



THE ROME EXPERIENCE

A SUMMER PROGRAM FOR DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS

2024 TRIP AND PROGRAM IN FORMATION



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WELCOME

Dear Seminarians,

I am pleased to welcome you to The Rome Experience 2024.

The mission of the program is to give you the opportunity to experience the history and cultural heritage of Rome while maintaining a consistent life of prayer, which will begin at orientation and the spiritual retreat.

Over the next 6 weeks, we will live together full and active days of prayer and study. I encourage you to take advantage of this time to build fraternity with your brother seminarians, to frequent the Sacrament of Confession, and to feel free to talk with any of the spiritual directors at any time if you have questions or concerns.

As with the 300 seminarians before you who have participated in the program, I pray that your lives will be deeply and positively renewed by this experience.

Following is a collection of important information for the trip and the program, including essential and recommended travel tips. However, if you have any questions that are not addressed in this booklet, please do not hesitate to ask me or any of the staff.

Mary, Queen of Apostles and Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!

Sincerely,

Rev. Eric Nielsen Program Director

The Rome Experience

Ou. Gin H. Nielsen



IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

FLIGHT ITINERARIES

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

Delta / KL Flight 612
Depart Chicago ORD 16:20 PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

Arrive Amsterdam AMS 07:10 AM

Delta / KL Flight 1653

Depart Amsterdam AMS 09:35 AM Arrive Florence FLR 11:30 AM

MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

Delta / AF Flight 7363

Depart Lyon LYS 10:20 AM Arrive Paris CDG 11:30 AM

Delta / AF 136

Depart Paris CDG 13:10 PM Arrive Chicago ORD 15:00 PM

LUGGAGE REGULATIONS

- One checked luggage (40 lb/23 kg limit),
- · one small carry-on bag,
- and one personal item are allowed.

ACCOMMODATIONS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 - FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024

Istituto Suore di Santa Elisabetta

Viale Michelangelo, 46 50125 Firenze FI, Italy

Tel. +39 055 681 1884

FRIDAY, MAY 24 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024

Villaggio Betania

Via di San Celso, 3

00062 Bracciano RM, Italy

Tel. +39 06 9980 3870

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 - THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024

Casa di Santa Brigida Via di Monserrato, 54

00186 Roma RM, Italy

Tel. +39 06 6889 2596

THURSDAY, JUNE 27 - MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024

Foyer Sacerdotal Jean-Paul II 352, Chem. de la Percellière

01480 Ars-sur-Formans, France

Tel. +33 4 74 08 19 00



SCHEDULES

ORIENTATION (MUNDELEIN, IL)

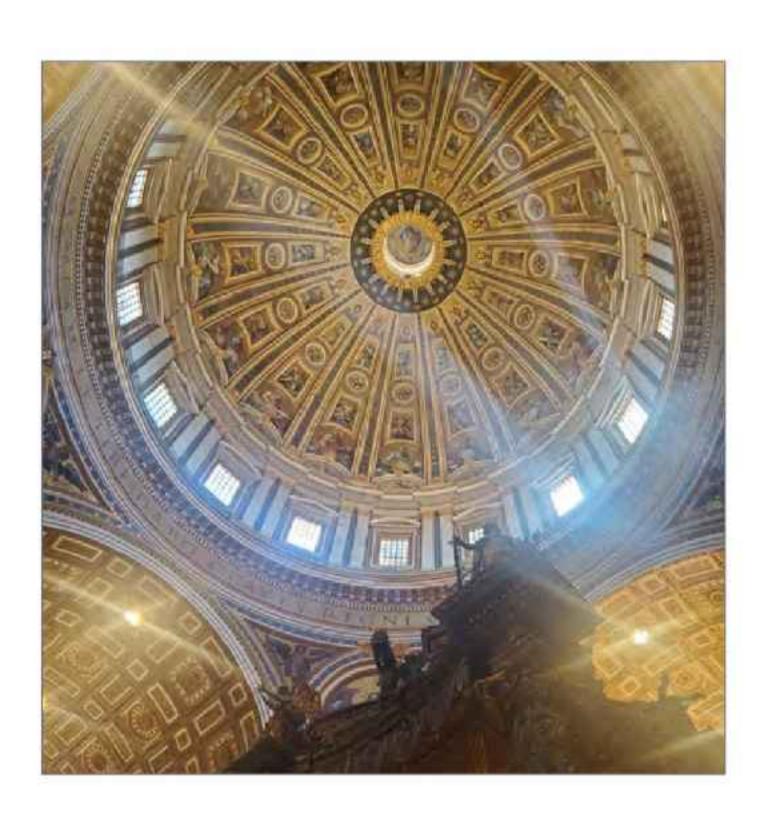
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

Arrive Chicago, O'Hare International Airport Meet Group at 2:00 PM Terminal 2 Baggage Claim Level Vestibule 2C (near escalators by door 2C)

4:00 PM	Check-In	Conference Center
4:30 PM	Travelers Mass (optional)	House Chapel
5:00 PM	Group Photo/Welcome	Living Room
6:00 PM	Dinner	Dining Room
7:00 PM	Orientation I	Meeting Room
9:15 PM	Night Prayer	House Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

6:45 AM	Morning Prayer	House Chapel
7:00 AM	Mental Prayer	House Chapel
7:30 AM	Mass	House Chapel
8:30 AM	Breakfast	Dining Room
9:00 AM	Check-Out	Living Room
9:30 AM	Orientation II	Meeting Room
12:00 PM	Depart for O'Hare	Parking Lot



TENTATIVE 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:

8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Class
10:00 AM	Class
11:00 AM	Break
12:00 PM	Angelus/Class
1:00 PM	Lunch

DAILY SCHEDULE ALSO INCLUDES:

- Morning Prayer
- Holy Mass
- Afternoon Tours/Classes
- Evening Prayer
- Dinner
- Holy Rosary
- Examination of Conscience and Night Prayer

WEEKLY SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

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

*Please Note:

The daily schedule is subject to change. An updated schedule will be given to each seminarian at orientation.

COURSE MATERIALS

The instructors will provide readings, syllabi and other required course materials in advance and/or in class. These and all other recommended reading materials will also be available to download at:

www.theromeexperience.org/important-updates



ASSIGNMENTS

WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1: MAY 20 - 26

Writers: Photographers:

Joseph Allaire Marcos Alvarado

Arturo Escobedo George Castañeda

WEEK 2: MAY 27 - JUNE 2

Writers: Photographers:

Nathan Folz Abrahan da Silva Vidao Jorge Garza Louis de Rohan Chabot

WEEK 3: JUNE 3 - 9

Writers: Photographers:

Evan Sharp Juan Hernandez

Thomas Wheeler Johnny Hernandez

WEEK 4: JUNE 10 - 16

Writers: Photographers:

Peter Whitfield David Herrera

Charles Wiedenmann Adalberto Montes

WEEK 5: JUNE 17 - 23

Writers: Photographers:

Joshua Wright Allen-Michael Muench

David Rodriguez Christopher Orajiaka

WEEK 6: JUNE 24 - JULY 1

Writers: Photographers:

Bao Duong Stephen Jankowski

Patrick Cook Luke Davis

ASSIGNMENTS

WRITING & PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

BLOG

The Rome Experience Blog

- Each week, we request two entries per assigned writer:
 - Top 5 Highlights of the Week: classes, experiences, visits, tours, etc.
 - 2. Reflection for the Week: spiritual or cultural
- Send the entries (Word Doc or Plain Text) to: info@theromeexperience.org
- Video blog posts are also welcome, if you prefer to record your highlights and reflection.
- The entries are due on Monday following your assigned week.
- Visit the blog for examples of past articles from seminarians: http://theromeexperience.org/blog/

PERSONAL BLOGS

 We are happy to share your personal blog posts on the Rome Experience blog and social media channels. Send links to the posts to: info@theromeexperience.org

SPECIAL EVENTS AND GUESTS

- During the program you will have the opportunity to visit with special guests and various offices of the Roman Curia. We would like unique summaries of these visits to share on the blog:
 - When and where did the visit take place?
 - With whom did you visit (names and titles)?
 - What were the highlights and "takeaways" of the visit?
 - What were some of the questions and answers shared during the visit?

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Your photos will be used for screen (website/blog) and for print (brochure/flyers). For this reason, we ask that you take high resolution photos.
- Check for rules or signs on photography when you enter a church or museum. Usually photography is allowed but "NO FLASH." Some museums also offer a "Photo Pass", which is the only way to take photos in the museum; these can usually be purchased at admissions or the gift shop.

- Please remember to take as many group photos as possible, including:
 - In front of St. Peter's
 - Congregation Visits, Guests, and Instructors
 - Catacombs
 - Colosseum/Roman Forum
- Your photos can be uploaded and shared with us via:
 - Google Drive: theromeexperience@gmail.com
 - Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/ theromeexperience/

SOCIAL MEDIA

- All posts, news, and photos will be shared on our social media channels:
 - Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ theromeexperience
 - Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ theromeexperience/
- You are welcome to post directly or share posts from your page.
- · Please remember to like/follow us.
- We also recommend inviting family and friends to connect with us for updates.
- The hashtags we use:
 #RomeExp #TheRomeExperience #SemLife

PRESS/MEDIA

- If you are open to being interviewed, please be prepared to answer questions about the program, your experience on the program, seminary life and formation, and about yourself.
- If an interview takes place, remember to ask when and where the interview will appear and get the journalists' contact information. Send this information to us so that we can follow up.

Questions about writing and photography?

Please contact us at info@theromeexperience.org.

CODE OF CONDUCT

SEMINARIAN CODE OF CONDUCT

At the request of the Bishop's Advisory Board (BAB), Midwest Theological Forum (MTF), the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, and the residences where participants will be staying, the following code of conduct has been prepared for the participants of The Rome Experience. This Code of Conduct, in addition to the rules and regulations of any host institution or residence, shall govern your participation in the program at all times.

The Rome Experience has a set schedule designed to maximize the participants' benefit from the program and to help each seminarian form a healthy relationship with the group. We have established a policy to reduce outside distractions to the program. Visits with family, friends, brother seminarians and priests will only be permitted during regularly scheduled free time. Please inform any family or friends visiting Rome of this policy. Visits from your Vocation Director, Rector, or Bishop may occur at any time convenient to them.

Rome, "The Eternal City," attracts millions of visitors each year. While several tours of Rome and its environs are part of The Rome Experience program, you are on a pilgrimage as a future priest who has come to Rome to pray and study next to the Chair of St. Peter and the saints, while providing a witness of your faith. The program has been designed to provide you with spiritual, intellectual, and cultural formation.

As a seminarian preparing for the priesthood, it is important to remember that many will judge the Catholic Church based on their encounter with you. Bear in mind that you are representing the Church, your bishop, and your diocese.

- I accept the expectation of my bishop that I conduct myself with due prudence at all times.
- While in public, I will wear clerical attire: a black shirt with clerical collar, black dress trousers, black dress shoes with black socks, and a black belt. Participants may also wear a black cassock, for liturgical functions.
- When not in public casual clothes consisting of shirt, pants or appropriate shorts may be worn. Meals require a collared shirt, long pants and shoes. Clothes should be cleaned regularly.
- I will maintain attendance at all program activities and classes. I recognize that unauthorized absences are grounds for disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the program.
- I will observe the laws of the country in which the Program is located and all academic and disciplinary regulations in effect at all host institutions and residences.
- I understand that any and all illegal behavior both inside the residence, outside the residence, and in public is grounds for immediate dismissal.

- I understand that use of illicit drugs of any kind or the misuse of alcohol may result in immediate dismissal from the program. Smoking is not allowed in my room.
- Use of the internet for pornographic material or the participation in any activities of an inappropriate sexual nature will result in immediate dismissal from the program.
- The choice of reading materials, extra-curricular amusements, and acquaintances are to be carefully considered to avoid scandal to the faithful and danger to the observance of celibate chastity.
- I understand that if I do not participate in program activities, if I am consistently resistant to formation, or am constantly absent from required events, I will be dismissed from the program.
- I will maintain good personal hygiene and grooming habits. The basic expectation is that I will shower, shave, and brush my teeth each day before the first event.
- I will be considerate of my roommate. When using a computer or other electronic devices, headphones would be appropriate. Televisions are not allowed in the rooms.
- I understand that it is necessary to keep the room and shared spaces orderly and clean.
- I will request permission from the Program Director if I need to leave the residence, class, activity, etc., or go out alone for any reason.
- Participant(s) who wish to leave the residence for excursions, amusement, etc., must receive approval from one of the Program Directors, and must be accompanied by at least one other participant or a Program Director.
- I will address any concerns with the Directors of the Program before complaining to others,

FACULTY AUTHORITY AND DISMISSAL FROM PROGRAM

Faculty Authority and Dismissal from Program. Lunderstand that BAB and MTF reserves the right to dismiss me from the Program at any time should my actions or general behavior be deemed in violation of this code of conduct or should it be determined that my conduct impedes or obstructs the progress of the Program in any way, or should it, in any fashion, undermine the credibility and reputation of the Program. Should the Faculty, an Instructor, or any other official representative of The Rome Experience decide, that I must be dismissed from the Program because of a violation of these stated rules, I recognize that this decision will be final.

I have carefully read and initialed each page of the Seminarian Code of Conduct. By my signature, I agree to conduct myself in accordance with the Seminarian Code of Conduct at all times.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

PACKING LIST SUGGESTIONS

The following is a recommended (not required) packing list. As long as you adhere to our Code of Conduct and luggage regulations, please use your best judgment to determine your personal needs during the trip and duration of the program.

From The Rome Experience Seminarian Code of Conduct

- While in public, I will wear clerical attire: a black shirt with clerical collar, black dress trousers, black shoes with black socks, and a black belt. Participants may also wear a black cassock for liturgical functions.
- When not in public casual clothes consisting of shirt, pants, or appropriate shorts may be worn. Meals require a collared shirt, long pants, and shoes. Clothes should be cleaned regularly.

PLEASE NOTE: It has been recommended by past program participants to leave some space/weight in your suitcase for purchases you make while in Rome. Remember, one checked luggage (40 lb/23 kg limit), one small carryon bag, and one personal item are allowed.

CARRY-ON ESSENTIALS:

- Change of underwear
- Socks
- Toiletries
- Medications
- Headset or earphones
- Earplugs
- Eye mask
- Neck pillow
- Electronics, cords, and adaptor plugs (In Italy there are three associated plug types: C, F and L.)
- Anything else that is essential, in case luggage gets lost!

CLOTHING:

When you pack: think black!

Suggestion from an RE Alumnus: "I wouldn't pack too many casual clothes. The reality is we are in clerics and black slacks 95% of the time on the trip."

- pants, black minimum 2 pair
- suit coat, black
- belt, black
- cassock, black
- cleric shirts, black minimum 3
- socks, black
- walking shoes/sport/canvas shoes, black
- sweater, black
- sweatshirt, black (optional)
- briefs/undershirts minimum 3-4 each, ideally 7 each
- casual clothes, one pair of khakis pants and two polotype shirts (this really is enough)
- athletic clothes for sports activities, swimming trunks/ running shorts
- pajamas
- wrist watch
- robe, lightweight
- slippers or casual shoes for around the residence
- waterproof wind breaker jacket
- hat for sun protection (consider one that covers ears)

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

PERSONAL ITEMS:

- · washcloths, 2
- earplugs
- handkerchiefs or tissue packets
- laundry bag
- medicines (and copies of the prescriptions for same)
- sunglasses
- sunscreen
- · toiletries/toothbrush/toothpaste
- umbrella, small folding type
- mosquito repellent/ plug-in mosquito repellent device
- ointment for mosquito bites
- student ID for admission discounts to museum and exhibits
- money/ATM Card/Debit Card
- credit card
- camera
- alarm clock
- safety/travel wallet
- · Breviary (not electronic)
- personal prayer items/devotionals (Rosary)
- spiral notebooks or paper
- pens
- small flashlight for dark places
- zip-lock bags, for many purposes 1 gal; 2 gal are good for putting dirty or damp clothes in suitcases (also advised for keeping electric cables, adapters, other devices, etc. together for traveling – esp. when it comes to security check this saves a load of time and frustration if everything is bagged up and ready to go through the checkpoint)

Additional useful information provided by RE Alumni:

- Cassocks can be worn, but no shorts under the cassocks.
- You do not need an alb unless you're a deacon.
- If you have a surplice, bring it.
- If your room is warm, you may want a casual/sport outfit for in-room use.
- Bring enough toiletries for the trip. USA products are not recognizable in the stores.
- Walking shoes should accommodate the Roman stone streets.
- Be prepared for heat and humidity usually toward the last 2 weeks in Rome.
- Don't assume you can buy the items on this list once you arrive.

Last year, one of the alumni gave me the advice of taking some window screen and duct tape to cover up the window in the room. It's quite inexpensive, and was extremely helpful! (I don't think I had one mosquito bite the whole time I was there; other guys weren't so lucky). I think this is the one I bought: http:// www.walmart.com/ip/New-York-Wire- 33541-Clear-Advantage-Screen-36-X-84-Fiberglass-Roll/22223112

I'm sure there are other options and kinds that can be bought. Simply make sure it is at least about 3ft x 4ft. The windows vary in size, but that should be the max.

IF YOU TAKE PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS:

- Pack enough to last your entire trip, including some extra in case you are unexpectedly delayed.
- Carry your medications in their original labeled containers, and pack them in your carry-on bag since checked baggage is occasionally lost or delayed.
- Ask your pharmacy or physician for the generic equivalent name of your prescriptions in case you need to purchase additional medication abroad.
- Get a letter from your physician in case you are questioned about your carry-on medication; some countries have strict restrictions on bringing prescription or even non-prescription medications into the country without proper medical documentation.

GLUTEN AND OTHER FOOD ALLERGIES:

 Print out a sheet in Italian explaining your condition/ allergy - the cooks are generally accommodating.

FINANCIAL TIPS

- Make 2 photocopies (at least) of ATM card, credit cards, and passport:
 - Leave a copy with your emergency contact
 - Keep a copy with you
- Put identification information in your luggage (name, cell phone number, home address)
- Take money for your personal expenses \$300 minimum
- Use ATM and credit cards for the best rate in Europe
- Call your bank and credit card companies and let them know you will be traveling
- · Conduct all financial transactions at reputable location

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

LOCAL TRAVEL TIPS

MASS TIMES IN ROME (UNDER "THINGS TO DO"):

https://www.stthomas.edu/rome/guide/

SOURCES FOR MAPS (ONLINE AND OFFLINE):

- Maps.Me: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/maps.meoffline-map-routing/id510623322?mt=8
- Google Maps: http://www.cnet.com/how-to/how-touse-google-maps-offline-on-ios-android/

USEFUL WEBSITES:

- Pontifical North American College Visitors' Office https://www.pnac.org/visitorsoffice/about-thevisitors-office/
- University of St. Thomas Rome Center https://www.stthomas.edu/rome/guide/
- Pontifical University of the Holy Cross http://en.pusc.it/
- St. Josemaria Institute https://stjosemaria.org/

CONVENIENCE STORE:

 Near Casa di Santa Brigida: Carrefour Express -Supermarket, Via del Biscione, 79, 00186 Roma RM, Italy.

BASIC WORDS/PHRASES:

Italian: https://www.dummies.com/languages/italian/ italian-for-dummies-cheat-sheet/

FREE TIME/EXCURSIONS:

- Students have free time every Saturday from noon until Sunday dinnertime. Please note, however, that the daily schedule, including free time, is subject to change.
- As stated in the Code of Conduct: "Participant(s) who wish to leave the residence for excursions, amusement, etc., must receive approval from one of the Program Directors, and must be accompanied by at least one other participant or a Program Director."
- If you travel by bus/train, please remember to validate your ticket. There are validation machines located on all train platforms and on the bus. You could be fined if you board without validating your ticket.

MEDICAL ATTENTION

In an emergency contact Fr. Eric Nielsen or any immediate staff member.

For non-emergency medical attention in Rome contact:

Dr. Josè Maria Araquistain, Director Centro Medico Parioli Via Pietro Tacchini, 24 00197 Roma, Italy

Cell: 011 39 393 8155210

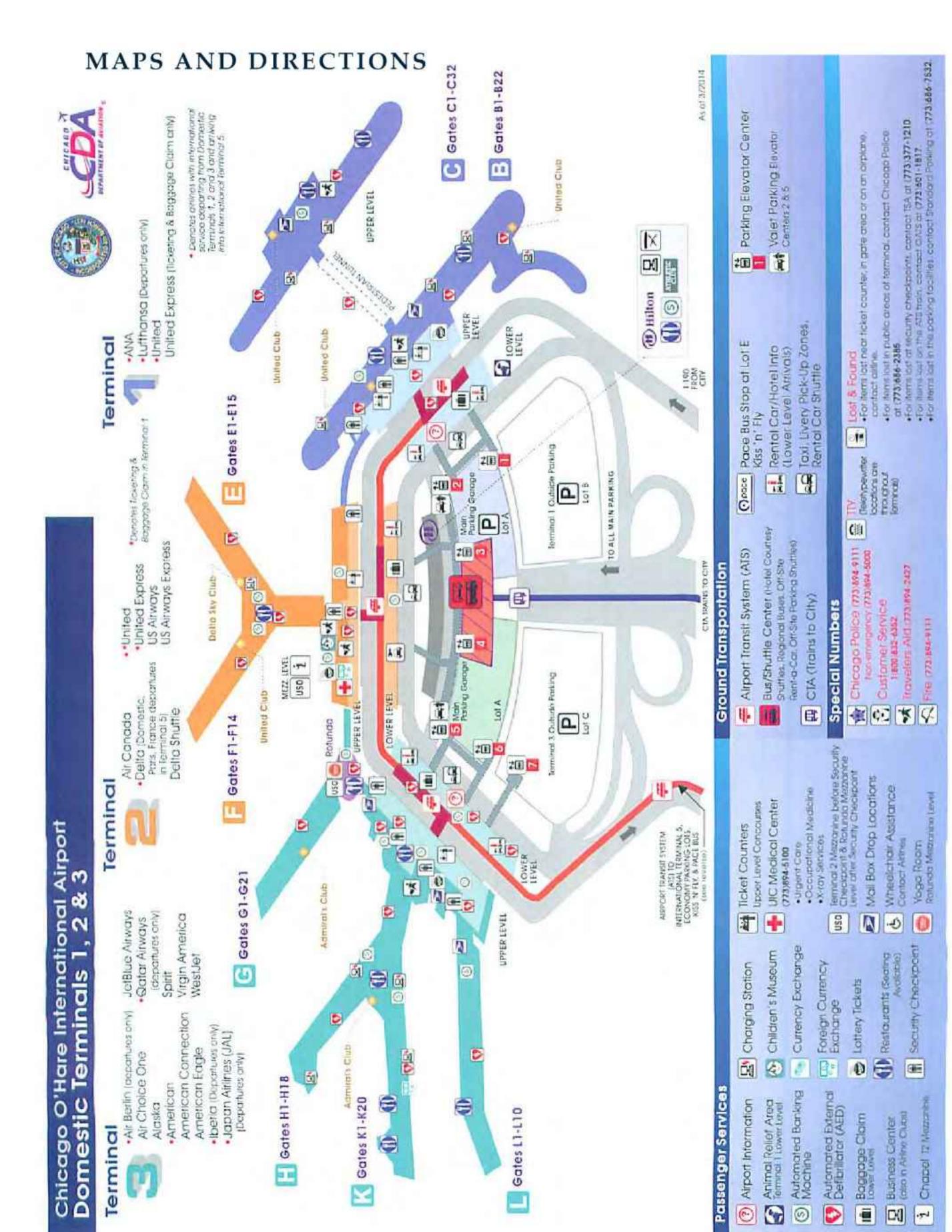
Email: jaraquistainechabe@gmail.com info@centromedicoparioli.it

Gluten and Other Food Allergies:

 Print out a sheet in Italian explaining your condition/ allergy - the cooks are generally accommodating.

If you take prescription medication:

- Pack enough to last your entire trip, including some extra in case you are unexpectedly delayed.
- Carry your medications in their original labeled containers, and pack them in your carry-on bag since checked baggage is occasionally lost or delayed.
- Ask your pharmacy or physician for the generic equivalent name of your prescriptions in case you need to purchase additional medication abroad.
- Get a letter from your physician in case you are questioned about your carry-on medication; some countries have strict restrictions on bringing prescription or even non-prescription medications into the country without proper medical documentation.



MAPS AND DIRECTIONS

CASA DI SANTA BRIGIDA TO PUSC

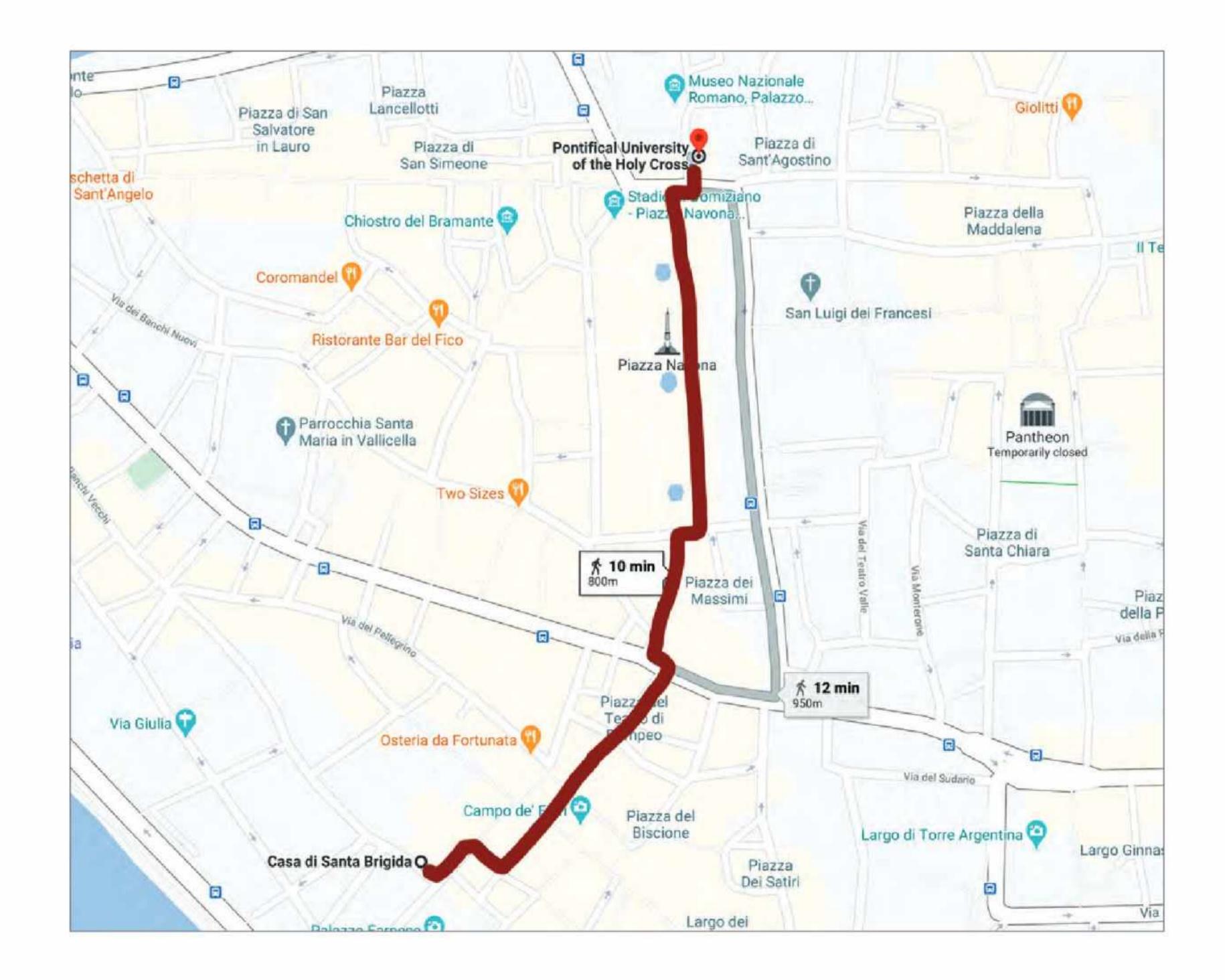
SIMPLE WALKING DIRECTIONS

START: Via di Monserrato, 54

- Turn left (NE, away from the Tiber) onto Via dei Farnesi
- Turn right on Piazza Farnese
- Turn left onto Via Dei Baullari
- Turn left onto Corso Vittorio Emanuele II
- Turn right onto Piazza di S. Pantaleo
- Continue onto Via della Cuccagna

- Turn right to cross (full length) of Piazza Navona
- Continue onto Via Agonale
- Turn right onto Piazza di Tor Sanguigna
- 10. Take an immediate left onto Piazza di Sant'Apollinare. Destination will be on the right.

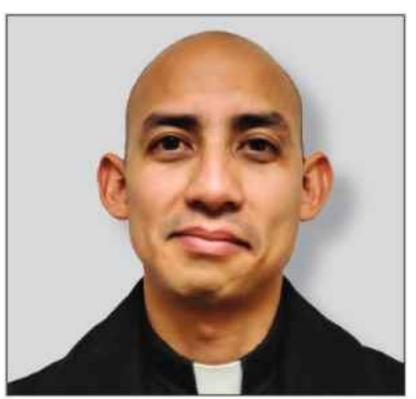
END: Piazza di Sant'Apollinare, 49



2024 CLASS DIRECTORY



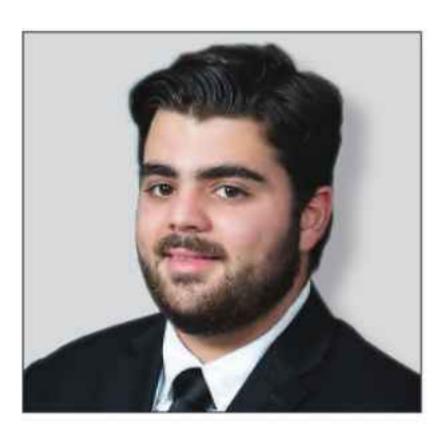
JOSEPH ALLAIRE
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Mt. St. Mary's of the West



MARCOS ALVARADO

Diocese of Portland

Mount Angel Seminary



GEORGE CASTANEDA
Archdiocese of Miami
St. Vincent de Paul
Regional Seminary



PATRICK COOK Diocese of Tyler Notre Dame Seminary



ABRAHAN DA SILVA Diocese of Knoxville St. Augustine's Seminary



LUKE DAVIS

Diocese of Tyler

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary



Diocese of Brooklyn
Immaculate Conception Center



BAO DUONG

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Mt. St. Mary's of the West



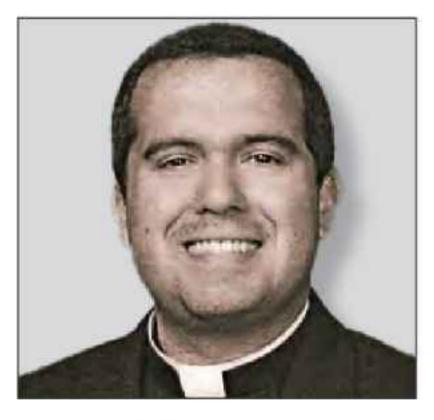
ARTURO ESCOBEDO

Diocese of Brownsville

St. Mary's Seminary



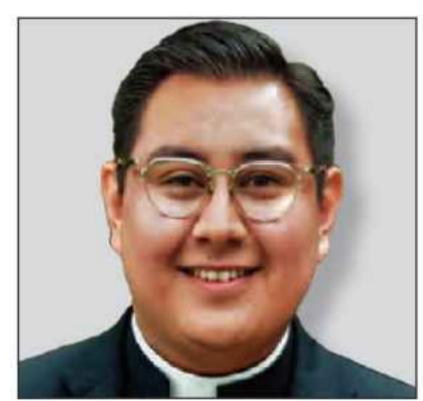
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Diocese of Evansville
St. Meinrad Seminary



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Diocese of Brownsville

Notre Dame Seminary



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Diocese of Laredo

Mundelein Seminary

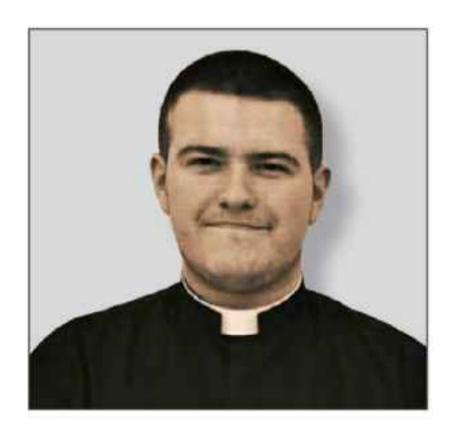
2024 CLASS DIRECTORY



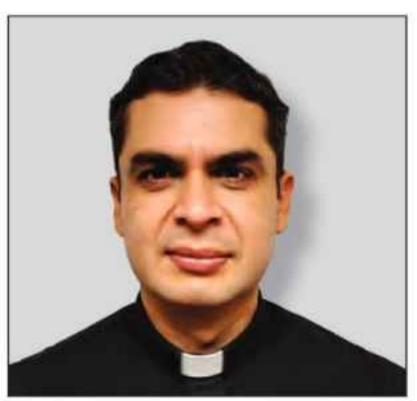
JUAN HERNANDEZ
Diocese of Nashville
Notre Dame Seminary



DAVID HERRERA
Diocese of Nashville
Notre Dame Seminary



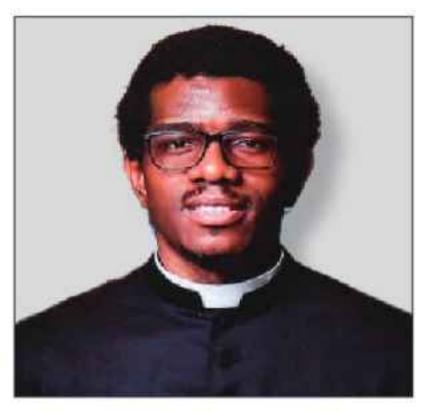
STEPHEN JANKOWSKI Diocese of Brooklyn St. Joseph's Seminary



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MONTES-CONTRERAS
Diocese of Portland
Mount Angel Seminary



ALLEN-MICHAEL MUENCH
Diocese of Dallas
Notre Dame Seminary



CHRISTOPHER ORAJIAKA

Diocese of Tyler

Notre Dame Seminary



DAVID RODRIGUEZ

Diocese of Brooklyn

St. Joseph's Seminary



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Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Mt. St. Mary's of the West



THOMAS WHEELER
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Mt. St. Mary's of the West



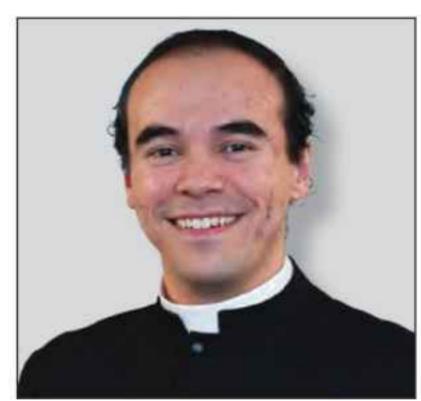
PETER WHITFIELD

Diocese of Dallas

Notre Dame Seminary



Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Mt. St. Mary's of the West



JOSHUA WRIGHT
Archdiocese of Washington D.C.
St. John Paul II Seminary



THE ROME EXPERIENCE

A SUMMER PROGRAM FOR DIOCESAN SEMINARIANS

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