Pilgrimage Tour #1  (4 nights/6 days)

Day 1  Friday, December 4, 2015
Depart via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2  Saturday, December 5  Rome  (D)
Our prayer is that in the midst of this world, there may radiate the light of our great hope in Jesus Christ, our only Savior. (Opening Message to Humanity, Second Vatican Council)

Arrive in Rome
Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer into Rome
Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome’s highlights, stopping at sites such as the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, and Piazza Navona
Late afternoon hotel check-in
Welcome Dinner and overnight

*Rome is nicknamed Caput Mundi (Capital of the World) and The Eternal City, not only because Rome has always been the hub of art, education, high culture and politics in the western world, but because it is also a spiritual capital and a powerful center of pilgrimage*

Day 3  Sunday, December 6  Rome  (B,D)
In this assembly, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we wish to inquire how we ought to renew ourselves, so that we may be found increasingly faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Opening Message to Humanity #2, Second Vatican Council)

Breakfast at the hotel
Participate in Mass
Visit St. Peter’s Square for the Papal Blessing
Lunch on own
Afternoon guided tour of the Catacombs, the underground burial site of many early Christians. The Catacombs are south of Rome beside the Via Appia Antica (Old Appian Way). Owing to laws forbidding burials within the city of Rome, the Appian Way became lined with many tombs. Until the middle of the second century, there were no cemeteries for Christians, so pro-Christian families would make land available for burial of fellow Christians and their relatives. Due to lack of space and the need for secrecy, when there
was no more room on one level, excavation began on a lower level. The popes strongly urged the faithful to pray at the martyr’s tombs, so they also became meeting places for the faithful

Evening rehearsal
Dinner at a local restaurant
Return to the hotel for overnight

Day 4  Monday, December 7  Rome  (B,D)

Thus it is evident to everyone that all the faithful of Christ, of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity. (Lumen Gentium #40)

Breakfast at the hotel

11:00am  Participate/sing in Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica
Lunch on own
Half-day Pilgrim’s Tour of the Holy Sites of Rome. Tour the Vatican Museums which house what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world. Highlights include The Tapestry Gallery, The Raphael Rooms, and The Sistine Chapel where we will gaze on Michelangelo’s incredible masterpiece. We will also enter St. Peter’s Basilica which has the largest interior of any Christian church in the world and has been described as the reason Rome is still the center of the civilized world. Tradition and historical evidence hold that St. Peter’s tomb is directly below the altar of this basilica, which American Ralph Waldo Emerson described as an ornament of the earth… the sublime of the beautiful. Next we will have the chance to marvel at Bernini’s beautiful bronze canopy and Michelangelo’s Blessed Mother holding her crucified son, known as the Pieta

Late afternoon rehearsal
Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5  Tuesday, December 8  Rome  (B,D)

The Church acts as if it has learned nothing from history, which is none the less, the great teacher of life. (John XXIII)

Breakfast at the hotel
Enjoy a morning underground Rome walking tour
Lunch on own
Afternoon tour of a few sites of Ancient Rome, including the Forum and Coliseum. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the emperor who built it in the first century after Christ. Coliseum refers to the ‘colossal’ statue of Nero that at one time stood at the entrance. Originally on this spot was a pool, around which was built Emperor Nero’s famous ‘Golden House.’ The construction was completed with the help of Jewish slaves bought here in 70 AD. The Coliseum served as the center for violent sports, and traditionally, as the site of the martyrdom of many Christians. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill
Dinner in a local restaurant

Gala Concert commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II in Santa Maria sopra Minerva
Return to your hotel for overnight
Day 6    Wednesday, December 9    Depart for home

Breakfast at the hotel
Transfer to Rome’s airport for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

© Faith Journeys    © Music Celebrations International
Day 1  Friday, December 4, 2015
Depart via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2  Saturday, December 5  Rome (D)
Our prayer is that in the midst of this world, there may radiate the light of our great hope in Jesus Christ, our only Savior. (Opening Message to Humanity, Second Vatican Council)

Arrive in Rome
Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer into Rome
Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome's highlights, stopping at sites such as the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, and Piazza Navona
Late afternoon hotel check-in
Welcome Dinner and overnight

Rome is nicknamed Caput Mundi (Capital of the World) and The Eternal City, not only because Rome has always been the hub of art, education, high culture and politics in the western world, but because it is also a spiritual capital and a powerful center of pilgrimage

Day 3  Sunday, December 6  Rome (B,D)
In this assembly, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we wish to inquire how we ought to renew ourselves, so that we may be found increasingly faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Opening Message to Humanity #2, Second Vatican Council)

Breakfast at the hotel
Participate in Mass
Visit St. Peter’s Square for the Papal Blessing
Lunch on own
Afternoon guided tour of the Catacombs, the underground burial site of many early Christians. The Catacombs are south of Rome beside the Via Appia Antica (Old Appian Way). Owing to laws forbidding burials within the city of Rome, the Appian Way became lined with many tombs. Until the middle of the second century, there were no cemeteries for Christians, so pro-Christian families would make land available for burial of fellow Christians and their relatives. Due to lack of space and the need for secrecy, when there was no more room on one level, excavation began on a lower level. The popes strongly urged the faithful to pray at the martyr's tombs, so
they also became meeting places for the faithful.

Evening rehearsal
Dinner at a local restaurant
Return to the hotel for overnight

Day 4  Monday, December 7  Rome  (B,D)

Thus it is evident to everyone that all the faithful of Christ, of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity. (Lumen Gentium #40)

Breakfast at the hotel

11:00am  Participate/sing in Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica
Lunch on own
Half-day Pilgrim’s Tour of the Holy Sites of Rome. Tour the Vatican Museums which house what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world. Highlights include The Tapestry Gallery, The Raphael Rooms, and The Sistine Chapel where we will gaze on Michelangelo’s incredible masterpiece. We will also enter St. Peter’s Basilica which has the largest interior of any Christian church in the world and has been described as the reason Rome is still the center of the civilized world. Tradition and historical evidence hold that St. Peter’s tomb is directly below the altar of this basilica, which American Ralph Waldo Emerson described as an ornament of the earth… the sublime of the beautiful. Next we will have the chance to marvel at Bernini’s beautiful bronze canopy and Michelangelo’s Blessed Mother holding her crucified son, known as the Pieta
Late afternoon rehearsal
Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5  Tuesday, December 8  Rome  (B,D)

The Church acts as if it has learned nothing from history, which is none the less, the great teacher of life. (John XXIII)

Breakfast at the hotel
Enjoy a morning underground Rome walking tour
Lunch on own
Afternoon tour of a few sites of Ancient Rome, including the Forum and Coliseum. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the emperor who built it in the first century after Christ. Coliseum refers to the ‘colossal’ statue of Nero that at one time stood at the entrance. Originally on this spot was a pool, around which was built Emperor Nero’s famous ‘Golden House.’ The construction was completed with the help of Jewish slaves bought here in 70 AD. The Coliseum served as the center for violent sports, and traditionally, as the site of the martyrdom of many Christians. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill
Dinner in a local restaurant
Gala Concert commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II in Santa Maria sopra Minerva
Return to your hotel for overnight

Day 6  Wednesday, December 9  Rome / Assisi  (B,D)

They exercise a genuine apostolate by their activity on behalf of bringing the
gospel and holiness to people, and on behalf of penetrating and perfecting the temporal sphere of things through the spirit of the gospel. (Decree on the Laity #2)

Breakfast at the hotel

OPTION 1  Visit Vatican City to attend an Audience/Blessing with our Holy Father Pope Francis, schedule permitting
         Lunch on own
         Remainder of day at leisure in Rome

OPTION 2  Transfer to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Visit this “quiet medieval town, imbued with the mystical spirit of one of the most fascinating saints of history.” A guided tour includes visiting the Basilica of St. Francis, a huge 13th-century edifice containing many of the possessions of St. Francis and a series of frescoes depicting his life
         Lunch on own
         **Participate/sing in a Mass in St. Francis Basilica**
         Return to Rome
         Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 7 Thursday, December 10  Depart for home (B)
         Breakfast at the hotel
         Transfer to Rome’s airport for return flight

*This is a very flexible itinerary.* Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

© Faith Journeys  © Music Celebrations International
Pilgrimage Tour #3  (6 nights/8 days)

Day 1  Friday, December 4, 2015
Depart via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2  Saturday, December 5  Rome  (D)
Our prayer is that in the midst of this world, there may radiate the light of our great hope in Jesus Christ, our only Savior. (Opening Message to Humanity, Second Vatican Council)

Arrive in Rome
Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer into Rome
Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome’s highlights, stopping at sites such as the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, and Piazza Navona
Late afternoon hotel check-in
Welcome Dinner and overnight

Rome is nicknamed Caput Mundi (Capital of the World) and The Eternal City, not only because Rome has always been the hub of art, education, high culture and politics in the western world, but because it is also a spiritual capital and a powerful center of pilgrimage

Day 3  Sunday, December 6  Rome  (B,D)
In this assembly, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we wish to inquire how we ought to renew ourselves, so that we may be found increasingly faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Opening Message to Humanity #2, Second Vatican Council)

Breakfast at the hotel
Participate in Mass
Visit St. Peter’s Square for the Papal Blessing
Lunch on own
Afternoon guided tour of the Catacombs, the underground burial site of many early Christians. The Catacombs are south of Rome beside the Via Appia Antica (Old Appian Way). Owing to laws forbidding burials within the city of Rome, the Appian Way became lined with many tombs. Until the middle of the second century, there were no cemeteries for Christians, so pro-Christian families would make land available for burial of fellow Christians and their relatives. Due to lack of space and the need for secrecy, when there
was no more room on one level, excavation began on a lower level. The popes strongly urged the faithful to pray at the martyr’s tombs, so they also became meeting places for the faithful

*Evening rehearsal*

Dinner at a local restaurant
Return to the hotel for overnight

---

**Day 4  Monday, December 7  Rome (B,D)**

*Thus it is evident to everyone that all the faithful of Christ, of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity.*  (*Lumen Gentium* #40)

Breakfast at the hotel

11:00am  **Participate/sing in Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica**

Lunch on own

Half-day Pilgrim’s Tour of the Holy Sites of Rome. Tour the Vatican Museums which house what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world. Highlights include The Tapestry Gallery, The Raphael Rooms, and The Sistine Chapel where we will gaze on Michelangelo’s incredible masterpiece. We will also enter St. Peter’s Basilica which has the largest interior of any Christian church in the world and has been described as the reason Rome is still the center of the civilized world. Tradition and historical evidence hold that St. Peter’s tomb is directly below the altar of this basilica, which American Ralph Waldo Emerson described as an ornament of the earth… the sublime of the beautiful. Next we will have the chance to marvel at Bernini’s beautiful bronze canopy and Michelangelo’s Blessed Mother holding her crucified son, known as the Pieta

*Late afternoon rehearsal*

Evening dinner and overnight

---

**Day 5  Tuesday, December 8  Rome (B,D)**

*The Church acts as if it has learned nothing from history, which is none the less, the great teacher of life.*  (*John XXIII*)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a morning underground Rome walking tour

Lunch on own

Afternoon tour of a few sites of Ancient Rome, including the Forum and Coliseum. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the emperor who built it in the first century after Christ. Coliseum refers to the ‘colossal’ statue of Nero that at one time stood at the entrance. Originally on this spot was a pool, around which was built Emperor Nero’s famous ‘Golden House.’ The construction was completed with the help of Jewish slaves bought here in 70 AD. The Coliseum served as the center for violent sports, and traditionally, as the site of the martyrdom of many Christians. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill

Dinner in a local restaurant

**Gala Concert commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II in Santa Maria sopra Minerva**

Return to your hotel for overnight
Day 6  Wednesday, December 9  Rome / Assisi  (B,D)

- Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
- Visit Vatican City to attend an Audience/Blessing with our Holy Father Pope Francis, schedule permitting
- Lunch on own
- Transfer to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Visit this “quiet medieval town, imbued with the mystical spirit of one of the most fascinating saints of history.” A guided tour includes visiting the Basilica of St. Francis, a huge 13th-century edifice containing many of the possessions of St. Francis and a series of frescoes depicting his life
- Dinner and overnight

Day 7  Thursday, December 10  Assisi / Florence / Rome  (B,D)

They exercise a genuine apostolate by their activity on behalf of bringing the gospel and holiness to people, and on behalf of penetrating and perfecting the temporal sphere of things through the spirit of the gospel. (Decree on the Laity #2)

- Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
- Excursion to Florence to visit the Galleria dell’ Accademia. This gallery house’s paintings by Florentine artists spanning the 13th to 16th centuries, but its main draw is Michelangelo’s David, carved from a single block of marble when the artist was only 29. Continue with a visit to the famous Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiori (Il Duomo). The Duomo is well-known for its pink, white and green marble façade, capped by Brunelleschi’s famous dome. It is the 4th largest Cathedral in the world. In front of the Duomo is the Baptistry of San Giovanni, one of the oldest buildings in Florence, with its famous Gates of Paradise
- Lunch on own
- Time at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities
- Return to Rome for Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 8  Friday, December 11  Depart for home  (B)

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to Rome’s airport for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

© Faith Journeys  © Music Celebrations International
Pilgrimage Tour #4  (8 nights/10 days)

Day 1  Friday, December 4, 2015
Depart via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy

Day 2  Saturday, December 5  Rome  (D)
Our prayer is that in the midst of this world, there may radiate the light of our great hope in Jesus Christ, our only Savior. (Opening Message to Humanity, Second Vatican Council)

Arrive in Rome
Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer into Rome
Enjoy a panoramic tour of Rome’s highlights, stopping at sites such as the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, and Piazza Navona
Late afternoon hotel check-in
Welcome Dinner and overnight

Rome is nicknamed Caput Mundi (Capital of the World) and The Eternal City, not only because Rome has always been the hub of art, education, high culture and politics in the western world, but because it is also a spiritual capital and a powerful center of pilgrimage

Day 3  Sunday, December 6  Rome  (B,D)
In this assembly, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we wish to inquire how we ought to renew ourselves, so that we may be found increasingly faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Opening Message to Humanity #2, Second Vatican Council)

Breakfast at the hotel
Participate in Mass
Visit St. Peter’s Square for the Papal Blessing
Lunch on own
Afternoon guided tour of the Catacombs, the underground burial site of many early Christians. The Catacombs are south of Rome beside the Via Appia Antica (Old Appian Way). Owing to laws forbidding burials within the city of Rome, the Appian Way became lined with many tombs. Until the middle of the second century, there were no cemeteries for Christians, so pro-Christian families would make land available for burial of fellow Christians and their relatives. Due to lack of space and the need for secrecy, when there
was no more room on one level, excavation began on a lower level. The popes strongly urged the faithful to pray at the martyr’s tombs, so they also became meeting places for the faithful

Evening rehearsal
Dinner at a local restaurant
Return to the hotel for overnight

Day 4  Monday, December 7  Rome  (B,D)

Thus it is evident to everyone that all the faithful of Christ, of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity.  (Lumen Gentium #40)

Breakfast at the hotel

11:00am  Participate/sing in Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica
Lunch on own
Half-day Pilgrim’s Tour of the Holy Sites of Rome. Tour the Vatican Museums which house what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world. Highlights include The Tapestry Gallery, The Raphael Rooms, and The Sistine Chapel where we will gaze on Michelangelo’s incredible masterpiece. We will also enter St. Peter’s Basilica which has the largest interior of any Christian church in the world and has been described as the reason Rome is still the center of the civilized world. Tradition and historical evidence hold that St. Peter’s tomb is directly below the altar of this basilica, which American Ralph Waldo Emerson described as an ornament of the earth… the sublime of the beautiful. Next we will have the chance to marvel at Bernini’s beautiful bronze canopy and Michelangelo’s Blessed Mother holding her crucified son, known as the Pieta

Late afternoon rehearsal
Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5  Tuesday, December 8  Rome  (B,D)

The Church acts as if it has learned nothing from history, which is none the less, the great teacher of life.  (John XXIII)

Breakfast at the hotel
Enjoy a morning underground Rome walking tour
Lunch on own
Afternoon tour of a few sites of Ancient Rome, including the Forum and Coliseum. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the emperor who built it in the first century after Christ. Coliseum refers to the ‘colossal’ statue of Nero that at one time stood at the entrance. Originally on this spot was a pool, around which was built Emperor Nero’s famous ‘Golden House.’ The construction was completed with the help of Jewish slaves bought here in 70 AD. The Coliseum served as the center for violent sports, and traditionally, as the site of the martyrdom of many Christians. Also view the Pantheon, Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill
Dinner in a local restaurant
Gala Concert commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II in Santa Maria sopra Minerva
Return to your hotel for overnight
Day 6  Wednesday, December 9  Rome / Assisi (B,D)

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace (attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi)

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
Visit Vatican City to attend an Audience/Blessing with our Holy Father Pope Francis, schedule permitting
Transfer to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Visit this “quiet medieval town, imbued with the mystical spirit of one of the most fascinating saints of history.” A guided tour includes visiting the Basilica of St. Francis, a huge 13th-century edifice containing many of the possessions of St. Francis and a series of frescoes depicting his life
Dinner and overnight

Day 7  Thursday, December 10  Assisi / Florence (B,D)

A great flame follows a little spark (Dante Alighieri, The Divine Comedy. Paradiso. I, l. 34).

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
Excursion to Florence to visit the Galleria dell’ Academia. This gallery house’s paintings by Florentine artists spanning the 13th to 16th centuries, but its main draw is Michelangelo’s David, carved from a single block of marble when the artist was only 29. Continue with a visit to the famous Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiori (Il Duomo). The Duomo is well-known for its pink, white and green marble façade, capped by Brunelleschi’s famous dome. It is the 4th largest Cathedral in the world. In front of the Duomo is the Baptistery of San Giovanni, one of the oldest buildings in Florence, with its famous Gates of Paradise
Lunch on own
Afternoon at leisure for sightseeing, shopping or other activities
Participate/sing in a Mass in Florence
Return to Montecatini for dinner and overnight

Montecatini is a characteristic medieval village, abounding in historical events culture and illustrious personages. The Montecatini of today, a suggestive outdoor masterpiece, does not retain the image of a sole period. Instead, it is witness to a historical parable of intense experiences, filled with dark moments, almost total destruction and splendor

Day 8  Friday, December 11  Montecatini / Padua / Venice (B,D)

They exercise a genuine apostolate by their activity on behalf of bringing the gospel and holiness to people, and on behalf of penetrating and perfecting the temporal sphere of things through the spirit of the gospel. (Decree on the Laity #2)

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out
Morning transfer to Venice, stopping in Padua to visit the Basilica of St. Anthony. The Basilica of St. Anthony, known locally as “Il Santo,” is where the bones of the saint rest in a richly ornamented chapel. Saint Anthony, a much loved and admired saint, was canonized less than one year after his
death. Initially a member of the Augustinian Order, St. Anthony joined the Franciscan Order in 1221 because of the death of the five Franciscan martyrs. Although St. Anthony lived only ten years after joining the Franciscan Order, his teachings were so simple and powerful that even the most uneducated and innocent understood them.

Lunch on own
Evening dinner and overnight in Venice

With its unique heritage of art, architecture, spirit, and culture, the city of Venice has earned the nickname La Serenissima, "The Most Serene."

Day 9  Saturday, December 12  Venice / Milan  (B,D)

What a wonder it is! So grand, so solemn, so vast! And yet so delicate, so airy, so graceful! (Mark Twain describing the Milan Duomo from Innocents Abroad).

Breakfast at the hotel
Today we will visit the Basilica of St. Mark, a Byzantine wonder and covered in golden mosaics and art treasures. The 12th and 13th century interior mosaics, all with a message of Christian salvation, depict scenes and events from both the Old and New Testaments. Popes John XXIII and John Paul I were both Patriarchs of Venice. Also visit other sites in and around St. Mark's Square including the Doge's Palace, home to the political leader of the Republic of Venice.
Lunch on own
Participate/sing in a Mass in the Basilica of St. Mark

Day 10  Sunday, December 13  Depart for home  (B)

Breakfast at the hotel
Transfer to Milan’s airport for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

© Faith Journeys  © Music Celebrations International