



The La Verna Program
Renewing our Franciscan Spirit and Vocation

Rome, Greccio, Assisi, LaVerna, Bagnoregio

May 16- May 27, 2013 (Depart on Thursday, May 16 and return Monday afternoon, May 27)

Background:

Chapter '05: III.K The Chapter recommends that a Franciscan Life Renewal Program be developed for the friars of Holy Name Province and that friars be encouraged to participate in it.

Context:

The Grace of our Origins Program, 2006-2009; OFM General Curia

The La Verna Program is a 10-day retreat/renewal program that seeks to provide friars with a prayerful and fraternal context within which each member of the group will be invited to reflect on his inner spirit, his understanding of the vowed life in the contemporary world, his life and ministry as a friar since the time of profession, and his evangelizing mission in the days and years ahead. Drawing on the resources of the Franciscan theological–spiritual tradition, a series of short lectures will establish a framework for reflection and discussion. Quiet time, prayer and opportunities for discussion at key Franciscan places will ideally provide the context for a renewal of one’s inner spirit as well as a deepening of one’s sense of call and commitment to live the Gospel as lesser brothers in our Province, Church and world.

This program will offer participants a unique opportunity to “step back” in the company of one’s brothers and, in the words of St. Bonaventure, to “enter one’s heart and learn the measure of one’s spirit;” to consider what one ought to be by striving industriously, and finally what one can yet be by the grace of God.” (*On the Perfection of Life*, 1, 5).

This renewal program will be limited to 20 friars.

The cost includes lodging, most meals and transportation after we arrive in Rome, Italy.

The pilgrimage is being coordinated and led by Edward Coughlin, OFM and Thomas Hartle, OFM.