

Pontifical College Josephinum

Seminary in Columbus, Ohio

Presents

PILGRIMAGE MAY 2025



May 14 -26, 2025

Dear Seminarians,

Welcome to Pontifical College Josephinum's sacred pilgrimage in the Eternal City during the Holy Year! As you journey through the heart of the Church, may you experience the deep connection to our shared faith and the communion of saints who have walked these paths before you. This pilgrimage is not only a physical journey but a spiritual one—an opportunity to deepen your vocation, grow in holiness, and strengthen your relationship with our Blessed Lord.

In Rome, where the witness of the Apostles, martyrs, and countless saints still resonates, may you be inspired by their example of unwavering faith and love for the Church. Embrace this time of grace to grow in your commitment to your vocation, seeking the wisdom, courage, and humility needed to serve God's people. May this pilgrimage fill your hearts with the peace and strength of the Lord as you prepare to one day lead His people with compassion and zeal as a priest.

Buon Viaggio,

Fr. Brighenti & Fr. Monaghan

Daily Masses to be Announced

Day 1—May 14, 2025 Departure Day USA/Rome., Italy

Today we board our flight from Columbus (CMH) Airport to Rome, Italy (FCO) Leonardo daVinci International Airport. This flight is overnight, arriving in Italy the next morning, local time. Supper and breakfast will be provided on the trans-Atlantic portion of the flight. Arrival in Italy at approximately 07:45 on May 15.

Day 2—May 15 - Arrival in Rome transfer by motorcoach to Florence Florence

Upon arrival at Fiumecino, Leonardo daVinci Airport, we will clear customs, baggage claim, meet our driver 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— May 16—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 that 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 Michelangelo's greatest works, especially the "David". Afterwards on-



to 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.



Day 4 May 17 - Assisi—City of Sts. Francis & Clare

No guided tours are allowed on Sundays in any of the Basilicas of Assisi

This morning (Saturday) after breakfast we depart from Florence to Assisi. Upon arrival, we travel up the hill to the center of the medieval city of Assisi where we will spend the entire day. In Assisi we will visit the Basilica of St. Francis and the Basilica of St. Clare. In St. Clare's basilica we will be able to see her incorrupt body and visit the Cross of San Damiano that spoke to Francis: saying "Francis, rebuild my Church". Assisi is a UNESCO world heritage site known for the magnificent medieval architecture and for being the birthplace of Saint Francis, the patron saint of Italy, founder of the Franciscan order and one of the most popular Catholic saints in history. The Basilica of St. Francis is a massive, 2-level church, consecrated in 1253. Its 13th-century frescoes portraying the life of St. Francis have been attributed to Giotto and Cimabue. Overnight in Assisi with **supper (included)**



Day 5 May 18—Assisi



No guided tours are allowed on Sundays in any of the Basilicas of Assisi

This morning, after breakfast, we will visit, on our own, of the Basilica of S. Maria degli Angeli within it, the Portuncula. Built on a grandiose scale, the **Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli** is the seventh largest Christian church. Its magnificence may be at odds with the simplicity preached by St. Francis himself but



the flocks of pilgrims coming to visit the primitive **Porziun-**

cla chapel and the **Cappella del Transito** called for a building that was able to accommodate the faithful.

The **Porziuncola** chapel was given to St. Francis by the Benedictines, and is important because it was the initial nucleus from which the Franciscan order was born. The **Cappella del Transito** is the place where the saint died on October 4th 1226. . Throughout the month of May from Monday to Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Holy Rosary in Porziuncola.

This afternoon there should be plenty of time to visit the tomb of the recently canonized Saint Carlo Acutis at the Sanctuary of the Renunciation, which is part of the Church of St. Mary Major. The sanctuary is located on the spot where a young St. Francis of Assisi is said to have cast off his rich clothes in favor of a poor habit. "In a letter written for the Sanctuary of the Renunciation's inauguration in 2017, Pope Francis called it 'a precious place where young people can be aided in the discernment of their vocations.'"

Overnight in Assisi with **supper (included)**.

Day 5 May 19—Assisi / Orvieto / Rome

This morning after breakfast we will depart for the Eternal City of Rome. Enroute we will stop in Orvieto.

Orvieto, Italy is one of the principal sights of the region of *Umbria, Italy*. Its situation is marvelous - perched high above tufa cliffs - showing traces of every phase of history for the past three thousand years, culminating in its magnificent cathedral.

The cathedral of Orvieto is one of the most beautiful churches in Umbria, indeed in all of Italy. It was begun in 1285 and is Gothic in style, with three naves. Its tripartite façade was conceived by Lorenzo Maitani and is decorated in its lower portion with scenes from the Old and New Testaments, and with mosaics and statues of the Blessed Virgin, the Prophets and the Apostles in its upper part. The walls in the interior are constructed of layers of Travertine marble and of basalt. The choir was frescoed with illustrations of the life of the Blessed Virgin by Ugolino di Prete Ilario, Peter di Puccio and Anthony of Viterbo. The chapel on the right, called Our Lady of San Brizio, was painted by the Fra Angelico of Fiesole ("Christ Glorified", "Last Judgment", and "The Prophets", carried out in 1447) and by Luca Signorelli ("Fall of Antichrist", "Resurrection of the Dead", "Damned and Blessed", etc.). Michelangelo took inspiration from these paintings for his "Last Judgment" in the Sistine Chapel. The "Burial of Jesus" is also by Signorelli, and there are several sculptures by Scalza (1572), among them the group of the Pietà, chiseled from a single block of marble. The chapel on the opposite side, called "of the Corporal", contains the large reliquary in which is preserved the corporal of the Eucharistic miracle of Bolsena. This receptacle was made by order of Bishop Bertrand dei Monaldeschi, by the Siennese Ugolino di Mæstro Vieri (1337). It is made of silver, adorned with enamels that represent the Passion of Jesus and the miracle. The frescoes of the walls, by Ugolino (1357-64), also represent the miracle. Free time for lunch and some exploring on your own in Orvieto before departing for Rome.



We will depart Orvieto in the afternoon and head south to Rome. Upon arrival, we will check into our lodging, **Domus Romana Sacerdotalis**, just a short distance from the Vatican. Time allowing, before supper, or afterwards, we can walk around to get a feel for the area. The “**Domus**” is close to St. Peter’s Basilica, Borgo Pio and not a long distance to the North American College. Overnight in Rome and **supper included**.

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Day 6 May 20— Rome, The Basilicas

Today after breakfast, we will begin our day with a tour and visit to three of the major Basilicas of Rome. St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls and St John Lateran. Also there will be a tour in the recently opened Lateran Palace.

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.



The Lateran Palace formally the Apostolic Palace of the Lateran, is an ancient palace of the Roman Empire and later the main papal residence in southeast Rome. The Lateran Palace boasts a captivating history that stretches back to ancient times. Initially named the "Domus Faustinae" and later referred to as the "Domus Laterani," this palace was constructed in the 1st century AD as the opulent dwelling of the prosperous Plautii Laterani family. However, in the 4th century, Emperor Constantine acquired the palace, marking its transformation into the official residence of the Popes.

San Paolo Fuori Le Mura is the second largest basilica of the four. It was founded by the Roman emperor Constantine over the burial place of St. Paul (now under the papal altar), making it a popular pilgrimage site. The huge basilica has maintained the original structure with one nave and four aisles, but it was almost entirely reconstructed in 1823 following a fire. The covered portico that precedes the façade is a Neo-classicist addition from the reconstruction. What remains of the ancient basilica is the interior portion of the apse with the triumphal arch. South of the transept is the cloister, considered one of the most beautiful of the Middle Ages.



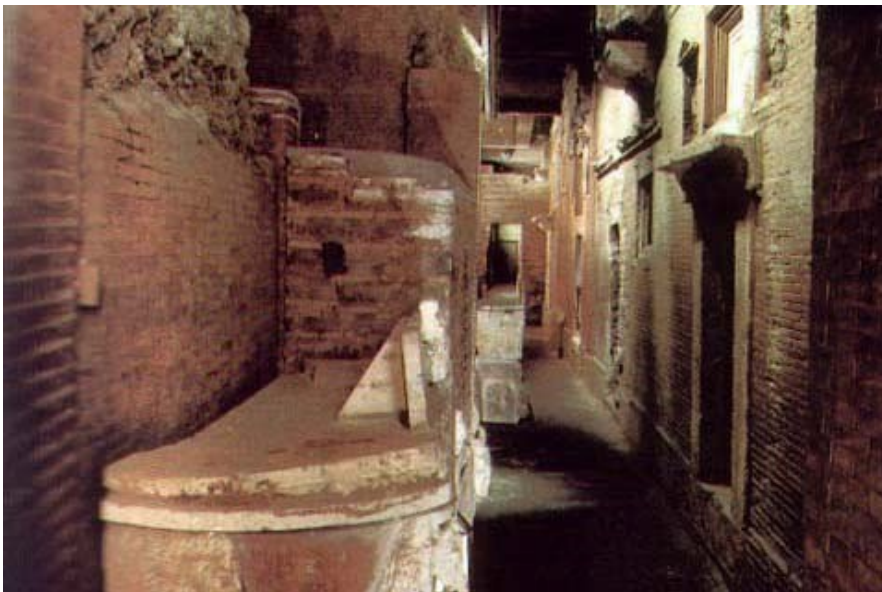
This evening, **supper included** and overnight in Rome.

Day 7 May 21 Wednesday Papal Audience Morning—Scavi Tour in the Afternoon

Vatican Square is only a short walk from the hotel where we will be staying. We will depart on foot right after breakfast as to clear security at the Vatican early and get our seats. It is best to arrive before the tour buses and crowds if possible. The Audience will last about 2 hours. Afterwards we will re-group for the Scavi Tour.



At the moment the Scavi are closed. We have not been advised as to when they will re-open due to restorations and some possible structural issues. As soon as we know we will attempt to book the tour and let you know.



Special visits to the necropolis underneath the Basilica, where the tomb of St. Peter is located, are only possible following special permission granted from time to time by the “Fabbrica di San Pietro”. Visits are organized according to the schedule set by the Excavations Office.

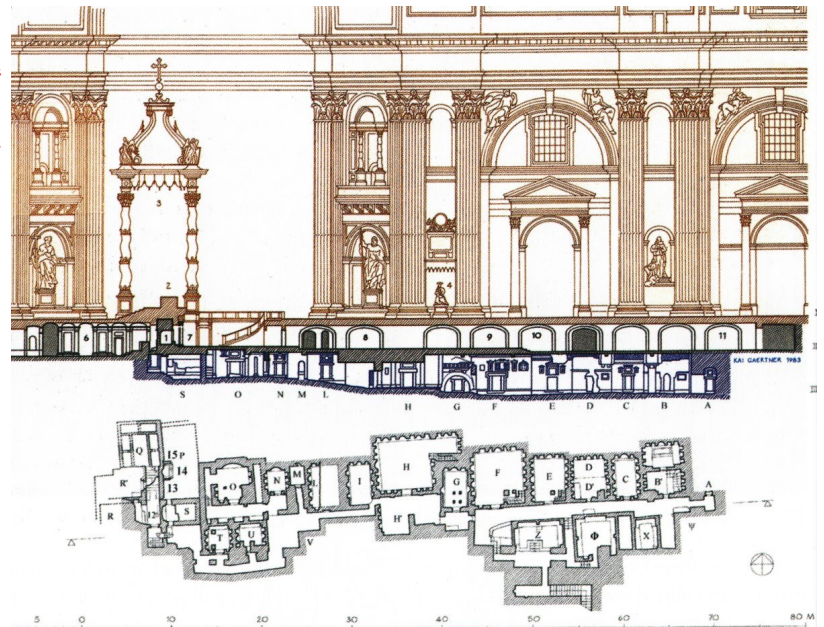
In order to preserve this exceptional historical, archaeological site and due to the limited premises around the venerated tomb of the Apostle Peter, only around 250 visitors per day are permitted to enter.

Groups are composed of approximately 12 people and according to language. Only those who are *15 years or older will be admitted* – no exceptions will be made.

Each group is accompanied by a guide especially trained by their office. The guided visit lasts about an hour and a half.

We kindly inform all visitors to the necropolis that environmental conditions will be different underground, with possible increase of temperature and humidity. Those who suffer specific and serious physical problems that could be effected by these conditions, including claustrophobia, should not visit.

After the the Scavi Tour you will have the balance of the day free.



Day 8 May 22 Vatican City / St Peter's Basilica / Vatican Museum

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 Construction 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.



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

At the end of the tour there will be free time for anyone who would like to visit the Cupola: Not that many visitors know that it is possible to climb up to the top of St Peter's dome: 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



This evening, **supper included** and overnight in Rome.

Day 9 May 23 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.



The Roman Forum: also known by its Latin name Forum Romanum, is a rectangular forum surrounded by the ruins of several important ancient government buildings at the center of the city of Rome. Citizens of the ancient city referred to this space, originally a marketplace, as the Forum Magnum .

Roman Forum, most important forum in ancient Rome, situated on low ground between the Palatine and Capitoline hills. The Roman Forum was the scene of public meetings, law courts, and gladiatorial combats in republican times and was lined with shops and open-air markets.

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



Ancient & Monumental Rome continued

As legend has it, Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by **Romulus and Remus**, twin sons of Mars, the god of war.

A people known for their **military, political, and social institutions**, the ancient Romans conquered vast amounts of land in Europe and northern Africa, built roads and aqueducts, and spread Latin, their language, far and wide.

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.



Spanish Steps: The elegant staircase of 135 steps was inaugurated in the Jubilee Year of 1725 by Pope Benedict XIII, originally used to link the Bourbon Spanish Embassy to the Church of Trinità dei Monti. The name comes from the Spanish Embassy to the Vatican that has been located in the piazza since the 1600s.

The Spanish steps also represent figuratively and metaphorically the close relationship between the Sacred and the Eternal city, shown through the elevation and vastness of the monument. The longest and widest steps in Europe are also an important landmark in Rome as they host events and are home to Italian traditions.

Piazza Navona: 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. Piazza Navona is a public open space in Rome, Italy. It is built on the site of the 1st century AD Stadium of Domitian and follows the form of the open space of the stadium in an elongated oval.

This evening, **supper included** and overnight in Rome.



Day 10—May 24 Excursion to Castel Gandolfo & Wine Tasting in the Castelli Romani

Castel Gandolfo is a town located 25 kilometers southeast of Rome in the Lazio region of Italy. Occupying a height on the Alban Hills overlooking Lake Albano, the Pope's sumptuous summer palace, until recently when Pope Francis opened the Palace for tourism for the first time ever. Much of Castel Gandolfo is discreetly dedicated to the various Pontifical villas and religious foundations. The Papal Palace - with its astronomical observatory attached - dominates Piazza della Libertà, but other locations, like the sprawling papal gardens, are tucked away out of sight. Tours of the Palace are independent and by audio-guide. Immediately following there is an audio guide of the Barberini Gardens by vehicle.



Frascati: the Ancient Town sits on the rim of a dormant volcano. Its rich volcanic soil was much sought after by the Etruscans, Ancient Romans, the Vatican State and most recently by Romans on weekend get-aways. Wine has been produced in Frascati for thousands of years. Frascati wine is known as the 'Golden Wine of the Romans', the 'Pope's Wine' and the white wine of Rome. Each stone building, cobblestone street, and ancient church tells the story of the centuries of people who have called Frascati home. Here in Frascati we will enjoy a wine and pecorino cheese tasting before returning to Rome. **Supper tonight on your own.**



and overnight in Rome.

Day 11—May 25 All gather in Vatican Square for the Angelus at Noon after the 10:30 mass at the Vatican Most Sundays and Holy Days at 12:00 (noon), the Holy Father leads the faithful in praying the Angelus from the window of his study overlooking Saint Peter's Square. The Pope first gives a short reflection on the Gospel of the Sunday and then leads the faithful in the Angelus prayer in Latin.

At the conclusion of the Angelus, Pope Francis will give his Apostolic Blessing, which extends to you, your loved ones, and any devotional items that you have brought with you to be blessed. When you receive the Holy Father's blessing, you can also receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions. After the Angelus - Free day for personal time.



We will gather again in the evening for Farewell Dinner included with Local Folkloric Entertainment. Overnight in Rome.

May 26 - Departure Day Rome (FCO) to Columbus (CMH)

This morning you will prepare your luggage for the journey home. Our departure time from the hotel will be approximately at 8:30 am.

The famous but unpleasant cliché, “all good things come to an end”, unfortunately and accordingly also this pilgrimage/ journey through the regions Tuscany, Umbria & Lazio, Italy. Upon our arrival at the airport, we will board our homebound flight with many memories, stories and some kilos of Italy with us to recount and share.

Say “Arrivederci”, never “Good-bye”.

