

# The **Southern Cross**

and the Diocese of Tzaneen

*present*

*A Pilgrimage of Prayer  
for the sainthood cause of  
BENEDICT DASWA  
in honour of Our Lady*



**Fatima • Lourdes • Paris • Avila**  
*(plus Lisieux, Nevers, Tours, Zaragossa, Madrid)*

25 September to 6 October 2014

Spiritual Director: Bishop Joao Rodrigues  
Accompanied by Günther Simmermacher



[www.fowlertours.co.za](http://www.fowlertours.co.za)



#### Thursday, September 25:

We meet at Johannesburg International Airport to depart on our flight to Lisbon.

#### Friday, September 26:

We arrive at Lisbon and drive to **Santarém** where we have Mass at the birthplace of St Anthony of Padua (1195-1231), the Franciscan Doctor of the Church. After Mass we proceed to Fátima, site of a series of apparitions of Our Lady to the children Lucia Santos and her two cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto in 1917. Overnight: Fátima

#### Saturday, September 27:

We have Mass at the **Little Chapel of the Apparitions** and visit the **Basilica of Fátima** and other places associated with the apparitions. In the evening we take part in the **candlelight procession** which brings together Catholics from all over the world. Overnight: Fátima

#### Sunday, September 28:

We leave Fátima for **Ávila** in Spain, the town of the great St Teresa, who also had apparitions of the Blessed Virgin, and St John of the Cross, who credited being saved from drowning as a child to Our Lady. On our way, we stop at **Alba de Tormes** in the province of Salamanca, where St Teresa of Ávila died in 1582. Overnight: Ávila

#### Monday, September 29:

Today we explore **Ávila**, the “City of Stones and Saints”, and follow in the steps of the town’s two great Doctors of the Church, Saints Teresa and John of the Cross, including St Teresa’s **Carmelite St Joseph’s Monastery**. We depart for **Madrid**, the capital of Spain, where we will have an evening tour of the city. Overnight: Madrid

#### Tuesday, September 30:

We leave Madrid for **Zaragossa** where we will have Mass at the **Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar**. Pope John Paul II praised the Blessed Virgin under the title Our Lady of the Pillar as the “Mother of the Hispanic Peoples” and the basilica is reputed to be the first church dedicated to Mary in history. According to tradition, on 2 January 40 AD Our Lady appeared to St James, the apostle of Spain, and gave him a small wooden statue of herself and a column of jasper and instructed him to build a church in her honour. After Mass we proceed across the border to France to Lourdes, where we will take part in the famous **Torchlight Procession**. Overnight: Lourdes

#### Wednesday, October 1:

We explore **Lourdes** with the **grotto** of the apparition, the places of **St Bernadette’s** life, the **Basilica of the Rosary**, the Upper Basilica dedicated to the **Immaculate Conception**, the underground **Basilica of St Pius X** and so on. Of course in Lourdes we also have time to go to the **Baths**, the site of many cures. Overnight: Lourdes

#### Thursday, October 2:

We complete our programme in **Lourdes** and proceed to **Tours**, the city of the great 4th-century Saint Martin, where in 1843 Carmelite Sister Marie of St Peter reported a vision which started the devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus. Overnight: Tours

#### Friday, October 3:

We leave Tours for **Lisieux**, the city of St Thérèse, another Doctor of the Church. We visit the **Basilica of Sainte-Thérèse**, one of the biggest and most impressive churches the 20th-century, as well as **Les Buissonnets**, St Thérèse’s



Santarém, birthplace of St Anthony of Padua



Candlelight procession in Fatima



The Convent of St Joseph in Avila



Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar in Zaragossa



Lourdes





Saint-Gatien cathedral in Tours



Lisieux's magnificent cathedral



St Bernadette's incorrupt body in Nevers



Convent Chapel of Rue de Bac, Paris



Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

family home where we see relics, clothing and other personal objects belonging to the "Little Flower". We then proceed to Paris. Overnight: Paris

#### Saturday, October 4:

We make a day-long excursion to **Nevers** in the central Bourgogne region. This is the town where St Bernadette of Lourdes lived for the last 12 years of her short life as a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nevers. We can view her incorrupt body at the **Convent of St Gildard**. Overnight: Paris

#### Sunday, October 5:

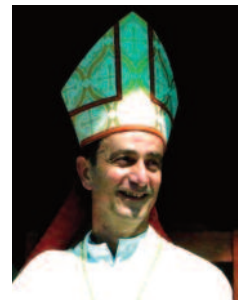
Today we explore Catholic **Paris**. We visit the famous **Cathedral of Notre Dame** (which, of course, means Our Lady) and visit the Rue de Bac, where at n°s 136-140 is the **Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**, the final resting place of St Catherine Labouré, the saint who designed the Miraculous Medal according to the image she received in an apparition of Our Lady in 1830. We will have some free time before we depart on our way home.

#### Monday, October 6:

We land at OR Tambo Airport in Johannesburg, physically tired but spiritually renewed, with bags full of great memories and souvenirs.

**Masses will be arranged throughout.  
The pilgrimage will be accompanied  
by Günther Simmermacher, Editor of *The Southern Cross*.**

The pilgrimage of prayer for the cause of Benedict Daswa will be led by Bishop Joao Rodrigues of Tzaneen, the diocese of Daswa. The Cape Town-born bishop, who has headed the Diocese of Tzaneen since 2010, formerly served as a missionary in the diocese of Witbank. An accomplished musician known for his guitar-playing, the bishop has composed several hymns (see <http://bishopjoaorodrigues.yolasite.com/my-music.php>)



**Est. Price:** R34,770 (sharing, ex-Jhb; subject to currency, air travel price fluctuations)

Includes: Flights ex-Johannesburg (incl. airport taxes), accommodation with breakfast and dinner, transfers, travel insurance, travelling on air-conditioned buses, English-speaking guides, entrance fees.

Excludes: Tips, hotel taxes, visa, lunches, personal expenses.

*30 passengers minimum.*

**A deposit of R3,600 secures your place on this unforgettable pilgrimage.**

Name of Account	Fowler Tours
Bank:	Standard Bank
Acc no:	07 307 535 3 (current account)
Branch code:	026509

Beneficiary Reference: Daswa + Your name

**Please NO cash deposits!**

**To book or for more information, please contact Gail at**

**076 352-3809 or 021 551-3923 or**

**info@fowlertours.co.za or fax 086 672-9225**

**[www.fowlertours.co.za](http://www.fowlertours.co.za)**

# Introducing Benedict Daswa

The Pilgrimage of Prayer will visit places associated with Our Lady specifically to pray for the sainthood cause of the Servant of God Benedict Daswa, and to ask Our Blessed Mother for her intercession in our intention.

Shortly after our pilgrimage is completed the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes will examine the cause of Benedict Daswa. Although the Church in South Africa is certain of Daswa's sainthood, the cause needs our intensive prayers. If the cause proceeds, Benedict Daswa will become the first South African to be beatified. If Benedict is recognised as a martyr, no miracle will be required before the pope advances the cause and authorises his beatification.

## Who was Benedict Daswa?

Benedict was born as Samuel Daswa in 1946, and belonged to the Jewish Lemba tribe in rural Limpopo. He grew up observing Jewish customs, but converted to Catholicism at the age of 17. He took the name Benedict after the sixth-century saint and Benedict Risimati, the catechist who had instructed him and others under a fig tree.

After his confirmation by Abbot Bishop Clemens van Hoek OSB at Sibasa in 1963, Daswa took a particular interest in teaching younger members of his community about Catholicism. He studied to be a primary school teacher the Vendlan Training Institute and became a teacher, first at Tshilivho Primary School at Ha-Dumasi and rising to the position of principal.

He helped build the first Catholic Church in the area at Nweli. From his vegetable garden he gave freely to the poor. He was secretary of the headman's council and an aide to the headman. He was known for his absolute honesty, truthfulness and integrity.

A series of unusual thunderstorms and lightning strikes in the area in November 1989 and again in January 1990 caused a group of local community leaders to find recourse by hiring a traditional healer to determine the cause, which they thought to be not natural. To pay the healer, they collected R5 from every member of the community.

Benedict's explanation that the weather phenomena were natural and not to be blamed on witches went unheard. He refused to contribute, saying that the use of a traditional healer constituted witchcraft and therefore was in conflict with his faith.

Members of the community took offense at what they perceived as his derision of their beliefs and plotted to kill Benedict. On 2 February 1990 Benedict was driving home from taking his sister-in-law and her sick child to the doctor when a group of men blocked the road with tree logs. When Benedict got out of his car to investigate he was set upon, beaten and stoned by the men. He ran away but was soon trapped. As a man approached with a raised knobkerrie to deliver the fatal blow, Benedict prayed: "God, into your hands, receive my spirit." His killers were never brought to justice.

His funeral Mass was concelebrated by several priests with Fr John Finn MSC, parish priest of Thohoyandou/Sibasa, as the main celebrant. All clergy wore red vestments in acknowledgment of their belief that Benedict had died a martyr's death for his faith.

The Diocese of Tzaneen opened an inquiry into Daswa's death in 2005 completed it on 2 July, 2009. The investigation, which was made public in 2010, resulted in more than 850 pages of testimony from reliable witnesses to the life and death of Daswa.

Visit [www.benedictdaswa.org.za](http://www.benedictdaswa.org.za) for more information.



# RESERVATION FORM

*(one form per person, photocopies of form are permitted):*

Enclosed is my NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of R3,600 per person to secure my booking on the pilgrimage specified below. Payment is to be made to:

**Account Name:** Fowler Tours  
**Bank:** Standard Bank  
**Account no:** 07 307 5353  
**Branch code:** 026509  
**Name of trip:** Pilgrimage of Prayer for Benedict Daswa  
Fatima, Avila, Lourdes, Paris etc  
**Duration:** 25 September to 6 October 2014  
**Cost:** Estimated: R34,770 (subject to fluctuations)

How did you hear about this pilgrimage? ☐ Fowler Tours SA ☐ Southern Cross ☐ Diocese of Tzaneen ☐ Other

## 1.) **RESERVATION FORM**

Title: \_\_\_\_ Name (as it appears on your Passport)\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Code:\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth:\_\_\_\_\_ ID Number:\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number:\_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred first and surname for Name Badge:\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Person**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**2.) PASSPORT (required to travel)**

- ☐ Photocopy of passport inside page showing name and photo is enclosed / clear scan attached
- ☐ I am applying for a passport and understand that I must supply a copy to Fowler Tours at least three months before the departure date..

**N.B.: Passports must be valid SIX months following the return date of the trip.****3.) PAYMENT TERMS & SCHEDULE:**

Deposit R3,600 to book. *The deposit is non-refundable.* A final invoice, reflecting the final price, will be issued 60 days prior to departure. Final Payment must be made within five days of invoicing. BANK DETAILS AS ABOVE. **N.B.: Bank charges for cash deposits will be charged to you.**

**4.) TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

I have received, read and agree to the TERMS & CONDITIONS and the Liability clause below, pricing terms, and payment terms outlined on this side of the form. I understand that the cancellation terms and penalties cannot be waived for any reason. If I decline to purchase travel insurance, I understand that there is no monetary recourse for any flight cancellations or delays by the airlines and I agree to the cancellation terms and penalties.

Signature (required to confirm reservation): \_\_\_\_\_

**Liability:** Fowler Tours, The Southern Cross, the Diocese of Tzaneen or their owners (hereafter referred to as "The Organisers") do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, transportation companies, local ground operators, including, without limitation, various entities which may utilize the The Organisers' names, guides, sightseeing companies, entertainment, food or drink service providers, equipment suppliers, etc. As a result, Fowler Tours is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity. In addition, The Organisers are not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity they do not own or control, nor for any act or inaction of any other third party not under their control. Without limitations The Organisers are not liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, death, loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity of any kind which may be occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond their control, including, without limitation any willful or negligent act, failure to act, breach of contract or violation of local law or regulation of any third party such as an airline, train, hotel, bus, taxi, van, local ground handler or guide, whether or not it uses the The Organisers' name, financial default or insolvency of any supplier which is to, or does supply any goods or services for this trip. Similarly, The Organisers are not responsible for any loss, injury, death or inconvenience due to delay or changes in schedule, overbooking of accommodation, default of any third party, attacks by animals, injury or death while on activities sponsored by lodging facilities or by other third parties, sickness, the lack of appropriate medical care, evacuation to same, if necessary, weather, strikes, acts of God or government, acts of terrorism, or the threat thereof, force majeure, war, quarantine, epidemics, or the threat thereof, criminal activity, or any other cause beyond its control. Should the advertised spiritual director be unable to participate in this event, every effort will be made to secure a substitute. Regardless of the participation of the advertised spiritual director the pilgrimage tour will proceed as scheduled on the dates listed. By signing this form to participate in this pilgrimage tour, you agree that the terms of the cancellation penalty will be binding upon you regardless of whether the advertised spiritual director is able to participate. The Organisers will not be responsible for any loss incurred by traveller, including lost days of the scheduled tour, due to a cancelled flight or other means and modes of transportation.

For full terms & conditions see [www.fowlertours.co.za/?page\\_id=328](http://www.fowlertours.co.za/?page_id=328)



# TERMS & CONDITIONS

## **THE PILGRIMAGE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Roundtrip airfare from Johannesburg return; final amount subject to change
- Airport taxes
- Full accommodation as stated in the itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner
- Travel insurance (surcharge applies for travelers aged 70+)
- Roundtrip airport transfers in destinations and luxury coach for all touring
- Services of a certified local tour director
- Services of local tour operator
- Masses
- All entrance fees as per itinerary

## **THE PILGRIMAGE PRICE EXCLUDES:**

Mandatory tips, hotel taxes, visa costs, travel to and from Johannesburg, private expenses excluded

**PRICING TERMS:** As per booking form

**PAYMENT TERMS:** In order to meet deposit schedules with suppliers for this tour, Fowler Tours charges a non-refundable deposit. Full invoice is issued 60 days before departure; payment of which is due within FIVE DAYS.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** All cancellations must be received in writing. No refunds of deposits, except at the discretion of Fowler Tours.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Fowler Tours will arrange for travel insurance. Surcharges apply travellers over the age of 69, who may arrange for their own travel insurance.

**PASSPORT:** A valid passport is required of all passengers. Please apply for your passport immediately as passports are taking a long time to process. Make sure to have it in your possession at all times while on tour. It must be valid for 6 months following the return date of the trip or boarding may be denied or entry into the destination may be forbidden. Please provide Fowler Tours with a copy or clear scan of the inside page of your passport (showing your name and photo) at the time of reservation. Fax copies not acceptable.

**GROUP AIR:** Due to the airlines' reduced capacity and restrictive group reservation terms, group air reservations are often difficult to coordinate. The number of connections, length of layovers, and all conditions surrounding air travel cannot be guaranteed and may change before departure. **Seat Requests:** Please note that group seats are assigned "at the discretion of the airline", although every effort will be made to fulfill requests. **SPECIFIC SEAT ASSIGNMENTS CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED.** Seat numbers will not be advised until check-in at the airport.

**DOMESTIC TRAVEL TO JOHANNESBURG:** You are responsible for your own arrangements to and from Johannesburg OR Tambo Airport.

**ITINERARY:** The Itinerary is tentative and represents what we are planning for you, however it is subject to confirmations from many organisations. Because of changes in local schedules, we may need to alter specified events, dates and/or venues to better fit the overall plan.

**TIPS:** Gratuities for your guides and driver, and hotel taxes are excluded. These are mandatory. You will be advised of the total cost of these before departure, and all monies will be collected by the tour leader who will then distribute them to the various recipients.

**ROOMS:** Tour prices are per person sharing. Single rooms at an extra rate are limited and are available first come-first served until the supply is exhausted.

**LUGGAGE:** Baggage is at owner's risk throughout the tour.

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:** Travellers must be medically and physically fit for this tour. This tour requires significant walking, as motor coaches are not permitted to pick up and drop off in front of major attractions. The tour is not wheelchair accessible. Any special limiting medical conditions or equipment must be advised in writing, for evaluation of feasibility, at the time of making your reservation.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Fowler Tours, The Southern Cross and the Diocese of Tzaneen may take photographs or film or sound recordings of its trips and trip participants, and participant grants Fowler Tours, The Southern Cross and the Diocese of Tzaneen express permission to do so and for Fowler Tours, The Southern Cross and the Diocese of Tzaneen to use such for promotional or commercial use.

**UNUSED SERVICES:** There is no right to a refund for any unused services.

*Cancellation Policy by request or see [www.fowlertours.co.za](http://www.fowlertours.co.za)*