

Assisi Pilgrimage: Walking in Faith With Francis and Clare

TV Review

By Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP

When St. Francis of Assisi (1181/2-1226) founded the Order of Friars Minor in 1209 he probably did not foresee that 800 years later his charism of preaching the Gospel and proclaiming God's message of peace would continue to be a source of inspiration to people of every nation, age, race, age, culture, and religion.

Annually, thousands of pilgrims make their way to Assisi - from popes to political leaders, from members of nearly all faiths to people of no belief -- seeking answers to the meaning of life, seeking to learn more about Francis' spirituality of peace and simplicity. This video follows a group of American pilgrims, who, with their pilgrim guides, walk the roads and visit the sites and shrines important to the lives and legacy of Saints Francis and Clare (1193/4-1253).

To commemorate this anniversary, ABC affiliates around the country will be airing an inspiring one-hour documentary, *Assisi Pilgrimage: Walking in Faith With Francis and Clare*, between Sunday, September 14 - November 9. This hour-long documentary is part of the "Vision & Values" series, sponsored by the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, of which the USCCB is a member. Broadcast of *Assisi Pilgrimage*, which is close-captioned, is at the discretion of the local ABC station as a public service. Go to: www.interfaithbroadcasting.com for more information on local broadcast dates and times.

Assisi Pilgrimage was produced by Franciscan Communications in collaboration with the Catholic Communication Campaign. It follows the experiences of pilgrims who set out to walk in the footsteps of these two remarkable and beloved saints through the ancient city of Assisi and the Umbrian region.

Franciscan friar and best-selling author Murray Bodo and other pilgrim guides recount not only the biographies of these saints, but offer insights into the social and religious events of the times and how these helped shape the Franciscan vision. Commentaries include information on the fascinating history, art, and architecture of the basilicas where the saints are buried. These men and women share moments of their spiritual journeys, beginning as pilgrims visiting holy sites and leaving Assisi as nomads to bring the holiness with them into the world.

Assisi Pilgrimage: Walking in Faith With Francis and Clare is beautifully filmed and has the feel of an authentic spiritual experience. For the armchair pilgrim, *Assisi Pilgrimage* will inform and inspire. Excellent for retreats and prayer groups. To purchase a DVD of the program, or for more information, please go to: www.PilgrimageDVD.org or call 800-488-0488.