

## DETAILED ITINERARY FOR SF PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND

### AND WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES, AUGUST 18-27, 2018

- Approximate pricing, exclusive of airfare (dependent upon exchange rate at the moment):  
Adults: approximately \$1100.00 (2/room)  
Children 6-12 years of age: approx. \$600.\*  
Children 5 and under: approx. \$350.\*  
*\*Children must share a room with 2 adults to receive this reduction*
- 8 nights at good 3/4 star hotels, all rooms with private bath/shower
- Continental/Irish breakfast at accommodation each day, days 2-9 inclusive
- Most days have either lunch or dinner also included
- **VISITS**  
Knock Shrine & Museum                      Croagh Patrick  
Kylemore Abbey                              Clonmacnoise
- Donations for Mass x 3 days, on days 2 – 4 inclusive
- Modern motor coach with driver x 8 full days on days 2 – 9 inclusive (09h00-17h30)
- English speaking guide x 3 full days on days 2 – 4 inclusive (9h00 – 17h30)
- WMOF Registration for ALL events on all 5 days
- Lunch tickets for the three days of the Congress
- Modern motor coach with driver x 1 airport transfer on day 10
- Service charges and taxes at existing rates

#### **Day 1: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Depart NYC Area Airport for Shannon, Ireland**

*N.B. – Airfare is not yet included because the airlines only provide prices 11 months before the flight is to depart. After October 2, we will have confirmation of flight cost, round trip, which is hovering around \$900.00 for the month of August 2018 at present.*

#### **Day 2: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – Welcome to Ireland**

Arrive into Shannon Airport. Meet with your driver & guide and depart for County Mayo.

##### **En-route visit Knock Shrine & Museum**

The story of Knock shrine began on Thursday evening of the 21st August, 1879, when the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of the church at Knock in County Mayo. Two commissions of enquiry, in 1879 and 1936, accepted the testimony of this apparition as trustworthy and satisfactory. Today, Knock ranks among the world's major Marian shrines.

Check in to your hotel.

Dinner, overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in County Mayo or area.

#### **Day 3: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – Welcome to Ireland**

##### **This morning visit Croagh Patrick**

Croagh Patrick, 5 miles from the picturesque town of Westport and overlooking Clew Bay in County Mayo, is considered the holiest mountain in Ireland. It is one of the highest peaks in the West of Ireland, rising 750 metres (2,500 feet) into the sky. The tradition of pilgrimage to this holy mountain stretches back over 5,000 years from the Stone Age to the present day without interruption. Its religious significance dates back to the time of the pagans, when people are thought to have gathered here to celebrate the beginning of harvest season. Croagh Patrick is renowned for its Patrician Pilgrimage in honour of Saint Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. It was on the summit of the mountain that Saint Patrick fasted for forty days in 441 AD and the custom has been faithfully handed down from generation to generation. The Croagh Patrick Visitor Centre, Teach na Miasa, is situated in

Murrisk on the Pilgrim's path at the base of Croagh Patrick mountain and opposite the National Famine Monument. The Walsh family, who run Teach na Miasa, aim to provide for the needs of pilgrims, climbers, archaeologists and nature lovers who visit this beautiful part of Ireland. Services and facilities available at the Centre include hot food at the family restaurant, a craft shop, hot showers and secure lockers. Guided tours are available from the Centre during peak season with advance notice. These tours also give information on Clew Bay, the National Famine Monument and Murrisk Abbey.

### Then journey through the **Connemara Region**

Today you will explore the Connemara Region. Connemara is a land of lakes and rivers, bogs and mountains. A land of small villages where Gaelic is still the spoken language and where little has changed since the beginning of time. It is without a doubt the wildest and the most romantic part of Ireland. Connemara is a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway Bay in the south ~ a land characteristic for its stone walls and thatched cottages. On its northern shore the land is harsher and more secret, with spectacular views of the Ocean and the beautiful fjord of Killary Harbour, as well as the steep mountains overlooking numerous lakes and large bog areas. Connemara is a real paradise for Nature lovers and those in search of strong emotions. In 1951, John Ford's great movie "The Quiet Man" starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald was made, and filming was centred in the village of Cong on the Mayo-Galway border.

### Visit **Kylemore Abbey**

Kylemore Abbey is stunningly located in the Kylemore Pass in Connemara. Mitchell Henry built the House in 1868, after having spent his honeymoon in the area. The architecture is best described as neo-gothic and the house still displays all the characteristics of that period. One of Kylemore Abbey's most famous features is its miniature cathedral, built in 1870 and known locally as the Gothic church. Today, the abbey is home to the Irish order of Benedictine nuns. They established a private school for young girls, which was the renowned Kylemore Abbey International School. The school eventually closed in 2010. Facilities at Kylemore include a visitor centre, an exhibition housed in the main reception rooms of the house and a video which takes the visitor through the history of the house and its occupants. The Gothic church is available to visit and as a venue for choir groups to sing in. If time allows guests can also visit the Kylemore Abbey Victorian Walled Garden was laid out in 1867 and took three years to complete. A bus service provided from the front door of the Abbey directly to the garden and is the only permitted means of access.

### Enjoy a **stop** in **Cong**

Dinner, overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in County Mayo or area.

## **Day 4: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018 – County Mayo to Dublin**

This morning depart County Mayo and journey to Dublin.

### En-route visit **Clonmacnoise**

Clonmacnoise is a wonderful early Christian site founded by St. Ciarán in the mid-6th century on the eastern bank of the River Shannon. In a stunning setting, the site includes the ruins of a cathedral, seven churches (10th -13th century), two round towers, three high crosses and the largest collection of early Christian graveslabs in Western Europe. The original high crosses and a selection of graveslabs are on display in the visitor centre. In 1979 Pope John Paul II celebrated mass at this site. Guided tours are provided and the long and varied history of Clonmacnoise is recounted in an audiovisual presentation shown in the visitor centre. There are also exhibitions that deal with the flora, fauna and landscape of the region.

### On arrival into Dublin enjoy a **panoramic city tour**

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Here you will discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found (today owned by an American College), its colourful doors, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not so far from St. Stephen's Green, in Kildare St., you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula.

This part of the city is also dominated by the students of Trinity College, where the famous book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university is facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and the two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.

This evening enjoy **dinner and entertainment at The Merry Ploughboy** or similar

The Merry Ploughboys live in concert is widely regarded as the best traditional music show in Dublin and also as a must see for any visitors to Dublin city. The show is a highly entertaining performance of live traditional Irish music, song and Irish dancing. From start to finish, this is a show based on fantastic interaction between the performers and the audience.

Overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

**Day 5: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 – World Meeting of Families Congress**

09h00-18h00 – Enjoy the day at the World Meeting of Families congress

Dinner on own

Overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

**Day 6: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 – World Meeting of Families Congress**

09h00-18h00 – Enjoy the day at the World Meeting of Families congress

Dinner on own

Overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

**Day 7: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – World Meeting of Families Congress**

09h00-18h00 – Enjoy the day at the World Meeting of Families congress

Dinner on own

Overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

**Day 8: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – Dublin Sightseeing**

Morning and afternoon free for own activities

Lunch and supper on own

This evening attend the Festival of Families concert

Transfer back to your hotel.

Overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

**Day 9: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – Dublin**

Today you will have the morning at leisure.

Lunch and supper on own

From 13h00-17h00 attend the closing Mass

Transfer back to your hotel under own arrangements

Overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

**Day 10: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – Farewell**

Transfer to Dublin Airport for return flight home.