

“The Soul’s Journey into God”

Our Pilgrimage is located in the beautiful regions of Umbria and Tuscany. Quiet days focused on Benedictine and Franciscan spirituality alternate with day excursions through the Umbrian and Tuscan hills. Day trips include visits to Assisi,



hometown of Saints Francis and Clare, and Norcia, the mountain village where Saint Benedict and his twin sister Saint Scholastica were born. A suggested reading list will be provided for those who would like to learn more about these saints prior to the pilgrimage. Days include ample opportunity to enjoy local cuisine, sample wines and savor the beauty of landscape, art and culture.

Orvieto rests on a plateau of volcanic tufo rock, surrounded by pastoral landscape of fields and vineyards. The city rises like a fortress from the valley floor. Once the residence of medieval popes, Orvieto is one of Italy’s jewels. The magnificent 13th century cathedral has one of the most majestic façades in Italy, with interior chapels frescoed by such prominent artists as Luca Signorelli and Fra Angelico. A rich city history reaches back to pre-Roman Etruscan times, and ancient artisan traditions of ceramics and lace-making continue to flourish. Umbrian cuisine and fine Orvieto Classico

wines make the city well-known internationally. Today it is a vibrant center of culture, art and faith.

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____

Work or cell phone _____

Email _____

Church affiliation _____

Dietary restrictions _____

Single room ____ Shared room ____ With whom? _____

What appeals to you about this pilgrimage? _____

Other information you’d like us to know _____

Please complete and detach the form above and return it by March 1 2010, with your non-refundable deposit of \$500, check payable to the Rev. Susan Skillen at this address:

Rev. Susan Skillen
56 Bromfield Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

Email: sjskillen@gmail.com
Phone: 978-462-2616
Cell: 978-518-1297

Costs and Conditions

The fee of \$2,100 for single room accommodation (or \$1850 shared room accommodation) includes all land travel in Italy, entrance fees, room with private bath in the Convent of San Paolo and three meals on days we stay in Orvieto, two meals on travel day. On travel days the meals will be breakfast and dinner. Trip insurance is not included, and participants are encouraged to acquire their own.

Pilgrims are responsible for making their own flight arrangements to and from Rome's Fiumicino Airport. They will be transported by minivans from Fiumicino to Orvieto at a designated time on Wednesday, July 14, and from Orvieto to Fiumicino on Saturday, July 24. Further information will be given following registration.

Payments are due as follows:

February 28: Registration with \$500 non-refundable deposit

April 15: \$800 for single room or \$675 for double room

May 15: \$800 for single room or \$675 for double room



Please Note:

The pilgrimage assumes the general good health of participants. There is no avoiding considerable uphill and downhill walking through the narrow streets of Italian towns, many of which restrict vehicle access. Day trips to various locations will, of necessity, mean *much* walking.

Itinerary: July 14-24, 2010

Wednesday, 7/14: Afternoon transport from Rome Fiumicino Airport to San Paolo Convent in Orvieto. Orientation walk through the city.

Thursday, 7/15: Focus: St. Benedict

Friday, 7/16: Day trip through Tuscany to the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore. See fresco cycle of the life of St. Benedict.

Saturday, 7/17: Focus: St. Scholastica. Afternoon visit to Orvieto Cathedral.



Sunday, 7/18: Day trip to Norcia in the Appenines. To Benedictine monastery and Benedict and Scholastica's birthplace.

Monday, 7/19: Focus: St Francis and St. Clare.

Tuesday, 7/20: Day trip to Assisi. Tour Convent of San Damiano, Church of St. Clare, Basilica of St. Francis and Eremo dei Carceri

Francis' mountain hermitage.

Wednesday, 7/21: Focus on Franciscan Spirituality and St Bonaventure

Thursday, 7/22: Day trip to Bonaventure's birthplace in unique hill town of Civit  di Bagnoregio. Lunch at a lakeside restaurant.

Friday, 7/23: Morning retreat closure. Day in Orvieto.

Saturday, 7/24: Early departure for Fiumicino Airport.

Retreat Leaders

Susan Skillen is an Anglican priest and Canon for Spiritual Formation for the Anglican Diocese in New England. She received her M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Seminary, did further training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, UK, and trained as a spiritual director at the Shalem Institute in Maryland. She lived for seven years in Orvieto and was founding priest-in-charge of the Church of the Resurrection, the Anglican-Episcopal Church in Orvieto and the only English-speaking church in the city. She has led many spiritual retreats in the US and in Italy. Susan and her husband live with their youngest daughter in Newburyport, Massachusetts. In her spare time Susan loves reading, gardening and needlework of all kinds.



Margaret Benefiel, Ph.D., teaches spirituality at Andover Newton Theological School in Boston and at the Milltown Institute in Dublin, Ireland. Like Susan, she trained as a spiritual director at the Shalem Institute, and she has offered spiritual direction and led retreats for over twenty-five

years. Margaret's publications include *Soul at Work: Spiritual Leadership in Organizations* (Seabury Books, 2005) and *The Soul of a Leader: Finding your Path to Success and Fulfillment* (Crossroad, 2008). She is a member of Beacon Hill Friends Meeting in Boston and lives in Boston with her husband. She enjoys hiking, reading novels, and scuba diving in her free time.

The Monastery of San Paolo is situated dramatically along the cliff's edge of Orvieto, a short walk

from the great Cathedral, with breath-taking panoramas of the Umbrian countryside and distant Appenines. The monastery was founded in 1221 as a Benedictine community, and has since belonged to several other monastic orders. Graced with a spacious courtyard and garden that faces the valley below, there are also prayer chapels and comfortable meeting rooms.

