

Jan. 15, 2019

Dear Friend,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

We are so pleased that you have decided to join us on our Byzantine Catholic pilgrimage to Rome in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Eparchy of Parma with Bishop Milan Lach, SJ, May 13-22.

In addition to the main sites and churches in Rome, this 10-day spiritual pilgrimage will include the Byzantine Catholic aspects of the Eternal City, often unseen in usual tours. These include praying at the tomb of St. Cyril, Apostle to the Slavs; a visit to the 1,000-year-old Greek Catholic Monastery of Grottaferrata; a tour of the oldest and still active Greek Catholic Church in Rome, Santa Maria in Cosmedin; veneration of the original icons of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and of the Mother of God, Salus Populi Romani, the latter painted by St. Luke the Evangelist; a visit of the Pontifical Oriental Institute, the only Catholic university in the world dedicated solely to research and formation in the Eastern Christian traditions, and more.

Other highlights will include praying with Pope Francis at his General Audience, visiting the Vatican Museums, including the Sistine Chapel, Rome's four major basilicas, including St. Peter's, and the Colosseum. The pilgrimage will also include a day trip for a private visit to the Vatican Observatory and papal palace in the Roman Castles region, south of Rome.

Along with this letter, you have received a brochure of the pilgrimage, which includes the itinerary, important trip information and the trip registration form. Bishop Lach, Horizons staff and our travel company, Far Horizons, worked hard to offer you a rich program at a reasonable price.

Please note that this pilgrimage will require a great deal of walking on cobblestone roads and pilgrims must be able to keep pace. This pilgrimage is not recommended for people who have difficulty with mobility.

The prayer times have not yet been inserted into the itinerary. You will receive updates on the trip as the departure date for the pilgrimage approaches. In the meantime, please feel free to be in touch should you have further questions.

Once again, we are pleased that you will join us for this Byzantine Catholic pilgrimage to Rome, and we look forward to journeying with you to the heart of the Church.

With best wishes,

Laura Ieraci
Editor