

# ALL ABOARD

## as St. Anthony Church travels to

# SPAIN/FRANCE

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# THE PASSION PLAY IN OBERAMMERGAU

**12 DAYS IN SPAIN AND FRANCE** *(including Barcelona, Montserrat, Lourdes, Carcassonne, Avignon, Nice and St. Paul de Vence)* Departing September 2, 2019

**11 DAYS IN IMPERIAL AND ALPINE EUROPE** *(Including the 2020 OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY (includes Hungary, Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic)* Departing August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

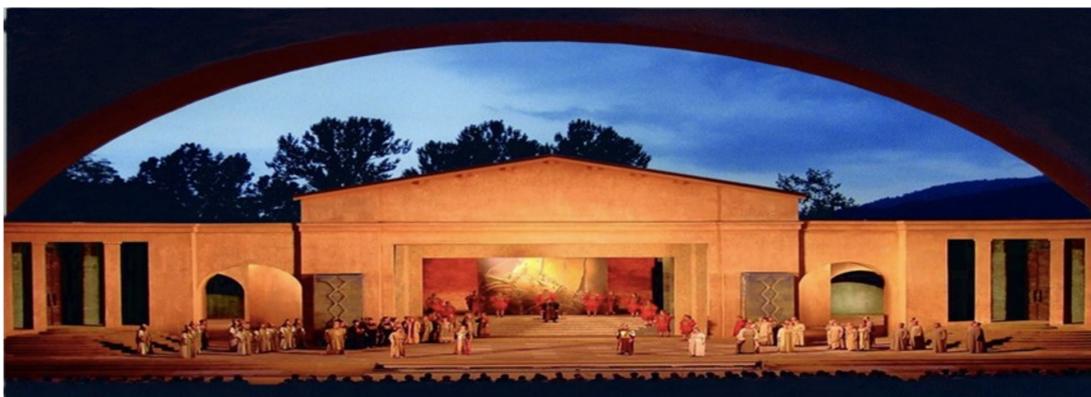
We will begin our journey in Spain where we'll visit the amazing monastery of Montserrat with it's Shrine to the Black Madonna. In Barcelona, we'll discover the diverse cultures of the inhabitants and conquerors of the past as they have left their imprint on the art, architecture, customs, religion, food, dance, dress and lifestyle of present-day Spain.



Our adventure then crosses the Pyrenees Mountains to Lourdes, France. Our stay in Lourdes allows for a full day dedicated to visit the Shrine. We then continue to the medieval, walled town of Carcassonne. Later, we travel through Provence...visiting Avignon, the home to seven Popes in the 14th century, Nimes with its rich Roman Heritage, and the famous Pont du Gard (the Roman aqueduct) which is considered to be one of the all-time greatest engineering feats.

Our adventure comes to a close as we motor to Nice and St. Paul de Vence. Here we will travel off-the-beaten-path visiting the Provence of the Impressionists and will motor through areas where the passing centuries have left a stunning architectural legacy—Roman amphitheatres and aqueducts, medieval castles, cathedrals and walled cities.

## The PROMISE



During the Thirty Years War the deadly plague raged throughout Europe, until in 1633 it reached even the tiny Alpine village of Oberammergau. During the next six months, so many villagers died of the Black Death, that the townspeople took a solemn Vow – if God would release them from the plague, they would perform once every ten years the story of the Passion of Christ. From the moment the Vow was taken, no one else in the village succumbed to the plague and so the first Passion play was performed in 1634.

What began as a single performance in the churchyard has developed over 380 years into a masterpiece of theater and music, with all the villagers involved either on stage or behind the scenes. For the Oberammergauers, the passion play is a labor of love and the Vow still has real meaning in their lives. And so they are now preparing for the Passion play of 2020.

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 6TH, 2018**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**ST. ANTHONY MEETING ROOM**  
**PADUA CENTER**

**HOSTED BY FR. RICHARD SMITH  
AND FR. JOHN SPONDER.**

All of the above programs are based on flights from Chicago, include comprehensive sightseeing, many meals, a professional tour manager and three and four star hotels.