

Pilgrimage to Italy Jubilee Year 2025



In this blessed Jubilee Year 2025, a group of 76 pilgrims set out on a sacred journey to Italy, a land where faith, history, and beauty converge in perfect harmony. With hearts open to grace and minds eager to learn, we walked through the ancient streets of Florence, Siena, Assisi, and Rome, retracing the paths of saints, visionaries, and creators who have shaped both our faith and the story of humanity.

Guided by our wonderful, our beloved blessed Paola and Ariadna, whose knowledge and warmth illuminated each step of the way, our pilgrimage became not only a voyage through beautiful places but also a profound journey within a time to rekindle and deepen our faith, culture, and knowledge.

Our first stop was Florence, the radiant heart of the Renaissance. There, we were surrounded by art and architecture that lifted the human spirit toward the divine. Standing before the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, gazing at the genius of Michelangelo, the grace of Botticelli, and the brilliance of Galileo Galilei and Machiavelli, we reflected on how faith and reason together have advanced humanity. The beauty of Florence reminded us that creativity, when inspired by God, becomes an act of worship a reflection of His infinite wisdom and love.

From there, we traveled to Siena, a city wrapped in medieval charm and timeless devotion. In the Basilica of San Domenico, we prayed before the relics of Saint Catherine of Siena, whose courage, holiness, and deep love for Christ continue to inspire believers around the world. Walking through Siena's winding streets, we could almost hear her voice calling us to live with authenticity, compassion, and unwavering faith.

Our hearts were profoundly touched in Assisi, the land of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. Surrounded by the tranquil hills of Umbria, we visited their tombs and prayed in the basilicas that preserve their humble yet powerful legacy of peace, simplicity, and love for all creation. We also had the blessing of visiting the resting place of Saint Carlo Acutis, a young saint whose modern witness reminds us that holiness is attainable in every generation. In the quiet beauty of Assisi, many of us found renewal a rediscovery of the joy that comes from a heart centered on God.

Finally, we reached Rome, the Eternal City the heart of the Catholic faith. There, among the magnificent basilicas and ancient ruins, we felt the living pulse of the Church universal. We walked through the Holy Jubilee Doors, a profound gesture of forgiveness and renewal, and visited the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul, whose faith laid the foundations of our Church. The highlight of our pilgrimage came with a moment of immense grace and emotion: the encounter with our Pope Leo XIV. To see him up close, listen to his message of hope, and receive his apostolic blessing was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that filled us with deep joy and gratitude.

Throughout this journey, we also honored the memory of the great men and women who have contributed to the progress of humanity saints, artists, scientists, and thinkers like Michelangelo, Rossini, Galileo, Botticelli, and Machiavelli each one leaving a legacy that continues to inspire the world. In every city, we were reminded that holiness and creativity are not opposites, but reflections of the same divine spark that moves the human heart to seek truth, goodness, and beauty.

We stood before relics of saints who once walked the same streets, we made tangible reminders that faith can move mountains and transform lives. Their witness challenged us to give our best to God and to the world, to build lives rooted in love, justice, peace, and spiritual progress.

As our pilgrimage came to an end, we carried home not just memories and photographs, but hearts renewed by the grace of God. We left Italy richer in spirit, more united in faith, and more aware of the beauty that arises when culture and spirituality walk hand in hand.

This Pilgrimage to Italy in the Jubilee Year 2025 will forever remain a milestone in our journey of faith a living testimony that God continues to call us, as He once called the saints, to walk in His light and share His love with the world.

In the love, mercy and salvation of Christ and Our Blessed Mother

Fr. Gabriel Gómez SF
Parish Administrator
Santa Cruz de la Cañada