

## **2019 Pilgrimage through the French Monasticism Movement**

We invite you to pilgrimage through France to observe the French Monasticism movement, the lessons it holds for the church today and for your own personal spiritual growth. We will visit Mont St-Michel, stay in the monastery at Ligugé, spend a weekend immersed in the Taizé Community, and make stops in other historic and contemporary monastic settings. Our days and reflections will be shaped by both ancient and contemporary monastic practices.

### **Itinerary**

#### **Days 1 and 2 – Arrive Paris and visit Chartres**

We will begin our pilgrimage by traveling from the Paris airport to Chartres Cathedral where we will begin and dedicate our pilgrimage by walking the massive labyrinth laid in the floor of the nave just as pilgrims have done before us for nearly 800 years. We will spend the night in Chartres at The Hôtellerie Saint Yves, built on the site of an ancient monastery and less than 50 m from the cathedral.

#### **Day 3 and 4 – Mont-Saint-Michel and Ligugé**

In the morning, we will travel to the mystical islet of Mont-Saint-Michel, a granite outcrop rising sharply (to 256 feet) out of Mont-Saint-Michel Bay (between Brittany and Normandy). We will spend the day here and return on Sunday morning to worship as people have since the first Oratory was built in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century. After lunch on the mount we will head to Ligugé Monastery for the night.

#### **Day 5 – Vézelay**

Following the celebration of Lauds and breakfast at Ligugé, we will depart for the hilltop town of Vézelay. There, we will visit the beautiful 12<sup>th</sup> Century basilica from where Bernard of Clairvaux preached the Second Crusade. For the next 4 nights, we will be guests of and pray with the Monastic Fraternities of Jerusalem. Founded in 1975 by Brother Pierre-Marie Delfieux with the aim of promoting the spirit of the monastic desert in the heart of cities, the Fraternities are in more than a dozen cities across Europe and in Canada of which Vézelay is one.

#### **Day 6 – Luxeuil**

Following breakfast we travel to Luxeuil where an abbey was founded in the 6<sup>th</sup> century by the Irish missionary, Saint Columbanus. Most of the Abbey is now destroyed but the 14<sup>th</sup> Century Gothic Church and cloisters remain. We will take in an exhibit of lace making for which Luxeuil is known. It is also known for its thermal springs and there will be free time in the afternoon to perhaps take in a spa experience in Luxeuil-les-Bains. We will have dinner back in a Vézelay restaurant and join the monks and nuns in evening prayer at the basilica.

#### Day 7 – Fontenay

Following breakfast and morning prayer in the basilica, we depart for Fontenay Abbey. Along the way, we will have lunch in a charming French village. Fontenay Abbey was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by St. Bernard of Clairvaux and is the only one of his monasteries to survive. We will tour the Abbey and monastic buildings of Fontenay and pray in the 12<sup>th</sup> century abbey church. Back in Vézelay we will have dinner followed by evening prayer at the basilica.

#### Day 8 – Beaune

Today we head to Beaune where we will see the 13<sup>th</sup> century Notre Dame Church (and the beautiful 15<sup>th</sup> Century tapestries there) as well as Les Hospices, a hospital for the poor founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. After lunch and a wine tasting, there will be free time to enjoy Beaune (also known for its Dijon mustard) and shopping. We return to Vézelay for dinner and evening prayer with the monks and nuns at the basilica.

#### Day 9 – Cluny and Taizé

We will leave Vézelay and head for Cluny having lunch at a winery along the way. We will visit the Cluny Abbey and arrive at Taizé in time for evening prayer.

#### Day 10 – Taizé

The day will be spent in Taizé as we participate in the daily rhythm of life there.

#### Day 11 – Taizé and Paris

After morning worship at Taizé, we will depart for Paris where we will have dinner and spend the last of our time together in the Enclos Rey on the grounds of the mother house of the Little Sisters of the Assumption.

#### Day 12 – Paris

This morning we will head to Montmartre to visit and have prayer at Sacré-Coeur, home to a group of Sisters of St. Benedict. After lunch and some free time, we will visit Sainte Chapelle, famous for its magnificent stained glass windows. Then, we will have vespers followed by mass at Notre Dame Cathedral. Dinner will be in a traditional Parisian restaurant.

#### Day 13 – Paris

Our last full day in France together will be a devotional practice using nature and art - a hybrid, experiential *Visio Divina*. Following early morning prayer and breakfast we will head to Giverny where we will visit the home of artist Claude Monet and his famous gardens. Following lunch, we will return to Paris and visit Musée de l'Orangerie which houses the exhibit, designed by Monet, of his Water Lilies. We will end the day with a Parisian Farewell Dinner.

#### Day 14 – Depart Paris

Following breakfast and a time of prayer to conclude our pilgrimage, we will be taken by bus to the airport where we will depart France for home.

### Itinerary at a Glance

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	Sept. 19 / 20, 2019	Arrive Paris / Chartres
2	Sept. 20, 2019	Chartres
3 & 4	Sept. 21-22, 2019	Mont-Saint-Michel and Ligugé
5	Sept. 23, 2019	Vézelay
6	Sept. 24, 2019	Luxeuil
7	Sept. 25, 2019	Fontenay
8	Sept. 26, 2019	Beaune
9	Sept. 27, 2019	Cluny and Taizé
10	Sept. 28, 2019	Taizé
11	Sept. 29, 2019	Taizé and Paris
12 & 13	Sept. 30, 2019	Paris
14	Oct. 1, 2019	Depart Paris