

15 Day Pilgrimage Cruise & Land Tour

visiting Italy, Greece, Turkey, Croatia
including the Feast Day of Padre Pio



September 12th – 26th, 2014

Your Cruise Includes:

- Round trip air from New York
- All Transfers
- 7 night Cruise on the MSC Preziosa in Oceanview Cabins
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Daily Onboard your Cruise Ship
- First Class Hotels
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily in Italy
- Air-conditioned Motorcoach
- English Speaking Guides
- Sightseeing as per Itinerary

Included Tours on Board the MSC Preziosa

- St. John's Monastery in Ephesus
- The Blessed Virgin Mary's House in Ephesus
- Mass at the Church of St. Blaise in Dubrovnik
- Visit the Church of St. Lucy for Mass and to see her body
- Walking Tour of Venice
- Visit St. Mark's Basilica to pray at the Tomb of St. Mark

Highlights of Your Land Tour

- Mass at the Church of the Eucharistic Miracle in Lanciano
- Mass at the Basilica of Saint Nicholas in Bari
- Mass at St. Michael's Cave
- Celebrate the Feast Day of Padre Pio in San Giovanni Rotondo
- Visit the Tomb of Padre Pio
- Mass at Santa Maria degli Angeli Pietrelcina
- Panorama of Rome
- Visit of the Four Major Basilicas of Rome – St. Peter's, Santa Maria Maggiore, St. John Lateran & St. Paul Outside the Walls
- Farewell Dinner at Da Meo Patacca

Cruise Tour Price: \$ 4,099.00 per person Double in an Oceanview Cabin

Call for rates in other categories

Fri, Sep 12th: New York/Rome - Depart on your overnight flight to Rome. Dinner served in flight.



Sat, Sep 13th: Rome/Lanciano - Morning arrival in Rome and transfer to **Lanciano**. Upon arrival, we go to the *Church of the Eucharistic Miracle* for Mass.

Ancient Anxanum, the city of the Frentanese, has contained for over twelve centuries the first and greatest Eucharistic Miracle of the Catholic Church. This wondrous Event took place in the 8th century A.D. in the little Church of St. Legontian

The most popular of the Eucharistic Miracles is the Miracle of Lanciano. A monk was having doubts and his doubts were growing stronger. One morning during Mass at the Consecration, he began to shake and tremble and faced the people to show them what had happened. The Host had turned to Flesh and the wine into Blood! The Eucharistic can be very distinctly observed today, has the same dimensions as the large host used today in the Latin Church; it is light brown and appears rose-colored when lighted from the back.

The Blood is coagulated and has an earthy color resembling the yellow of ochre. Various ecclesiastical investigation ("Recognitions") were conducted since 1574. In 1970-71 there was a scientific investigation by the most illustrious scientist Prof. Odoardo Linoli, eminent Professor in Anatomy and Pathological Histology and in Chemistry and Clinical Microscopy. He was assisted by Prof. Ruggero Bertelli of the University of Siena.

The analyses were conducted with absolute and unquestionable scientific precision and they were documented with a series of microscopic photographs.

These analyses sustained the following conclusions:

- The Flesh is real Flesh.
- The Blood is real Blood.
- The Flesh and the Blood belong to the human species.
- The Flesh consists of the muscular tissue of the heart.
- In the Flesh we see present in section: the myocardium, the endocardium, the vagus nerve and also the left ventricle of the heart for the large thickness of the myocardium.
- The Flesh is a "HEART" complete in its essential structure.
- The Flesh and the Blood have the same blood-type: AB (Blood-type identical to that which Prof. Baima Bollone uncovered in the Holy Shroud of Turin).
- In the Blood there were found proteins in the same normal proportions (percentage-wise) as are found in the sero-proteic make-up of the fresh normal blood.
- In the Blood there were also found these minerals: chlorides, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sodium and calcium.

The preservation of the Flesh and of the Blood, which were left in their natural state for twelve centuries and exposed to the action of atmospheric and biological agents, remains an extraordinary phenomenon.



Sun Sep 14 Bari - Morning departure to **Bari** to board the **MSC PREZIOSA**. En route we stop at the *Basilica of St. Nicholas of Bari* to see the *relics of St. Nicholas*. The remains of St. Nicholas were taken from southern Turkey in 1087. They lie in the crypt and are the source of pilgrimage for Catholic and Orthodox Christians. After Mass we board our Cruise ship. **We set sail at 3:30 PM.**

Situated in the 'heel' of the boot-shaped country that is Italy, Bari is famous for its beaches, old town and fabulous food.

An increasingly popular holiday destination, Bari is the commercial and administrative capital of Puglia as well as being a bustling university town. Bari offers much for the visitor to do and a fun day away from the ship with something for everyone, from families to couples looking for a magical romantic setting.



Mon Sep 15 Katakolon Arrival 8:00 AM Departure 1:00 PM

Arrive in **Katakolon, Greece** at 8:00 AM. Katakolon is the gateway to Olympia. Perhaps join one to the excursions to Olympia. Or, just enjoy this beautiful port with its' small shops and cafes but be sure to be back on board for your 1:00 PM departure.

Katakolon is a small holiday port town in Ilia, in the western part of Greece. Katakolon is known as the 'gateway to Olympia' as it lies just east of the ancient city of Olympia, which was the birthplace of the Olympic games.

Katakolon really is a destination for everyone and all guests will come away with greater understanding of the ancient Hellenic civilizations.

Try one of the Excursion packages to Olympia and tour the amazing stadium (capacity 40,000 spectators!) and the famous temples of the Greek gods Zeus, Hera and Apollo. It was only in the 19th century that European archaeologists first began excavating Olympia and a tour to this ancient destination is not to be missed, as it is exceptionally well preserved.

See the extraordinary Olympia archaeological museum, which is the most important in Greece. Here you can view exhibits of pottery, bronzes, Roman sculptures, artifacts from the Olympic Games and terracotta sculptures dating from 480 BC.

All excursions in and around Katakolon also leave plenty of room for shopping and relaxation, too; you can choose to simply relax at the nearby private Kourouta beach club and enjoy the age-old pastime of sun lounging!

Also offered will be Excursion to a typical restaurant in Katakolon and a traditional Greek show of folkloric song and dance, providing lasting memories of your Greek vacation.

Tue Sep 16 Izmir 8:30 AM 3:00 PM

Formerly known as Smyrna, **Izmir** is located in Turkey's Aegean province, which enjoys the finest climate in the country. Izmir, known as 'the Belle' thanks to its extremely mild year round climate.

Turkey's third largest city and located in a region whose magnificent history has rendered it a key holiday destination. Lively and cosmopolitan, Izmir boasts scenic, palm-lined promenades that line a glittering bay, graceful avenues and attractive horizontal terraces that cloak the slopes of the surrounding mountains.

Izmir has a strong artistic heritage; the Museum of Art and Natural History holds artifacts from the 2nd Century BC.

Included Tour - ST. JOHN'S MONASTERY AND MARY'S HOUSE

The house of the Virgin Mary is located in a quiet valley and it was only in 1892 that the building was recognized as a holy Christian site and then visited later by Pope Paul VI and John Paul II. The Virgin Mary had lived in this house for 46 years. Our tour continues at St. John's Monastery, the most famous Byzantine structure in Ephesus. The monastery was built by the emperor Justinian and queen Teodora in the VI century A.D. on the ruins of a small church which contained the Tomb of St. John who died in Ephesus in 100 A.D. Please note: the coach ride to the sites takes about 1 hour and 10 minutes each way; this tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties or using a wheelchair as long walking is involved. Only photos with no flash are allowed inside Mary's House. Conservative attire is recommended for visiting sites of religious importance.



Wed Sep 17 Istanbul 7:30 AM 5:00 PM

Arrival in **Istanbul, Turkey** at 7:30 AM. Be sure to be on deck to see one of the most beautiful ports in the world. Be back on board for our 5:00 PM departure.

A fascinating mix of past and present, modern and traditional Istanbul offers a wonderful introduction to Turkey and a unique holiday destination. The former capital of three powerful empires - Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman - is a fascinating mix of past and present, modern and traditional.

The museums, churches, palaces, mosques, bazaars and the sights of natural beauty seem inexhaustible. In addition to Istanbul's unique historical and cultural background, the city's innumerable attractions, contemporary hotels, restaurants, nightclubs and shops make Istanbul one of the most fascinating destinations of your Mediterranean cruise vacation. Istanbul literally straddles the two continents of Europe and Asia, bisected by a wide waterway, the Bosphorous Strait.

The rich architectural and cultural hallmarks of this city will make a day away from your luxury cruise liner into a fascinating extravaganza of sights and sounds. The Grand Bazaar provides unrivalled shopping opportunities and is the perfect place to pick up an authentic handcrafted rug, traditional ceramics or stunning jewelry.

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MSC Cruises extensive package of excursions with great deals on attractions in and around Istanbul provides the best way to get the most from Istanbul. First time visitors can enjoy a comprehensive sightseeing experience in the Deluxe Istanbul tour, which covers key attractions from the Blue Mosque to Topkapi Palace. The Grand Bazaar provides unrivalled shopping opportunities and is the perfect place to pick up an authentic handcrafted rug, traditional ceramics or stunning jewelry.

Thu Sep 18 At Sea



Fri Sep 19 Dubrovnik 11:30 AM 5:00 PM

“Those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik” so wrote the famed British playwright, George Bernard Shaw when he first visited the town.

Dubrovnik is the capital of South Dalmatia, in **Croatia** and reputed to be one of the most beautiful places in the world. Many writers and holiday-makers remain enthralled by its charm and the town is fondly known as both the Adriatic Pearl and the Slav ‘Athens’. Anyone who has the chance to visit at least once will surely agree.

Upon arrival we will go to the *Church of St. Blaise for Mass*. Saint Blaise is the patron saint of the city of Dubrovnik and formerly the protector of the independent Republic of Ragusa. At Dubrovnik his feast is celebrated yearly on 3 February, when relics of the saint, his head, a bit of bone from his throat, his right hand and his left, are paraded in reliquaries. The festivities begin the previous day, Candlemas, when white doves are released. Chroniclers of Dubrovnik such as Rastic and Ranjina attribute his veneration there to a vision in 971 to warn the inhabitants of an impending attack by the Venetians, whose galleys had dropped anchor in Gruž and near Lokrum, ostensibly to resupply their water but furtively to spy out the city's defenses. St. Blaise revealed their pernicious plan to Stojko, a canon of St. Stephen's Cathedral. The Senate summoned Stojko, who told them in detail how St. Blaise had appeared before him as an old man with a long beard and a bishop's mitre and staff. In this form the effigy of Blaise remained on Dubrovnik's state seal and coinage until the Napoleonic era.

After Mass walk around this wonderful city. Follow the ancient walls and wonder through the narrow streets but don't forget, your ship departs at 5:00 PM.



Sat Sep 20 Venice 8:00 AM 4:30PM

Of Venice, the American writer Henry James wrote; “*You desire to embrace it, to caress it, to possess it; and finally a soft sense of possession grows up and your visit becomes a perpetual love affair.*”

Included Tour - Walking Tour & Mass at the Church of St. Lucy

Upon arrival in Venice we go to the Church of St. Geremena & St. Lucy. We have Mass near the Tomb of St. Lucy. After Mass, we have a Walking Tour of Venice. We go to St. Mark's Square for a tour including *St. Mark's Basilica* with its Byzantine and European architectural styles and dazzling mosaics. We stop to pray at the tomb of St. Mark before continuing our *Walking Tour of Venice*.

Sun Sep 21 Bari/St. Michael's Cave/ San Giovanni Rotondo - Morning arrival in Bari.

Upon arrival we are met by our driver and guide and transferred to **San Giovanni Rotondo**. En route we stop at *St. Michael's Cave for Mass*. This afternoon we visit *St. Michael's Cave*. In the year 492 a man named Gargan was pasturing his large herds in the countryside. One day a bull fled into the mountain, where at first it could not be found. When its refuge in a cave was discovered, an arrow was shot into the cave, but the arrow returned to wound the one who had sent it. The local bishop of the region was consulted. He ordered three days of fasting and prayers. After three days, the Archangel St. Michael appeared to the bishop and declared that the cavern was under his protection, and that God wanted it to be consecrated under his name and in honor of all the Holy Angels. After our visit, we continue to San Giovanni Rotondo.

Mon, Sep 22nd: San Giovanni Rotondo - This morning we visit the *Tomb of Padre Pio* and the English Office where we hear more about the life of Padre Pio. Take a little nap this afternoon so you will be ready for the mid-night Mass opening the Feast Day of St. Pio of Pietrelcina, Padre Pio. After dinner, we go to square in front of the new Church of St. Pio where we will gather with thousands of people for the opening celebration.

Tue, Sep 23rd: The Feast Day of Padre Pio - Late morning join the Procession through town in honor of Padre Pio. Remainder of the day is free for private devotions.

Wed, Sep 24th: San Giovanni Rotondo/Pietrelcina/Rome - Morning departure to **Rome**. En route we visit **Pietrelcina** birthplace of Padre Pio. We visit his home, the *Church of Santa Ana*, where he was baptized and we have Mass at *Santa Maria degli Angeli*. We stop at **Piana Romana**, where *Padre Pio received the invisible stigmata*. After our visit we continue to Rome.

Thu, Sep 25th: Panorama of Rome and Farewell Dinner - Today we have a *Panorama of Rome* included inside visits of the *Four Major Basilicas of Rome* – *St. Peter's, Santa Maria Maggiore, St. John Lateran and St. Paul Outside the Walls*. This evening we have a *Farewell Dinner at Da Meo Patacca*.

Fri, Sep 26th: Rome - Morning departure to Rome airport for our return flight to the USA.

Reservation Form

Tour No. PRE0912		
Name (as it appears on your passport):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Email address:	
Will your room be a: () single (limited) () double () triple		
Cabin Category () Inside () Oceanview () Balcony		
Name of Roommate:		
Are you a US citizen? () Yes () No		
Date of Birth		
Passport No.	Expiration Date	
Contact in the USA	Telephone No.	Relationship
Please return this form with your check to: <p style="text-align: center;">LITTLE FLOWER TOURS & TRAVEL, LTD. 145 Fieldstone Road, Staten Island, New York 10314 ☎ 718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A \$700.00 DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE June 15, 2014</p>		
<p>TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cancellation made by passengers. Of the \$700.00 deposit, \$300.00 is non-refundable in case of cancellation. 70 days to 46 days a \$700.00 penalty is imposed. 45 days to 16 days a \$700.00 penalty PLUS any penalty imposed by the airlines and hotels. 15 days or less may result in loss of entire cost, depending on what we can recover. Once travel has commenced, no refunds for unused portions can be made. TRAVEL INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE AND ADVISABLE If you have a pre-existing condition, it is important that you take Travel Insurance within 10 days of booking.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In the event that a group does not travel due to low participation, passenger deposits will be returned 30 days after cancellation.</p>		
Signature:	Date:	

Credit card () MasterCard () Visa () American Express	
Account #:	Expiration date:
Name (as it appears on your card)	
Billing Address:	
Amount to be charged: \$	
Signature:	Date:

“EVERYONE MUST FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SIGN IT BELOW.” If you are NOT taking the Travel Insurance you must still fill out the Insurance form below and indicate NO in the premium box and return it with your reservation form.

Please note that insurance is strongly recommended but is optional. If you want to receive a waiver for pre-existing conditions, your premium must be received by Little Flower Tours within 10 days of your initial trip deposit/payment, **provided you are not disabled from travel at the time of your premium payment.** Insurance payments are non-refundable.

Tour Number	Tour Name	Premium
PRE0912	15 Pilgrimage Cruise & Land Tour	\$ 250.00 Double/Triple \$ 295.00 Single

Insurance Form		Tour Number PRE0912	
Name			
Address:			
W	City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Are you a US citizen? () Yes () No		
Additional Family Names			
I will take the Insurance () Yes () No			
Premium \$ 215.00 per person Double/Triple \$ 250.00 per person Single			
Please make your Insurance Premium check payable to Little Flower Tours & Travel Ltd.:			
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If you want to receive a waiver for a pre-existing condition, your premium must be received by Little Flower Tours within 10 days of your initial trip deposit			
Signature		Date	