

University of Mary President's Club

2021 Pilgrimage to Rome – Travel Itinerary

The following is a tentative itinerary of our trip. Keep in mind that, due to the nature of travel (especially travel in Italy), events and departure times may change. Please be flexible and attentive to the announcements of the group leaders. And out of respect for all members of the group, please be punctual.

If you should wish to skip an event or go out on your own for a meal or sightseeing, please let us know so that we can be aware of that and accommodate your needs.

Colazione = breakfast; **Pranzo** = noon meal (lunch); **Cena** = evening meal (supper)

Friday, September 24: We depart for Rome. Cena and colazione served on board the airplane.

Saturday, September 25: *Buongiorno Roma!* After arriving in Rome's *Leonardo da Vinci Airport* and making our way through passport control and baggage claim, a private, air-conditioned motorcoach will transport us from to our home in Rome: the *University of Mary Rome Campus* (Via del Casaletto, 538). Before a tour of campus, orientation, and a presentation by our staff, we will have pranzo together on campus. Afterwards, we depart at **3:00 pm** for the Mass at the Abbey Church of *Tre Fontane* (Via di Acque Salvie, 1, 00142 Roma, Italy). Following mass at **4:00 pm**, we will have a tour of the beautiful complex that is the site of the martyrdom of the great St. Paul. Following the tour, we will depart for a **6:30 pm** Cena at *Gusto Verace* (Viale Dei Colli Portuensi, 567) with our students, and after a relaxing meal, we head off to bed early to shake off the jet lag.

Sunday, September 26: The day will start with Colazione served on campus from **7-7:45 am**. At **8:00 am**, we will depart the University of Mary campus for the ancient *Roman Forum* and the *Colosseum* (Piazza del Colosseo, 1). At **8:30 am** we will begin our tour of some of the most ancient ruins in all of Rome and the place from which Rome ruled much of the known world for 1,000 years. We have reserved tickets to enter the Colosseum at **9:40 am** which will help avoid any lines. Next we will walk together through the Roman Forum ending at the Mamertine Prison for an **11:15 am** tour. Following our tour of ancient Rome, we will enjoy a wonderful pranzo at *Ristorante Abruzzi* (Via del Vaccaro, 1) at **12:30 pm**, the favorite restaurant of Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Afterwards, we will visit the Papal Basilica of *Santa Maria Maggiore* (Piazza di S. Maria Maggiore, 42) and celebrate Mass there at **4:00 pm** before departing for another Papal Basilica, Saint Paul's Outside the Walls for a visit. We then make our way back to campus where the evening is yours to explore the neighborhood or rest on campus. Cena is on your own.

Monday, September 27: Colazione today is at **7:00 am**. At **8:00 am**, it's on to the grand Cathedral of Rome, the *Archbasilica of St. John Lateran* (Piazza di San Giovanni in Laterano, 4). Here Father Ehli and Jerome will give a tour of the magnificent basilica before we make our way across the street to the *Scala Sancta*, or the "Holy Stairs," the very stairs which Christ ascended before Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem. At **11:30am**, we leave the city of Rome, as St. Benedict did, for an extraordinary pilgrimage to Subiaco, the great Benedictine heritage site. While taking in the history of Subiaco, we will have Mass at **3:00 pm** and time for some shopping before we take our bus back to Rome. Upon entering Rome we will dine together at *Ristorante La Perla* by Lago Albano (Via Spiaggia del Lago, 6, Castel Gandolfo) chosen by our Italian partners: Tonino and Alberto. After a beautiful full day, we will return to the University of Mary campus for a good night's sleep.

Tuesday, September 28: Today will be an early start, with Colazione available from **6:00-6:30 am**. The motorcoach will depart promptly at **6:45 am** so we can skip the lines for a guided tour of the splendor of Christendom's greatest church, **St. Peter's Basilica!** We will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass at **8:15 am** in the Basilica very near the bones of St. Peter himself! Immediately following Mass we will need to move quickly as we have tickets to the exclusive and amazing excavations under St. Peter's (the famous "Scavi" tour) at **9:15 and 9:30 am**. We will break into two groups for the tour as only 10 are allowed at a time. After the Scavi tour we will move right into a tour of the largest and most beautiful basilica in the world, St. Peter's. Finally, after a very powerful morning we will have some time for good food, to go shopping for rosaries, religious goods, or a little something for yourself on the nearby *Borgo Pio* for the Papal audience on Wednesday when the Holy Father blesses all religious objects. We will have a van available from **2:30-3:30 pm** where you can leave any bags or items you purchased to be hauled back to campus. This would also be a great time for the adventurous types to take a tour of St. Peter's cupola, the very top of the dome. At **6:00 pm**, the group reassembles at the same rendezvous point to walk around the Vatican walls to the entrance of the famed Vatican Museums for a private tour of the museums and the incredible Sistine Chapel. Following the full day's adventure, we are hosted by our faculty and students on campus for a simple dinner party.

Wednesday, September 29: Colazione will go from 5:30-6:30 am, with the bus departing promptly at **6:30 am** where we join others in St. Peter's Square or in the Paul VI Audience Hall for a Papal Audience! (If it's outside in the square, you may wish to bring water, sunscreen, and a hat or umbrella.) The Audience begins at **10:00 am**, but Pope Francis is often out with the people before **9:30 am**, and the gates open to the public around **8:00 am**, with lines forming much earlier. Those wishing to depart later still can request a taxi from the front desk of the campus (tell the taxi driver "San Pietro, Vaticano"). After the Papal Audience, there is an opportunity to grab a nice pranzo before meeting at the *Piazza della Città Leonina* (our rendezvous point on pg. 5) at **2:00 pm** for a walking tour of Rome. On the tour, we'll stop by the beautiful *Chiesa di Sant'Ignazio* (Via del Caravita, 8a) for Mass at **4:00pm**. Afterwards, we will join many other American pilgrims for a beautiful time of prayer, reflection, and the chance to go to confession before the day of the diaconate ordination. Following our time of reflection, we depart for a delightful cena at *La Gattabuia in Trastevere* (Via del Porto, 1).

Thursday, September 30: *The day of the Diaconate Ordination!* Colazione is on campus from **6:00-6:30 am**. **Dress in your very best** and be ready to board our motorcoaches by **6:45am** so we can clear security at St. Peter's and be seated by the time the ceremony begins at **9:30 am**. Once the ceremony is complete, we will regroup and take a short walk up the hill to the *North American College* (00120 Vatican City State) for an elegant and celebratory reception for the newly ordained deacons. We will take a quick group photo on the steps of the NAC before you enter the reception. With permission from the Rector of the NAC, we will take elevators to the top of the building to enjoy one of the greatest views in the world — St. Peter's Basilica and the Eternal City of Rome. Because not everyone can be on the rooftop at one time, groups will go in shifts (see pg. 4 for group times). Then at **2:15 pm**, we will depart back to campus for a time of rest. After resting, the group will depart for the *Catacombs of San Callisto* (Via Appia Antica, 110/126) at **3:30 pm**, where we will tour where Christians in the life of the early, "underground," Church, would meet to celebrate Mass. At **7:00pm**, we set off again for a champagne reception and banquet meal with other priests, seminarians, and friends from North Dakota to celebrate the new deacons, Grant Dvorak & Jacob Magnuson, at one of the most elegant restaurants in Rome, *Cecilia Metella* (Via Appia Antica, 125). After a night of incredible Italian cuisine and good company, we will return to the University of Mary campus.

Friday, October 1: Today we leave the city of Rome for a few days. If you prefer, pack a lighter bag and leave your larger luggage in your room where you can retrieve it upon your return. Colazione is again on campus from **7:30-8:15 am**. At **8:15 am**, we depart for *Santa Maria Sopra Minerva (Piazza della Minerva, 42, 00186 Roma, Italy)* and the church of *San Agostino* for Deacon Magnuson's and Deacon Dvorak's first Masses as a deacon and their first homily. How honored and grateful we will be for Grant and Jake and the other young men answering the call, and for the goodness of God, who calls and provides for us as we gather in this sacred space. After Mass, we bid farewell to Rome, and to Father Ehli, and make our way to Assisi, the charming city of St. Francis. On our way, we will stop and tour the church *Santa Maria degli Angeli* where Father Dosch will recount the makings of one of Christendom's most beloved saints. Afterwards, we continue onto Assisi and *Hotel La Rocca (Via Porta Perlici, 27)* where we will make our stay and conclude our evening with cena.

Saturday, October 2: Colazione is served at our hotel today from **6:30-7:15 am**. At **7:30 am**, we set off for a morning walk through the city of Assisi to the great *Basilica of San Francesco (Via San Francesco, 2)*, home to the tomb of St. Francis where we have arranged for a private Mass at **8:00 am**. Following Mass, Fr. Dosch and Jerome will give a tour of the Basilica of St. Francis before vans take us to visit the *Hermitage of St. Francis* atop Mount Subasio (*Via Eremo delle Carceri, 1A, Assisi*). After our time at the hermitage, we return to Assisi for pranzo at *Hotel La Rocca (Via Porta Perlici, 27)*, beginning at **1:15pm**. Afterwards you're free to explore the tranquil and playful city of Assisi for the rest of the afternoon. Cena is at your leisure.

Sunday, October 3: Today we set off from Assisi for another hilltop town: Orvieto. Leave your bags outside *Hotel La Rocca* at **8:00am** before grabbing colazione so they can be loaded onto the bus. At **9:15 am**, buses depart. Upon arrival to Orvieto, we drink in the vistas from the city's soaring ramparts overlooking the valley below. We then make our way to the *Cathedral of Orvieto (Duomo di Orvieto, Via del Duomo, 26)*. After Mass at **12:30 pm** and a guided visit through the lovely Cathedral and the unforgettable Chapel of San Brizio, we will gather for a delightful pranzo at *Da Maurizio (Via del Duomo, 78)* at **2:00 pm**. Following our time together meal, we will check into *Hotel Palazzo Piccolomini (Piazza Ranieri, 36)*. The rest of the afternoon and evening is free to explore. Cena is on your own.

Monday, October 4: This morning begins with Colazione served from **7:30 am**. At **9:15 am**, we leave Orvieto for another Franciscan heritage site, Greccio. Upon arrival, we have the opportunity to visit the very site where St. Francis created the first ever crèche, or nativity scene, and view hundreds of crèches from all the world's different cultures. We will then celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass together before boarding the busses for a short drive to *Il Nido del Corvo (Via del Forno, 15)* for a delicious pranzo and a farewell banquet overlooking the valley. Following pranzo, we will make our way to Rome where we will relax at our Rome campus before the journey back to the States. A few important notes; when we return to the UMary campus, your whisper set will need to be checked in with UMary staff. Also, two luggage scales will be available for your use to make sure your bags are not too heavy to bring back (they need to be under 50 lbs, 23 kg). As a token of thanks, there will be a tip jar available for our wonderful drivers as well as a collection to support our seminarians, who do so much to help make the pilgrimage successful.

Tuesday, October 5: *Arrivederci, Roma!* Make sure to finish packing as the bus will leave for the airport at **3:30 am**. *Buon Viaggio!*