

# The Franciscan Pilgrimage

## Purpose

Lourdes University is committed to strengthening the Franciscan spirit that lies at the heart of the University community. The values and the vision of the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters continue to direct and guide the mission of Lourdes.

Rooted in this Sylvania Franciscan tradition, Lourdes expresses its Franciscan identity as:

- A Community of Learning*
- A Community of Reverence*
- A Community of Service*

Members of the University community are encouraged to deepen their understanding and to find ways to further embrace these values. To support this process, Lourdes University is providing funding for selected members of the staff, faculty, or administration to participate in the Franciscan Pilgrimage for Educators & Staff of Franciscan Colleges & Universities.

## Pilgrimage

Pilgrims are not tourists. Pilgrims are people who are on a journey designed to take them outside their ordinary, familiar lives into an unfamiliar environment where they have the opportunity to search beyond the ordinary in order to come to know God.

The Pilgrimage for Educators & Staff brings together individuals of various faith traditions from Franciscan Institutions to reflect on and learn from the vision and values of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi.

The Pilgrimage includes time for reflection, study, conversation, leisure, relaxation and visits to sacred Franciscan places in Assisi and Rome.

## Focus

On their return the Pilgrims are expected to share their experience with the University community, their family and their faith community; to translate the experience into action that will impact their service to the University; to infuse Franciscan values into the University community; and to help others clarify and live the vision and values which shape the mission of Lourdes University.

Participation in the Pilgrimage is open to staff and faculty of all faith traditions.

## Criteria

To be considered an individual must:

- Be employed by Lourdes University for at least 24 months (preference given to full time employees);
- Possess good health and be capable of long and strenuous walks;
- Express a commitment to share the experience with the University community;
- Read at least one book on the life of Francis of Assisi and Clare of Assisi, and review other materials placed on reserve in the library;
- Be open to new insights and discoveries;
- Participate in pre-pilgrimage gatherings for the purpose of getting to know other participants and answering questions concerning travel, itinerary, money, etc.;
- Participate in post-pilgrimage gatherings for the purpose of processing personal insights and discoveries;
- Serve as a mentor to future pilgrims;
- Translate the pilgrimage experience into action that impacts one's service to Lourdes University and to the broader community.

Please submit completed applications by  
**March 27, 2017 at 5 p.m.**  
to Sr. Ann Carmen Barone

## Application

To apply, please submit the following:

- A cover sheet that includes: Name, department, e-mail and phone number;
- A recommendation letter from a member of the faculty, staff, or administration;
- A written summary of services you provide to Lourdes University (job description, etc.);
- A 3-5 page narrative that includes a reflection on:
  - i. How the pilgrimage will benefit you personally;
  - ii. How your personal spiritual journey prepares you for this experience;
  - iii. How the person of Francis of Assisi or the Franciscan tradition has already influenced your life and your ministry at Lourdes;
  - iv. How you plan to integrate this experience into your teaching and/or other work here with the Lourdes community. Include specific examples.

Dr. Mary Ann Gawelek & Sr. Ann Carmen Barone will name a selection committee to review applications and, if necessary, hold interviews for the purpose of selecting the Pilgrims.

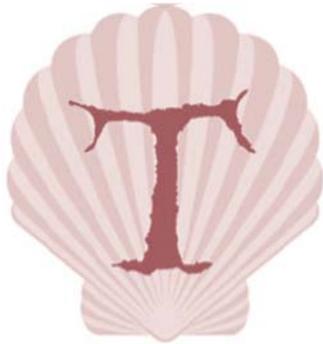
Individuals are also responsible for covering the cost of obtaining their passport and for any personal purchases made while on pilgrimage.

## Timeline

Correspondence from the selection committee will follow with information regarding possible interview dates.

Participants for the **May 21-31, 2017** pilgrimage will be notified in early April 2017.

Questions may be directed to  
Sr. Ann Carmen Barone, OSF  
[acarmen@lourdes.edu](mailto:acarmen@lourdes.edu)  
419.824.3703 ~ SCH 140



## The Pilgrimage Logo

### Scallop Shell

Recognized even prior to the Middle Ages as the symbol of Christian pilgrimage and thus the symbol of every pilgrim.

To this day pilgrims are acknowledged simply by wearing the shell around their neck. One of its purposes was to scoop water from rivers and streams to quench thirst.

### Tau Cross

Symbol used by Francis of Assisi as his signature. Wearing the Tau is a declaration of commitment to on-going transformation of life which was at the core of Francis' spirituality.

This particular Tau is reputed to have been made by Francis' own hand on the windowsill in the chapel of St. Mary Magdalene at Fonte Colombo, Italy.



For more information on  
**Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs**  
visit their website  
[www.franciscanpilgrimages.com](http://www.franciscanpilgrimages.com)

# Franciscan Pilgrimage

for Educators & Staff  
of Franciscan  
Colleges & Universities

May 21-31, 2017



**Lourdes University**  
Sylvania, OH