



### Day 1: Friday, May 7, 2021 - USA / ROME

Today we depart the USA for our overnight flight to Rome via jumbo jet, arriving the next day. Meals are served on board. Our pilgrimage will be spent celebrating the 50th anniversary of Fr. McAlear's ordination by visiting some of the places where his priesthood began.

### Day 2: Saturday 5/8, ROME

Upon arrival in Rome we meet our full-time tour escort, board our motor coach and make our way to the **Church of the Sacred Heart of Sufferance**, where the in a small room beside the church is home to the Museum of the Souls of Purgatory. We celebrate Mass (subject to confirmation) and view the exhibits featuring objects and photos displaying traces of apparitions made by various souls residing in Purgatory. From there, we proceed to our hotel to check in for a welcome dinner and overnight. [D]

### Day 3: Sunday 5/9, ROME



Fifty years ago, Fr. McAlear celebrated his first Mass at the **Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) General House** (V Aurelia, 290). So today, as Fr. McAlear turns back the clock and

returns to the OMI General House, we join him for the celebration of Holy Mass. From there, we tour the **Basilica of St. Peter**. Next, there is a **walking tour** to see a few of the sites for which Rome is known. We stop at the renowned **Trevi Fountain** to toss in a coin which legend says will assure our return to Rome. We also stop at the **Pantheon** and at **Piazza Navona** where local artisans display and sell their craft. We make a brief stop to **view the University**. This evening, we enjoy a festive celebratory **dinner at Papa Rex** (subject to confirmation). Overnight in Rome. [B,D]

### Day 4: Monday 5/10, ROME

We begin this morning with Mass at the location where Fr. McAlear was ordained, **Pineta Sachetti**. Rome is a treasure trove of interesting places to see. After Mass, we spend some time touring to some very special places. Our first stop is at the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**. Inside the Basilica we view relics of Jesus' manger from Bethlehem. From there, we visit **St. Praxed** to venerate the Column of Christ's Flagellation. Located nearby is **St. Alphonsus Church**, built and named in honor of the founder of the Redemptorist Congregation, St. Alphonsus Liguori, but was dedicated to the Most Redeemer. The church contains the original Picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Before we return to the hotel, we stop at **St. John Lateran**,

the Cathedral church of the Pope. This church was originally built by Constantine when he ended the Christian persecutions. Here we see the Altar that holds the relics of Sts. Peter and Paul. Next to the Basilica is the Baptistry and across the street visit **la Sancta Scala** (Holy Stairs), which were transported from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem and on which the Savior climbed before His crucifixion. Those who wish to pray each step on their knees may do so. The option to take the side stairs on foot is also available. Dinner and overnight in Rome. [B,D]

### Day 5: Tuesday 5/11, ROME / SUBIACO / ROME

Today, we take a day trip to **Subiaco**, where Fr. McAlear spent 6 summers. It will be such an honor to follow Fr. McAlear to the places that have been so integral in his religious life. We visit the **Abbey of San Benedetto**. The Abbey was built over the cave that St. Benedict inhabited when he lived as hermit before he received the calling to organize monastic communities. The Monastery of San Benedetto is still active today. We celebrate Mass there (subject to confirmation). Then, we visit the **second monastery built by Benedict in Subiaco, named after his twin sister Santa Scolastica**. We enjoy a group lunch. We return to Rome where the remainder of the day will be free to enjoy on your own. This evening, venture out for local cuisine at the trattoria or restaurant of your choice as **dinner is on your own**. Overnight in Rome. [B,L]

### Day 6: Wednesday 5/12, ROME (PAPAL AUDIENCE)

Today we attend the **Papal Audience** at St Peter's today (provided our Holy Father is home). We listen to the words of His Holiness Pope Francis and receive his blessing with pilgrims from all over the world. After the audience and located close to the Vatican is **Santa Maria delle Grazie alle Fornaci**, which is where we celebrate Mass (subject to confirmation). We enjoy a **photostop at the Colosseum** and then a **free afternoon** to explore independently in the Vatican area. Suggestions include:



POPE FRANCIS

- Just outside the basilica is the Vatican Post Office. Feel free to stop in and purchase postcards and stamps to send to family and friends (bring the addresses). Send one to yourself as a keepsake! Remember, although Vatican City is located with the city limits of Rome it is, in fact, its own state. With 110 acres and fewer than 900 residents, Vatican City State boasts the title of the smallest, international state that is recognized by the rest of the world. Therefore, the stamps will be quite unique. Interesting gifts can also be purchased inside the post office.

- The 312-step climb to the "cupola" Dome of St. Peter's Basilica is worth the effort/energy as views from the top are magnificent. An elevator/lift to the roof level is available but from the roof to the top is step by step. There is a nominal fee.
- Spend time in Trastevere. From alleyways and cobblestone streets to magnificent churches and interesting piazzas, this neighborhood is considered one of the most charming and popular. Options: Santa Maria or Santa Cecilia Church; Villa Farnesina (a Renaissance villa) or the Palazza Corsini (Baroque-style palace across the street); Garden lovers will delight in the botanical garden, Orto Botanico, behind Palazzo Corsini; Or, take the 20-minute hike up to Gianicolo (the eighth hill of Rome) is well worth it when they catch the best views of the city that few tourists take the time to enjoy. Choose something that piques your individual interests.

We gather this evening at the hotel for dinner and then enjoy a **night tour of the city**. Overnight in Rome. [B,D]



#### Day 7: Thursday 5/13, ROME / FOSSACESIA / PESCARA

We bid farewell to Rome as we travel east toward the coast. En route, we stop in **Fossacesia** to visit a beautiful church and monastery cresting a hill overlooking the Adriatic called **San Giovanni in Venere**. We celebrate Mass (subject to confirmation). Then, we proceed to **Pescara**. We check in at our hotel for dinner and overnight. [B,D]

#### Day 8: Friday 5/14, PESCARA / LANCIANO / PESCARA

Today we visit the little **Church of Lagontial** in the coastal city of Lanciano. It was here that the 8th-century "Miracle of the Eucharist Living Flesh of Jesus" took place. During Mass, a Basilian monk doubted that Christ was truly present in the consecrated bread and wine. As he looked on, the host and wine visibly changed to flesh and blood. Scientific tests done in the latter half of the 20th century have concluded that the flesh and blood are human in origin, the flesh consisting of muscular tissue of the heart. We visit the **Sanctuary of the Eucharistic Miracle**, celebrate Mass (subject to confirmation) and you have the opportunity to spend time in **Eucharistic adoration**. The **afternoon is free** to explore independently. Dinner and overnight in Pescara. [B,D]

#### Day 9: Saturday 5/15, PESCARA / ORTONA / MANOPPELLO / PESCARA

Today we gather for private Mass in the **crypt at Ortona's Basilica of St. Thomas** [subject to confirmation], where 50 years ago Fr. McAlear celebrated his first solemn Mass. It is in this basilica that the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle is located. Fr. McAlear has roots in Ortona as his grandparents were from there. From there, we stop at **Manoppello to visit the Church of the Volto Santo di Manoppello**, which is believed to house an image of the veil of Veronica upon which Jesus' face was wiped on his way to Calvary.



We return to Pescara for a **free afternoon**. Suggestions include:

- If you are interesting in shopping, try Corso Umberto I, Corso Vittorio Emanuele II and Via Nicola Fabrizi. Explore the fashion, food, and coffee.
- Pedestrian bridges are spectacular in Pescara. Your best options are Ponte del Mare ("sea bridge" / certificate of excellence / leads to yacht port / longest pedestrian bridge in Europe) and Ponte Flaiano (certificate of excellence / footbridge between Chieti and Pescara).
- Spend time walking the shore of one of the beaches. There are shops and restaurants too.
- Art enthusiasts, check out "Aurum" the art museum.
- Visit Arbieter Bibendi, an interesting beer pub.

This evening, we gather at the hotel and proceed to **Miramare restaurant for a farewell dinner and wine**. Overnight in Pescara. [B,D]

#### Day 10: Sunday 5/16, PESCARA / ORTONA / ROME



We **return to Ortona's Basilica of St. Thomas** this morning to celebrate Mass which will be quite beautiful with the harmonious sounds of the choir. After Mass, there will be a **banquet celebrating Fr. McAlear and the 50-year anniversary of his love and commitment to his faith**. Our day concludes with the drive from Ortona to Rome. Upon our arrival, we check in at our hotel by the airport in preparation for tomorrow morning's departure. [B, banquet, D]

#### Day 11: Monday, May 17, 2021, ROME / USA

Today we begin our journey back to the United States blessed by the opportunity to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Fr. McAlear's ordination. Our pilgrimage offers the mind and soul a new and treasured canvas of memories inspired by God's majestic landscape and a world we explore one pilgrimage at a time. [B]