

Assisi Convocation Frequently Asked Questions

What is included in my Convocation fee?

Hotel accommodations for four nights (May 13, 14, 15, and 16) at the Cittadella Hotel, with breakfast and dinners. Full participation in Convocation lectures, workshops, discussions, exhibits, prayer services and site visits. (Airfare is not included.)

Why Assisi?

Assisi is an idyllic Umbrian Valley destination, retaining much of its medieval scenery and charm. In the 13th Century, St. Francis and St. Clare began the Franciscan movement there, aligning their new community in preferential option with the poor and marginalized. Their growing communal life revolutionized both church and society. During the Holocaust, Assisi provided safe sanctuary to over 300 Jewish people. In 1986, Pope John Paul II convened in Assisi the first ever interfaith World Day of Prayer with 160 global religious leaders and most recently Pope Francis gathered with world religious leaders for the “Thirst for Peace” conference in September 2016, inspiring this convocation. Assisi is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. No one leaves Assisi unchanged.

Where will we be visiting during our stay?

Participants will visit the Basilica of St. Francis, the Basilica of St. Clare, San Damiano, the church of La Maddalena in one of the former leper colonies outside of Assisi, and the Santuario della Spogliazione.

How are lunches organized?

Lunches are independent. There are numerous dining options in Assisi, including vegan and vegetarian options. We will provide guests with a list of recommended area restaurants. Many restaurants will offer menus in English and/or have bilingual wait staff. Credit cards are widely accepted in Assisi and throughout Italy, and ATMs are available all around Assisi, but having \$100-200 in euros would be a good idea.

Who are our featured speakers?

Dr. Gillian Ahlgren, who has written extensively on the Christian mystical tradition and prophetic dimensions of Christian spirituality, will open the convocation. The Mayor of Assisi, Dr. Stefania Proietti, an expert in climate change; Fr. Peter Neeley, S.J. from the Kino Border Initiative; and Aida Segura, the Director of Chicago’s House of Peace, will all be presenting. Dr. Ahlgren will also facilitate site visits in conjunction with local experts. Dr. Ahlgren’s recent book, *The Tenderness of God*, is the impetus for this Convocation.

Are scholarships available?

Yes. Scholarships are available based on participant need. Please contact us directly if you are seeking financial assistance to participate or if you would like to donate so that others can attend.

What should I expect for the weather?

Expect late spring weather for Assisi in mid-May. Average temperatures are between 50 and 72 degrees Fahrenheit. Rain showers are always a possibility; be prepared. Evenings are typically cooler, so dress accordingly. Some churches also require modest dress, so anticipate bringing corresponding clothing options.

How do I get from the airport to Assisi?

Train transport is regularly scheduled into Assisi from both of these airports. From Rome, you take an express transfer from FCO airport to Roma Termini train station, and then take a regional train from Roma-Termini to Assisi. The total cost of that is about 35 euros each way. From the train station in Assisi there is a bus as well as a taxi stand.

With advance request and additional fees, we can help you arrange a shared van with other convocation participants, from the Rome, Florence or Perugia Airports directly to the hotel.

Can I be helped in identifying air transportation to Italy?

Yes. We have some limited resources to help identify airline flights to Italy and fares are still good. Please contact us directly if you would like assistance and some suggestions.

Will there be future opportunities and convocations?

Yes. Resources for Renewal anticipates making this an annual event, as well as similar gatherings at Mount LaVerna and in Ávila, Spain.

Do I need to understand Italian to participate?

All Convocation lectures, workshops, and liturgies will be conducted in English. Group visits to Assisi sites will also be in English. Prayer services associated with the convocation will also be held in English. Daily liturgies in Italian are available throughout the city.