

The Franciscan Pilgrimage

Purpose

Lourdes University is committed to strengthening the Franciscan spirit 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 - a Community of Learning, Reverence and Service*.

Members of the Lourdes community are encouraged to deepen their understanding and to find ways to further embrace these values. To support this process, **Lourdes University is providing partial funding** for two students to participate in the Franciscan Pilgrimage sponsored by the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU). The selected students will be responsible for the cost of connecting flights to either Chicago or New York (arranged by Franciscan Pilgrimages).

Pilgrimage

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

The Franciscan Pilgrimage brings together students of various faith traditions from Franciscan Institutions across the United States 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 their pilgrimage experience into action; to infuse Franciscan values into the Lourdes community; and to help others clarify and live the vision and values which shape the mission of Lourdes University.

Participation in the AFCU Pilgrimage is open to students of all faith traditions.

Criteria

To be considered a student must:

- Be a full time undergraduate student in good standing who has earned a minimum of 24 credit hours at Lourdes University;
- Possess good health and be capable of long and strenuous walks;
- Demonstrate a history of community service and service to the Lourdes community;
- Express a commitment to share the experience with the Lourdes 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;
- **Translate the pilgrimage experience into action that expresses and strengthens the mission of Lourdes University.**

Please submit completed applications by **October 19, 2018 at 5 p.m.** to Sr. Ann Carmen Barone

Application

To apply, please submit the following:

- A cover sheet that includes: Name, e-mail, home address and phone number;
- A recommendation letter from a member of the faculty, staff, or administration;
- A written summary of your community service activities and your service to the Lourdes community;
- 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;
 - iv. How you see yourself sharing your pilgrimage experience with the Lourdes community, your family, peers and faith community. Please include specific examples.

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

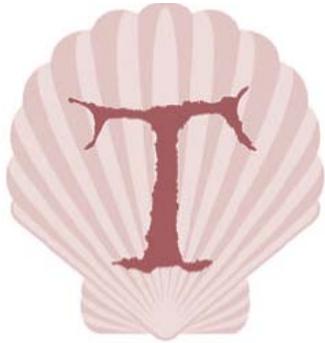
Individuals are responsible for covering the cost of obtaining their passport, for connecting flights and for any personal purchases made while on pilgrimage.

Timeline

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

Participants for the Dec 27, 2018-Jan 6, 2019 pilgrimage will be announced by October 30.

Questions may be directed to Sr. Ann Carmen Barone, OSF
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

Franciscan Pilgrimage

for Students of Franciscan
Colleges & Universities

December 27, 2018

- January 6, 2019



Lourdes University
Sylvania, OH