'Antonio, the first Franciscan Scholar at the Franciscan Basilica that house the Official University of the OFM named in his honor.

We will end the day with our closing session and a Festive Cena.

**PART 5: BACK TO YOUR FUTURE**

**14 June: You are free to return to your homes.**

N.B. Itinerary is subject to change.