

Saint Francis University

Fuel The Francis Experience: Alta Via



Forming Students for a Life of Faith and Purpose

The college years are a time of extraordinary possibility.

Students arrive at Saint Francis University preparing for careers, discovering new interests, building friendships, and beginning to discern not only what they will do with their lives, but who they are called to become.

For students seeking to deepen their Catholic faith, Alta Via provides an intentional community in which intellectual growth, spiritual formation, friendship, and Franciscan tradition become part of a single transformative experience.

Alta Via means “**the high road.**” At Saint Francis, it describes a journey undertaken together.

Guided by our Franciscans and University faculty, Alta Via students seek to grow closer to Jesus Christ through study, prayer, spiritual accompaniment, fellowship, and the practice of virtue. They do not simply learn about their faith. They are challenged to understand it more deeply, live it more fully, and carry it with them into their families, professions, communities, and the world.

As Saint Francis University commemorates the **800th Anniversary of the passing of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi**, we remember not only the end of Francis's earthly life, but the extraordinary journey of faith that brought him to that moment. His life was one of continual conversion, shaped by prayer, community, service, and an ever-deepening relationship with Christ.

Eight centuries later, Alta Via invites our students to begin a spiritual journey of their own.

A Legacy Carries Forward

The 800th Anniversary of the Transitus calls us not only to remember St. Francis of Assisi, but to consider how his legacy will be carried forward.

At Saint Francis University, one of the most meaningful ways we can honor that legacy is by investing in the formation of the students who will carry Franciscan values into the next generation.

Through this campaign, Saint Francis University seeks to strengthen Alta Via by extending its reach, enriching the experiences it provides, and helping ensure that financial circumstances do not become a barrier for students who feel called to participate.

Philanthropic support will allow the University to welcome more students into Alta Via, provide meaningful financial assistance, enhance opportunities for prayer, fellowship, service, and spiritual formation, and sustain the transformative pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi.

What Your Gift Makes Possible

At a time when young adults are asking profound questions about meaning, vocation, and faith in their lives, Catholic higher education has a unique opportunity to accompany them. Alta Via embodies Saint Francis University's Franciscan and Catholic identity, giving students four years to deepen their faith through relationships with Franciscans, faculty, and one another. Its goal is to form disciples who carry their faith beyond Saint Francis and throughout their lives. Your financial assistance helps make the full Alta Via experience accessible to students who desire deeper Catholic formation while pursuing their chosen academic and professional paths.

Help us welcome more students into our Alta Via community.



Formation for Living a Catholic Life

Alta Via accompanies students throughout their undergraduate experience, creating opportunities for faith to grow alongside their academic, personal, and professional development. Students complete a specially designed sequence of theology courses exploring the essential teachings of the Catholic faith through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Together with the University's theology requirement, Alta Via students complete 11 credits in theology, placing them within reach of a theology minor, or a second major, should they choose to continue their studies.

Spiritual Accompaniment

Several times each semester, students meet individually with a Franciscan friar to discuss their intellectual, spiritual, communal, and human goals and the challenges and opportunities of living their faith on a college campus.

Community and Fellowship

Alta Via creates an intentional Catholic community within the larger University. Students pray, learn, celebrate, and grow together, building friendships rooted in a desire to live their faith more deeply. Beginning in their freshman year, students have opportunities to live alongside other Alta Via students, extending the sense of their faith community into daily campus life.

Pilgrimage

Following their junior year, Alta Via students journey with Franciscans and University faculty and staff to Rome and Assisi. There, the life of St. Francis becomes more than something studied in a classroom. Students pray at his tomb in Assisi, walk the streets and paths that shaped his vocation, and encounter the universal Church in Rome and Vatican City.

"Participating in the Alta Via program at Saint Francis has truly transformed my faith. It provided me with the theological foundation I had never received growing up in public school and helped me develop a deeper understanding of what it means to live out my Catholic faith. More importantly, Alta Via taught me how to continue practicing and growing in my faith as an adult, even after I am no longer surrounded by a Catholic school environment. Beyond the spiritual growth it has given me, Alta Via has also brought incredible people and unforgettable memories into my life that I will cherish forever." - Anna DeFazio, Biology, Pre-Med

Make a Gift in Commemoration of the 800th Anniversary of the Transitus of Saint Francis

Donor generosity removes financial barriers and allows more students to participate fully in the opportunities Alta Via provides.



Send your gift by mail to:

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Office of Advancement
PO Box 600
Loretto, PA 15940
Phone: 814-472-3021

OR

Scan the QR code to make your donation online:

