



by
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“DAY OF REFLECTION, DIALOGUE AND PRAYER IN ASSISI”

I had no idea I would be going to Assisi this year. It all began in April, when in the midst of checking my e-mail, I decided to read the *Vatican Information Services* headlines (I often pass by it, as I receive it on a daily basis). The following headline absolutely jumped out of me: “Day of Reflection, Dialogue and Prayer in Assisi.” I was captivated and read on.

Following are some of the highlights I read in the article:

“On 1 January 2011, after the Angelus, Pope Benedict XVI announced that he wished to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the historic meeting that took place in Assisi on 27 October 1986, at the wish of the Venerable Servant of God John Paul II.

On the day of the anniversary, 27 October this year, the Holy Father intends to hold a ‘*Day of reflection, dialogue and prayer for peace and justice in the world,*’ making a pilgrimage to the home of St. Francis and inviting fellow Christians from different denominations, representatives of the world’s religious traditions and, in some sense, all men and women of good will, to join him once again on this journey. The Day will take as its theme: “Pilgrims of truth, pilgrims of peace.”

The communiqué concludes by highlighting that “the Pope asks the Catholic faithful to join him in praying for the celebration of this important event, and he is grateful to all those who will be able to be present in St. Francis’ home town to share this spiritual pilgrimage.”

As I read this article, I felt so deeply in my being that I would love to be present for this awesome, historic event in the town of our Seraphic Father, St. Francis!

I immediately typed an e-mail and sent it to my fraternity, Lady Poverty Fraternity in Winter Park, Florida, informing them of the event and hoping that I might find a travel companion or two.

I concluded the e-mail to my fraternity with the following words, “This all might be a stretch...but if you can’t dream, such dreams will never happen! I just know I’d love to be there for this historic event (well I love to be in Assisi anytime...but for this...wow!)...Please let me know if any of you might be interested in going...”

Three months have passed and to my amazement (and delight!) a group of 13 of us are now planning to make a sacred pilgrimage to Assisi for this blessed event! Seven of us in the group are SFOs and in the next issue of *TAU-USA* we will share our journey through Assisi with all of you, including a day in LaVerna and culminating with the Day of Reflection, Dialogue and Prayer.



If any of you plan to be in Assisi on October 27 for this event, please let me know! For everyone else, please be one with us from wherever you are, as we join our worldwide Franciscan family and all those of good will, in prayer for peace and justice in our world.

The following link offers great information on the event, including an invitation letter from the Conference of the Franciscan Family, resource materials to plan prayer services: <http://spiritodiassisi.wordpress.com/english>

Peace and all good — Pace e bene!

