EUROPEAN CONGRESS
IVth OFS-YouFra European Congress,
Llinars del Vallés, Barcelona 14 - 19 July 2025
Creation and Fraternity: one family, one mission - 800 years of the Canticle of the Creatures

Friday, July 18



8.30 Lauds
9.00 Breakfast
10.00 *Commentary and Customs of the Castellers* (part of Catalan culture). Xavi Ramos and Joan Contreras
11.15 Presentation of the Project resulting from the Congress: DANA Jose Juan OFS
12.00 *Round table: The OFS and YouFra in Europe*. Juliana (YouFra), Dina e Noemi Paola (OFS)
13.30 Break
14.00 Lunch
16.45 Outing to the Sagrada Familia
18.30 *Holy Mass in the crypt of the Sagrada Familia*(Presided over by Cardinal Juan José Omella of Barcelona)





The Crypt

Begun in 1882 according to the design of Francisco del Villar, when Gaudí took over the works on November 3, 1883, he transformed the pillars by adding capitals with naturalistic motifs; he also raised the vault and surrounded the crypt with a pit to provide direct lighting and ventilation. He also moved the high altar to the location planned for the main staircase, corresponding to the center of the transept, which he thus vacated, and instead placed two spiral staircases on the sides. Gaudí's first plans for the Sagrada Familia were for the Chapel of Saint Joseph, built between 1884 and 1885, the date of the first Mass. Work on the crypt continued until 1891.

Located 10 m below street level, the crypt is semicircular, 40 m long by 30 m wide. The ambulatory is composed of seven chapels dedicated to the Holy Family of Jesus: St. Joseph, the Sacred Heart, the Immaculate Conception, St. Joachim, St. Anne, the Chapel of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, and the Chapel of St. Elizabeth and St. Zacharias. They are arranged in a rotunda, facing which are five other chapels in a straight line: the central one dedicated to the Holy Family—which houses the altar—is flanked by the chapels of Our Lady of Mount Carmel—where Gaudí is buried—, Jesus Christ, Our Lady of Montserrat, and the Holy Christ—where Josep María Bocabella was buried until his tomb was desecrated in 1936. There are sacristies in the space under the spiral staircases on the sides.

The crypt's vaults are Gothic in style, each of them—a total of 22—with a central keystone decorated with anagrams or images of angels and other motifs. Of particular note is the keystone of the central vault, with a polychrome relief dedicated to the Annunciation, a work by Joan Flotats. This central vault is the highest and protrudes two meters above the ground on the upper floor, at the height of the presbytery, where large windows allow a view of the crypt from above and bring light to the space below. It is supported by lunettes resting on arches on ten pillars in bundles of small columns.

The altar is presided over by a relief altarpiece of the Holy Family, initially created for the oratory of Casa Batlló and later placed here. The image of the family of Nazareth was sculpted by Josep Llimona, while the Holy Christ and the candlesticks were modeled by Carles Mani. The frame was designed by Gaudí himself.115 Several of the original sculptures were destroyed in 1936, such as that of Saint Joseph, by Maximí Sala; those of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Conception, by Josep Llimona;117 and that of Christ that presided over the main altar, by Joan Matamala. From before 1936, only the Holy Christ by Josep Llimona remains. Of the current ones, the image of the Virgin of Carmen is the work of Jaume Busquets; the images of the Immaculate Conception, Saint Joseph and the Sacred Heart are by Josep María Camps i Arnau.

LITURGICAL TEXTS for Friday, JULY 18

First Reading
Ex 11:10-12:14

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Although Moses and Aaron performed various wonders in Pharaoh’s presence, the LORD made Pharaoh obstinate, and he would not let the children of Israel leave his land. The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall stand

at the head of your calendar; you shall reckon it the first month of the year. Tell the whole community of Israel: On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household. If a family is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join the nearest household in procuring one and shall share in the lamb in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. It shall not be eaten raw or boiled, but roasted whole, with its head and shanks and inner organs. None of it must be kept beyond the next morning; whatever is left over in the morning shall be burned up.

"This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the LORD. For on this same night I will go through Egypt, striking down every first born of the land, both man and beast, and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt—I, the LORD! But the blood will mark the houses where you are. Seeing the blood, I will pass over you;
thus, when I strike the land of Egypt, no destructive blow will come upon you.

"This day shall be a memorial feast for you, which all your generations shall celebrate with pilgrimage to the LORD, as a perpetual institution."

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18

℟. (13) I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

How shall I make a return to the LORD
for all the good he has done for me?
The cup of salvation I will take up,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

℟. I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.
Precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
I am your servant, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosed my bonds.

℟. I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.
To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and I will call upon the name of the LORD.
My vows to the LORD I will pay
in the presence of all his people.

℟. I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

Gospel
Mt 12:1-8

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was going through a field of grain on the sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the sabbath.” He said to the them, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, *I desire mercy, not sacrifice,* you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath.”

20:00 Individual group tours of the Sagrada Familia





The Expiatory Church of the Sagrada Familia, known simply as the Sagrada Familia, is a Catholic basilica in Barcelona, Spain, designed by the architect Antoni Gaudí. Begun in 1882, it is still under construction. It is Gaudí's masterpiece and the greatest exponent of Catalan modernist architecture.

From 1915, Gaudí devoted himself almost exclusively to the Sagrada Familia, which represents the synthesis of the architect's entire architectural evolution. After completing the crypt and apse, still in the Neo-Gothic style, he conceived the rest of the church in an organic style, imitating the forms of nature, where ruled geometric shapes abound. The interior was intended to resemble a forest, with a series of inclined, helical, tree-like columns that create a structure that is both simple and

resilient. Gaudí applied to the Sagrada Familia all his previous discoveries in projects such as Park Güell and the crypt of Colonia Güell, creating a church that is structurally perfect, harmonious, and aesthetically pleasing.

The Sagrada Familia has a Latin cross plan, five central naves, a three-aisled transept, and an apse with seven chapels. It boasts three façades dedicated to the Birth, Passion, and Glory of Jesus, and when completed, it will have eighteen towers: four at each portal, for a total of twelve, representing the apostles; four over the transept, invoking the evangelists; one over the apse, dedicated to the Virgin; and the central dome tower, in honor of Jesus, which will reach 172.5 m in height. The church will have two sacristies next to the apse and three large chapels: the Assumption, in the apse; and the Baptism and Penance, next to the main façade. It will also be surrounded by a cloister designed for processions and to isolate the temple from the outside. Gaudí applied a highly symbolic content to the Sagrada Familia, both in architecture and sculpture, as he dedicated religious significance to each part of the temple.

21:30 Return to Llinares
22:30 *Spanish Evening*