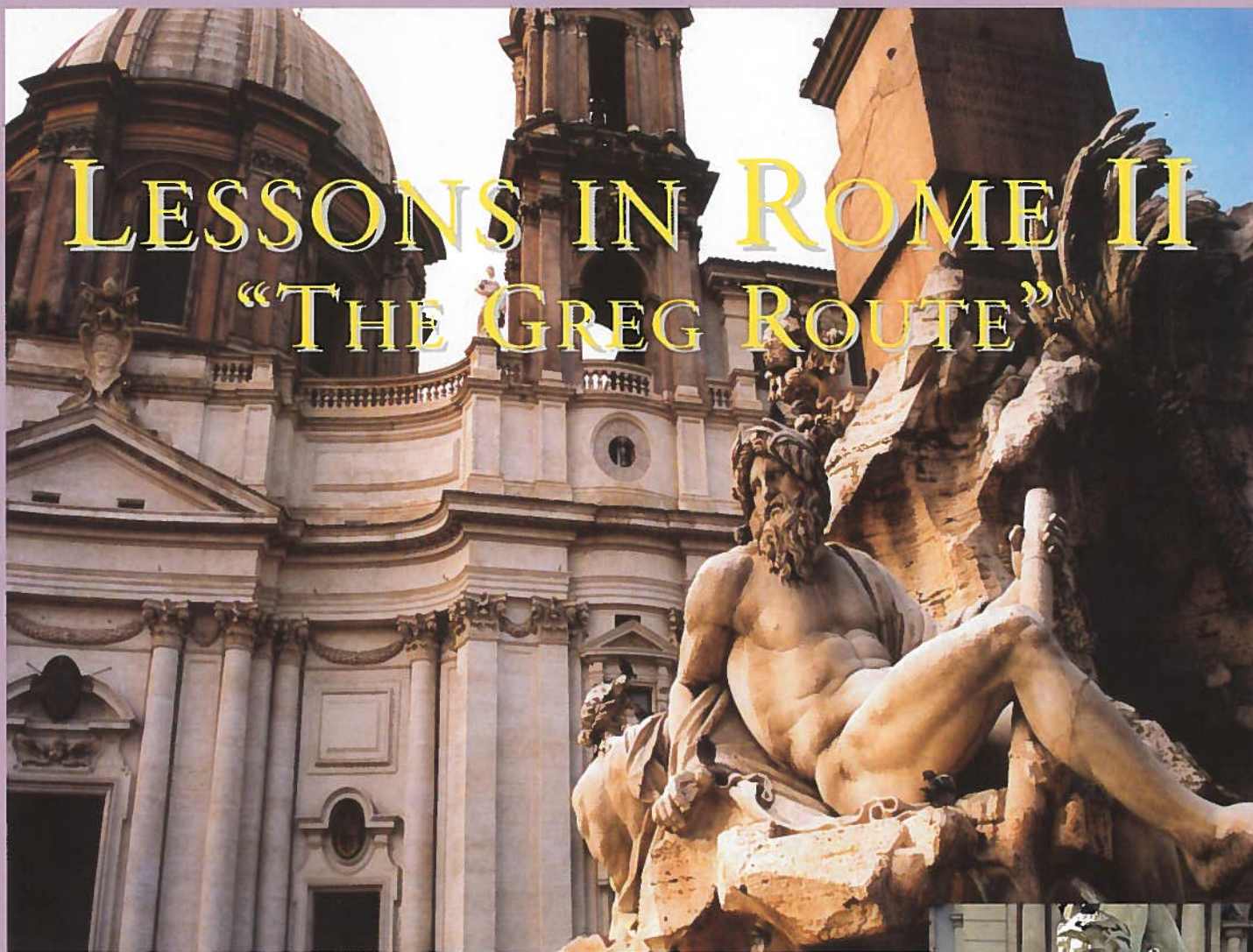


# LESSONS IN ROME II

## “THE GREG ROUTE”



**T**here are a number of cultural and spiritual sites one can experience in Rome by taking a mere stroll in the city. In our last issue of the magazine, we took you through the “Ange route,” hoping to share with you some of these experiences. This time we will take you through the other major route taken by our students, the walk to the Gregorian University. The walk to the Gregorian actually has two turns, the “northern” route and the “southern” route. Being from South Carolina, I tend to prefer the southern route, which is the path we will walk together in this article.

The North American College is located on the Janiculum Hill, which is the area where St. Philip Neri, the great Church reformer of the seventeenth century, once conducted the oratories for the children of the city. In the morning, leaving about 7:45am for the half-hour walk, the seminarians trail down the hill. Before crossing over the bridge, they pass the Holy Spirit Hospital, where

**Above:** The Fountain of the Four Rivers with St. Agnes Church in the background.

**Right:** Water nymph in Piazza Navona.

**Below:** Castel Sant’Angelo.



Michelangelo once conducted his illegal dissection of human bodies in order to perfect his art. Passing over the bridge, the

*...the seminarians walk along the street behind the Pantheon, once the home of all the false pagan gods and now the home of All Saints.*



**Above:** Artists and vendors sell their wares in Piazza Navona.

**Right:** The interior of the dome of the Pantheon.

**Below:** The facade of the Pantheon as seen from the Piazza della Rotonda.



Bernini. Among its grouping of stores there is St. Agnes' Church, built over the house where the virgin martyr lived. Continuing past the Piazza, the seminarians walk along the street behind the Pantheon, once the home of all the false pagan gods before it became the home of All Saints. Leaving the Pantheon, one approaches the small piazza of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, the office of the Master General of the Dominicans and the burial place of St. Catherine of Siena and Fra Angelico.

Down the street on the right is Largo Argentina, which marks the place where Julius

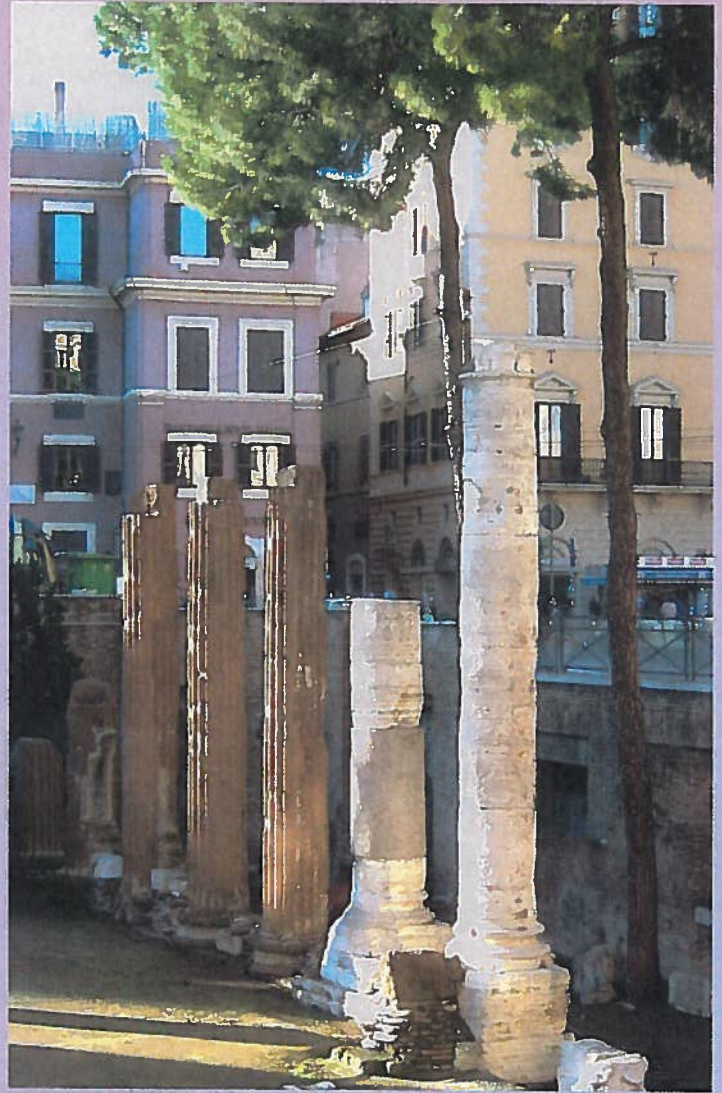
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Caesar died. On one side of the piazza is the Grand Hotel, where Cardinal Spellman and other bishops stayed during the Second Vatican Council. The seminarians move to the left and end up walking behind St. Ignatius' Church, which houses Sts. Robert Bellarmine, Aloysius Gonzaga and John Berchmans. Passing over the Via del Corso, the main Corso of the city, the seminarians see the Victor Emmanuel Monument in the Piazza Venezia to the right, and farther down on the left, the Piazza del Popolo. Walking further on, they come upon the Dodici (The Twelve) Church, where the apostles James the Lesser and Philip are buried. Entering a passageway on the left of this church, the seminarians arrive at "Mama Greg," ready for a cappuccino in the coffee bar before the first hour of classes.

Having made this walk to the Greg, I hope you had a pleasant glimpse of the many treasures we are able to enjoy through our experience in Rome.

*by Jeff Kirby  
Diocese of Charleston  
Class of 2006*



**Above:** Ancient columns marking the site of Julius Caesar's murder at Largo Argentina.



**Left:** The ceiling of St. Ignatius' Church, magnificently featuring the technique of trompe l'oeil.

**Right:** The Baroque interior of the Church of Dodici Apostoli.

**Below:** The facade of the Church of Dodici Apostoli and the Curia Generalate of the Conventual Franciscans.



**Above:** Obelisk and elephant pediment outside of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, designed by Bernini.

**Left:** "The Risen Christ" of Michelangelo located in Santa Maria Sopra Minerva.

**Far Left:** The front of the Pontifical Gregorian University.

