

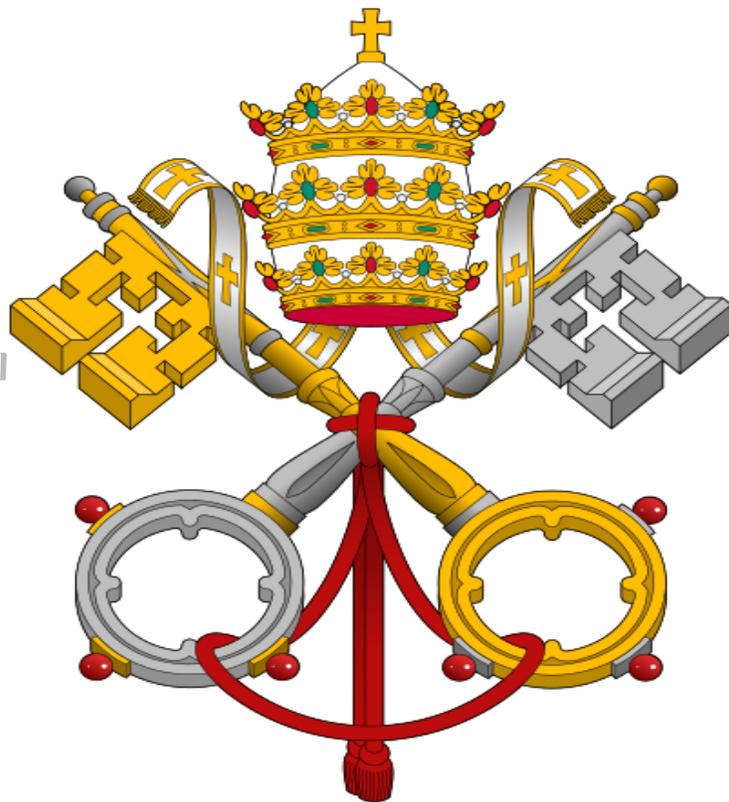
Mount St Mary Seminary
2024
Pilgrimage

ROME

FLORENCE

TUSCANY

PISA



February 23—March 2, 2024

Dear Friends

*I am very pleased to announce an exciting pilgrimage/tour of the Eternal City; Rome, Florence, Pisa, and more departing **February 23, 2024** It will cover the major Churches, antiquities and attractions of these magnificent Cities. I have arranged for excellent guides knowledgeable in church history and deeply committed to the faith to give us inspiring and factual points of some of the most sacred places we hold as Catholics. A trip to Italy would not be complete without sampling it's great food and wine. The trip includes an excursion to the Tuscan Wine region.*

Sincerely,

Fr. J. Trigilio

INCLUDES:

All transfers abroad Airport/Hotels

Round Trip Coach Trans-Atlantic Airfare IAD/FCO

Buffet Breakfast Daily

Lunch or Supper with water, wine and coffee included as per listed in itinerary

English Speaking local guides throughout

English Speaking Tour Manager day of arrival to day of departure

First Class Hotel throughout

Entrance Fees to Sites

VAT (Value Added Tax) 22%

Service fees for Hotels and Restaurants

EXCLUDES:

Passports and/or Visa Fees

Gratuities to Drivers, Guides, Tour escort/Manager

Luggage handling

Items of personal nature

Hotel City Taxes (added to your invoice)

Trip Insurance (if you chose to purchase maybe added to your invoice)

Day 1—Trans-Atlantic Flight to Rome

All participants using the group flights will depart from Washington Dulles International Airport for your trans-Atlantic flight to Rome, Italy

UNITED AIRLINES - Flight # UA 884 IAD/ FCO (Rome) Depart 5:45 PM Arrive 8:30 AM

Day 2—Rome / Florence Arrival

Upon arrival at Fiumecino, Leonardo daVinci Airport, we will clear customs, baggage claim, meet our drivers and immediately depart for Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance.

Upon arrival in Florence, we will check in to our lodging and have a few minutes to freshen up. We will gather for an orientation of the city prior to supper (**included**). Overnight in Florence.



Day 3—Florence City Tour

Today, after breakfast, we will begin our walking tour of Florence. Florence is one of the few cities around the world whose entire historical center is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The reason is it offers hundreds, maybe thousands, of monumental arts and architecture. We will begin our day with a visit to the Accademia to see some of Michaelangelo's greatest works, especially the "David". Afterwards onto the Duomo, Santa Maria del Fiore, Brunelleschi's masterpiece. Here will we also see Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistery with its "Gates of Paradise" doors. We will continue on to Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio. There will be a break for lunch before continuing on our walk to Santa Croce. The Basilica of Santa Croce is also known as the Temple of the Italian Glories, as many important artists, writers and scientists, including Michelangelo Buonarroti, Galileo Galilei, Gioachino Rossini, Ugo Foscolo and Leon Battista Alberti are buried here. Dinner **(included)** overnight in Florence.



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Day 4 — Pisa

Today we will take a short trip from Florence to Pisa, another masterpiece of medieval architecture. Piazza del Duomo houses a group of monuments known throughout the world. Standing in a large green expanse, enclosed by the city walls, the former Ospedale della Misericordia and the Palazzo dell'Arcivescovato, the Piazza del Duomo at Pisa comprises one of the most renowned constructed landscapes in the world.



The four masterpieces of medieval architecture – the cathedral, the baptistery, the bell tower (the 'Leaning Tower') and the cemetery – were erected between the 11th and 14th centuries within close proximity of each other, forming a unique cluster of monuments. A striking quality pervades the site, emanating from the interplay of marble and mosaics, the usual alliance of bare walls and arched galleries, triangular frontons and heavy cupolas with the whole effect heightened by the breath-taking slant of the bell tower. After our guided tour we will break for some free time for lunch (on your own) and some personal time to explore or re-visit the Cathedral before returning to Florence. Dinner **(included)** and overnight in Florence.



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Day 5—Florence / American Military WWII Cemetery / Chianti Region / Rome

This morning after breakfast, we will depart this magnificent Renaissance city and head along a southernly route. Our first stop today, just outside of the city limits will be the American War Cemetery where many of our WW II military men and women who died on foreign soil are interred. We are awaiting a response from the office of the cemetery for permission to celebrate mass on the grounds of the cemetery.



Day 5—continued

The cemetery, framed by the hills of Tuscany, commemorates the contributions and sacrifice of American servicemen and women in Italy during World War II. Nearly 4400 are buried here. Most died in the hard-fought campaigns against Nazi Germany in northern Italy in the war's final year. The memorial stands on high ground, overlooking the headstones, with the Greve River in the distance.

A large stone pylon rises beside the memorial. The spirit of peace, at the top, hovers over the fallen. A devotional chapel, glowing with golden light, offers a setting for quiet reflection. The mosaic behind its altar depicts a figure symbolizing Remembrance.



The Chianti Road. Afterwards, we will continue on to the Chianti Road which winds its way through the Wine Region of Tuscany. Along the way we will have a tour of one of the more famous wineries in the region which was owned by the Verrazzano Family since the 7th century. The family of the great explorer who discovered the Bay of New York and for whom the bridge is named. *“Giovanni da Verrazzano was an Italian explorer of North America, in the service of King Francis I of France. He is renowned as the first European to explore the Atlantic coast of North America between Florida and New Brunswick, Canada in 1524, including New York Bay and Narragansett Bay.”*

We will have a tour of the ancient cellars and then a light lunch (**included**) with a taste of their delicious wines. Afterwards, departure for Rome, arriving late in the afternoon, we will check into our hotel and have some time to refresh before dinner (**included**). Overnight in Rome.

Day 6—Rome / Morning Audience / Afternoon Free-time—March 6

For those wishing to attend the Papal Audience, you will be accompanied to Vatican Square in the morning. After the audience, you may have the afternoon free to visit the Basilica on your own for personal time. The rest of the afternoon you can have time to shop in the area of the Pantheon or the Borgo Pio. *OR visit the Cupola:: it is a fantastic experience, and a great opportunity to enjoy a dizzying city panorama all around Rome and to admire a top down view of St Peter's basilica nave. At the entrance to the basilica, after the security check, there is a sign that directs you to the far right of the portico (past the Holy Door) and to the kiosk for the elevator. You can take the elevator to the roof level (saving 320 steps), but if you want to be on the top of the cupola you must take the stairs for the last portion (551 steps in total).*



The entrance cost is Cost 7 Euros for elevator, 5 Euros for stairs. After the brief elevator ride (or the first 320 steps), before your climb to the dome, you can stop and enjoy the view from the gallery inside the dome looking down into the basilica. Take a few moments to absorb the astonishing beauty of the cupola from within, looking down onto the main altar. Michelangelo himself designed this dome, which measures 135m (450 ft.) above the ground at its top and stretches 42m (139 ft.) in diameter. Legend has it that in deference to the Pantheon, Michelangelo made his dome 1.5m (5 ft.) shorter across, saying “I could build one bigger, but not more beautiful, than that of the Pantheon.” Carlo Maderno later added the dome-top lantern. The climb to the top of the dome proceeds through progressively narrower and sloping stairs. The narrow passageway can be uncomfortable if you are claustrophobic

Supper tonight on your own. Overnight in Rome.

Day 7 - St. Peter's Basilica / Vatican Museum / Sistine Chapel

At 22,067 square meters, St. Peter's is the world's largest church; regarded as one of the holiest Catholic shrines, it is a popular place of pilgrimage, even though it is neither the Mother Church nor a cathedral (San Giovanni in Laterano is both, as explained above). It is hard to grasp its proportions until you have seen it. Particularly impressive is its height, 136 meters from the ground to the top of the magnificent dome, the tallest in the world. According to Catholic tradition, the Basilica is the burial site of the apostle St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome. St. Peter's tomb is said to be below the high altar. Many popes have been buried here since the Early Christian period. A church has been on this site since Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. Construction of the present basilica, which replaced the basilica of the 4th century, began on 18 April 1506 and was completed in 1626. St. Peter's Basilica is also famous as a magnificent work of art, to which major Renaissance artists, including Michelangelo, Bramante, Raffaello, Sangallo and Giacomo della Porta contributed. Gian Lorenzo Bernini designed the ample staircase and elliptical square surrounded by columns, which "introduces" the basilica, with the façade by Carlo Maderno.



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We will also visit the Vatican Museum and culminate with the Sistine Chapel. The Vatican Museums originated as a group of sculptures collected by Pope Julius II (1503-1513) and placed in what today is the Cortile Ottagono within the museum complex. The popes were among the first sovereigns who opened the art collections of their palaces to the public thus promoting knowledge of art history and culture. As seen today, the Vatican Museums are a complex of different pontifical museums and galleries that began under the patronage of the popes .



After a lunch break on your own, we will continue our day of Christian Rome by visiting St John Lateran and St Mary Major. The largest church in Rome dedicated to the Virgin Mary, hence the name, and one of the first to be built in her honor, Santa Maria Maggiore is located on Piazza Esquilino, not far from the Termini train station. It is the only basilica among these four to have preserved the Paleochristian structure of the 5th century, even though it underwent several makeovers and additions externally. It closely resembles a 2nd-century imperial basilica, imposing in its aspect, perhaps to signify Rome's Christian future. Under the high altar is the Crypt of the Nativity, with a crystal reliquary said to contain wood from Jesus'

crib.

Mater et caput of all Rome's and the world's Catholic churches, San Giovanni in Laterano is the oldest church of the Western World, founded in the 4th century by Constantine the Great. Dedicated to John the Baptist and John the Evangelist, it stands on the piazza by the same name, within Rome's city center. San Giovanni in Laterano is also the city's cathedral, seat of the Bishop of Rome. The basilica was reconstructed a few times until the 18th century, when the monumental façade, a two-storied portico supported by giant columns, crowned by 15 seven-meter-high statues, was redesigned. Dinner **(included)** overnight in Rome.



Day 8— Ancient & Monumental Rome

Today, after breakfast, we will begin our full day tour of some of the most important and popular sites of Ancient Rome. 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.



Coliseum, Located just east of the Roman Forum, the massive stone amphitheater was commissioned around A.D. 70-72 by Emperor Vespasian of the Flavian dynasty as a gift to the Roman people. In A.D. 80, Vespasian's son Titus opened the Colosseum—officially known as the Flavian Amphitheater—with 100 days of games, including gladiatorial combats and wild animal fights.



of Hadrian. Its magnificent dome is a lasting testimony to the genius of Roman architects and as the building stands virtually intact it offers a unique opportunity for the modern visitor to step back 2,000 years and experience the glory that was Rome. As legend has it, Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by **Romulus and Remus**, twin sons of Mars, the god of war.

Pantheon: The Pantheon is the best preserved building from ancient Rome and was completed in 125 AD in the reign



Fountain of Trevi: It is the largest Baroque fountain in the city and the most beautiful in the world. A traditional legend holds that if visitors throw a coin into the fountain, they are ensured a return to Rome. The *Trevi Fountain* is situated at the end of the Aqua Virgo, an aqueduct constructed in 19 BC by Agrippa, the son-in-law of Emperor Augustus.



Over time the legend of the Trevi Fountain evolved to **tossing a coin in to ensure a return to Rome**. The precise legend of the Trevi Fountain says you should stand with your back to the fountain and toss a coin over your left shoulder to guarantee a return trip to Rome.

Piazza Navona is one of the most beautiful and famous squares in the center of Rome. In 86 CE, emperor Domitian commissioned this square with its unique, elongated shape. This shape is the result of **its original function as the stadium for athletics competitions (Circus Agonalis) with stands for 20,000 spectators**.



The main attraction of Piazza Navona is the trio of fountains that adorn the square. The central and largest fountain is the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi (Fountain of the Four Rivers). It was constructed between 1647 and 1651 on request of pope Innocent X. This evening we will enjoy a **“Farewell Dinner with wine included** at a local trattoria, Pancrazio, the remains of the theater of Pompey. *Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus, known in English as Pompey or Pompey the Great, was a general and statesman of the Roman Republic. He played a significant role in the transformation of Rome from republic to empire.*

Day 9—Departure Day

Morning departure from Leonardo da Vinci Airport (FCO) to Washington Dulles Airport (IAD) .



PRIOR to DEPARTURE

Prior to all of our group departures Fratelli & Company Group Travel will provide you with an “information” packet which will answer many of your concerns and questions about the trip. It will give contact information, flight schedules, hotel information and telephone numbers to leave at home with family members. It will give you info for packing suggestions, type of weather to expect, Euro vs US Dollar exchanges, US Embassy telephone numbers and much more. However, if you have a question or concern beforehand, please do not hesitate to call or email our office.

PASSPORTS

Make two copies of all of your travel documents (passports picture page) in case of an emergency or loss and leave one with a trusted friend or relative.

Travel to European Countries in the Schengen Area

Entry into any of the 26 European countries in the Schengen area for short-term tourism, a business trip, or in transit to a non-Schengen destination, requires that your passport be valid for at least six months beyond your intended date of departure. Because many Schengen countries assume all travelers will stay the full 6 months allowed for visa-free visitors, we recommend that U.S. citizens:

- Have at least **six month's validity remaining** on your passport whenever you travel abroad.
- Check the expiration date on your passport carefully before traveling to Europe.
- **Carry your passport with you at all times in Europe. ID must be shown upon request by Government officials anytime in the Schengen areas.**



***The possibility exists that after January 1, 2024 all visitors to Italy will need a VISA. They will be obtainable online. We will provide you with that info if and when the time comes.**

Seminarians who are foreign Nationals studying here in the USA on Study Visas; Please check with your country's Consulate and/or the Italian Consulate whether or not you need a VISA to travel to Italy.

Italian Honorary Consulate in Baltimore,
United States
2200 Broening Highway Suite 260 Baltimore, MD 21224 United States

- Telephone
- (+1) (443) 983.6597
- Email : mauro.dalbo@msc.com

Consulate General of Italy

600 Chestnut St
Suite 956

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Phone: (215) 592-7329

FOR FURTHER INFO CALL

Fratelli & Company Group Travel, LLC.

E-mail — louis@fratelliandcompany.com – tel. or fax (908)766 -8994

Fr. John Trigilio / trigilio@msmary.edu

TOTAL PACKAGE Air & Land — \$3,149. per person (double occupancy)
(price includes Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges they are subject to change)

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DEPOSIT — PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Pilgrimage—2024 - February 23—March 2, 2024

Name as it appears on passport: _____ Male _____ Female _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Cell or Res. Tel: _____ Work Tel: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: (City, State, Nation) _____

US CITIZENS

U S Passport #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

(please include a photocopy, photo or email a PDF scan of your passport)

FOREIGN NATIONALS—Contact your Consulate in case you need a VISA to travel to Italy

Foreign Passport # _____ Expiration Date _____

Alien Registration # (Green Card) _____

If you DO NOT have a passport at this time, please indicate, then provide to the tour operator/tour organizer with the passport info ASAP.

I wish to room with: (room mate name) _____

Private Accommodations or Single Room: + Single Supplement Fee \$200.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Fratelli & Co., LLC.

26 Pill Hill Road

Bernardsville, NJ 07924

\$500. – Due Now with Tour Application

Balance in Full Due 60 days prior to departure date. December 23, 2023

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO: Please provide one or 2 Names and telephone numbers in case of an emergency.

1. _____

2. _____

I am GLUTEN INTOLERANT ___yes or ___no

(Optional) Do you have any SEVERE FOOD or MEDICATION ALLERGIES: Please list use separate sheet if necessary

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations/Deposits/Payments: Deposit of two hundred fifty (\$500.00) is required at the time of booking. No reservation is confirmed until the deposit is received by the tour operator. Balance of the tour price is due and payable sixty (60) days prior to departure.

Minors And Infirm: Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or a responsible adult deemed worthy by the parent/guardian. If a minor is traveling with any person other than parent/guardian then the responsible adult will provide the travel agent/tour operator and have in his/her possession a notarized letter from the parent/guardian giving that adult full permission to make decisions on their behalf and permission to room with the minor. No minor will be allowed to room alone without the parent/guardian or named responsible adult. Due to the physical demands of the tour and the inaccessibility of handicap facilities abroad, no physically handicapped person may be a tour passenger.

Tour Price: The tour price in this brochure is based upon the U. S. currency vs. the European Euro at the time of printing, October 2023. If changes in these rates occur, it may change the price accordingly. The tour price is based on booking a minimum of 25 paying passengers. A lesser amount could increase the price of the tour. Should the price of the tour change for any of the reasons mentioned above, the passenger will then have the right to cancel the reservation and receive a full refund of payment made to date, provided that written notice be received by Fratelli & Co. within 7 (seven) days of the notification of the price change. Otherwise, the cancellation policy written below prevails. Airport Taxes which are included in the tour price are subject to change. No refund will be made if the passenger is dissatisfied with any of the accommodations; fails to use any of the accommodations included in the tour price, or must return home prior to completion of the tour.

Cancellations: Land and Air arrangements may be canceled and passenger may receive a full refund less one hundred (\$100.) dollars cancellation fee if the cancellation is made no less than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled departure date. If cancellation is made less than sixty (60) days prior to scheduled departure, there is no refund unless a suitable replacement passenger books the tour in his/her place. For these reasons we recommend you take Travel Insurance.

Travel Insurance: Health, accident, Trip Interruption/Cancellation and baggage insurance are NOT included; brochures can be made available through your travel agent.

Sightseeing & Itinerary: Sightseeing is included as specified in the itinerary with English-speaking guides and customary entrance fees. The tour operator reserves the right to vary the sequence of the itinerary and/or reroute the order of cities, should circumstances arise.

Passports: A valid passport is required, and MUST be shown upon request to the travel agent/tour operator, tour leaders and any airline personal and customs officials.

Responsibility: Fratelli & Co., your tour operator has arranged a vacation package which may include one or more of the following: air, land transportation, hotel accommodations and food service. Neither the tour operator nor the organizer own, operate, manage, or control any hotel, bus company, railroad, cruise line, service provider, restaurant, airline transportation company, person or persons rendering any of the services, and/or accommodations offered in connection with this tour. The tour operator and/or tour organizer do not guaranty any passenger's safety who participates in the tour. Accordingly, the passenger understands that he or she has no claim against the tour operator or organizer for any delay, or other irregularity caused by a third party service provider, damage to or loss of property, injury to or death of the person due to any action or failure to act by the air carrier, bus carriers, private cars, livery carriers, railroad, ships, hotels, restaurants and any service providers in connection with this tour, strikes, war, or any acts of God. Under these circumstances, no portion of the tour price will be refunded. It is advisable that you cover any potential risks with insurance coverage.

Cancellation of Passenger's Rights: In an effort to make the tour pleasant for all, the tour operator reserves the right to: 1. cancel any reservation and refund the tour price, pursuant to the cancellation clause, of any passenger who acts irrational by words, actions and demeanor prior to the tour departure; 2. refuse further participation in the tour once the tour begins, with no refund given, to passengers who: act unruly, irrational, unduly argumentative, incite trouble among passengers, endanger the health and/or safety of the other passengers, tour operator, tour organizer, and/or tour escort, or if they become physically or emotionally disabled and create a burden that the remaining passengers are unwilling to accept. No tour passenger, tour operator, tour organizer, tour escort, will be obligated to assist any infirm, handicapped or injured passenger.

Inclusions: Service charges, First Class Three Star Hotel, Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary, English-speaking guides, Breakfasts, lunches and dinners (including in flight meals) as per itinerary.

Exclusions: Hotel City Tax, Passport and visa fees, tips for tour escorts, drivers, guides, food service personal, hotel maids, phone calls, laundry services, and other items of a personal nature. Rates do NOT include beverages at meals unless specified in the itinerary. Rates do not include transportation to and from US airports or baggage handling in the United States.

Physical and Emotional Limitations: The tour operator cannot be held responsible for any part of the tour missed due to physical or emotional limitations. Anyone who cannot participate in an event will not receive a refund for any unused portion. Further, if anyone must stop or return to a hotel or motor-coach during a tour, and uses public transportation or taxis, it will be their responsibility to pay for the transportation.

Miscellaneous: Any Litigation concerning this tour shall be brought in the State of New Jersey. This agreement shall be construed according to New Jersey and Federal law. The tour operator shall not be responsible for any typographical errors or misprints. The tour operator reserves the right to substitute in its discretion any air, land and sea carrier, hotels, and service providers and itinerary.

I have read terms and conditions of the tour and accept them. I represent I am not physically or emotionally challenged and I am able to meet the physical demands required by this tour.

signature:

date:

AIRFARE & TRANSFERS

This trip may be priced Land & Air separately. The reason: *anyone wishing to procure their own air travel through frequent flyer miles or other, may do so, keeping in mind, they must adhere to the “group” arrival and departure schedule in Rome, Fiumecino Airport in Italy, to be able to take advantage of the “included” transfers to and from the airport in Italy. Otherwise you may be obliged to take taxis or hire a private transfer to meet the group or return to the airport at your own expense.

We will be pleased to assist you in booking your flights from the USA to Italy, however, you must adhere to our group schedule (below). If your flight is delayed, we cannot wait more that 30 minutes and you will be responsible for joining the group on your own at your own expense.

If you are booking “your own” air, please contact us. See group air schedule below.

UNITED AIRLINES

Flight # UA 884 23 FEB IAD/FCO 5:45PM 8:30AM / February 24

Flight # UA 885 02 MAR FCO/IAD 10:30AM 3:05PM / March 2

Washington Dulles (IAD) to Rome Fiumecino (FCO)

The group airfare with UNITED for this group is \$1,248. which can be deducted off the whole package price (see page 9) if you book independently.

INSURANCE

Many times we are asked about travel insurance. We, unless licensed by the State of New Jersey, we cannot sell you insurance of any kind. There are several options that you can research such as; AARP Members, AAA Members, check your “homeowner’s policies” for travel provisions, other organizations to which you may be a member, or check online at <https://www.insuremytrip.com/> . This web site will give you comparisons from which to choose.

We will look into a group policy in which all the group must participate to receive the group insurance price which is much less than purchasing it independently. We can obtain a student rate.

PRIOR to DEPARTURE

Prior to all of our group departures Fratelli & Company Group Travel, LLC will provide you with an “information packet” which will answer many of your concerns and questions about the trip. It will give contact information, flight schedules, hotel information and telephone numbers to leave at home with family members. It will give you info for packing suggestions, type of weather to expect, Euro vs US Dollar exchanges, US Embassy telephone numbers and much more. However, if you have a question or concern beforehand, please do not hesitate to call or email our office.

The possibility exists that after January 1, 2024 all visitors to Italy will need a VISA. They will be obtainable online. We will provide you with that info if and when the time comes.

