



**\$50 Early Booking
Discount if Reserved
by
May 6, 2026**

Rev. James Thaikootathil, J.C.D. Catholic Northern Italy Pilgrimage

September 22 - October 1, 2026 - 10 Days

\$4,999 from Boston

**For Info & Reservations, Rev. James Thaikootathil, J.C.D., St. Sebastian Parish, 155 Washington St,
Middletown CT 06457 – Telephone: 860-347-2638 –Email: pastor.st.sebastian@gmail.com**

**Tuesday, September 22 - DAY 1 -
DEPARTURE** –We depart from Boston’s Logan Airport for our overnight flight to Milan. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner, and breakfast while aloft.

**Wednesday, September 23 - DAY 2 –
MILAN** – Upon our afternoon arrival in Milan, we are greeted by our Unitours Tour Manager, who will be with us during our travels in Northern Italy. We board our motor coach as we start our pilgrimage with a stop at a hidden gem in Milan, the Church of St. Mary of the Fountain. Built in the early 16th century by the governor of Milan, Charles II d’Amboise. He had the church built to honor Mother Mary for a miraculous healing he received from the adjacent fresh spring, which was incorporated into the design of the church when it was built. Though the exterior facade is rather nondescript, the interior is quite impressive and worth the visit. We celebrate our first “pilgrims Mass” while there and then enjoy a stop for lunch on our own. We conclude our afternoon with a coach tour of some of Milans landmarks before reaching our hotel. We celebrate our “welcome” dinner and overnight in Milan.

**Thursday, September 24 - DAY 3 –
MILAN/TURIN/MILAN** – Today, we journey west to Turin, home of the Shroud of Turin, the famous burial cloth of Jesus Christ! While there we visit the Museum of the Shroud*, a spectacular museum dedicated to the Shroud Story. We then visit Turin Cathedral, where we celebrate Mass while there. Following a break for lunch on our own, we then visit the Churches of San Carlos (dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo) & Santa Cristina before our drive back to Milan for dinner and overnight in Milan. *The shroud is

only displayed for limited times during specific years; thus, we cannot guarantee it will be on display during this pilgrimage.

**Friday 25, September 25 - DAY 4 –
MILAN** - This morning, we visit the Santa Marie della Grazie, home of Leonardo di Vinci’s famous painting “The Last Supper”, (subject to ticket availability). We tour this magnificent church, as well as nearby Sforza Castle, a 15th century renaissance castle, which features numerous works of art and Michelangelo’s last work before his death. Following a break for lunch on our own, we enjoy a short drive to the Duomo di Milano, one of the largest cathedrals in Italy and a gem of gothic architecture and magnificent stained-glass windows. While there we visit the crypt church and the tomb of St. Charles Borromeo, the first Archbishop of Milan and patron saint of seminarians. We conclude our day with Mass before enjoying a dinner at one of Milan’s fine restaurants as this evening, as dinner is on our own. Overnight in Milan.

**Saturday, September 26 - DAY 5 –
MILAN/COMO/VERONA** – Today, we travel north to Como, just a few kilometers from the Swiss border. Como is a charming town overlooking Lake Como, its historic center still retains the appearance of the original Roman castrum, with well-preserved medieval walls and large defense towers. The Duomo is the cornerstone of the historic center and is one of the most beloved monuments in Northern Italy! We celebrate Mass while there and spend the remainder of the day shopping and enjoying the resort atmosphere of this enchanting city, following our stop for lunch on our own. We depart mid-afternoon for the romantic Town of Verona and arrive in time for dinner and overnight at our hotel.



Sunday, September 27 - DAY 6 – VERONA - This morning, with Verona being home to the famous play, “Romeo & Juliet,” we visit the area below the balcony of Juliet, inspired from the story, and featured in the movie “Letters to Juliet”. We then visit the enormous Roman Arena of Verona, the third largest in Italy! We finish the day with a visit to the Duomo di Verona and St. Elena Church, where we celebrate Mass. Dinner tonight is on our own. Overnight in Verona.

Monday, September 28 - DAY 7 – VERONA/PADUA/VERONA -Today, we make our way to the historical town of Padua, home to the enormous Basilica of St. Anthony! Though born in Lisbon, Portugal, after becoming a Franciscan, St. Anthony spent most of his life in Italy and is entombed here. Following our tour of this grand church and a break for lunch on our own, we visit the beautiful Prato della Valle, the largest public square in all of Italy and most of Europe as well! Beautiful gardens and statuary surround this picturesque square. We conclude our time on Padua and return to Verona. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Tuesday, September 29 - DAY 8 – VERONA/FERRARA/BOLOGNA/VERONA – This morning, we visit the nearby city of Bologna. Before reaching Bologna, we make a brief stop in Ferrara for a unique Eucharistic miracle story. On Easter Day in 1171AD, Fr. Pietro was celebrating the fracturing rite during the consecration of the Eucharist. When he broke the host in half, blood gushed with enough power to stain the ceiling above the altar. Some eye-witnesses even attested to seeing the figure of a baby “Jesus” in the blood stain! We stop at the Basilica of St. Mary, to see for ourselves before continuing to Bologna. Though famous for its specialty meats and cheeses, as well as the luxury sports car icons of Ferrari and Lamborghini, it houses the 10th largest Basilica in the world, The Basilica of San Petronio. Following our tour of the basilica, we enjoy the famed Piazza Maggiore, surrounded by numerous restaurants and shops featuring a magnificent statue of Neptune by the

artist Giambologna. We break for lunch on our own before we return to Verona for our “farewell” dinner and overnight in at our hotel.

Wednesday, September 30 - St. Jerome - DAY 9 – VERONA/LAKE GUARDA/SIRMIONE/VERONA – Today we travel just outside of Verona to nearby Lake Garda, a beautiful and picturesque finally to our time in Northern Italy. Our first stop is the Church of Santa Maraia delle Neve, where we celebrate our last pilgrims’ Mass. Following our visit there we continue to the Castello Scaligero, considered one of the best-preserved castles in Italy! Built in the early 14th century by the local ruling family, the Delle Scala family, known locally as the Scaliger (where the castle gets its name). It has been rebuilt and remodeled as often as its occupants have changed. The last remodel happened as recently as 2018! We break for lunch on our own before traveling to nearby Vittoriale Degli Italiani in the Gardone Riviera area. Built by famed Italian poet Gabriele D’Annunzio between WWI and WWII and considered “ahead of its time” even back then, it consists of a complex of buildings, squares, gardens and even an outdoor amphitheater. Following our visit, we have some free time before journeying back to Verona for our “farewell” dinner and overnight in Verona.

Thursday, Oct 1 - DAY 10 – VERONA/RETURN TO USA – We transfer to the airport in nearby Venice, for our return flight to the U.S with unforgettable memories to cherish always.



SCAN ME

While we at Unitours do everything possible to make our Pilgrimages comfortable, a certain amount of strenuous walking will be required. Depending upon a pilgrim’s age & strength, parts of your program may be too taxing if a person has mobility limitations, is older or disabled. Be advised that such pilgrims may be unable to visit some of the places listed on this itinerary.

“Have questions about this pilgrimage? Ask us! Go to www.Unitours.com/questions.” To book online go to <https://bit.ly/StSebastianItaly>

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5/6/2026**

Rev. James Thaikootathil, J.C.D. - Catholic Northern Italy Pilgrimage

Mail to: Rev. James Thaikootathil, J.C.D., St. Sebastian Parish, 155 Washington St, Middletown CT 06457

Please reserve ___ seats on this Catholic Northern Italy Pilgrimage - September 22 - October 1, 2026

Enclosed please find deposit of \$500 per person (Payable to Unitours, Inc.)

PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (Passport MUST be valid until April 01, 2027, or later.)

Name(s) as appears on passport)

My Roommate:

Address:

___ Please assign a roommate (if available)

City, State & Zip

___ I prefer a single room - \$786 supplement and limited in number.

Daytime Telephone:

To purchase optional travel insurance, please see www.Unitours.com/travellInsurance for full details and to purchase coverage.

Email Address:

___ Apply \$50 if booked by May 6, 2026

Name(s) as you'd like them to appear on nametags:

Charge my deposit to ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Amex ___ Discover

Card #

Exp. Date

I understand that certain charges such as air taxes, fuel surcharges and rates of exchange can affect the final cost and I agree to pay such costs should adjustments be necessary. _____

Signature

TOTAL TOUR PRICE: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect March 20, 2026. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. Refunds CANNOT be granted for any accommodations, services or events that are not used nor if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 30 pilgrims participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: A valid passport is required. At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports DO NOT REQUIRE visas. Passport MUST be valid until April 01, 2027, or later. Citizens of countries other than U.S. - please contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: International flight reservations are being held on **British Airways**. No stopovers are permitted. Any changes after ticket is issued carries a mandatory charge of \$200. Once the tickets are issued, they are **NON-TRANSFERABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE**. Any requests to change a ticket once issued will incur a reissue fee of \$200 plus any fare differential will apply. Cancellation of air seat within 90 days of departure will incur a \$200 penalty.

DOMESTIC AIRFARE: For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, your tour host and Unitours strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of \$786 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

MEALS: Breakfast and Table D' Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

TIPS AND TAXES: Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, portage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of \$180 plus current fuel surcharges of \$470 are included (subject to change). **TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$101 ARE NOT INCLUDED.** One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip.

NOT INCLUDED: Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc.

DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS: A deposit of \$500 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received at Unitours after 45 days before departure must include a \$25 late payment fee. (This does not apply for new reservations made after 45 days of departure.) Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment. Amex, Discover, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final

payment due date. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee (charged to deposit) plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 31 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. No refund for cancellations received within 30 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc.

BANK FEE: A fee of \$50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

DEVIATIONS: A service charge of \$50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, (where possible), PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Optional Travel Insurance is strongly recommended for your trip. See www.Unitours.com/travellInsurance for full details and to purchase coverage.

LAND ARRANGEMENTS: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tours. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or events during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses, the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. Optional travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment.

ERRORS: In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.





ESTABLISHED 1957
UNITOURS, inc.

Custom Catholic Pilgrimages

Italy

STEP MAP

100 km