

# "FEDE A PORTATA DI MANO,"

**Pilgrimage to Italy**  
with

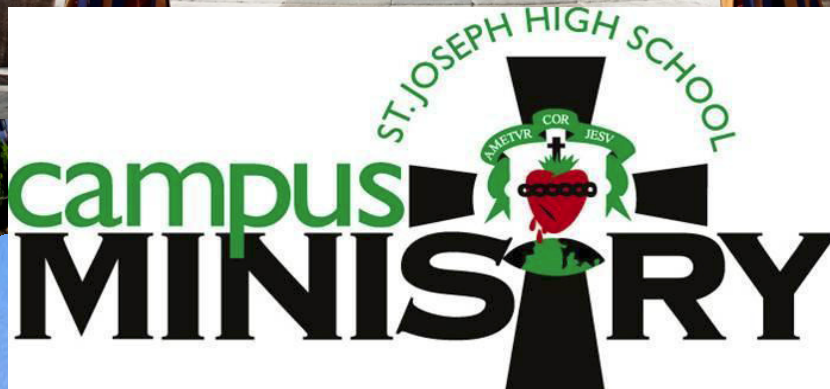
*Father James DeFillipps*

of

*St Joseph High School*

**March 27—April 3, 2016**

*Highlights: Rome / Pompeii / Sorrento / Amalfi / Naples / Monte Cassino*





### **Day 1: Easter Sunday Evening flight to Rome, March 27<sup>th</sup>.**

All students will DEPART on a bus from ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL to the airport for your trans-Atlantic flight to Rome, Italy. Meals and entertainment are aloft and morning arrival in Rome.

### **Day 2: Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> – Basilica of Our Lady of Pompeii/Pompeii Excavations**

Upon arrival at Fiumecino, Leonardo daVinci Airport, we will clear customs, baggage claim, meet our motor-coach and driver and immediately depart Rome. Our arrival in Rome on Monday is a National Holiday in Italy, therefore we will journey south to the remarkable and extraordinary city of Pompeii at the foot of Mount Vesuvius; the volcano responsible for the destruction of this city and the surrounding area of the Bay of Naples. Pompeii lay under ashes and lava for almost 2000 years until it was discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Here, we can marvel at the advanced culture of this Roman city and the Pompeian citizens. The baths, the homes, the market place and the gardens had all been remarkably preserved under the lava for nearly two millennium. The cataclysmic eruption re-shaped the entire coastline of the Bays of Pompeii, Naples and Sorrento. Afterwards we will continue a bit farther south to the Sorrentine peninsula.



Today, **Mass** will be celebrated with Fr. James at The Basilica of Our Lady of Pompeii/Holy Rosary. Devotion to Our Lady of Pompei traces its roots to Italy when in 1872 Bartolo Longo arrived in Pompei. One day while walking through the fields, Bartolo heard the words of the Blessed Virgin, "One who promotes my Rosary shall be saved." Hearing this, Bartolo fell to his knees promising to devote his life to encouraging devotion to the Rosary among the people of Pompei. Bartolo, in need of a portrait of the Blessed Virgin before which the Rosary could be recited every day, began rebuilding the old church in Pompei, all the while searching for a suitable portrait of Our Lady. The only one he could acquire was given to him by a nun at a nearby convent. Though the portrait was in poor condition, Bartolo accepted it at her urging, "Take it with you; you

will see the Blessed Virgin Mother will use this painting to work many miracles." Bartolo undertook the first of many restorations of the painting, placing it in the rebuilt church. Over the years, many miracles have taken place through the intercession of Our Lady of Pompei. Today, the once humble portrait is fully restored and is found in the church where millions visit each year asking for Mary's intercession. After Mass, we will travel over the serpentine coastal road on the edge of the sea called *La Sorrentina*, hovering over the Mediterranean Sea. The views are *mozzafiato* or breathtaking. **Dinner (included)** and overnight will be in Sorrento.







### **Day 3: Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Napoli / Basilica /Chapel of San Severo/City & Panoramic Sightseeing**

Today, after breakfast, we will visit the legendary city of Naples. For those of you who are of Italian ethnic background, the Port of Naples is most likely, of the three major ports in Italy, the one where so many of your immigrant ancestors departed for the “New World”. There will be a scenic tour of the city and time to visit the main Cathedral of Naples; *Cattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta* and burial place of *San Gennaro*, patron of this region of Italy. *San Gennaro* is invoked by the faithful to intercede for the protection of the population against the wrath of Mount Vesuvius, the famous Monastery (Basilica) of *Santa Chiara*, the *Chapel of San Severo*, with its incredible sculpture of the “Veiled Christ”. We will walk along the Spanish Quarter, famous for the production of the Neapolitan Nativity scenes. A pizza **lunch (on your own)** would be in order today in view of the fact that “pizza” was invented in this famous city. There will be a walk through the *Galleria* and *Piazza del Plebescito*, past the Royal Palace of the Bourbon Kings. We will also visit the *Angevin Castle* or *Maschio Angioino* as the locals call it. This imposing castle, once surrounded by deep moats, was built in 1282 by Pierre de Chaulnes and Pierre d'Angincourt, the architects of Charles I of Anjou. It was modeled on the castle at Angers, France. A remarkable triumphal arc embellishes the entrances on the city side. **Mass** will be celebrated at the *Basilica of San Paolo Maggiore*. This Baroque style church was built on the ruins of the site of the 1st-century temple of the *Dioscuri*. The front section of the building, including six columns and triangular tympanum, was visible until 1688, when it was destroyed by an earthquake. The current church includes two Corinthian columns from the ancient temple. The church erected here in the 8th-9th century was dedicated to St. Paul to celebrate a victory in 574 of the Duchy of Naples against pillaging Saracens. Tonight we return to Sorrento for **dinner (included)** and overnight.





#### **Day 4: Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Sorrento/Amalfi (Costiera Amalfitana)**

Today, after breakfast, we will embark on one of the most memorable days of the entire trip, "*La Costiera Amalfitana*", the *Amalfi coast drive*. Traveling south from the Bay of Sorrento to the Bay of Salerno along the Mediterranean, we will experience one of the most spectacular and scenic coastal drives in all of Europe, if not the world! The 40 mile trek consists of over 1000 curves and turns, each one with a new and fantastic view of the mountains which seem to lean down to kiss the crystal clear turquoise sea below. There will be panoramic stops along the way for photos - have your camera ready for this one! Our



main stop today will be in Amalfi, a beautiful seaport city, once an ancient Empire, with its magnificent **Arab/Norman Cathedral of Saint Andrew's** (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Century). **Mass** will be celebrated at St. Andrew's. The cathedral houses the relic of the head of St. Andrew taken in the sack of Constantinople in 1204. There will be free time for shopping and sightseeing in this beautiful seaside village. Later we will continue our journey down the coast to the last city on the Amalfi Drive, *Vietri sul Mare*. In *Vietri* you will have some free time to enjoy the views or visit the *Majolica* Dome Church of St. John the Baptist. **Dinner (included)** and overnight is in Sorrento.

#### **Day 5: Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> Monte Cassino / Gaeta / Lenola / Rome**

This morning we depart Sorrento early making our way to Rome. Our first stop will be the magnificent Abbey of Monte Cassino, begun in the 6 C. AD by Saint Benedict. **Mass** will be celebrated at the Abbey. Today, this abbey and many others throughout the world are still run and staffed by the Benedictine order. The main altar of the church is built directly over the tombs of the twins, brother and sister Saints Benedict & Scholastica. The abbey: world renowned for the battles which took place here during World War II, was completely leveled by American aerial bombs, but restored and rebuilt through the efforts of the Italians, the Americans, and Catholics throughout the world. After this, we proceed on to *Gaeta* by the sea to the Shrine of the *Montagna Spaccata*; which was an instrumental inspiration to the vocation of St. Philip Neri when he came to take refuge here before he went to Rome. Contemplating the crevices of the mountain plunging into the Mediterranean Sea, his gaze was drawn towards the infinite, filling him with mystery and immersing him in God. Afterwards we will proceed up into the mountains along via *Appia Antica* to a medieval walled village. There you enjoy a delicious meal made in the regional cuisine of the *Ciociaria* or Lazio region of Italy. Here, we will have a late **lunch (included)** in the quaint village of *Lenola* in the small family owned *Hostaria ai Pozzi* will be shared. This village dates back to the era before Our Lord. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries Our Lady appeared in this village. The miraculous apparition of the 15<sup>th</sup> century was approved in a Bull by Pope Urban the VIII in the 17<sup>th</sup> C. Both Saints Peter and Paul passed through the village on the Appian Way after their arrivals in Brindisi from Jerusalem, on their way to Rome. Overnight in Rome.





## **Day 6: Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> Full day Rome/Vatican City /Sistine Chapel /Basilicas /Necropolis**

After breakfast, we will begin with Mass celebrated in one of the many chapels of St. Peter's Basilica. Following Mass, we will have a "must see" tour of the *Scavi*. The "Scavi" is the excavations of the underground necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica. Following this, we will begin our tour of St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel. We will then proceed to one or more of the other major Basilicas of Rome as time allows. However, we will be visiting the *Santa Maria della Concezione dei Cappuccin*. Cardinal Antonio Barberini, who was a member of the Capuchin order, in 1631 ordered the remains of thousands of Capuchin friars exhumed and transferred from the friary *Via dei Lucchesi* to the crypt. The



bones were arranged along the walls, and the friars began to bury their own dead here, as well as the bodies of poor Romans, whose tombs are under the floor of the present Mass chapel. Here the Capuchins would come to pray and reflect each evening before retiring for the night. The crypt, or ossuary, now contains the remains of 4,000 friars buried between 1500 and 1870, during which time the Roman Catholic Church permitted burial in and under churches. The underground crypt is divided into five chapels, lit only by dim natural light seeping in through cracks, and small fluorescent lamps. The crypt walls are



decorated with the remains in elaborate fashion, making this crypt a macabre work of art. Some of the skeletons are intact and draped with Franciscan habits, but for the most part, individual bones are used to create elaborate ornamental designs. **Dinner (included) and overnight in Rome.**

We will be having a tour of the *Scavi* (Excavation) which is the Necropolis beneath the Vatican.

**About the Scavi Tour:** Buried underneath Catholicism's largest and most famous Church lays a treasure even more precious than the gold, precious stone, and the priceless artwork above; the bones of St. Peter. The most precious relics the Church possesses.

We will be having a tour of the *Scavi* (Excavation) which is the Necropolis beneath the Vatican.





## **Day 7 / Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Rome Ancient & Monumental**

After breakfast, we will begin with our visit of Rome, visiting such sites as the Coliseum, the Capitoline Hill, Roman Forum, the Pantheon and the Fountain of Trevi, the Spanish Steps and much more. Afterwards we move to the **Roman Omni Theater**. The **"Time Elevator"** spanning two and a half thousand years of Roman history will review and culminate many of the events and sites of the last week in Italy. The Eternal City was the capital of the Roman Kingdom, the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire, which was the dominant power in Western Europe and the lands bordering the Mediterranean for over seven hundred years from the 1st century BC until the 7th century AD. The city is regarded as one of the birthplaces of western civilization. Since the 1st century AD Rome has been the seat of the Papacy and, after the end of Byzantine domination, in the 8th century it became the capital of the Papal States, which lasted until 1870. In 1871 Rome became the capital of the Kingdom of Italy, and in 1946 that of the Italian Republic. **Farewell dinner (included)** and overnight in Rome.



## **Day 8: Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **Morning Departure for USA**

We bid a fond farewell to Rome as we depart for Fiumicino International Airport for our voyage back to the USA following a wonderful pilgrimage and cultural visit to Italy. We arrive home in the afternoon, meals aloft.

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**The above sequence of activity, The Octave of Easter, will be adapted due to the Holiday Schedules of the Churches, Basilicas, and other tourist sites, the schedule of events in Rome will be adjusted accordingly. Nothing will be deleted but simply rearranged and re-scheduled to accommodate the Holiday Schedules if necessary.**

#### **INCLUDES:**

All transfers abroad Airport/Hotels with English speaking assistance for those arriving/departing with the group  
Buffet Breakfast Daily  
All other meals as per itinerary  
Beverages at meals as per itinerary  
English Speaking local guides throughout  
English Speaking Tour Manager day of arrival to day of departure  
First Class Hotels throughout  
Entrance Fees to Sites  
VAT (Value Added Tax) 19%  
Service fees for Hotels and Restaurants

#### **EXCLUDES:**

Transfers abroad for Passengers arriving on other flights not booked with the group.  
Passports and/or Visa Fees  
Gratuities to Drivers, Guides, Tour escort/Manager  
Luggage handling in airports  
Items of personal nature  
Beverages at meals unless listed in itinerary

**CITY HOTEL TAX:** This tax was implemented by various tourism cities in Europe. The tax for this trip is \$22 and will be added to your invoice.