



Diaconate Planning Committee 2019

Travel Suggestions and Recommendations for 2019 Diaconate Ordination Week

It is the hope of the 2019 Diaconate Planning Committee that this resource will help you and your guests with the planning of travel for your guests during Diaconate week. Please look over this document carefully (especially part 1) and feel free to direct your questions and concerns to Jon Fincher or to any member of the DPC.

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1. Faculty Suggestions:

- a. Using a travel agent for your family and friends during their stay in Rome/Italy is strongly suggested.
- b. Deacon candidates – or a family member/friend – should negotiate the contract (itinerary and price) with the travel agent as soon as practical; the contract may include an offer of one free traveler for every 8 or 10 or 12 paying travelers. Candidates may decide to offer just a “land package” or a “complete package” including air and land. The diaconate week schedule should be taken into account when planning the itinerary.
- c. Deacon candidates should not plan to serve as “tour guides” for their guests during diaconate week. From the time of the candidates’ return from retreat on Saturday, September 28th through the ordination on Thursday, October 3 candidates should be free to visit with family/friends, to accompany them for tours or meals, and to have time for personal prayer, community liturgies, and rehearsals for the ordination. These are the most important days to have a travel agent – or to have tours pre-arranged – so that candidates are free and relaxed and rested and at peace as they approach ordination.

- d. Travel agents should be advised not to contact the administration of the North American College directly. All questions/queries regarding Masses, receptions, holy hours, tours, and tickets should go through the deacon candidate and the DPC.
 - e. Deacon candidates should be in contact with pastors or diocesan priests who may be planning a pilgrimage to the ordination. This does occur (sometime unbeknownst to the candidate). Again, these priests and their travel agents should work through the deacon candidate and the DPC regarding details of diaconate week. All questions/queries regarding Masses, receptions, holy hours, tours, and tickets should go through the deacon candidate and the DPC. Asking a few questions around the parish or diocese this spring about potential pilgrimages to Rome in September/October will hopefully eliminate any surprises in September and October.
 - f. NAC room guests: Generally rooms – during diaconate week – are reserved for bishops and diocesan vocation directors (VD). Student guest rooms, on the student corridors, may be reserved for seminarian brothers, or male family members (brothers and fathers of candidates). Also, priests, not VDs, who are directly involved with a candidates’ formation – pastor, former VD, etc. – may also stay in a student guest room.
2. *NAC Events/Liturgies Overview during Ordination Week and who’s invited*
- a. **Sunday September 29th**
 - i. Mass at 5:30pm — family and friends/guests invited followed by a light reception.
 - b. **Monday September 30th**
 - i. Diaconate ordination liturgy review all deacon candidates must attend (TBD)
 - c. **Wednesday October 2nd PAY ATTENTION TO SEPARATE EVENING LITURGIES**
 - i. 10am—Papal Audience (leave NAC at 8:15am) —open to all
 - 1. Tickets: The deacon candidate will have his own special ticket. He will be given two extra tickets for *reparto speciale* section. All other guests will be given general admission tickets.
 - ii. TBD—Meeting for all deacon candidates with ordaining Prelate
 - iii. 5pm—Family Vigil/Evening Prayer and talk from faculty member at 5pm
 - 1. exclusively for deacons’ families and guests. Location: Chiesa del Gesù
 - a. Confessors will be available
 - iv. 6:15pm—Vigil Mass and Evening Prayer in house for IV year men
 - v. 8pm—Vigil for ordination—for all members of the House.
 - d. **Thursday October 3rd**
 - i. 9:30am – ordination at St. Peter’s Open to All (ticket necessary) with reception to follow at NAC (also open to all).
 - e. **Saturday October 5th**
 - i. 5:30pm – vigil Mass at NAC for deacon’s families and guests, open to all.
3. *List of past Travel Agencies (in no particular order):*
- a. Caravelle Tours www.caravelletours.com
 - i. This was the travel agency that has been used for past diaconate ordination travels. For your reference, you can see the package brochure that was offered by them in 2017 (attached in e-mail).
 - b. 206 Tours www.pilgrimages.com

- i. You can see their tour proposal and travel itinerary from 2016 (attached in e-mail).
- c. Peter's Way Tours www.petersway.com
- d. Proximo Travel : <https://www.proximotravel.com/>
 - i. Ex: Andrew Schwenka's Custom Italy Pilgrimage and Diaconate: https://www.proximotravel.com/trip-store/?action=view_trip&triptemplateid=605
- e. John Paul Pilgrimages and Tours Inc. info@johnpaultours.com
 - i. <https://www.johnpaulpilgrimagesandtours.com/>

4. *Sample Itinerary for Diaconate Week:*

- a. **Friday, September 27:** Participants depart for Rome.
- b. **Saturday, September 28:** Participants arrive in Rome. The tour providers may furnish transportation from Leonardo da Vinci Airport (Fiumicino) to the participants' respective accommodations. (Transportation info is provided below. see 6.) It is important to ensure that the place of accommodation can receive and safely secure baggage until guest rooms are available.
- c. **Sunday, September 29:** Participants may attend the Angelus with the Holy Father. There will be an Arrival/Welcome Mass and Reception for guests at the College in the late afternoon (TBD). (Transportation should be coordinated ahead of time with individual Travel Agents/coordinators)
- d. **Monday, September 30:** St. Peter's Basilica Scavi tours can be scheduled for the participants with the Scavi office throughout the week. The College will provide tour guides for the Scavi tours, and also for the participants' tour of St Peter's Basilica. More information to come.
- e. **Tuesday, October 1: Assisi Day Trip.** Many groups choose to do a day trip pilgrimage to Assisi. Optional/extra tours and trips must be planned accordingly and are separate from College functions. (see individual Travel Agency for more details)
- f. **Wednesday, October 2:** Wednesday Morning General Audience with the Holy Father (10am in St. Peter's Square -tickets will be provided by the College). There will be a vigil/ evening prayer service for the families and friends of the candidates at a Roman church to be designated by the College. (See Travel Agents/coordinators about transportation to and from this evening service.)
- g. **Thursday, October 3: Ordination at St. Peters Basilica 9:30am at the altar of the Chair of Peter. Reception** at the College to Follow. (See individual travel agents/coordinators for further assistance on transportation)
- h. **Friday, October 4:** New deacons offer first Masses at pre-arranged chapels or churches in and around Rome. (See travel agent/coordinators for further assistance on transportation)
- i. **Saturday, October 5:** Thanksgiving Vigil Mass at the College in the evening (TBD).

- j. **Sunday, October 6:** Guests often choose Sunday to depart for home but are free to do so whenever. (See individual Travel Agency coordinators for any further transportation concerns)
5. *Popular Travel Websites:*
- a. www.tripadvisor.com
 - i. Good site for checking reviews on restaurants and hotels.
 - b. www.skyscanner.net
 - i. Good site for finding cheap flights.
 - c. www.airbnb.com
 - i. For “vacation rental” as a hotel alternative.
 - d. www.booking.com
 - i. For hotel and vacation rentals.
 - e. www.expedia.com and www.kayak.com
 - i. For flights, hotels, and car rentals.
6. *Bus Companies in Rome (used by the NAC):*
- a. Grassini Bus info@grassinibus.com Tel. 06.42742661; (+39) 06.42746424; (+39) 335.5222541 (*english*)
 - b. Calabresi info@calabresibus.it Tel. 06.5193021
 - c. Royal Services Bus Srl info@pullmanperrella.it Tel. 06.7720.8720
7. *Getting Around in Rome:*
- a. ATAC (Rome’s Public Transportation System): <http://atac.roma.it/index.asp?lingua=ENG>
 - b. TrenItalia (National Train System): <http://www.trenitalia.com/tcom-en>
 - c. Taxi Tel. 060609
 - d. mytaxi (through smartphone app)
 - e. Uber (through smartphone app)
 - f. *Your Personal Driver* – Ngan Nguyen - <file:///Users/users/Downloads/listino.pdf>
8. *Popular Sites in Rome:*

- a. Basilica Tours (St. Peters and St. Paul Outside the Walls) are coordinated between the Candidates and DPC or respective heads of guided visits. (To be completed by late Spring)
- b. Vatican Museum ticket reservations: <https://biglietteriamusei.vatican.va/musei/tickets/do?weblang=en&do>
- c. Catacombs of Rome: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_commissions/archeo/inglese/documents/rc_com_archeo_doc_20011010_catacroma_en.html#Roma
- d. Official Coliseum ticket reservations: <http://www.coopculture.it/colosseo-e-shop.cfm>
- e. Locations of saints in Rome and beyond: <http://www.saintsinrome.com/>

9. *Top 10 Churches to Visit in Rome:*

- a. St. Peter's Basilica (Piazza San Pietro)
 - i. The greatest church in Christendom. Too much to say and describe without writing at least a few paragraphs, but suffice to say that it is a masterpiece of architecture and under the iconic high altar rest the bones of the Prince of the Apostles.
- b. St. John Lateran (Piazza di San Giovanni in Laterano, 4)
 - i. The official title of the church is Papal Archbasilica of the Most Holy Savior and Saints John the Baptist and the Evangelist in the Lateran, and such a chain of honorifics is justified for the Cathedral of Rome. Notable are its beautiful Cosmatesque floor, the high altar that contains the skulls of Saints Peter and Paul in twin reliquaries, and the connected Baptistery—the first in the world—and the Holy Stairs and Sancta Sanctorum, formerly part of the (now destroyed) Lateran Palace.
- c. St. Paul Outside-the-Walls (Piazzale San Paolo, 1)
 - i. Originally founded by Constantine over the burial place of Saint Paul, its current form is the result of a nineteenth-century reconstruction that was necessary because of a catastrophic fire in 1823. Nevertheless, it retains the rather primitive character of a Roman basilica, with a grand central nave and unadorned columns. The mosaics that survived the fire date from the 400s.
- d. St. Mary Major (Piazza del Esquilino, 34)
 - i. One of Rome's five papal basilicas, Santa Maria Maggiore is the largest church dedicated to Mary in Rome, and houses an important relic under its high altar: the crib in which the Child Jesus rested in Bethlehem. A side chapel contains an icon beloved of the Roman people, "Salus Populi Romani."
- e. Santa Maria in Trastevere (Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere)
 - i. Santa Maria in Trastevere is one of Rome's oldest churches and believed to be the first church in the world where Mass was publicly celebrated after the legalization of Christianity in 313 AD. It originally dates from the late third to the early fourth century but was rebuilt in the twelfth century. The church is famous for a Byzantine mosaic behind the altar and a number of medieval mosaics. The piazza has a beautiful octagonal fountain.
- f. San Clemente (Via Labicana, 95)

- i. San Clemente, near the Coliseum, is a perfect example of how history still exists in layers in Rome's churches. The current twelfth century church features probably the most beautiful mosaic in Rome, and sits on top of a fourth century church built over a first century Christian meeting place that's above a first century BC Mithraic temple and school.
- g. Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri (Piazza della Repubblica)
 - i. This church was constructed (according to plans drawn up by Michelangelo) inside the ruins of the Baths of Diocletian. The layout is unique, in that the transept, which runs crosswise to the nave, is longer. It also houses a fascinating solar median that was formerly used to calculate the time in Renaissance to early modern Rome.
- h. Sant'Agostino (Piazza di Sant'Agostino)
 - i. One of the first Roman churches built during the Renaissance, it holds the tomb of Saint Monica, Saint Augustine's mother. There is also a very popular devotional statue inside, Nostra Signora del Parto, a devotion to Our Lady as protectress of pregnant women and mothers.
- i. Sant'Ignazio (Via del Caravita, 8a)
 - i. Another example of the exuberant Baroque style that the Jesuits popularized throughout Europe, Sant'Ignazio is a worthy companion of the nearby Gesù. The bodies of Jesuit saints John Berchmans and Aloysius Gonzaga are entombed under side altars inside.
- j. Santa Maria sopra Minerva (Piazza della Minerva, 42)
 - i. Santa Maria sopra Minerva is one of Rome's only Gothic style churches. It was built in the thirteenth century over what was believed to have been the Temple of Minerva (actually the Temple of Isis). Inside is a sculpture by Michelangelo and the tombs of Saint Catherine, Fra Angelico, and some of the Medici popes. Outside is a Bernini sculpture of an elephant with an obelisk on its back.