



## **THE LOMBARD POPES OF 20TH CENTURY ST. JOHN XXIII, BLESSED PAUL VI AND PIOUS POPE XI**

**3 days (2 nights)**

### **1st day:**

Arrival in Concesio (BS), the birthplace of Giovanni Battista Montini on the outskirts of Brescia: guided tour of the birthplace, the parish church (which preserves the original baptismal font) and then visit to the "Paul VI Collection of contemporary art" at the Paul VI Institute which collects a collection of 7000 paintings, drawings, prints, medals and sculptures of the '900, evidence of the lively cultural exchange of the world of art with the Pope. Lunch. In the afternoon guided tour of Brescia, starting from the ruins of the Roman Brixia (Piazza del Foro, Decumano massimo, Capitolium, Roman theatre) we arrive at the square dedicated to Pope Paul VI, from the Middle Ages, where there is the Cathedral, which houses the precious monument to Paul VI, created in 1984 by the artist Lello Scorzelli. Then there is a visit to the Sanctuary of the Graces, a place dear to Don Giovanni Battista Montini, later Pope Paul VI, who celebrated his first Mass as a new priest here. Hotel accommodation, dinner and overnight stay.

### **2nd day:**

Breakfast. Departure for Sotto il Monte (BG) and guided tour of the place that gave birth to St. John XXIII: the birthplace of Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, the Church of St. John XXIII. Maria in Brusicco (where she received her Baptism and where the altar of the celebration of the first Mass is located), Ca Maitino (a place that houses many documents and objects from the life of Pope John XXIII, and now the residence of his historic secretary Cardinal Loris Capovilla), the Sanctuary of St. John XXIII with the Parish Church (consecrated by Bishop Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli and the adjacent Chapel of Peace) and the Crypt "Oboedientia et Pax" (of great emotional impact). Lunch. In the afternoon visit to Bergamo Alta, its Cathedral and the nearby Colleoni Chapel. Hotel accommodation, dinner and overnight stay.

### **3rd day:**

Breakfast and departure for Desio (MB), guided tour of the birthplace of Achille Ratti, who later became Pope Pius XI, which is now the seat of the Pius XI Museum and the Pius XI International Centre for Studies and Documentation. The museum itinerary winds around the room where the pope was born, transformed into a chapel, and some of the cardinal and papal furnishings, objects of daily use, liturgical and devotional objects and objects related to the mountaineering achievements of Achille Ratti. Lunch. Continue to Varese and visit the Sacred Mount: with its chapels dedicated to the mysteries of the Rosary and pilgrimage destination since the Middle Ages, the mountain has been included in the list of World Heritage by UNESCO. Departure for the return.

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