

**EYM  
JUNE  
2019**



**CASA DEL DIVINO ASHRAM  
ASSISI**

**FROM 21ST TO 23RD JUNE 2019**



# PROGRAMME

Bhajans

Meditation.

Interactive session with  
Paolo Buttari.

Seva in the ashram.

Visita to St. Francis and  
St. Claire.

# FRIDAY, 21

Swami's divine energy at His ashram in Assisi welcomed us yet again this June accompanied by a cool breeze that attenuated the heat of the summer sun. Most of the group was already present when the bhajan session started. Some joined us a short while later. Dinner was then served by the cooking staff. In the meantime the rest of the group had arrived. After dinner a short introduction and welcome was given to all present, old faces as well as new. Much was stressed upon our search for peace and meaning to this human life. It was pointed out by brother Victory how, places like Swami's ashram help us get closer to our (real) selves. Assisi is already a special place. Add to this His constant guiding Hand and Presence and immediately one experiences



a sense of peace and nourishment of the soul. This time around, a few lucky women got the chance to sleep in the ashram for their entire stay of the retreat. The male participants were taken to the b&b for the night after a sumptuous vegetarian dinner prepared and served by the volunteers in the kitchen.

# SATURDAY, 22



A beautiful summer morning dawned on Monte Subasio, near Assisi. After an early breakfast at the B&B, the boys returned to the Ashram (this was the first time that all the girls slept inside the Ashram). We took our seats in the satsang hall and started the day with Sai Suprabhatham. Fabio guided a meditation session, which left us bathed in light, ready to start the day in divinity. The bhajan session which followed, uplifted our spirits even more, as it invited the various deities, whose names were sung, to join us and bless us. By the end of the singing session, our spirits had tuned into unity, just like our voices. We then proceeded to the plot outside the building and occupied ourselves with manual labour, such as carrying and piling wood and watering the plants

# SATURDAY, 22



This was an opportunity to exercise our bodies, as well as to develop a spirit of teamwork, which was very satisfying. When sister Giovanna arrived at the ashram, we formed a bhajan circle in the yard, and in the middle of that circle, each one of us planted a very particular and sacred cherry tree seed, donated by Japanese devotees and blessed by Swami. These seeds will grow into big cherry trees which will offer cherries, shade and a gorgeous scenery for the future devotees, especially when they get covered by thousands of beautiful flowers!

# SATURDAY, 22

After that, we went into the satsang hall to listen to the spiritual talk of sister Giovanna like every European Youth Meet.

She underlined how blessed we are and for sure our Presence in Assisi was wanted By Saint Clare, being today the Festival of the Vow (La Festa del Voto). An important Festival were we remember the episode when the town of Assisi was saved by Saint Clare. the Islamic Army was doing irruption in Assisi and was going to invade San Damiano first (a church also visited by Swami this year the 10th April 2019) and then Assisi. The frightened nuns were crying to their Mother (Claire) for help, and she simply approached the Monstrance with the Divine Presence in the blessed Eucharist, and took it in her hands, then bravely she opened the small window and showed the little cylindric Monstrance with the holy host to the soldiers who were all around the little convent



# SATURDAY, 22



And here comes the sudden miracle, which is recalled in the Festival today, as every year: the soldiers and Knights, on their horses, turned around and backwards and far away they run, both from San Damiano and Assisi.

The opening of the little window from which Saint Claire showed the monstrance to the Islamic Army is the opening of our heart; only by opening even a little our heart, the living Divine Presence of the Lord will manifest itself by dispelling all our fears and the darkness.

She told us that the vertical arm of the cross symbolizes self realization, love for god, while the horizontal arm represents service to our Self (service in society).

She emphasized how “the time in the desert” was important for, even though we may live in the city, the desert symbolizes a moment of prayer and isolation from society. A moment when we get in touch with god within us. Doing this one can remain in contact with that same god in society by serving others.

# SATURDAY, 22

Sister Giovanna then spoke to us about the Pentecost and of the holy spirit. She then finished her talk with a guided meditation on the fire element and all that it provides us. Fire is god's holy spirit that help us recognize Him in ourselves and in others.

What followed was a delicious lunch prepared by the ashram volunteers that satisfied all of our hunger pangs.

In the afternoon we had an interactive session with Paolo Buttari, the founder and President oof the "tutto è amore" (all is love) association. He explained in detail to us about the we function as human beings highlighting the mirror theory. He was very forthcoming and patient with all of us and the entire afternoon just flew by!





# SATURDAY, 22

Dinner followed with plenty of delicious food, after which we concluded Paolo's lecture with some practical exercises putting into practice what was taught to us that day. Paolo showed us that if we entrust ourselves to God, our abilities increase and develop, because we are much more powerful than we believe, this is enough to rediscover our divinity. After the activities, we went to the b&b for the night.



# SUNDAY, 23

At 6:45 on Sunday morning we women, who had had the great gift of being able to sleep in the Ashram, had breakfast together.

Marilena invited us to reflect on all that we experienced during the three days of the meeting, so each of us went to a spot we considered most appropriate for meditation.

Meanwhile, the other young people who were staying at the B & Bs joined us, and together, after half an hour of bhajans, we started to arrange and clean the Ashram. Finally we all went to greet Swami before leaving the Casa del Divino ashram.

Once in Assisi, we went to the Eremo delle Carceri (Hermitage of the Carceri) to visit the holy places where St. Francis retired to pray. After visiting the structure with Antonello Dionigi as our guide we walked surrounded by the green woods that are around the hermitage, where a holy energy was strongly perceived. Our walk was enriched with anecdotes that Salvatore Iozzia told us of when Swami had visited that same place in 2017 .



# SUNDAY, 23

Swami had spoken at length about Saint Francis and his life that he had dedicated to serving others thus inspiring the hearts of all.

It was around noon when we left the Hermitage and we went to a small restaurant to eat. Given the limited time we had, it was decided that those who wanted to visit the Basilica of Saint Claire would go there under the guidance of Mario and Anna, while those who wanted to visit the Porziuncola would visit it under the guidance of Silvia and Victory . At the end of each visit, each of us headed home.



NEXT YOUTH MEET:  
FROM 6 TO 8 SEPTEMBER  
FOR INFO & REGISTRATIONS,  
WRITE TO US AT

SAIDARSHANASSISI@YAHOO.COM