Dear Friends,

This is your invitation to a fascinating experience of faith, journeying throughout a land that has a “hundred thousand welcomes” waiting for you.

Our journey will take us to shrines and churches both ancient and modern where we can honor our Lady and seek the many graces she can obtain for us. We will learn about the faith of a people that goes back as far as the fifth century. Walking in the footsteps of St. Patrick, we will pray and celebrate our Masses in interesting and, often, historic churches, including the beautiful Shrine of Our Lady of Knock. Among the places we will visit is Belfast where the Titanic was built and there in a six story building recreating the story of the Titanic from her construction and launch to her famous maiden voyage. Also, we’ll tour Galway, Killarney, Limerick, Tipperary and many other sights that you’ll see why Ireland is called the “Emerald Isle”! There will be time to shop for the country's crafts, including tweed, sweaters, and crystal.

Of course a trip to Ireland would not be complete without a visit to the historic Blarney Stone! Call now for complete details and a brochure. Contact Pam at 866-268-0157 or via email, pmilczarski@poshusa.org.

Father Dominic Peluse
Spiritual Director
Priests of the Sacred Heart
Itinerary

DAY 1: Sat., Oct. 29 - New York Area/En Route
Depart from the New York Area for your overnight trans-Atlantic flight to Dublin.

AM: Visit Trinity College
Trinity College was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1st on grounds confiscated from an Augustinian priory and is the oldest University in Ireland. The Campanile, erected in 1852, was built on what is believed to be the center of the monastery. Most of the buildings off the main square were built during the Georgian period, some of which replaced older buildings. Within its walls, you will be able to admire Parliament Square and its 18th century edifices. Trinity College has had many famous students such as Jonathan Swift and Samuel Beckett who later became a lecturer in French at the university.

PM: Visit the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
In the afternoon you will visit the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Whitefriar Street Church, which is another of the city's major ecclesiastical sites. Whitefriar was founded in 1279, dispossessed during the Reformation and then re-established in 1825. Since 1974, it has been under the care of the Order of Carmelites. It has many notable details, including a shrine with the remains of St. Valentine, which Pope Gregory XVI gifted to the church in 1835. There are also shrines to Our Lady of Dublin and St. Albert of Carmelites. It has many notable details, including a shrine with the remains of St. Valentine, which Pope Gregory XVI gifted to the church in 1835. There are also shrines to Our Lady of Dublin and St. Albert of Sicily, from which many people take water since it is thought to be curative. You will celebrate Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel or another local church.

Dinner: Tonight enjoy a Welcome Dinner at your hotel.

DAY 2: Sun., Oct. 30 - Dublin (Dinner)

AM: Panoramic Tour of Dublin
Welcome to Ireland! Upon your arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to Dublin City. Start the day with a Panoramic Tour of Dublin, which is the ideal introduction to “Dublin's Fair City.” The tour will introduce you to the principal sites. You will visit the elegant Georgian squares, famous for their architecture and of course the famous doors. Pass by Trinity College and Christchurch, built by the Anglo-Normans in 1172 to replace an earlier Church built by the Vikings in 1038, on your way to the Phoenix Park with its many monuments including the Papal Cross.

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See the Book of Kells
Thomas Burgh built the Old Library building in the 18th century. Today it houses one of Ireland's most illustrious books, the 9th century "Book of Kells." Before viewing the famous book visitors pass through an excellent exhibition based on the Book of Kells and other important books written in monasteries around Ireland from the 9th century. After viewing the Book of Kells you will visit the Long Room built in 1745. Once the principal library of the University, it now contains over 200,000 books and manuscripts of the Trinity's oldest volumes. Brian Boru's harp said to be the 'oldest harp in Ireland' and a copy of the 1916 proclamation, one of the most important documents relating to Irish history are also on display in the Long Room.

Visit Saint Patrick’s Cathedral
Built in honor of Ireland’s patron saint, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral stands adjacent to the famous well where tradition has it Saint Patrick baptized converts on his visit to Dublin. The parish church of Saint Patrick on this site was granted collegiate status in 1191, and raised to cathedral status in 1224. The present building dates from 1220. The Cathedral is today the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland (a church of the Anglican Communion). Saint Patrick’s is Gothic in style and its splendid interior is adorned with funeral monuments, such as The Boyle Family Memorial and the grave of Dean Jonathan Swift (author of “Gulliver’s Travels”). The Chancel has ornate stained-glass windows, and spectacular choir stalls, once used by the Knights of St Patrick, adjoin the Altar. The massive west towers, houses a large peal of bells whose ringing tones are so much part of the character of Dublin.

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Dinner: Tonight enjoy a Welcome Dinner at your hotel.

DAY 3: Mon., Oct. 31 - Dublin/Belfast (Breakfast and Dinner)

AM: Visit Down Cathedral
This morning you will depart Dublin and travel to Belfast. En route you will visit Down Cathedral, which stands close to what is believed to be the mortal remains of St. Patrick. The Cathedral is impressive inside and has a wonderful organ and a very interesting seating arrangement. It is generally accepted that the main walls of the Cathedral date from the years after 1220. It suffered destruction on numerous occasions including during the wars with Edward the Bruce in 1316 and finally, on the suppression of the monasteries in 1541, the Cathedral was laid waste. Rebuilding of the Cathedral began in 1790, it was consecrated in 1818 and the tower was completed in 1829.

Panoramic Tour of Belfast
Upon your arrival in Belfast you will enjoy a guided Panoramic Belfast City Tour. You will see the leaning Albert Memorial Clock Tower (Ireland’s answer to the Tower of Pisa) and the Opera House, which is one of Belfast’s great landmarks. Your tour will pass by the City Hall, the Opera House, the Crown Bar (dates from 1885), Queens University, and the Botanic Gardens. If time permits you will visit the Harland and Wolfe Shipyard, where the Titanic was built and launched in 1912 and Shankill and Falls Road, which will give you an indication of how life was in Belfast during the troubles.

Visit the Titanic Belfast
Your next stop is the Titanic Belfast, which recreates the story of the world’s most famous ship in a new iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship’s construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch, the self-guided journey begins on entering the building’s giant atrium, where the visitor is surrounded by the four “ship’s hull” shaped wings, which house the Titanic Experience. As you journey through the nine large galleries of the interactive exhibition, you will uncover the true story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel.


**DAY 4: Tues., Nov. 1 - Belfast/Westport (Breakfast and Dinner)**

Visit St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral Armagh

After breakfast at the hotel you will depart Belfast and travel to Westport. En route you will visit St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral Armagh, which is an imposing site, perched on the hilltop in Armagh and dominating its skyline. The church was begun in 1840, but because of the intervening famine years, it was not completed until 1873. The Cathedral was designed and built in the Neo-Gothic style from pale limestone, with large twin spires dominating the approach up flight after flight of steps. Sculptured statuary forms a unique arch over the main entrance. The sanctuary was modernized in 1981 and has a very distinctive tabernacle holder and crucifix, which appear out of place with the mosaics and statues in the rest of the church. There is a rich Austrian oak woodwork and an Irish granite altar. The painted ceiling is ornate. The walls are painted with rich colors that blend easily with the stained glass windows. You will celebrate Mass at St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral Armagh or a local church.

Visit Navan Fort and Center

Your next stop is the Navan Center, which interprets one of Ireland's most important ancient monuments, Navan Fort. It was the ancient capital and seat of the King of Ulster. Located just outside the city of Armagh, it offers visitors a unique appreciation of the history of the area through a stimulating exhibition packed full of information and hands on activities for all. Enjoy a guided walk to Navan Fort on a hill and meet locals from the past along the path of history with cooking, weaving and farming demonstrations. Continue to Westport.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel in Westport.

**DAY 5: Wed., Nov. 2 - Westport/Knock (Breakfast and Dinner)**

AM: Visit the Base of Croagh Patrick

This morning you will visit the base of Croagh Patrick, overlooking Clew Bay in County Mayo. Croagh Patrick is considered the holiest mountain in Ireland. It is one of the highest peaks in the West of Ireland, rising 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. Croagh Patrick is renowned for its Patrician Pilgrimage in honor 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.

Visit Ballintubber Abbey

Built in 1216 for the Canon Regulars of St. Augustine, Ballintubber Abbey is the only church in Ireland that was founded by an Irish King and which is still in use today. It was built next to the site of an earlier church founded by St. Patrick in the 5th century. Ballintubber retains an air of ancient beauty and spirituality and has been restored with simple elegance. Ballintubber is one of the most impressive church buildings in Ireland today.

PM: Visit Knock Shrine and the Museum

In the afternoon you will visit Knock Shrine and the Museum. This little town is an important pilgrimage center and has been famous for over a century as the site of visions, apparitions, and miraculous cures. The story of Knock began on August 21, 1879 when Our Lady, St. Joseph, and St. John the Evangelist appeared at the south gable of Knock Parish Church. Fifteen people, young and old witnessed the apparition. From this miraculous occurrence Knock has grown to the status of an internationally recognized Marian Shrine. The personal pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II in 1979, commemorating the centenary of the apparition, inspired an even greater devotion to the Shrine and endorsed the indelible seal of Vatican approval. Mother Teresa of Calcutta visited the Shrine in June of 1993. One and a half million pilgrims visit the Shrine annually. Celebrate Mass in Knock.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

**DAY 6: Thurs., Nov. 3 - Knock/Killarney (Breakfast and Dinner)**

Tea at Rathbaun Farm

After breakfast at the hotel you will depart Knock and travel to Killarney. En route you will visit and enjoy tea and scones at Rathbaun Farm, which is situated in a rural area of Southwest County Galway near Ardrahan. The Burke and Connolly family have been farming the 80 acres of land for over 200 years and Fintan Connolly continues this tradition today. The main livestock are sheep with some cows and horses. Visitors to Rathbaun Farm will become enchanted by its thatched cottage home, turf fire, stone walls and an array of animals. Continue to Killarney.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel in Killarney.

**DAY 7: Fri. Nov. 4 - Killarney (Breakfast and Dinner)**

This morning explore the Ring of Kerry, the most famous and panoramic route in Ireland. The astonishing beauty of this large peninsula, Iveragh, comes from the great diversity of its scenery, which offers incessant contrasts. En route around the Ring, take in spectacular scenery, mountains, peat bogs, lakes, and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as one travels along the coast road. Leaving Killarney pass through Killorglin, which is famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula, and Dingle Bay. Proceed to Cahirciveen, where you will pass the birthplace of Ireland's national hero, Daniel O'Connell. Pass by peat bogs to the town of Waterville. Continue to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly colored houses. The road then continues through the mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney.

Visit Killarney Cathedral

Killarney is home to St. Mary's, a beautiful Gothic-style building that serves as the Cathedral of the Catholic Diocese of Kerry. English architect Augustus Pugin, who worked on the iconic Palace of Westminster, designed St. Mary's with a rugged exterior and a smooth, light-filled interior. The Cathedral was consecrated in 1855 and renovated in the 1970s. You will celebrate Mass at Killarney Cathedral or a local church.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel in Killarney.
DAY 8: Sat., Nov. 5 - Killarney/Cork  (Breakfast and Dinner)
AM: Visit Blarney Castle
After breakfast at the hotel you will depart Killarney and travel to Cork. En route you will visit Blarney Castle, an ancient stronghold of the McCarthy’s, Lords of Muskerry. It is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and indeed one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney Stone, the Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend. The Castle gardens covering 60 acres of land are under constant change and over the past few years, a water garden, fern garden and poison garden have been developed and are all open to visitors. Continue to Cork City where you will enjoy an orientation tour.
PM: Enjoy the afternoon at leisure sightseeing on your own or shopping in Cork City.

DAY 9: Sun., Nov. 6 - Cork/Kilkenny  (Breakfast and Dinner)
Visit the Rock of Cashel
This morning you will travel to Kilkenny. En route you will visit the Rock of Cashel. Possibly the most photographed site in Ireland, the Rock of Cashel towers over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot high outcrop of limestone. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450, while Brian Boru was crowned the first high King of Ireland here in the 10th century. Granted to the church in the 12th century, by the O'Brien clan, today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, a cathedral, a 12th century Romanesque chapel and high crosses. One of the leading visitor attractions in Ireland, in 2011 it was visited by Queen Elizabeth II on her historic first visit to the Republic of Ireland.

Walking Tour of Kilkenny
Continue to Kilkenny and enjoy a walking tour of the city. Start your tour with a visit to St. Canices Cathedral. It was here that Kilkenny was founded by St. Canice in the 6th century. A Round Tower is all that remains of the early Christian settlement. Your next stop is the Black Abbey, founded in 1225, and still in use today by the Dominican fathers. You will also visit the Rothe House, a 16th century Tudor merchant’s house built around a series of courtyards. Opposite is Grace’s Castle and despite its name it is best known as a prison. A visit to the cells is very revealing as to prison life in Ireland.

Visit Kilkenny Castle
One of the most instantly recognized buildings in Ireland, Kilkenny Castle has been an important site since it was built by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century. The castle was remodeled in Victorian times and is set in extensive parklands. It was the principal seat of the Butler family, the Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde. Due to major restoration works, the central block now includes a library, drawing room, and bedrooms decorated in 1830’s splendor, as well as the beautiful Long Gallery. A suite of former servant’s rooms is now open to visitors. The Butler family, the Marquesses and Dukes of Ormonde. Due to major restoration works, the central block now includes a library, drawing room, and bedrooms decorated in 1830’s splendor, as well as the beautiful Long Gallery. A suite of former servant’s rooms is now open to visitors.

Dinner: Enjoy dinner at the hotel in Kilkenny.

DAY 10: Mon., Nov. 7 - Kilkenny/Dublin  (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)
AM: This morning you will depart Kilkenny and travel to Dublin via the Wicklow Mountains. Known as “the Garden of Ireland” Wicklow’s coastline is bordered by charming sea resorts such as Bray or Greystones while inland you will discover Wicklow’s gentle and rounded hills amongst which are nestled the picturesque villages of Enniskerry and Avoca.

Visit Glendalough Monastic Settlement
The English name Glendalough originated from the Irish “Gleann Dá Locha,” which translates as “The valley of the two lakes.” It was here that St. Kevin, son of the King of Leinster founded a monastery in the 6th century. From a simple beginning the site became famous as a center of learning throughout Europe. Standing for 600 years it was destroyed in 1398. Much of what remains today dates from the 10th to 12th century. One of the most attractive features is the fine High Round Tower. A cathedral, stone churches, and decorated crosses also survived albeit as ruins.

Lunch: Enjoy lunch in Johnny Foxes.

PM: In the afternoon you will continue to Dublin. Upon your arrival in Dublin you will visit the Guinness Storehouse. The Guinness Brewery in Dublin is Europe’s largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making of a pint of Guinness, the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, you are invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy their pint of Guinness.

Dinner: This evening enjoy dinner and entertainment at The Merry Ploughboy Pub 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.

DAY 11: Tues., Nov. 8 - Dublin/New York Area  (Breakfast)
AM: After breakfast at the hotel you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight. You return with wonderful memories and feeling spiritually renewed.