Padua • Venice • Ravenna • Assisi • Orvieto • Rome

10-Day Study Tour: March 5 - 14, 2015
Crossroads of Faith and Cultures
Day 1 March 5, Thursday: Depart for Italy

Today depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on our overseas pilgrimage when the British Airways jet lifts into the evening sky for the overnight flight to Venice, Italy. Complimentary meals and beverages will be served aloft. (D)

Day 2 March 6, Friday: Arrive Venice – Padua

Upon arrival at Venice Airport, proceed through Passport Control, claim our luggage, and a Peter's Way Tour Manager will meet us upon our exit from Customs. Board our comfortable touring bus and soon we will be on our way to lovely town of Padua. Independent lunch en-route. In Padua we will visit the Basilica of St. Anthony that contains a mixture of Gothic, Romanesque and Byzantine architecture, holding a huge collection of art treasures. Visit Giotto Scrovegni Chapel (pending confirmation one month prior to departure due to government restrictions). The Chapel, built by Enrico Scrovegni in 1303, is considered the most important building in the charming city of Padua. The restored frescoed interior is Giotto's magnificent depiction of the Life of Christ, the Virgin Mary and the Last Judgment. These frescoes are considered his highest achievement. Check-in at hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel near Venice. (B,D)

Day 3 March 7, Saturday: AM/Half-day Tour of Venice - PM/At Leisure

Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast, we will be transferred to St. Mark's Square, via water taxi, to explore this lovely and famous Lagoon City on the Adriatic Coast. Venice is like a giant maze with tiny alleys and hidden piazzas, linked by narrow footbridges over the many large and small canals. Our day begins with a walking tour at Venice’s hub of activity, Piazza San Marco, which is lined with galleries, luxury shops and charming cafes. Dominating the Square is the magnificent Basilica San Marco, where the mixture of styles - Byzantine, Romanesque and Gothic - and profuse decoration, reflect Venice's history. Marvel at the shimmering mosaics encrusted on its interior walls, the precious sculptures and rare marbles. Admire the Campanile, having simple lines contrasting sharply with the sumptuous decor of the Church and Clock Tower, where famous Moors have been striking the hours for over 500 years. Continue to the Bridge of Sighs, which connects to the Doges’ Palace and the Prison. The bridge is so named because of the sad lamentations of the prisoners as they were led across it to certain torture and possible death. Following our morning tour we will celebrate Mass at St. Mark’s Basilica. Independent lunch followed by leisure time. Don’t miss out on an optional gondola trip, gliding along the picturesque canals with a local troubadour serenade. Independent dinner. Overnight at hotel near Venice. (B)

Day 4 March 8, Sunday: Ravenna

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, we depart for Ravenna and the Churches of San Vitale and San Apollinare. These 1500-year-old churches date from the period when Ravenna was a distant outpost of the Byzantine Empire. (San Vitale was built only 10 years later than the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.) The walls and ceilings sparkle with spectacular mosaics, which are often considered to be both the last artworks of ancient Rome, and the first of medieval Europe. Celebrate Sunday Mass at St. Vitale. Independent lunch. Visit the basilica of Sant’ Apollinare Nuovo was built by Theodoric sometime after 500 AD as an Arian cathedral dedicated to Christ and was converted into a Catholic church dedicated to St. Martin around 560. Sant’ Apollinare is named for Ravenna’s first bishop, and is famous for its two sidewalls full of exceptional figurative Byzantine mosaics. Note how beautifully the top row of mosaics shows twenty-six scenes from Christ’s life. It also has a magnificent icon and a fine collection of early Christian sarcophagi. Both the exterior and the interior of the basilica illustrate the fusion between the western and eastern styles characteristic of the late 5th-early 6th century. Check-in at hotel. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Ravenna. (B,D)

Day 5 March 9, Monday: Ravenna – Assisi – Sites of St. Francis and St. Clare

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, we leave Ravenna for Assisi, a city venerated as the birthplace of Italy’s most famous saint. After a scenic drive, we will see Assisi on a mountaintop, the narrow lanes, the Shires of Saint Francis and the overwhelming art dedicated to its young friar - a rich young man who turned to God after an illness and established an order that has grown stronger over the centuries. Independent lunch upon arrival. Visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, a great Basilica built in 1569 and crowned by the magnificent dome designed by Alessi. It encloses the shrine of the “Porziuncula”, or the Little Portion Chapel, around which the first Franciscan community was centered, the place where Clare received the habit from Francis, and the Capella Del Transito, which marks the spot where the Saint died. Celebrate Mass at the Chapel of the “Porziuncula”. Continue on to visit the Basilica of St. Clare, the first and most important heroine of the Franciscan movement who remains and see the miraculous Crucifix. Check-in to hotel in Assisi. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Assisi. (B,D)

Day 6 March 10, Tuesday: Assisi - Orvieto - Rome

Early morning walk to the Basilica of St. Francis to celebrate Mass at the Tomb of St. Francis. Return to our hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, our local guide will take us to explore the Basilica complex, which is actually composed of two churches built one atop the other. Beneath both churches is the crypt that houses the tomb of St. Francis. The lower Basilica dates from 1228 to 1320, and is richly decorated with beautiful stained glass windows, and paintings done by some of the most important artists of the 13th and 14th centuries. In the upper Basilica, built from 1230 - 1253, marvel at the monumental frescoes painted by Giotto, which depict scenes from the life of the saint. Late morning, we leave Assisi to Orvieto. Independent lunch upon arrival in Orvieto. Visit Orvieto, a city that stands dramatically on top of an island of rock over the valley of the Tiber River. Visit the cathedral begun in 1290 to shelter the relics of the Miracle of Bolsena (Miracle of the Host). Visit the magnificent 13th-century church with a marble exterior of alternating stripes of black and white. See in that special net of Umbrian light, it is most impressive. In one of the side chapels are frescos by Luca Signorelli. Continue to Rome and the “Eternal City”. Check-in at hotel upon arrival in Rome. Dinner and overnight at hotel in Rome. (B,D)

Day 7 March 11, Wednesday: AM/Papal Audience – PM/Tour of Christian Rome

Breakfast at hotel. We will then be transported into the heart of Christendom for an audience with our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Our pilgrimage group will be acknowledged during the English language portion. Independent lunch. This afternoon, visit the magnificent Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls. Constantine built the basilica in the 4th century on the site of St. Paul’s tomb. After having been destroyed by fire in 1823, it was rebuilt on the original basilican plan of early Christian churches. The magnificent frescoes painted by Giotto throughout history. Continue on to the Cathedral of St. John Lateran, the “cathedral of the world” since it is the seat of the Bishop of Rome. It was founded by the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century and was home to the Popes for many years prior to the present Vatican residence. Next we will go to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of the four major Basilicas built by Pope Sixtus III (AD 432-440). We will have the opportunity to see relics of Jesus’ mother, Mary, the high altar, which contains the remains of St. Matthew the Evangelist. View the icon Salus Populi Romani, reputed as painted by St. Luke, meaning Protectress of the Roman People. The mosaics above the entablature are among the most ancient Christian mosaics in Rome. Independent dinner. Overnight at hotel in Rome. (B,D)

Day 8 March 12, Thursday: AM/St. Peter's Basilica and Scavi – Afternoon at Leisure - PM/private visit to Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel

After early breakfast, celebrate Mass at the Tomb of St. Peter (to be confirmed) or one of the Vatican grotto altars. After Mass, we will
have a guided visit of St. Peter's Basilica. Take in the awesome architecture and the statuary adorning this largest of all Christian churches, including Michelangelo's magnificent “Pieta.” Pray at the new tomb of Blessed John Paul II, in St. Sebastian's Chapel.

Following, we will tour the Scavi1* (Subject to confirmation): The Scavi, or Vatican Necropolis, is the underground excavation under St. Peter's Basilica. In 1939, Pope Pius XII ordered an excavation beneath the grotto of St. Peter’s Basilica, where many popes are buried. Among the tombs of pagans and early Christians, far beneath the high altar of St. Peter’s, excavators found a shrine amid the rubble. Most scholars concur that the small column is part of a second-century A.D. shrine built by Rome’s small Christian community on the site where St. Peter was buried.

*All tours of the Scavi are subject to confirmation by the Vatican Office two weeks prior to departure. Tours run continuously, are one hour in length, and are limited to 12-15 persons. Independent lunch.

This afternoon is our opportunity to explore the sights, sounds and tastes of Rome independently. Independent dinner.

This evening we will have the unique opportunity to enjoy a private visit to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel (to be confirmed). Overnight at hotel in Rome. (B)

Day 9 March 13, Friday: AM/Tour of Ancient Rome - PM/At Leisure - Farewell Dinner

Breakfast at hotel. This morning we will visit the Church of St. Peter in chains to see the statue of Moses originally sculpted by Michelangelo for the tomb of Pope Julius II who also commissioned the frescoes of the Sistine Chapel. Then, we continue to the ancient Roman Forum. See the Arch of Titus and the Arch of Constantine and proceed to the outside of the Coliseum for a fascinating explanation of its history. Continue on to the grandiose white marble monument of King Victor Emmanuel II, often called the “Wedding Cake.” See the Trajan Column and the Market (the ancient Roman equivalent of a department store). Independent lunch followed by a full afternoon at leisure.

Our farewell dinner, this evening, will be at Cecilia Metella Restaurant in Rome. Experience an atmosphere of hospitality and friendship, and taste the Mediterranean cuisine in a typical Roman setting with wine.

Overnight at hotel in Rome. (B,D)

Day 10 March 14, Saturday: Return from Rome

After breakfast, we will be transferred to Rome’s Leonardo Da Vinci Airport for our return flight home. Arrive on the same day. (B)

Unexpected circumstances may cause changes to the outlined itinerary.
PAYMENT: Deposits and insurance payments will be accepted in the form of check, money order or credit card. Package prices are $100.00 higher per person when using a credit card as form of payment as the package price shown on brochure does not include credit card charge. To increase package price or reduce services accordingly should there be an escalation in the Euro valuation over the U.S. Dollar in excess of 3% from print date. If final payment is not received by the balance deadline, Peter's Way Tours reserve the right to charge a minimum of 10% of all pre-paid funds, including deposits & fuel surcharges, supplement, deviation fees, travel insurance payments and any other costs incurred. Travel insurance is offered as protection for cancellations due to medical reasons, trip cancellations or for a refund for air fare. If final payment is received within 21 days of departure, a charge for express mailing of final documents will be required. A $50.00 late payment fee and possible increase in air fare may apply for late payments. Personal checks will not be accepted within 30 days of departure or after final payment.

CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS: From the time your deposit is received up to 130 days prior to departure, there is a $250.00 nonrefundable cancellation fee per person. From 129 to 100 days prior to departure, there is a $350.00 nonrefundable cancellation fee per person. From 99 days prior to departure up to the day of departure, there is a nonrefundable cancellation fee of 25% of all pre-paid funds, including deposits & fuel surcharges, supplement, deviation fees, travel insurance payments and any other costs incurred. Travel insurance is nonrefundable upon receipt. Tour participation is nontransferable. Names cannot be transferred on reservations or airline tickets. Refund requests can only be honored when submitted in writing to Peter’s Way Tours prior to the date of departure. All refund requests are subject to cancellation restrictions as set forth above. No refund will be made for any accommodations or services included in the tour that you do not use.

LATE RESERVATIONS: A $25.00 fee and possible increase in airfare may apply for bookings received after the deposit deadline. All subject is subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed past the deposit deadline noted on the brochure.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All participants must have a valid passport. U.S. citizens must provide a passport valid at least 6 months beyond the return date. Special entry requirements for non-U.S. citizens may apply. Please consult the appropriate Consulate for current requirements. It is solely the passenger’s responsibility to ensure that all documents needed are completed and current. If a participant’s passport has expired, Peter’s Way Tours will not be held responsible for lack of current and valid entry documents.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Round trip from Chicago via British Airways. Flight itinerary and carrier may be subject to change. Departure taxes & fuel surcharges are not included in package price. The package price is subject to prior ticketing (approximately 30 days prior to departure).

AIRLINE SEATING: Under airline group reservations/contracts, the airlines will provide a block of seats for the group. Individual requests for seating preferences can only be made at time of check-in. Peter’s Way cannot submit seating preferences as we cannot guarantee that any or all requests will be honored. If you require specific seating as a condition of your travel, it is suggested that you book your airfare individually and purchase the land only package. Upgrades to premium economy, business class, or first class may be available but often times airlines will not allow the upgrades unless the tickets are time of ticketing. Group reservations may not be accessible online for advance check-in/boarding passes/seat assignments. Airline guidelines vary. Please contact our office for specific details.

LAND ONLY PASSENGERS: A passenger choosing the land only portion of their package will be $3,420.00. If you require specific seating as a condition of your travel, it is suggested that you book your airfare individually and purchase the land only package. Upgrades to premium economy, business class, or first class may be available but often times airlines will not allow the upgrades unless the tickets are time of ticketing. Group reservations may not be accessible online for advance check-in/boarding passes/seat assignments. Airline guidelines vary. Please contact our office for specific details.

TRAVELER HEALTH ADVISORY: All passengers must ensure that they are healthy and physically fit for travel and that such traveling will not endanger themselves or others as our pilgrimages entail a lot of walking, which may involve stairs, hills, cobblestone roads and uneven pavement. Additionally, many of the accommodations do not have air conditioning. Each passenger is responsible to be aware of his/her health or travel and group activities. Any person with a disability requiring special attention must advise Peter’s Way Tours of the situation at time of enrollment. A qualified companion must accompany any passenger requiring special assistance. Peter’s Way Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate disabled passengers with special needs, but shall not be held responsible in the event we are unable to do so. Moreover, Peter’s Way Tours is not responsible for the denial of services by any company, hotel, airport, or other independent suppliers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: It is strongly recommended that all participants purchase insurance when they travel since the tour operator is not responsible for non-refundable payments, damaged luggage or trip interruption. Peter’s Way Tours offers an optional Passenger Travel Protection Plan. These benefits and services have been designed to provide limited coverage for the prepaid, non-refundable costs of air transportation. The plan payment for total trip costs of $0.00 to $500.00 is $22.50; $501.00 to $1000.00 is $25.00; $1001.00 to $1500.00 is $27.50; $1501.00 to $2000.00 is $30.00; $2001.00 to $3500.00 is $225; $3501.00 to $4500.00 is $250; $4501.00 to $5500.00 is $275; and $5501.00 and over is 6% of total package price. If the plan payment is made at the time of deposit or within 21 days from the date of Peter’s Way Tours “Tour Deposit Acknowledgement Letter,” the passenger will be covered for pre-existing conditions. Pre-existing conditions are defined as any illness, injury or health condition that was known or should have been known by the traveler at the time of enrollment. A qualified companion must accompany any passenger requiring special assistance. Peter’s Way Tours will not be held responsible for the cost of your airfare.

DEVIATIONS & ITINERARY CHANGES: Peter’s Way Tours is pleased to assist clients with changes in itineraries. All deviation requests must be submitted in writing to Peter’s Way Tours. Additional costs may apply. The passenger is responsible to bear any additional costs incurred. Peter’s Way Tours shall not be held responsible for breach of contract, bankruptcy or any intentional or careless actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers, which result in loss, damage, delay, or injury to any traveler; travel companion; or any third party. In the event of any changes made in the schedule of liturgies throughout the pilgrimage or any changes in the Vatican Calendar and the appearance of the Holy Father for the weekly Papal Audience or Papal Masses. Unless the term “guaranteed” is specifically stated in the itinerary, Peter’s Way Tours does not guarantee any supplier’s rates, bookings or reservations. Peter’s Way Tours shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses caused to any traveler in connection with terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, airline strikes, weather conditions, currency fluctuations, civil disturbances, ar- mageddon conditions, abnormal conditions or developments, or any other actions, omissions, or conditions outside Peter’s Way Tours control. By embarking upon the trip, the traveler voluntarily assumes all risks involved with such travel, whether expected or unexpected. The traveler is hereby required to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against them. A signed enrollment form shall constitute consent to the above terms and conditions and an agreement on the traveler’s part to convey the contents of this disclaimer to any company, hotel, airport, group member, or other independent supplier.

MEALS: Buffet breakfast daily plus five (5) dinners, including a farewell dinner with wine at Cecelia Metella restaurant in Rome. Beverages (coffee, tea, mineral water) are not included at set menu dinners.

GRATUITIES & SERVICE CHARGES: Gratuities are not included in your tour package. For good work, recommended (but voluntary) tipping to your tour manager and driver is $2.00 Euro per passenger per day; for the local guides $1.50 Euro per passenger per day. Tips for the tour manager and bus driver are normally given as a group at the end of the tour. Other gratuities are usually handled individually. All service charges and levies are included in the quoted tour rate. Although service charges are included, it is customary to leave 1.00 Euro per person for the waiters as the average per meal and 1.00 Euro per person per day for the maid/bell boy.

TRAVELER HEALTH ADVISORY: All passengers must ensure that they are medically and physically fit for travel and that such traveling will not endanger themselves or others as our pilgrimages entail a lot of walking, which may involve stairs, hills, cobblestone roads and uneven pavement. Additionally, many of the accommodations do not have air conditioning. Each passenger is responsible to be aware of his/her health or travel and group activities. Any person with a disability requiring special attention must advise Peter’s Way Tours of the situation at time of enrollment. A qualified companion must accompany any passenger requiring special assistance. Peter’s Way Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate disabled passengers with special needs, but shall not be held responsible in the event we are unable to do so. Moreover, Peter’s Way Tours is not responsible for the denial of services by any company, hotel, airport, or other independent suppliers.

DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY: Peter’s Way Tours is only acting as intermediary and agent for the suppliers identified on this, or any accompanying documents, in selling services, or in accepting reservations or bookings for services that are not directly supplied by Peter’s Way Tours (such as air carriage, hotel accommodations, meals, rental cars, special event admissions, cruises, tours, etc.). Peter’s Way Tours shall not be held responsible for breach of contract, bankruptcy or any intentional or careless actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers, which result in loss, damage, delay, or injury to any traveler; travel companion; or any third party. Peter’s Way Tours shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses caused to any traveler in connection with terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, airline strikes, weather conditions, currency fluctuations, civil disturbances, armageddon conditions, abnormal conditions or developments, or any other actions, omissions, or conditions outside Peter’s Way Tours control. By embarking upon the trip, the traveler voluntarily assumes all risks involved with such travel, whether expected or unexpected. The traveler is hereby required to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against them. A signed enrollment form shall constitute consent to the above terms and conditions and an agreement on the traveler’s part to convey the contents of this disclaimer to any company, hotel, airport, group member, or other independent supplier.

ACCOMMODATIONS/SINGLE TRAVELERS: Price per person is based on two persons sharing twin bedrooms with private facilities in hotels throughout your tour. Matrimonial (full) bedrooms are subject to availability. Single supplements may apply. If a single room is available, it will be charged at the double occupancy rate. Additional persons sharing a room will be charged at double occupancy rate. If a single room is not available, a single supplement $795.00. While single rooms provide privacy, they are often smaller than twin bedroomed rooms and may be located away from the group. We will make every effort (if you so desire) to match you with a same gender roommate when we receive your application, but we do not guarantee a roommate can be matched. If a single room must be assigned due to your roommate’s cancellation, incompatibility or for any other reason (even at the last moment or while on tour), we must charge you the tour’s single supplement or pro-rata and may no longer be able to provide single supplement for future tours.