



WINTER 2007

# The Catholic Travel Update

## TRAVEL NOTES


Dear Friends,

There's no doubt about it, we all love to travel. Statistics show that more Americans are traveling overseas than ever, particularly on group pilgrimages.

I am happy to report that 2006 was a banner year for NAWAS. Hundreds of pastors and Catholic leaders combined their passion for travel with a pilgrimage to Rome and the Shrines of Europe with NAWAS, and strengthened bonds with their parishioners. And with our generous tour host benefits and great value programs, they found out how easy it was to get a group together and travel FREE.

Our clients know that group travel is still the most economical way of visiting Europe and the Lands of the Bible and they know when they travel with NAWAS they are saving their people hundreds of dollars on airfare, accommodations and sightseeing. They also know they are getting the best guides and tour escorts with years of experience and intimate knowledge of their destination.

As we begin a new year, now is the perfect time to start planning your new pilgrimage. Our expert staff is ready to assist and ensure that your next pilgrimage is the most memorable one ever.

Sincerely,  
  
Sofi Nawas  
President

## COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR PASSION PLAY 2010

NAWAS' clients returning from the *Passion Play of Oberammergau 2000* gave it unanimous rave reviews, proclaiming the epic production far exceeded their expectations. The next performance of this once-a-decade event is in 2010. Although it is still several years away, demand for tickets is always exceedingly high and NAWAS is already hearing from pastors and church leaders eager to make plans to attend. It is not too early for you to start thinking about plans for your own group.

Regarded as the longest running play in history, the *Passion Play*, portraying Jesus' suffering, death, and Resurrection, is presented every ten years in the charming Bavarian town of Oberammergau, Germany. The villagers first performed their play in 1634 in gratitude to God for delivering them from the Black Plague that swept through Europe.

The 2000 *Passion Play* was regarded as the most artistic version of the play to date. Performed on an open-air stage with a covered auditorium, the production boasted magnificent new stage settings, colorful pageantry, and newly designed costumes for the first time in 100 years. More than 2200 citizens of Oberammergau participated in 110 performances. About two-thirds of the

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*Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem is one of the highlights of the Passion Play.*

# Nawas International Travel

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QUALITY CHRISTIAN TOURS SINCE 1949

# FOLLOW THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF ST. PAUL

When St. Paul converted to Christianity, the religion he once persecuted, he became a "slave of Jesus Christ" and discovered "the glorious freedom of the children of God." (Romans 8:21). As he traveled throughout **Greece** and **Asia Minor**, he brought Jesus' message to the masses and established new churches everywhere he went. Regarded as one of the greatest figures in the history of the Christian church, St. Paul encountered much opposition and survived stonings, riots and imprisonment during his three missionary journeys.

Now you can trace St. Paul's amazing evangelical journeys with NAWAS on two of our most popular and inspiring programs, *11 Days Greece & Greek Isles* and *12 Days Biblical Turkey*.

## GREECE & GREEK ISLES

Visit major sites in St. Paul's second missionary journey. See *Mars Hill* in **Athens** where he delivered his famous sermon about the "Unknown God," ancient **Corinth** where he established a church and wrote First Thessalonians, **Thessalonki** where he founded his first church, and **Philippi**, where he first preached the Gospel in Europe.

A major highlight is a three-day *Greek Isles* cruise with calls at **Kusadasi**, where you can relive St. Paul's messages and imprisonment in ancient **Ephesus** (where he spent nearly three years on his third missionary journey), and **Patmos**, where St. John wrote Revelation.

## BIBLICAL TURKEY

Much of St. Paul's missionary work was in **Turkey**, and St. John wrote Revelation for Christians living in seven cities in Asia Minor. Our *12 Days Biblical Turkey* program includes visits to all seven churches: **Sardis**, **Thyatira**, **Philadelphia**, **Ephesus**, **Pergamum**, **Laocidea**, and **Izmir**, which was ancient **Smryna**.

Other highlights include exotic **Istanbul**, which has attracted travelers, traders and conquerors since the 7th BC; **Cappadoccia** and **Goreme** with its unique rock chapels carved by early Christians; **Colossae** and **Hierapolis**, where Paul founded churches; **Konya**, where he encountered much opposition; **Pisidian Antioch** where he presented a lesson relating to the Messianic promise; and **Canakkale**, the site of ancient Troy immortalized by Homer.

## TURKEY IN DEPTH

If you have already visited **Greece** and **Turkey** you have an idea of their unique religious and historical sites. NAWAS also offers in depth visits to **Turkey** concentrating on St. Paul's third missionary journey.

Among the sights are **Antioch**, a great center of Christianity in New Testament times and Paul's base for his journeys; **Tarsus**, his native home; **Lystra**, where the priest of Zeus wanted to offer a sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas; **Konya**, known as Iconium in St. Paul's day; **Pisidian Antioch**; and **Perge**, where he preached on his first mission.

A walk in the steps of St. Paul is a rewarding experience. Call NAWAS to plan your program now.



# COUNTDOWN TO OBERAMMERGAU

*continued from page 1*

script was revised from previous texts to portray Jesus as a man of "flesh and blood" and to help make the Passion of Christ more relevant to the 21st century.

"The *Passion Play* was a superb experience; much better than I thought it would be. It was a unique theatrical and religious experience," said one tour leader. Another host commented, "I have never witnessed a performance of such excellence. The choir, the orchestra with its varied instruments, and the actors were superb."

NAWAS was the largest Christian travel operator handling tours to the play, with more than 16,000 passengers experiencing the play between May and October 2000. Our on-site office in **Oberammergau** enabled us to provide personalized service and make the *Passion Play* experience more rewarding. NAWAS was the only tour operator to have a full service office in **Oberammergau**.

We cannot stress enough the importance of working with a company you can trust. Demand for tickets always exceeds supply. In past years, many travelers who booked with less-than-reliable tour operators arrived in Oberammergau to find that the tickets they paid for never materialized. NAWAS has handled tour to six previous *Passion Plays*; all of our passengers attended the play.

You can be assured that if you book *Passion Play 2010* with NAWAS, you and your people will attend the play. As the leading operator of pilgrimages to **Europe** and the **Holy Land**, NAWAS will again secure a priority allotment of play tickets directly from the *Passion Play* Committee at **Oberammergau**.

If you are interested in hosting a tour to *The Passion Play of Oberammergau in 2010*, please return the reply form in this newsletter. We will keep you posted on the exciting programs and suggested departure dates we are planning. Don't miss out on this wonderful staging of events that are the central source of life and hope for the Catholic faith.

# IN THE STEPS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II ON OUR POLAND & EASTERN EUROPE PILGRIMAGE

**S**ince the passing of beloved Pope John Paul II, there has been tremendous interest in visiting his homeland, **Poland**.

In 1979, when Communism still gripped Poland, the Pope returned to the land of his birth. His visit became one of the great spiritual moments of the 20th century. To help you explore the significant sites and cities of his homeland, **NAWAS** is offering an inspiring 12-day program to **Poland & Eastern Europe**.

**WARSAW**—A living monument to the spirit of the Polish people, who rebuilt the city after it was virtually destroyed during WWII. In 1979 the Pope gave a Mass to more than a million people in Victory Square in the restored 14th century Old City.

**GLOGOWIEC**—Birthplace of a young Polish nun, Sr. Faustina. In 1931 Jesus appeared to her and asked her to



paint an image of Him with the words "Jesus I Trust in You" written below His feet. Known as the Divine Mercy, the painting's main message is that God is merciful, that He is Love itself, and that He wants all of us to turn to Him with trust and repentance.

**CZESTOCHOWA**—More than a million pilgrims each year flock to the monastery of Jasna Gora, where a wooden icon depicting Our Lady with Jesus in her arms hangs above the altar in the north chapel. It is **Poland's**

most revered treasure and said to have miraculous powers.

**KRAKOW**—The Pope adored this beautiful medieval city of light and shadows. Nearly 3 million Poles gathered here for his Mass when he took on Communism by focusing on its attempt to kill **Poland's** 1,000-year Christian heritage. The city is also the site of the Shrine of Divine Mercy, built in honor of Sr. Faustina, and St. Mary's Church.

**WADOSICE**—Renowned as the birthplace of Pope John Paul II. His childhood home is now a museum and nearby is the church where he served as an altar boy.

**AUSCHWITZ**—The Pope visited this infamous concentration camp in 1979 and celebrated Mass here to a crowd of some 500,000 people.

Also visit fascinating *Prague, Budapest and Vienna*.

For Reservations and Information, return the bottom portion or call **800-221-4984**



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**YES** Please send me detailed information on **Nawas' PILGRIMAGES** and how I can **TRAVEL FREE**.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROME & ASSISI              | <input type="checkbox"/> GREECE & GREEK ISLES CRUISE | <input type="checkbox"/> THE HOLY LAND                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ITALY PILGRIMAGE           | <input type="checkbox"/> BIBLICAL TURKEY             | <input type="checkbox"/> LUXURY EUROPEAN OCEAN CRUISES  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FATIMA, LOURDES & SANTIAGO | <input type="checkbox"/> RUSSIAN WATERWAYS CRUISE    | <input type="checkbox"/> AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND CRUISE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LOURDES & ITALY PILGRIMAGE | <input type="checkbox"/> ALPINE EUROPE               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOUTH AMERICA CRUISE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHRINES OF FRANCE          | <input type="checkbox"/> GERMANY'S CHRISTMAS MARKETS | <input type="checkbox"/> GULF OF ALASKA CRUISE TOUR     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMERALD IRELAND            | <input type="checkbox"/> POLAND & EASTERN EUROPE     | <input type="checkbox"/> CHINA & YANGTSE RIVER CRUISE   |

**PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU 2010**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH SIZE \_\_\_\_\_

Office  Home

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you promoted a group before?  YES  NO No. in Group \_\_\_\_\_ Destination \_\_\_\_\_ Year/Month of last tour \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested date of travel  2007  2008  Undecided Expected No. of Participants \_\_\_\_\_ CATHNEWS/JAN07 CA REG #1005405-40

# SICILY: ITALY'S MELTING POT

**W**ith its colorful history and rich religious heritage, **Italy** is the favorite destination of **NAWAS** travelers. Our *Pilgrimage to Italy* featuring **Rome, Florence, Venice, and Assisi** is our most popular and in-demand program ever. If you're a repeat **NAWAS** client, chances are you have already taken a pilgrimage to **Italy** and have experienced celebrating Mass in Eternal **Rome**, the heart of the Catholic Church.

In response to requests from frequent tour hosts for a new **Italy** program, **NAWAS** is featuring a new *12 Days Best of Italy & Sicily* tour focusing on sunny **Sicily** off the tip of **Italy's** "boot." This fascinating island where St. Paul preached and Roman emperors and Norman knights once ruled is one of the world's first melting pots and was home to all the great civilizations of the Mediterranean.

Its eclectic history has left the island a region of enchanting contrasts with a unique cuisine and a dazzling artistic heritage. Baroque and Byzantine cathedrals lie next to ruins of Roman amphitheaters, Greek temples, and Norman castles.

*Palermo*, the capital, is a meld of Christian, Byzantine, Roman, Norman, and Italian cultures. Highlights include the Church of St. John of the Hermits and the cathedral, built in 1185, and the Cappella Palatina with its fine Byzantine mosaics.



In nearby *Monreale*, the splendid cathedral is lavishly decorated with over 50,000 square feet of mosaics depicting events from the Bible.

The island has a tremendous array of Greek ruins. *Siracusa*, founded in 734 B.C., at one time rivaled *Athens* in importance. Remains of its former splendor can be seen in the Temples of Apollo and Athena and the Greek theater. Also noteworthy are the 7th century lost city of *Selinunte* and *Agrigento*, the site of the Valley of the Temples, dating from 650 B.C.

Other interesting sights include the still-active volcano, Mt. Etna, and the hilltop resort town of Taormina with panoramic views of the sea.

The program also features mainland **Italy** including *Sorrento*, the amazing ruins of *Pompeii*, and *Rome*, where you can attend a Papal Audience.

Don't miss out. Call **NAWAS** and starting planning your tour now.

# WHERE DO NAWAS TRAVELERS GO?

**I**f we polled our clients on their favorite destinations, no doubt they would say **Italy, Greece, Spain, and Ireland**. And judging by the enormous number of passengers we send to these countries every year, we would not be wrong. Here's why:

## ITALY

*Rome, Florence, and Assisi*, birthplace of St. Francis, are major draws. **Italy** is a good off-season bargain; prices are lower and the weather is mild.

## SHRINES OF FATIMA, LOURDES

The sacred shrine cities of *Fatima, Lourdes, and Santiago de Compostela* are big attractions, plus they're among the best bargains on the Continent, especially off-season.

## IRELAND

*Knock Shrine*, dramatic scenery like the famous *Ring of Kerry*, ancient castles, and friendly cities like *Dublin* make the **Emerald Isle** a hit.

## GREECE

St. Paul's missionary journeys, friendly Mediterranean hospitality, and millenniums of history make **Greece** a winner. It's a good value, especially off season. [See St. Paul story.]

Call **NAWAS** for detailed itineraries on these exciting destinations.



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