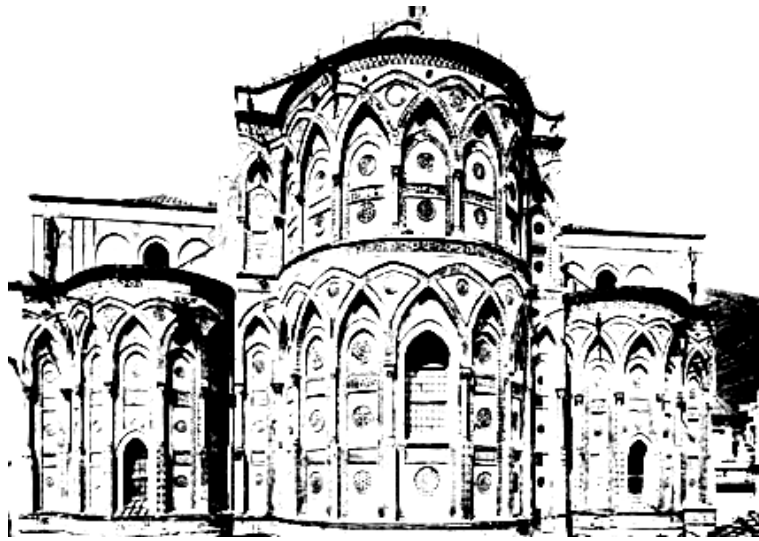




The Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem



Pilgrimage to Monreale

June 1st – June 4th 2017

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History



Palermo Cathedral



Palermo

Founded in 734 B.C. by the Phoenicians and named “Ziz” (flower), then it became a possession of Carthage, before becoming part of the Roman Republic, the Roman Empire and eventually part of the Byzantine Empire, for over a thousand years. The Greeks named the city “Panormus” (meaning “complete port”). From 831 to 1072 it was under Arab rule during the Emirate of Sicily when the city first became a capital.

***The Arabs changed the Greek name into “Balarm”
the root for Palermo's present name***

Following the Norman reconquest, Palermo became the capital of a new kingdom (from 1130 to 1816), the Kingdom of Sicily and the capital of the Holy Roman Empire under Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor and Conrad IV of Germany, King of the Romans. Eventually Sicily would be united with the Kingdom of Naples to form the Kingdom of the Two Sicily's until the Italian unification of 1860.

In 2015, Arab-Norman Palermo and its neighbouring cathedrals were granted status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The site provides, in UNESCO's words:

"An outstanding example of a socio-cultural syncretism between Western, Islamic, and Byzantine cultures. This interchange gave rise to an architectural and artistic expression based on novel concepts of space, structure, and decoration that spread widely throughout the Mediterranean region. The innovative re-elaboration of architectural forms, structures, and materials and their artistic, decorative, and iconographic treatments – most conspicuously the rich and extensive tesserae mosaics, pavements in opus sectile, marquetry, sculptural elements, paintings, and fittings – celebrate the fruitful coexistence of people of different origins".



Norman Palace (Palazzo dei Normanni. Seat of the regional government offices



Massimo Theater (Teatro Massimo)



Politeama Theater (Teatro Politeama)



How to get to Palermo from the International airport?

- *The distance between the airport and the city is about 33 km.*
- *The simplest transportation is by **bus**. Buses depart every 30 minutes. The first bus leaves from the airport at 06.30h and the first bus from Palermo to the airport leaves at 05:00h. The fare to Palermo is around 7 euros. From the city of Palermo, Travel time averages 40 minutes but delays along the route are common. <http://www.prestiaecomande.it/>.*
- *The nearest bus stop to Grand Hotel et des Palmes is the stop at Piazza Politeama, it is only five minutes walking distance from the hotel.*
- ***Taxis are not recommended** as you'll probably be overcharged, paying at least 50 euros for the ride into the city, and even higher rates after 20:00h. If you must use one, negotiate the fare with the driver in advance, never en route or at the journey's end.*

What to see in Palermo?

- *Visit the following website and choose among different beautiful places full of history!*
<http://www.visitpalermo.it/>



Church of the Gesù (Chiesa del Gesù). One of the most impressive churches in Italy



Monreale Cathedral



Monreale

It stands on the slope of Monte Caputo, overlooking the very fertile valley called "La Conca d'oro" (the Golden Shell). Monreale derives from Latin "Mons regalis" (that means "mountain worthy of the king"). After the occupation of Palermo by the Arabs, the Bishop of Palermo was forced to move his seat outside the capital. After the Norman Conquest in 1072, Christians once again occupied the old city cathedral.

The Cathedral was built from 1174 to 1185. It was commissioned by William II, the Norman ruler of Sicily. The project employed both Sicilian and Byzantine craftsmen, resulting in a magnificent fusion of eastern and western influences. William II also founded a Benedictine monastery here and the Duomo was its abbey.

The cathedral's interior is completely covered in gleaming gold mosaics; more than 6,000 square metres of mosaic.





Inside the Monreale Cathedral

The cloister of the Benedictine monastery adjoining the south side was built at the same time as the cathedral. Consisting of 228 double columns supporting Arab-style arches, it is richly decorated with Romanesque figurative carvings on the columns and capitals. Mosaic work appears on some of the columns as well. The craftsmen who worked in the cloister came from all over southern Italy.



The cloister

Our Ecclesiastical Grand Prior

H.E. Mons. Michele Pennisi

Archbishop in Monreale and Abbott in Santa María del Bosco



Born in Licodia Eubea (Caltagirone and Catania Province Diocese) on November 23rd, 1946. He attended the Caltagirone Episcopal seminar and studied theology and philosophy at the Pontificia Universidad Gregoriana. He became a priest in 1972 by Mons. Carmelo Cancioneros, Bishop of Caltagirone.

He was elected bishop of Piazza Armerina in 2002 and was consecrated at the Piazza Armerina Cathedral by Card. Salvatore De Giorgi accompanied by other bishops and episcopate representatives from churches in Sicily.

On February 8th, 2013, Pope Benedict XVI made him Archbishop in Monreale.

He was elected Ecclesiastical Grand Prior of the Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem in 2014 by the 49th Grand Master, H.E. Don Carlos Gereda y de Borbón, Marquis of Almazán.

Since then, he has actively participated in various events and investitures and has also published several pastorals dedicated to the Order.

H.E. Mons. Pennisi will preside and host at the Archbishop's Palace the upcoming meeting of the Spiritual Advisory Council a day before the Pilgrimage and also celebrate with all of us a religious service on Saturday after the Pilgrimage

The Relics



Next to the choir in the Cathedral in Monreale there is a urn containing the viscera of Saint Louis, King of France, who died in 1270. Louis IX, was born in 1214 in Poissy, France and died in 1270 near Tunisia.

In 1248 Louis decided that his obligations as a son of the Church outweighed those of his throne, and left his kingdom to lead two Crusades.

Lazarite knights participated in the Egyptian campaign of Louis IX of France and fought at the battle of Mansurah in 1248. The order's losses were so extensive in these campaigns that Pope Innocent IV issued a bull in 1253 opening the office of the master to non lepers, because all the leper knights had been killed in battle.



The Litany

The Litany of St. Louis, King of France

Lector/:

- St. Louis, Most Christian King
- St. Louis, staunch defender of the glorified Christ
- St. Louis, dutiful son of a good mother
- St. Louis, faithful husband of a worthy wife
- St. Louis, tender father of a Christian family
- **Response/:** *Pray for us.*

- St. Louis, wise ruler of a happy kingdom
- St. Louis, guardian of the holy places of pilgrimage
- St. Louis, generous builder of temples of God
- St. Louis, obedient son of thy Holy Church
- St. Louis, loving protector of Christendom
- **Response/:** *Pray for us.*

- St. Louis, generous giver of alms
- St. Louis, visitor of hospitals and dispenser of favors to the infirm
- St. Louis, founder of charitable institutions for the afflicted
- St. Louis, lover of lepers
- St. Louis, apostle of the Gospel of Jesus
- **Response/:** *Pray for us.*

- St. Louis, confessor of the Faith
- St. Louis, devout and prayerful of soul
- St. Louis, rich in spiritual goods
- St. Louis, exalted by humility
- St. Louis, crowned with glory in heaven
- **Response/:** *Pray for us.*

The Events

** Registration of participants, meetings and Gala dinner will be held at the Grand Hotel et des Palmes, in Palermo*



Via Roma, 398, 90139 Palermo, Italia

Phone number: +39 091 602 8111

Thursday June 1st 2017	ACADEMIC DAY SEMINAR	
	0900-0930	REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS
	0930-1030	1 st Academic Session
	1030-1100	COFFEE BREAK
	1100-1200	2 nd Academic Session
	1200-1400	LIGHT LUNCH at The Grand Hotel et des Palmes
	1400-1530	3 rd Academic Session
	1530-1600	COFFEE
	1600-1730	4 th Academic Session

<p>Friday June 2nd 2017</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">MEETING OF HEADS OF JURISDICTIONS MEETING OF HOSPITALLERS</p> <p>0900-1200 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS</p> <p>0930-1200 <u>Meeting of Heads of Jurisdiction</u></p> <p>1200-1400 LIGHT LUNCH at The Grand Hotel et des Palmes</p> <p>1300-1600 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS</p> <p>1400-1600 <u>Meeting of Hospitallers</u></p> <p>1730-2030 EXTRA REGISTRATION TIME FOR PARTICIPANTS</p> <p>10:00 Optional panoramic tours of Palermo for members not attending the meetings. Please sign up on registration form.</p> <p>Dinner at leisure</p>
<p>Saturday June 3rd 2017</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">PILGRIMAGE <i>To Monreale Cathedral</i></p> <p>0900-0930 Buses pick up pilgrims at Grand Hotel et des Palmes</p> <p>0930-1030 Pilgrimage walk to Monreale Cathedral from Teutonic church</p> <p>1030-1120 Religious service in Monreale Cathedral</p> <p>1120-1145 Visit King Louis remains. Prayer and homage (Litany)</p> <p>1200-1300 Visit the Cathedral, the chapels and the cloister.</p> <p>1300 Return on buses to Grand Hotel et des Palmes</p> <p>2000 Gala dinner held at the Grand Hotel et Des Palmes</p>

The Registration

- *Please click on this link and follow the instructions:*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-monreale-pilgrimage-tickets-31854201775>

- *The password to access the site is: **Monreale***

If you should have any questions please contact:

Dame Marny Gilluly: marny@corsair2.com

Dame Patricia P. Freeman: oljspain@hotmail.com