Next Level Catholic Academy Pilgrimage to

POLAND

with Matthew Leonard

INCLUSIONS:
† Round Trip Airfare
† All Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges
† Accommodations:
  - Radisson Blu Centrum, Warsaw ****
  - Vienna House Andel’s Cracow, Krakow ****
† Breakfast and Dinner daily
† Wine and Mineral Water with Dinner
† Transfers as per itinerary
† Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
† Wireless headsets for additional sightseeing
† Assistance of a professional local guide throughout
† Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
† Arrangements for Mass Daily
† Tips to Hotel, Restaurants, and Porters
† Flight Bag & Portfolio of your final travel documents

NOT INCLUDED: Lunches, Beverages, Tips to your guide & driver.

April 18 - 26, 2021

Spiritual Director: Fr. Phillip Tah

$3,099 Land Only per person
*For those who wish to arrange their own Airfare via Sky Miles etc.

$4,099 per person
based on double/twin

www.pilgrimages.com/nextlevel
Day 1, Sunday - April 18: Depart for Warsaw
Depart from your hometown for your overnight flight(s) to Warsaw. Meals will be served on board.

Day 2, Monday - April 19: Arrive in Warsaw
Welcome to Warsaw, Poland! Upon arrival, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the Arrival's Hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Transfer to your hotel. Following check-in at your hotel, you will have time to get settled and enjoy a welcome drink before dinner. 

Day 3, Tuesday - April 20: Warsaw
Your day will begin with breakfast followed by mass at St. James Church, iconic for its tower and square base. This church is where Helena Kowalska prayed extensively upon entering Warsaw. Also, it is where she confessed all that burdened her soul, and asked for the advice of Rev. James Dabrowski, which eventually resulted in the Saint entering the convent. Following this prayerful morning, your day of sightseeing begins. Your group will explore the Old Town, comprised of beautiful maze-like cobblestone streets and picturesque architecture that are symbols of Poland's successful rebuild following its destruction during World War II. Some of the sites will include the Market Square (the center of the city filled with restaurants, cafes and shops), the Barbican, defense-like structures that have been rebuilt following World War II, and the Warsaw Ghetto monument that commemorates the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943 during World War II. You will also take in the Lazienki Park, a beautifully landscaped park, the Chopin Statue (a large bronze statue of musician, Frederic Chopin), and the Royal Castle (the official residence of the Polish monarchs). In the afternoon, visit the Stanislaw Kostka Church and view a special exhibit dedicated to Fr. Jerzy Popieluszko. This priest was a great personality of the Catholic Church, and killed by communists in 1984. In 1987, St. John Paul II visited here and made a pilgrimage to this church.

Day 4, Wednesday - April 21: Warsaw - Niepokalanow - Swinice Warckie - Krakow
This morning, you will enjoy breakfast followed by a transfer to Niepokalanow. This Franciscan Monastery is in the community of Teresin, and was founded by martyr, St. Maximilian Kolbe. This remarkable saint was arrested by the Nazis and died in Auschwitz, giving his life for the life of another prisoner. Following your visit to this Holy Monastery, transfer to the village of Swinice Warckie. In Swinice Warckie, visit the church of St. Maximilian. This historically rich parish is the site of baptism for St. Faustina (formally known as, Helena Kowalska). Little Helena received her first confession, and First Holy Communion, at this parish. Additionally, she and her family attended Sunday Mass and other services at this church. After visiting this simple, yet elegant church, we will continue to Krakow. Upon arrival in Krakow, you will check-in to your hotel, dinner, and a restful overnight.

Day 5, Thursday - April 22: Arrive in Krakow - Lagiewniki (Divine Mercy)
Special Event: Celebrate the Feast of Saint Faustina Kowalska
Welcome to Krakow! Upon arrival, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the airport's hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. We will begin our pilgrimage by heading to Lagiewniki, the capital of the Divine Mercy. Through the mediation of St. Faustina, Christ passed on the message of Divine Mercy at Lagiewniki. We will start our visit at the “Have No Fear” Center where we will be able to pray by the relic of St. John Paul II, with time after for additional prayer and reflection. We will celebrate Mass here in one of the Chapels, and reflect on her Feast Day, Canonization, and the words of St. John Paul II:

Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo. Let us too, the pilgrim Church, join our voice to the voice of Mary most holy, “Mother of Mercy”, to the voice of this new Saint who sings of Mercy with all God’s friends in the heavenly Jerusalem. And you, Faustina, a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to the whole Church, obtain for us an awareness of the depth of Divine Mercy; help us to have a living experience of it and to bear witness to it among our brothers and sisters. May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivaseries and hatred, and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood. Today, fixing our gaze with you on the face of the risen Christ, let us make our own your prayer of trusting abandonment and say with firm hope: Christ Jesus, I trust in you! Jezu, ufam tobie!

Then visit the Divine Mercy Shrine where Saint Faustina, the Apostle of Divine Mercy, lived and died. Through her meditation, Christ passed on the message of Divine Mercy and gave her instructions to spread the message among His flock. While here, you can listen to a special lecture done by one of the local Sisters, and also take in the Lazienski Park, a beautifully landscaped park, the Chopin Statue (a large bronze statue of musician, Frederic Chopin), and the Royal Castle (the official residence of the Polish monarchs). On your visit, you will continue on to Wadowice, the birthplace of Karol Wojtyla (Saint John Paul II). In the small city of Wadowice, you will have the opportunity to visit the church where this beloved Saint was baptized, and attended Mass as a child. Following this historically captivating experience, continue on to Krakow. Enjoy dinner at the local restaurant before resting up for the next day of activities.

Day 6, Friday - April 23: Krakow (City Tour) - Wieliczka - Krakow
After breakfast, you will explore Krakow's Market Square as the sound of the silver trumpet from St. Mary's Tower fills the air. The captivating beauty of this square is largely due to the fact that it has remained unchanged for almost 700 years. It contains a number of buildings that hold important historic value such as, the Town Hall Tower, the Cloth Hall, and the Burghers' houses. Following your time in this longstanding square, you will make your way to Wadowice, where you will visit the beautiful Cathedral, and Coronation Chapel. These are among the most important sites in Poland as the Cathedral has been the coronation site of the Polish monarchs and has held numerous pieces of Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Classicist and Modern art. Also at this site, you will have the opportunity to pray at the tomb of the patron saint of Poland, St. Stanislaus. Next, a short drive to Wieliczka and visit Europe's oldest salt mine, which has been listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Return to your hotel in Krakow for dinner and a restful overnight.

Day 7, Saturday - April 24: Krakow - Auschwitz - Wadowice - Krakow
After breakfast, you will make a short drive to Auschwitz, notably known as a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War. Upon arriving at the former camp, you can feel the darkness and sorrow that overtook the atmosphere as there were numerous unspeakable atrocities that occurred at this site. Additionally, while on this visit, you will have the opportunity to view the cell that imprisoned the Christ-like, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and visit the Martyrdom Museum. Following this visit, you will continue on to Wadowice, the birthplace of Karol Wojtyla (Saint John Paul II). In the small city of Wadowice, you will have the opportunity to visit the church where this beloved Saint was baptized, and attended Mass as a child. Following this historically captivating experience, continue on to Krakow. Enjoy dinner at the local restaurant before resting up for the next day of activities.

Day 8, Sunday - April 25: Krakow - Częstochowa - Krakow
Today, you will awake in the home of the grandest pilgrimage shrine of Poland since the 14th century! You will begin your day with breakfast and Mass at Jasna Gora Monastery. This hill-top monastery is home to the beloved icon of the Black Madonna. Additionally, Saint John Paul II is said to have made frequent visits to this monastery throughout his life. Tradition tells us that this icon was painted by Luke the Evangelist, discovered by St. Helen, and later enshrined. While here, you will have the opportunity to venerate not only the Holy Icon, but also many other priceless treasures that are contained within. Following your prayerful visit to the Chapel of the Black Madonna, you will get an Exclusive visit inside the Monastery's Antique Library. A venerable place where you can find valuable manuscripts like The Olbracht Missal or The Bible of Queen Sophia. Following this historically captivating experience, continue on to Krakow. Enjoy dinner at the local restaurant before resting up for the next day of activities.

Day 9, Monday - April 26: Return Home
Following breakfast, and wishing your fellow pilgrims a fond farewell, you will board our transfer and make your way to Krakow Airport where you will board your overnight flight(s) to