



THE ROME EXPERIENCE

A SUMMER PROGRAM FOR DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS

2015

Mission of the Rome Experience
Program Courses
How to Apply



THE ROME EXPERIENCE

May 18 – July 1, 2015

OUR MISSION & PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Founded in 2007 at the request and under the direction of the Bishops Advisory Board, the Rome Experience is a summer program that provides seminarians preparing for the diocesan priesthood the opportunity to contemplate and nurture their divine call to the priesthood and to holiness as they pray and study in the heart of the Catholic Church, beside the Chair of St. Peter, and at the tombs of the saints and martyrs.

The program follows the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy's *Directory for the Ministry and the Life of the Priests*, and is inspired by the thought and work of St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei, who dedicated many years of his life to caring for the spiritual and human needs of diocesan priests, and remains a spiritual guide for many priests today.

Through the Rome Experience, seminarians have the opportunity to pray and to learn at some of the holy and historically significant sites of Christianity, including the Shrine of St. John Vianney in Ars, France, the major basilicas of Rome, the Catacombs, and many more.

As a pilgrimage experience, the Rome Experience encourages the seminarians prayerfully to discover the hand of God in his Church and to receive a stimulus for their spiritual lives and ongoing formation. As pilgrims, they will benefit more deeply from:

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

- 5-day retreat in Ars, France
- Daily schedule that includes Holy Mass, the liturgy of the hours, mental prayer, and the Holy Rosary
- Sacrament of Penance, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and spiritual meditations
- Living in close proximity to the Holy Father
- Pilgrimages to churches and tombs of the martyrs and saints

FRATERNITY

- Seminarians from across the United States
- Daily prayers, meals, and classes
- Movie nights
- Sports and hiking excursions
- Free-time

CULTURAL & INTELLECTUAL FORMATION

- Being immersed in the cultural history of the Church
- Experiencing the beauty of the Church's art and architecture
- Academic courses:
 - History of the Church and Papacy
 - Biblical Theology
 - Christian Art and Architecture
- Expert instructors from the United States and Rome
- Guided tours and excursions to religious and cultural sites
- Papal liturgies and audiences
- Visits to Vatican Congregations



ITINERARY

Rome, "The Eternal City," attracts millions of visitors each year. While several visits of Rome and its environs are scheduled, seminarians will be strongly encouraged to maintain a spirit of prayer and pilgrimage, remembering that they have come to Rome as future priests to pray and study next to the Chair of St. Peter and the saints, while providing a witness of the Faith.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 (CHICAGO):

Arrive in Chicago
Orientation
Accommodations – University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein, IL)

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015 (CHICAGO/ARS):

Afternoon Flight Departing for Lyon/Ars

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2015 (ARS):

Arrive in Lyon/Ars
Accommodations – Foyer Sacerdotal Jean-Paul II

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015 (ARS):

Pilgrimage to Paray Le Monial and Cluny

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2015 (ARS):

Pilgrimage to the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière in Lyon
Retreat Begins

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015 (ARS):

Retreat Ends

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015 (ARS/ROME):

Arrive in Rome
Accommodations - Centro Internazionale Animazione Missionaria (CIAM)

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2015 (ROME):

Academic Program Begins
Classes at CIAM and the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2015 (ROME/BARCELONA):

Arrive in Torreciudad
Accommodations – Hosteria El Tozal

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2015 (MADRID/CHICAGO):

Return to the US

* The itinerary and daily schedule are subject to change.
A final schedule will be given to each seminarian at orientation.

PROGRAM COURSES

PRIESTS IN THE NEW EVANGELIZATION (.50 credit)

To be formed for the New Evangelization, future priests need to have a physical and spiritual closeness to people, and to warm people's hearts, as Pope Francis is reminding the Church. St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, did all of these things while re-evangelizing Ars after the spiritual ravages of the French Revolution. While on retreat in Ars, seminarians will ponder the Church's summons to a New Evangelization within the prism of the example of the patron saint of priests who demonstrates, through his own holy discipleship and ardent apostolate, how the New Evangelization is successfully enacted.

Instructor: Rev. Christopher Mahar, Diocese of Providence; Rector, Seminary of Our Lady of Providence, Providence, Rhode Island

THE HUMAN VIRTUES FOR PRIESTLY FATHERHOOD, MANLINESS, STEADFASTNESS, AND SELF-MASTERY (.50 credit)

Every priest needs to have the human virtues in order to sanctify himself and to succeed in his priestly mission. The Directory for the Life and Ministry of the Priest emphasizes the human virtues as cornerstones for the priest being a well-rounded, resilient, and reliable man, capable of ministering effectively to God's people. This course will offer a theoretical account of these virtues and how they can be acquired through Aristotelian-Thomistic anthropology, and St. Josemaria Escriva's practical proposals for seeking holiness through the virile pursuit of the human virtues.

Instructor: Rev. Robert Gahl, Associate Professor of Ethics, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE PRIESTHOOD (1 credit)

This course is an overview of the biblical theology of the priesthood, with special attention to the Letter to the Hebrews. It studies the priesthood of Christ and the Christian priesthood in light of the various models of priesthood in the Old Testament. Related topics to be treated include the biblical concepts of covenant, sacrifice, and temple.

Instructor: Rev. Pablo Gadenz, Diocese of Trenton; Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Immaculate Conception Seminary, South Orange, New Jersey

PASTORAL PRACTICE SEMINAR (.50 credit)

This seminar will help the seminarian bridge the gap between the theological and spiritual principles learned during the Rome Experience with the lived experience of a parish priest. The goal is to help the seminarian to understand his future responsibility as a priest to imitate and live out Christ's own pastoral charity—a pastoral charity that, in essence, requires a total gift of self to the Church and that makes special demands on the parish priest (*Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 1992).

Instructor: Rev. Eric Nielsen, Diocese of Madison; Director, St. Paul University Catholic Center, Madison, Wisconsin

A BIBLICAL, HISTORICAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL THEOLOGY OF ROME (1.5 credits)

This course presents a biblical and historical theology of Rome. Seminarians will discover an exciting narrative about Jewish prophecies, Apostles, martyrs, Popes, and Caesars as we unpack the theological history of God's plan for Rome in conjunction with its' geographical location.

Instructor: Dr. Taylor Marshall, President, New Saint Thomas Institute

THE ART OF THE COUNTER-REFORMATION (.50 credit)

This course will take students on a series of tours of the Vatican Museums and select churches and monuments in Rome to illustrate how the ideas of the Council of Trent changed the face of art, using Rome as ground zero. The course will also reveal how figures such as Saints Ignatius, Philip Neri, Charles Borromeo and the Popes of that time inspired the greatest artists and architects of the period, including Bernini, Borromini, Rubens and Caravaggio.

Instructor and Guide: Dony Mac Manus, Founder of the Sacred Art School, Florence, Italy

PILGRIMAGES AND TOURS OF THE BASILICAS, CHURCHES, AND CATACOMBS OF ROME (.50 credit)

The patriarchal basilicas, catacombs and other ancient churches in Rome are an encyclopedia of Church history and theology taught not in words but in indelible images of architecture, sculpture, painting and mosaic. As with the interpretation of stained glass windows, however, one needs to learn the art of reading that encyclopedia, by understanding the meaning and context of the symbols used. Through in-depth guided tours, seminarians will have the various volumes of this encyclopedia opened for them, to nourish them as followers of Christ and future apostles

Instructor: Rev. Roger Landry, Diocese of Fall River; National Chaplain of Catholic Voices USA

COURSE ACCREDITATION

The Rome Experience courses are accredited by the

Pontifical University of the Holy Cross
Piazza Sant'Apollinare, 49
00186, Rome, Italy
www.pusc.it/eng

DAILY SCHEDULE

The Rome Experience's daily schedule is designed to help the participants benefit maximally from all the offerings of the program, to foster fraternity, and to remain intimately united to Christ through prayer and study.

Visits with family, friends, brother seminarians, and priests are only permitted during scheduled free time. Family and friends visiting Rome should be informed of this policy. Visits from vocation directors, rectors, or bishops may occur at any time that is convenient.

WEEKDAYS:

6:45 AM	Morning Prayer
7:00 AM	Meditation and Holy Mass
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Class
10:00 AM	Class
11:00 AM	Class
1:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Tours/Free Time
6:45 PM	Evening Prayer and Mental Prayer
7:30 PM	Dinner
9:00 PM	Rosary, Examination of Conscience, Night Prayer

WEEKLY SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction
Confessions and Spiritual Direction
Papal Liturgies
Visits to Vatican Congregations
Tours and Excursions

Students have free time every Saturday from noon until Sunday dinner time.

HOW TO APPLY

The Rome Experience is designed to complement existing programs of formation in diocesan seminaries for seminarians who have completed their first year of theology. Seminarians interested in applying must be recommended by their bishops and vocation directors.

APPLICATIONS

Download the application at www.theromeexperience.org

DEADLINE

Applications for the program and scholarship must be received or postmarked by:

Monday, January 12, 2015

SCHOLARSHIPS

Midwest Theological Forum has established a scholarship fund to assist those seminarians who are in need of financial assistance. Limited scholarships are available based on merit and need. See the program application for more information.

SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Because there are a limited number of openings for the program, incomplete or late applications for the program and the scholarship will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted by mail, fax, or email.

Mrs. Charmaine Roth
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www.theromeexperience.org

"If you use your time well, Rome will leave a mark on your soul, a deep, lasting imprint. And, you will be able to be a more faithful son of the Church."

St. Josemaria Escriva

"The Rome Experience, in particular through the intellectual or educational component, has done a lot to bring me back to Christ and help me fall in love again with the One who I'm doing it all for."

*Matthew Wheeler
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Rome Experience Class of 2014*

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