

# University of Mary President's Club

## 2023 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 22:** We depart for Rome. Cena and colazione served on board the airplane.

**Saturday, September 23:** *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 Casaleto, 538). Before a tour of campus, orientation, and a presentation by our staff, we will have a light pranzo together on campus. Afterwards, we depart at **3:00 pm** for Mass at the *Pontifical North American College* (Via del Gianicolo, 14). Following Mass, we will depart for a **5:30 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 24:** The day will start with colazione served on campus from **7:00-7:45 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, which will help avoid any lines, and afterward we will walk together through the Roman Forum ending at the *Mamertine Prison*. Following our tour of ancient Rome, we will enjoy a wonderful pranzo at *Ristorante Abruzzesi* (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 **3:00 pm** before departing at **5:00 pm** for another Papal Basilica, *Saint Paul's Outside the Walls* (Piazzale San Paolo, 1) for a visit. We then make our way back to campus at **6:00 pm** where the evening is yours to explore the neighborhood or rest on campus. Cena is on your own.

**Monday, September 25:** Today will be an early start, with colazione available from **5:45-6:15 am**. The motorcoach will depart promptly at **6:30 am** so we can skip the lines for a guided tour of the splendor of Christendom's greatest church, *St. Peter's Basilica!* (Piazza San Pietro, Vaticano). We will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass at **8:15 am** in the Basilica very near the bones of St. Peter himself. Following Mass, our guided tour of the Basilica will continue, and then we will have some free time for pranzo on your own, 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 in the afternoon where you can leave any bags or items you purchased to be hauled back to campus. Then, we'll meet up together at the *Piazza della Citta Leonina* as we have tickets to the exclusive and amazing excavations under St. Peter's (the famous "Scavi" tour) at **1:15 pm, 1:30 pm, and 1:45 pm**. We will break into three groups for the tour as only 15 are allowed at a time. After the tours, we'll have more free time - this would be a great opportunity for the adventurous types to take a tour of St. Peter's cupola, the very top of the dome! At **6:30 pm**,

the group reassembles at the *Piazza della Citta Leonina* for a **7:00 pm** cena at Orazio (Via di Porta Latina, 5).

**Tuesday, September 26:** Colazione today is available from **7:00-7:45 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 Monsignor Shea will give a tour of this astonishing 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 **11:00am**, we leave the city of Rome, as St. Benedict did, for an extraordinary pilgrimage to Subiaco, the great Benedictine heritage site. We'll have picnic lunches when we arrive at **12:30 pm** while enjoying the breathtaking vistas of this mountain region. While taking in the history of Subiaco, we'll visit the *Sacro Speco* (Via S. Benedetto, Subiaco) – the holy cave where St. Benedict lived for three years, and we will have Mass there at **3:00 pm**. After some time for shopping, we'll board our bus and depart at **4:30 pm** to *Castel Gandolfo* (the Pope's traditional summer residence) for a delightful cena together at *La Gardenia* (Viale Bruno Buozzi, 4, Castel Gandolfo) overlooking Lake Albano, a deep crater lake. After a beautiful full day, we will return to the University of Mary campus for a good night's sleep.

**Wednesday, September 27:** Colazione will go from **5:00-6:15 am**, with the bus making two trips – once at **5:30 am**, and once at **6:30 am**, where we'll join thousands of 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 have a nice pranzo on your own before meeting at the *Piazza della Città Leonina* at **1:15 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 the chance to go to confession before Mass at **4:00pm**. Then at **6:00 pm**, we will enjoy a private tour of the Vatican Museums, joined by University of Mary students, before we bus back to campus for a *fiesta di pizza!*

**Thursday, September 28:** 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 **7:30-8:45 am**. We'll depart at **9:00 am** and make our way to the beautiful mountain town of 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 bus for a short drive to *Il Nido del Corvo* (Via del Forno, 15) for a delicious pranzo at **1:00 pm** and a banquet overlooking the valley. Then, at **3:00 pm**, we'll load the bus again and set out on a lovely journey to Siena. We'll check into *Hotel NH Siena* (Via La Lizza, 1) at **6:00 pm**, Monsignor will offer an orientation walk into Siena shortly after, and then the rest of the evening is free.

**Friday, September 29:** Colazione is available **7:00-8:00 am**. At **9:00 am**, we begin a walking tour of Siena, visiting the *Basilica di San Francesco* (Piazza S. Francesco, 6) where we'll have Mass at **9:30 am** and also have a chance to pray in front of the Eucharistic Miracle. After Mass, we'll continue our walking tour to the *Piazza del Campo* for pranzo at *Boccon del Prete* (Via S. Pietro, 17). Then we'll make our way to the *Duomo di Siena* (Piazza del Duomo, 8), the *Sanctuario Casa di Santa Caterina* (Costa Sant'Antonio, 6), and the *Basilica Cateriniana San Domenico* (Piazza S. Domenico, 1) to see the frescoes of St. Catherine of Siena's life and some of her relics, too! At **1:30 pm**, we board the bus and depart for Assisi, stopping

first at *Santa Maria degli Angeli* (Piazza Porziuncola, 1). At **5:00 pm**, we'll continue to *Hotel La Rocca* (Via Porta Perlici, 27) where we will make our stay and conclude our evening with cena.

**Saturday, September 30:** 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, we'll have a tour of the Basilica 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. Some sites to see in your free time include San Rufino and Santa Chiara (open from **2:00 – 6:30pm**, this Basilica is dedicated to St. Clare of Assisi, and houses the San Damiano crucifix which spoke to St. Francis in a vision, asking him to rebuild the Church). Cena is on your own, at your leisure.

**Sunday, October 1:** Today is a completely free day in the tranquility of Assisi. We'll offer Mass nearby the hotel, and there are plenty of shops, places to pray, and amazing restaurants. Fall in love with Assisi!

**Monday, October 2:** Today we set off from Assisi for another hilltop town: Orvieto. Colazione is available **7:30–8:30 am** at *Hotel La Rocca*, and at **8:30 am**, we'll load our luggage and depart at **8:45 am**. 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 **12:00 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 **2:30 pm**. Following pranzo, we will make our way to Rome where we will relax at our Rome campus before the journey back to the States.

**Tuesday, October 3:** *Arrivederci, Roma!* We'll have a **6:00 am** Travelers' Mass before the bus departs at **7:00 am** for the airport. *Buon Viaggio!*