

“Petros Eni” - Celebrating The 500th Anniversary of the Beginning of the Construction of the New St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome

“Petros Eni” – Peter is within or Peter is buried here. These words were found on a piece of red wall by an Italian archaeologist in 1950 in the excavations under St. Peter’s Basilica. Dating to the 2nd century, they substantiate claims that Constantine had built the first St. Peter’s basilica over the tomb of the Apostle in the 4th century. Almost 1200 years later, Pope Julius II presided over the laying of the first stone for the new St. Peter’s basilica on April 18, 1506.

In 2006 and 2007, the Vatican is celebrating the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the building of the new St. Peter’s Basilica. This includes a special exhibition from October 3, 2006 to March 8, 2007 that chronicles the history of this important piece of our world heritage.

The graffiti inscription from the 2nd century underscores that pilgrims have traveled to this site since the earliest days of Christianity to celebrate the life and ministry of Peter.

Visiting places where visionary men and women forged a new faith inspires contemporary Christians to lead lives of deep faith and to embody the apostolic mandate to share the Gospel of God’s love with others as respectful citizens of the world.

Program Highlights

Make early Christian history your own

Some of the most important and interesting evidence of early Christian beliefs, practices, art, and worship are found throughout Rome. By traveling to Rome, pilgrims make this history and tradition their own.

Experience the Spirit that inspired St. Peter

Traveling to places where early Christians like Peter had the courage to proclaim the Gospel connects people to the same Spirit that inspired Peter and invigorates their own faith. Illume creates opportunities for reflection and prayer at historical venues. These events build bonds amongst participants and their leaders.

Become stewards of world heritage

The city of Rome and St. Peter’s Basilica are part of our world heritage. Illume brings people to world heritage sites so they will be active stewards in conserving these places of rich history, art, faith, and humanity for future generations.

Parish Pilgrimages & Adult Faith Formation Travel to Rome

Illume partners with pastoral leaders to create opportunities for pilgrimages, faith formation and educational travel to Rome. Traveling to places of great historical and religious significance complements parish adult formation offerings, builds community, generates excitement for other parish programs, and is a source of renewal and transformation for both leaders and participants.

Illume’s unique program commemorates this 500th anniversary. Illume invites you to bring pilgrims to Rome for this event.

Arrangements in Rome between October, 2006 and March, 2007 for groups of 20 include 6 nights in centrally located hotels or guesthouses with privately guided visits, excursions and meals. Prices start at \$1350 per person; airfare available from cities throughout the USA.

Contact us for details about this unique historical event!