

OLG Choir Enjoys 2017 Italy Performance Tour



On Wednesday, July 26, 2017, members of Our Lady of Guadalupe Music Ministry (and some choir members from other parishes) left for an eight-day tour of Italy that included several performances and visits to amazing sites. Alongside Paula Furman, director of Music Ministry at OLG and Monsignor Gentili, the 55-person group visited Florence, Orvieto, Assisi, Rome and Vatican City. The choir began preparing and practicing music for the trip in January of 2016, which included approximately 18 months of rehearsals.

“We were so fortunate to be able to sing for Sunday Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. We sang for the 5:15 p.m. Mass at the Altar of the Chair of St. Peter, which was an incredible experience,” said Furman. “To be able to provide music for this Mass was truly the highlight of our trip.”

The choir also had wonderful opportunities to sing a weekday Mass at the Basilica of

St. Francis in Assisi, where two members of our guitar ensemble joined us to accompany the music and to sing during the Papal Audience as Pope Francis passed our group.

The choir visited sites such as Santa Maria del Fiore, with its beautiful duomo and baptistery in Florence. In Orvieto, they visited the Cathedral that was built on the site where the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ was instituted. In Assisi, they visited the Basilica of St. Francis and the Basilica of St. Clare. The group also visited and prayed at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi. Assisi is a beautiful country town built into the mountainside! In Rome, the group saw many of the popular sites such as the Spanish Steps, the Trevi Fountain, the Coliseum, the Pantheon and much of ancient Rome, including the Catacombs. They also visited the church of St. Peter in Chains, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, and of course St. Peter's Basilica!



Upon their return, Furman surveyed the group and more than 95 percent expressed interest in planning another, similar trip. “I've begun the process of identifying locations and

itineraries where we can have opportunities to not only visit religious and historic sites, but also have the opportunity to provide music for liturgies, and share our music with others truly around the world,” adds Furman. “Our trip to Italy was truly a dream come true, and hopefully we will have a new opportunity to announce in the next few months!”

