



Franciscan Spiritual Center

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Spirituality in Stone: Encountering Islam through the Taj Mahal

September 27-28, 2013

presented by

Michael Calabria OFM

\$20 resident / \$10 commuter (includes lunch)*
(\$10 non-refundable deposit due with registration)

**Sponsored through a grant from the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia*

About this program. . .

Built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (r.1628-58) as a mausoleum for his beloved wife MumtazMahal, the Taj Mahal is arguably one of the most beautiful structures ever constructed by human hands. Although easily recognized by most people, few know the Taj as a masterpiece of *Islamic* architecture that is part of a large complex and decorated throughout with numerous passages from the Qur'an. These texts provide the key to a deeper understanding of the Taj's significance as a monument of faith and spirituality. This program provides a unique approach to Islam and Islamic concepts of God, beauty, righteousness, cosmology and eschatology through this magnificent and timeless edifice.

Liturgy (vigil for Sunday) will be celebrated Saturday at 4:30 p.m.

About the presenter. . .

Michael Calabria, OFM is a Franciscan friar and a doctoral candidate in Arab and Islamic Studies with the University of Exeter, England. From 2003-2012 he taught Arabic and Islamic Studies at St. Bonaventure University. He has been traveling in the Islamic world on a regular basis since 1981 and speaks widely on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations.

For more information or to register:contact us by mail,phone, or e-mail.

Registration Deadline: September 13, 2013