

Former retreatants have said:

“This is the most holistic, inclusive, all-encompassing retreat I have ever experienced, incorporating body, mind, spirit, movement, the arts, visuals, audio, symbols and rituals.”

Christelle Watercott, OSF, Minnesota

“A spiritual experience of a lifetime. I have studied Bonaventure’s Journey, but this time I experienced it.”

Paula Scraba, OFS, Ph.D., New York

“The finest retreat I’ve ever made!”

Joseph Schwab, OFM, California

“The retreat is a living experience that immerses the retreatant in the Seraphic Doctor. You might think of it as theology for the non-theologian.”

Paul Perkins, OFS, California

“It reconnected me to the Word of God who walks in our skin.”

Jan Kilian, OSF, Minnesota

“A life-transforming experience! It has opened up new horizons for my own journey.

Clare Ruva, OSC, England

Cover Art: Amber Knorr

Registration and Event Information

Sunday, November 2, 2025 to

Friday, November 12, 2025.

USA Retreatants depart on November 2,

European Retreatants on November 3.

Retreat begins on the evening of November 3 in Assisi.

Two books will be provided for each retreatant: *Journey into God*, Raischl & Cirino; and the songbook, *Love Holding Love*, both from Tau Publishing.

Included: full lodging in Assisi from November 3-12, all meals, and transfer on November 3, from Rome Fiumicino Airport to Assisi and back on November 12.

Participants coming from Europe are welcome to contact Josef Raischl for further information:

Josef.Raischl@t-online.de

All Are Welcome !

Register soon, limited number of spots available.

Land only price (double occupancy room) -

\$1,950

Single room- +\$350

Register by visiting the “register” tab on franciscanpilgrimages.com or by calling the Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs office at **414.427.0570**. A non-refundable \$200 payment is required to sign up. Final payment is due by September 2, 2025.

Flights are to be booked by the retreatant.

Travel by air- please book your flights to arrive in Rome no later than **12pm noon on 11/3**.

Ground travelers- please make travel arrangements to meet in Assisi by **3pm on 11/3**. Specific meeting point instructions will be given closer to our departure date.



St. Bonaventure’s Journey into GOD A Franciscan Retreat Experience in Assisi 2025

Departing from USA: November 2 - November 12

Arriving within Europe: November 3 - November 12

About this Retreat:

We invite you to join this retreat on St. Bonaventure's masterpiece, *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum*, his *Journey into God*.



Bagnoregio, St. Bonaventure's home town

In 1259, St. Bonaventure, wanted "to satisfy the desire of his spirit for peace: 'I was moved by a divine inspiration and withdrew to Mount LaVerna since it was a place of quiet.'" And there he experienced his JOURNEY INTO GOD.

The retreat opens with a presentation on the life of St. Bonaventure in order to provide a context for reflection on his work. Each of the eight days of the retreat is then dedicated to one of the chapters of THE JOURNEY. Each day is a balance of instruction on the text, periods for reading and personal and community participation in Eucharistic liturgy, morning and evening prayer. The liturgical and para-liturgical prayer is especially designed by the presenters to disclose the profound themes in a contemporary experience. This unique experience weaves St. Bonaventure's masterpiece into the central sanctuaries of Assisi where we will celebrate liturgies:

Basilicas of Santa Chiara and San Francesco, San Damiano, San Rufino D'Arce (Lepers), Porziuncola, Carceri.



A typical day: After morning prayer and breakfast, we will go to one of the sanctuaries in Assisi for Eucharist followed by a late morning conference. After *pranzo* (lunch) quiet time is provided for rest and reflection. Evening prayer is followed by optional sharing on the Chapter of the day, then *cena* (supper).

On the final day of the retreat, we will travel into Tuscany to La Verna, the mountain where St. Francis received the Stigmata and where St. Bonaventure was when *The Journey into God* was birthed. Eucharist will be celebrated in the chapel where he lived.



We have conducted this retreat since 1988 more than 50 times in the United States, the Philippines, Canada, Hong Kong, England, and Italy. This Journey Retreat in Assisi will be the last one presented anywhere. We feel it important to bring this Franciscan retreat back to the city of Saints Francis and Clare, where the entire Franciscan movement in the Church was born.

Facilitators

André Cirino OFM has worked in parishes, formation, education, and the Little Portion Retreat House for the poor. His books include *Teens Encounter Christ In the Womb of the Cave*, and *The Cross Was Their Book*. Since 1984 André has conducted pilgrimages to Italy, Prague, England, Mallorca, France, Germany and California for FRANCISCAN PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMS. He taught at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Canterbury, England.

Josef Raischl, OFS, a native of Germany, lives with his wife Bernadette, in Dachau and works with Christopher's Hospice in Munich (1992 – 2024). He studied theology in Germany and at the Franciscan International Study Centre, Canterbury. Josef also studied in Rome at the Capuchin Franciscan Institute where he met André and developed this retreat. He is a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, the Little Portion Fraternity in New York.

André and Josef have published: *Franciscan Solitude; Journey into God; A Forty-Day Journey into God; My Heart's Quest: Collected Writings of Eric Doyle; Three Heroes of Assisi in World War II; A Pilgrimage through the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition; Bringing Forth Christ*. André and Laurent Gallant OFM published St. Francis' *Office of the Passion: The Geste of the Great King*. Josef produced the CDs for the *Office of the Passion* and *Love Holding Love*—mantras drawn from the writings of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi, and *Journey of the Heart*—mantras drawn from St. Bonaventure's *Journey into God*.0