

# Dr. Italy



## TRAVELING WITH MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO



Marcellino and his wife Susan.



Marcellino and Mother Dolores Hart of Regina Laudis Abbey

**M**arcellino D'Ambrosio was already a professional musician at sixteen-years-old. His musical career was on the rise and he was doing what he absolutely loved, but something was missing. He had grown up in a Catholic family and still attended Mass and prayed, but Jesus seemed far away until he met some new friends who were experiencing a joy and depth of faith that he never knew was possible..

Marcellino followed his curiosity—and his friends—to a parish across town where he was introduced to a nun who had a profound effect on him. He confided in her that he wanted to experience the joy he saw in his new friends. She suggested that perhaps he wasn't experiencing all the life, excitement, and joy they were experiencing, because he believed in Christ intellectually, but never had really handed over the reigns of his life to the Lord.

"Christ was a part of my life, but not really the center of my life..." says Dr. Marcellino. The Sister's words had struck a chord and he decided to reorient his life with Jesus at the center. He left the music scene and headed to seminary.

Three years later, in 1975, a special Holy Year proclaimed by St. Pope Paul VI, Marcellino learned of a global conference in Rome coinciding with the great Feast of Pentecost. He was excited to attend, but he had neither the money or the time to do so; as the trip would require missing his final exams. Trusting the Lord had a way, he approached his professors with a faithful and bold request which was met with astounding providence. His professors agreed to postpone his exams. Then friends and family quickly came up with financial support, and before he knew it, he was in Rome.

That trip, "...awoke in me a desire to learn more about the heritage of the church. It whet my appetite for a life-long experience of learning," Dr. Marcellino recalls. He returned to finish his PhD in Theology then spent several years teaching at both Loyola and the University of Dallas before launching the Crossroads Initiative, a global outreach of Catholic renewal and evangelization. Today, Dr. Marcellino is a New York Times best-selling author, speaker, and a regular guest on radio and TV.



*"In my tours, I want to go to places where I can help people encounter God in a life-changing way"*

– Marcellino D'Ambrosio

A tour with Dr. Marcellino is a unique mix of theology and grace. "In my tours, I want to go to places where I can help people encounter God in a life-changing way," says Dr. Marcellino. There are moments of deep commentary (which are made available on CD after each trip) balanced with a pace relaxed enough to allow for prayer and introspection. Dr. Marcellino's pilgrims can often be found praying for each other and even receiving healing while waiting in line to view the sites.

Dr. Marcellino suggests that his pilgrims read and/or watch videos about the places they are going to visit. In fact, when you sign up for one of his trips, expect a list of materials to consider before traveling. More importantly, expect to encounter God in some of the holiest places on earth with a man that truly cares for his pilgrims.



Marcellino and his family.

### How should one approach the act of pilgrimage?

**Marcellino has some suggestions:**

- 1** Do a little reading or watching to get yourself ready for the place we are going.
- 2** Don't let fear hold you back. The news, friends, and family mean well, but the Holy Land is far safer than they think.
- 3** Expect and prepare to meet God on pilgrimage.

