

FOOD, FUN & FAITH



TRAVELING WITH FR. LEO PATALINGHUG



Fr. Leo E. Patalinghug is a priest member of the community of consecrated life, Voluntas Dei, the will of God. He's the host for the international TV and Travel Show, "Savoring our Faith" on EWTN. Along with his evangelization ministry, he also hosts a radio show and podcast. He's a best selling author, an internationally acclaimed speaker and presenter for audiences of diverse backgrounds, and is the founder and creator of the international food and faith movement, "Plating Grace: Elevating Culture and Family Life One Meal at a Time." His non-profit group, "The Table Foundation: Harvesting the Power of Food to Do Good" created "The Olive Mass" - to celebrate and bless those in the food and hospitality industry. Fr. Leo is creating a cafe serving great food but also serving returning citizens, ex-convicts, who will receive formation and job training. His ministry has appeared on all major networks including ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, TBN, PBS, The Cooking Channel, and even The Food Network where Fr. Leo defeated the world famous Chef in the competition, "Throw Down with Bobby Flay!"

His background makes him a true leader for pilgrimages, which he's been doing since 1999. Having lived in Europe and in Vatican City State while studying for priesthood, he's gained extensive knowledge of the people and places where he travels but also pastoral understanding of the needs of each traveling passenger. He's more than a tour leader, he's a shepherd that cares for his flock! Pilgrims who have been on other tours agree, Fr. Leo's "style" of pilgrimage is exceptional! His trips offer a sincere and gentle approach to create an authentic and deep spiritual experience, combined with one-of-a-kind cultural and culinary excursions, mixed with "bite-sized" theology filled with practical life lessons presented in an entertaining way. Pilgrims leave refreshed, entertained, and changed for the better.

He has hosted trips to the Holy Land, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Recently he was the group leader and the spiritual director for a group of 155 people on the first ever Danube River Cruise Pilgrimage. The entire ship was filled with Catholic faithful from across the country who enjoyed experiencing the comfort of traveling on a luxury cruise vessel, eating gourmet meals while seeing beautiful destinations along the Danube. Fr. Leo led a thirty-mile bike ride along the Danube, celebrated Mass daily in amazingly beautiful churches, started each meal with a prayer, hosted a cooking demonstration with the ship's head chef and taught the participants about local wines they enjoyed during the meals. On the cruise traveling with Fr. Leo were members of his family, which made the trip even more special for him.

Fr. Leo's latest project is the podcast "Shoot the Shitake with Fr. Leo" which opens up the mike to Catholics who are embracing unique lifestyles.

Fr. Leo has partnered with Select International on numerous pilgrimages.



"In my experience, nothing creates a better environment for a great conversation than time shared in the kitchen." – Fr. Leo



Fr. Leo's Travel Tips

- 1 Go with an open spirit to experience the other country's culture
- 2 Don't be afraid to get souvenirs for family and friends as it helps you to relive and recount your amazing experiences
- 3 Use this time as a spiritual pilgrimage, retreat, vacation, study tour and personal exploration - in other words, don't limit your pilgrimage to only one experience but an opportunity for a life changing moment

Q&A

What is your favorite bible verse and why?

John 21:15 Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Peter said, "I do love you." Jesus responds, "Feed my sheep." This verse, which I used on my Holy Card for my priesthood ordination inspires me, as a tour leader, to feed the pilgrims - the flock - on every trip, not just as part of my responsibly as a shepherd but also in response to my love for God. I know that what I do to others, I do to Him.

What is your favorite destination and why?

I especially enjoy Italian trips, having lived there for about 6 years of my life. But I also enjoy any place where there is good food, warm hospitality and natural scenery. In other words, I like too many places to list here.

What is your favorite church/cathedral and why?

My favorite church, despite all of the fantastic buildings I've seen, is a little church called San Stefano in Assisi, tucked away but exposing natural beauty and a simple quiet place to pray.

Why did you become a group leader and partake in pilgrimages?

I'm a shepherd who has to lead a flock to a greater experience of God's love. And because the Catholic Church is "universal" I have to take people on an adventure in this world that belongs to us! And... it helps people to realize that the Catholic Church is amazingly beautiful when we see its universality.