



Wooden Crucifix in the Alps

Additional Excursion: August 17 to 21

South Tyrol

Five days in the South Tyrol (Südtirol)

One of the most spectacularly beautiful spots in the Alps is the South Tyrol in northern Italy. Part of Austria until the First World War, German is still the common language. It was a favorite vacation spot for Pope John Paul II and for Pope Benedict XVI. Five days will be spent at the Sport Hotel Sonne on the Seiser Alm, the highest meadow in the Alps spread before majestic snow-covered peaks. The region is renowned for its magnificent woodcarving and religious art. Its village chapels are some of the most beautiful in all of Europe with their painted walls and spectacular carved statuary. The faith of these mountain people is vibrant and colorful. Activities will include hiking mountain trails, gondola rides into St. Ulrich (Ortisei), one of the most fashionable shopping areas in the Alps, rides in horse-drawn wagons, and nightly formal four course gourmet dinners. The hotel features incomparable Alpine views, a swimming pool, sauna and steam room.

The cost for the program is \$2,300.
(\$4,200 for couples)

Christian Spirit

"Though Chivalry (Knighthood) was not originally founded by the Church, but by the laity, it was the Church that set about refining it according to the Spirit of the Gospel. It was the Church who transformed the rude and violent soldiers into disciplined, self-controlled, refined, gentle and strong defenders of the rights of God, of Christendom, of the Church and of society, consciously endeavouring to bring religion into daily life with service to the less fortunate, honour and courtesy to all."

Archbishop Hyginus Eugene Cardinale



Baroque Interior of the Domburg Freising



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KNIGHTHOOD AND CHIVALRY

Past and Present



Fortress of the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg

BAVARIA - AUSTRIA

AUGUST 6 TO 16, 2016



Neuschwanstein, King Ludwig's Castle

Inspiration

The days of feudalism, liege-lords, fortified castles, and crusades may indeed be over. However, the Christian knight's renowned commitment of service to others and the spirit of chivalry endure to inspire even today.

Past

Knighthood arose in Christian Europe as the Church elicited from feudal warriors a vow to use the sword principally for the purpose of defending the weak, the defenseless, and the Church herself. The Church extended her influence even more when it called upon the warrior class to use their arms to regain the holy sites in Palestine from Muslim occupation and to protect the pilgrims who journeyed there.

The code of good conduct that developed for these Knights came to be known as chivalry, with its principal virtues of piety, honor, courage, chastity, courtesy, and loyalty.

Present

The ideal of the Knight continues to capture the imagination of many. When a Catholic fraternal benefits society, the Knights of Columbus, was founded in the late nineteenth century, it was the ideal of the Knight that was chosen to define the organization's spirit with his allegiance to Church and country and his dedication to the poor and needy.

Other Catholics, inspired by the ideal of Knighthood, find themselves called to join one of the ancient orders that still exist. The members of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta can date their service to their "lords the sick poor" and to the defense of the faith to the time of the first crusade. Today it is one of the largest international relief agencies in the world. Likewise, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem traces its roots back to the same period. The Order exists today to sustain and aid the Church and Catholic institutions in the Holy Land.

This summer, from August 6th to 16th, the International Institute for Culture is offering a unique opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the legacy and ever-inspiring spirit of Knighthood. Participants in the program will enter into a world in which the ancient code of chivalry still exists in persons and locales in Bavaria and Austria. Daily visits to castles and fortresses will be joined with lectures on the themes of knighthood and chivalry, "past and present".

Location

Participants will stay in a former Benedictine Monastery, Seeon, founded in 994. It became renowned for its illuminated texts and was visited frequently by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It is currently a beautifully restored cultural center owned by the State of Bavaria.

Excursions

- The Palace of King Ludwig II on an island in the Bavarian Sea. It and the ancient monastery of Frauenwörth on a neighboring island can be reached only by ferry.
- The Fortress of the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg
- Burghausen, the longest castle in Europe
- A visit to Altötting, Pope Benedict's favorite Marian shrine, known as the "Lourdes of Germany"
- Fortress Kufstein in Austria
- Castle Hohen Aschau including falcon show
- Fortress Cathedral of Freising. First site of the Archdiocese of Munich
- Munich's Royal Palace of the Wittelsbach family
- Neuschwanstein, King Ludwig's Castle containing some of the most beautiful art in all of Germany

Cost

\$2,600 for room and board, all meals, lectures, excursions and receptions. The price for couples is \$4,700 (\$500 savings). If you have any interest in participating in this unique event, please respond immediately to drjohnhaas@aol.com or by calling 215-877-9910. Enrollment must be limited to 25 participants.