ITINERARY

Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Oberamergau Pilgrimage to Germany, Austria & Switzerland
September 16-26, 2020

Day 1 - Sep. 16: Depart USA
Our pilgrimage begins today as we depart on our overnight flight to Munich, Germany. Meals and drinks served aloft.

Day 2 - Sep. 17: Arrive Munich
Upon arrival in Munich we will be met by our local tour manager and then proceed to a local church for Mass. After Mass we will continue on to our hotel for check-in. The remainder of the day will be free.

Day 3 - Sep. 18: Munich
Today we will enjoy a full day tour of Munich including visits to the Burgersaal, the Michaelskirche, the Frauenkirche where we will celebrate Mass, the Marienplatz with its famous Rathaus-Glockenspiel clock, the festive Hofbrauhaus beer hall where we will have lunch and Nymphenburg Palace which was the summer home of the Bavarian monarchs.

Day 4 - Sep. 19: Munich / Salzburg
Depart Munich and drive to the Shrine of Our Lady of Altotting, also known as the Chapel of Grace, which is the oldest Marian shrine in Germany. The shrine became a popular pilgrim destination in 1489 after a young boy who had drowned had a miraculous recovery after his mother laid his body before a statue of the Virgin Mary and prayed for a miracle. After Mass in Altotting we will drive to the nearby town of Markt am Inn which is the birthplace of Pope Benedict XVI. Here we will visit St. Oswald Church where Pope Benedict XVI was baptized and his birthplace which is now a museum. We will then cross the border into Austria and proceed to Salzburg and check-in at our hotel.

Day 5 - Sep. 20: Salzburg
This morning we will stroll through the heart of old Salzburg and visit Mozart's birthplace, the famous Horse Fountain, the Hohen Salzburg Fortress and the modern Festival Hall. Visit the religious heritage of this town including Nonnberg Convent which was founded by St. Rupert in the 8th Century and is the oldest nunnery in existence, and the Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter which was also founded by St. Rupert and where we will celebrate Mass. Later this afternoon we will visit the beautiful gardens of Hellbrunn Palace, a 17th Century castle known primarily for its trick fountains that spray unsuspecting walkers with water.
Day 6 - Sep. 21: Salzburg / Oberammergau
After Mass at the 17th century Cathedral this morning we will depart Salzburg and drive to the picturesque town of Berchtesgaden located in the southeast corner of Bavaria just across the border from Austria. After a brief exploration of the town we will visit the Eagle’s Nest, Adolf Hitler’s infamous mountaintop retreat. See where Hitler entertained dignitaries, view the hall where weddings and conferences were staged, and explore the terrace to admire the spectacular Alpine views. We will then continue on to the village of Oberammergau, home to the world famous Passion Play where we will check-in at our hotel.

Day 7 - Sep. 22: Oberammergau
Today will be the highlight of our tour as we witness the world famous Passion Play, performed by the local people of Oberammergau. The story of Oberammergau is one of faith and began with a miracle. In the 1600’s the “Black Plague” swept through Europe, striking down one in every three people and leaving in its wake, misery, panic and death. The people of Oberammergau prayed to be spared, vowing that they would present a play depicting the Life and Passion of Jesus Christ every 10 years. True to their word, the villagers presented their Passion Play in 1634 and have kept their pledge, the routine of plays only having been interrupted by two World Wars.

Day 8 - Sep. 23: Oberammergau / Lindau
This morning we will depart Oberammergau and drive to Steingaden to visit and celebrate Mass at the Wieskirche (Church in the Meadow) which is also called the Church of Scourged Redeemer and is considered to be the most beautiful Rococo church in Europe. We will then continue on to Neuschwanstein Castle to see the most famous of the fairytale castles built by King Ludwig II. Drive on to Lindau which is located on beautiful Lake Constance for overnight.

Day 9 - Sep. 24: Lindau / Lucerne
This morning we will enjoy a brief tour of Lindau including the lighthouse and Bavarian Lion sculpture, the Old Town and St. Peter’s Church and Lindau Abbey. We will then depart Lindau and drive across the German-Swiss border to the Benedictine Monastery of Einsiedeln whose name derives from the German word Einsiedler, or hermits. Among these was the famous Meinrad who, in the early 9th century, retired to the forest with a little statue of the Madonna which was given to him by a local abbess. Meinrad was killed by robbers who were then eventually brought to justice for their crime. Since the early 10th century, Einsiedeln has remained a place of fervent pilgrimage. We will celebrate Mass at the Monastery, which is situated amidst green pastures and dense forests with some of the country’s most beautiful scenery. Continue our drive west to the beautiful town of Lucerne for check-in at our hotel.

Day 10 - Sep. 25: Lucerne
This morning we will enjoy a sightseeing tour of the medieval city center with its historical and picturesque old houses, churches, world-famous wooden bridges, towers, fountains and narrow streets. We will see Spreuer Bridge, Chapel Bridge, the Jesuitenkirche where we will celebrate
Mass, the Hofkirche, the Franziskanerkirche, the Lion Monument and Town Hall. Then relax and enjoy a pleasant boat cruise on Lake Lucerne while passing picturesque villages and stately villas. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 11 - Sep. 26: Lucerne / Zurich / USA
This morning transfer to Zurich Airport to catch our return flight home.