

Ricordi!



*The First Two Years
of the Rome Temple Visitors' Center*

2019-2020

Preface: A mission with an exclamation point!

These past two years have gone like a dream. From the days of the Temple dedication and the visit of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve, “a hinge point in the history of the Church”, to the Covid 19, it has been full of surprises!

Each new Sister coming to the Visitors’ Center was a discovery of talents, grace, enthusiasm, and spirit. Of course, the task was intimidating to us all. But this awe was a necessary ingredient to have the needed humility in approaching such a privilege. After all, we walked on sacred ground!

Mission Presidents and wives, Senior couples, all contributed to a successful journey during these first two years. We know the future will be bright as the inspiration has always been available when we sought it.

The purpose of this booklet is to help us not to forget. Today, all seems so present, but with time we will start searching for a name, a face, a date. This document will be our treasure chest to “Remember”, an advice our Lord has often repeated: “Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, ...and ponder it in your hearts.” (Moroni 10:3)

We would like to give special thanks to Sister Lamb who has prepared the summary of the main events surrounding the planning, building and dedication of the Rome Italy Temple and Visitors’ Center. She really did well in illustrating each phase with beautiful pictures. Our gratitude also goes to President and Sister Michael D. Pickerd and President and Sister Donald E. Smith, our beloved leaders, who have so well directed our work.

Many thanks to Elder and Sister Hyde, Elder and Sister Briscoe, Elder and Sister Reese, Elder and Sister Lamb, for their respective contributions to this booklet. I will add Elder and Sister Willey who made our work possible and Elder and Sister Merriman who joined the team. And of course, to all the Sisters who have shared experiences and insights with beautiful pictures. Not all have had time to do so but I believe none will be absent from the photos that have been gathered.

As you will notice, there is not a lengthy text. The pictures have been privileged for they speak of themselves usually. It is a peculiar thing that any picture around the Temple and inside the Visitors’ Center becomes a work of art! It is always beautiful in essence! There is a “glory” inherent to the place!

During these two years, I have noticed that in my emails or other correspondence, I used a lot of exclamation points! Like this last one “!”. Maybe it is only my way of expressing how enthusiastic I am about people, places, opportunities, about life in general. This is not to say that I never have worries, doubts or down moments, but there is so much more to be grateful for. These two years have been a clear demonstration of it!

So now, I invite you to turn the pages that illustrate the great adventure of the past two years at the Rome Temple Visitors’ Center. As I always say, the most important in life are the relationships we create with one another. After all, this will be one of the few things we will take with us in the next life. Our central belief is that relationships can be eternal! Friends, family, it will basically be the same once we have passed the veil. Are we not all Brothers and Sisters?

Thank you for your friendship!

Anziano & Sorella Euvrard

THE ITALY ROME TEMPLE

Introduction

The Rome Italy temple is the 162nd operating temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints worldwide and the first in Italy. Rome is considered by Latter-day Saints and other Christian faiths as an historic location, a biblical city where ancient Apostles such as Peter and Paul preached the gospel of Jesus Christ. At the time of dedication of the Rome temple, there were 12 other temples in Europe. It serves tens of thousands of Church members living in Italy and in neighboring countries. The Rome Italy Temple is part of a 15-acre religious and cultural center that includes a multifunctional meetinghouse, a visitors' center, a family history center and housing for temple patrons.

President Thomas S. Monson announced the temple during the October 2008 general conference and then presided over its groundbreaking on October 23, 2010. On March 25, 2017, the gold-plated angel Moroni statue was placed atop the taller, eastern tower of the twin-spired building.

“Anywhere a temple is announced and constructed and dedicated and blesses the people, it brings a power to that place. It is the power of the ordinances, the power of the covenants, the power of the light that emanates from the temple, and that blessing occurs everywhere. In our holy temples, available are the most sacred and important sacrament or ordinances that we receive as members of our Church, and those ordinances bring peace. They bring purpose. They are a source of remarkable joy.

“All temples are significant because a temple is a point of intersection between the earth and heaven. A temple is the house of the Lord. It is His house where we learn about Him, and we worship Him.

“Latter-day Saint temples differ from churches where members meet for Sunday worship services. Temples are considered ‘houses of the Lord’ where the teachings of Jesus Christ are reaffirmed through marriage, baptism and other ceremonies that unite families for eternity.” Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Italy Mission History

In 1849 the prophet Brigham Young called Lorenzo Snow and Giuseppe Taranto, a native of Sicily, to preach the gospel in Italy. They found success among Protestants in Piemonte. Taranto later had success among family and friends in his native Sicily. Most early converts over the next half-decade eventually emigrated to the United States and the Salt Lake Valley. Meanwhile, challenges and persecutions resulted in a halting of Church activity in Italy until the 1960s, when missionary work returned, and a first-of-the-era congregation was organized in Brescia.

In November 1966, Elder Ezra Taft Benson rededicated Italy for missionary work. In his dedicatory prayer, he was inspired to say that thousands of Italians would be ‘brought into the truth and into membership in Thy great church.’

In 1980, the first Church meetinghouse in Italy was completed in Pisa. In 1981 the Milan Stake was created and led by local Church members. Today Latter-day Saint congregations in Italy are scattered throughout all of Italy. As the Church has grown, it has received more recognition and respect. In 2012, with President Giorgio Napolitano’s signing, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints obtained full official recognition in Italy.

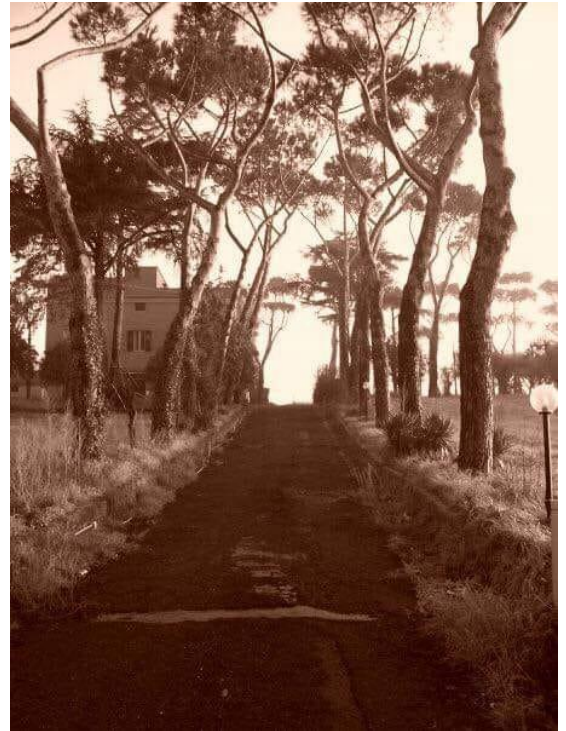
Construction

The 15-acre (6 hectare) parcel previously was a farm that the Church purchased in 1997, with the property including a villa, a small olive orchard, and an outside pizza oven. For a period, full-time missionaries resided at the villa, and the property occasionally served as a gathering place for members and their activities.

Some of the farm's olive trees were preserved and join other olive trees from northern Italy in being replanted in the grounds' Italian-style piazza, or square. "I used to come here as a youth, and we used to organize small soccer games," said Stephano Mosco, a local Latter-day Saint. "And there was a stone oven where we used to cook pizzas."

Initially, only a small portion of the property was available for temple construction; however, subsequent rezoning allowed the Church to expand to use all 15 acres (6 hectares) for its grounds and accompanying facilities.

Located at Via de Settebagni 376 in northeast Rome near the village of La Cinquina Bufalotta, the temple sits on an elevated 15-acre (6 hectare) parcel just off the A90 Grande Raccordo Anulare beltway—also known as "Il Raccordo" ("The Junction")—that surrounds the city.



Construction began on the three-story, 40,000-square-foot (3,716 square meter) temple on October 23, 2010, two years after the Rome Italy Temple was announced by Church President Thomas S. Monson. He and local Church and community leaders participated in the groundbreaking ceremony.

"It's difficult to explain my feeling," expressed Christian Bruno, a former Latter-day Saint missionary. "The Spirit was all around us. It was a great day for me, for my family and for all the Saints in Italy."

Visitors to the Rome Italy Temple will see the uniquely oval building. The architect for the Rome Italy Temple, Niels Valentiner, shared insights with the Church News about this oval shape and the difficulties building a structure that was a perfect oval. “We kept coming back to this oval design, which is really seen by many as an expression of Italian Baroque architecture,” he said. “It takes from Italy an architectural statement and brings it into the temple.” Valentiner said the difficulty makes it likely the Rome temple will be one of a kind. “It was not easy,” he said. “It probably will never be done again. It is complicated to build. But I think the beauty of the temple is being appreciated and recognized. They will find a temple that combines contemporary Italian architecture with the local past.”

Elder Larry Y. Wilson, executive director of the Temple Department added, “If you want to try a difficult construction project, build something the shape of an oval. . . . Many of these interior walls are the shape of an oval.



That piece of furniture looks like it's sitting flat against the wall, but if you go look at it carefully, it is custom made in the shape of the wall, so it's actually curved on the back of it to fit against the curved wall.”

The shape of the oval is found throughout the Rome temple. An oval has no beginning and no end and is a symbol of eternity. This is especially appropriate in Rome, which is known as the 'eternal city.'

In addition to the oval theme, the structure of the entire temple complex, including a fountain of water that flows from the temple toward a statue of Christ—the Living Water - holds deep symbolic meaning.



October 8, 2017

Mid-January 2018



Late February
2018



On March 25, 2017, the gold-plated angel Moroni statue was placed atop the taller, eastern tower of the twin-spired building. A crane was used to hoist the statue more than 150 feet in the air before setting it in place. It is gilded with 22-karat gold leaf, and workers only touch it with gloves to avoid marking the delicate surface.

This 13-foot statue of an ancient Book of Mormon prophet symbolizes the spreading of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Those invited to the raising of the statue of Moroni were 10 Stake Presidents and their wives from all over Italy, the 4 current Bishops of Rome and the media.

Speaking about the construction of temples, Elder Bednar said that everything from the artwork and architecture to the landscaping on the temple grounds is carefully designed.

“Nothing is done by accident,” he said. “Everything in the temple glorifies Him whose house it is. All we do and see in the temple bears witness of Jesus Christ as our Savior and Redeemer—the Son of God.”



“This had to be one that when you walked onto this site, every person should feel like they were on an Italian site,” said architect Neils Valentiner. “They would recognize it because of the materials, because of the design, and because of the surrounding.” The temple’s design was inspired by San Carlino, a Roman Catholic church in Rome. “The curved ceilings, the curved walls, the expression of the colonnades and columns.” And that started this very early concept of a curved church, a curved temple and temple building both on the exterior as well as on the interior.”

Reminders of and references to Jesus Christ are found throughout the new temple complex in Rome.



Piazza

In addition to the temple, the grounds include a multifunctional meetinghouse, a visitors' center, and temple patron housing. Linking the various buildings is the piazza constructed from Italian travertine tiles, pavers, and blocks. Walkways surrounding the temple are constructed of Travertine and Porfido pavers.

The Church salvaged 110-year-old Basalt cobblestones from the streets of Rome for the temple roundabout. The artisans who laid the stone were from a family which had worked this craft for seven generations. If you look closely at some of these stones, you can see the grooves worn by the passage of old wagon wheels.

The fence surrounding the temple site on three sides is constructed from plastered concrete stone pilasters and custom wrought iron fencing. The design of the fences correlates with railings inside the temple and incorporates an oval motif design, a recurring theme in both the interior and exterior finishes of the temple.

"The way the square is built reminds me of an ancient Roman forum," said President Cordani from Piacenza. "This is not just an American church planting a flag here in Rome. This feels Italian. It is the perfect blend of excellence and culture. It was built with consideration and love for the people of Italy to help us feel it's ours now." President Cordani's sensation was exactly what the architect had in mind. Niels Valentiner came to the project with a clear concept in mind for the vast site, which, at 15 acres (6 hectares), is 50 percent larger than Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

"We knew we wanted to connect the temple to Italy, and one of the most important things that was very clear in the beginning was that we really wanted to make sure that we created the concept of an Italian piazza," said Valentiner, president of VCBO Architecture.



A piazza — the Italian word means square or courtyard — is typically surrounded by buildings and includes fountains, gardens and/or trees. "We had the four buildings," Valentiner said. "They made it so obvious that we could create a piazza that [was] very Italian. We knew that was an important feature for us if we were going to create what we think of now as the Rome Temple Square. "We have Salt Lake Temple Square. Now maybe we have Rome Temple Square."



The square sits on the site of an old farm that was covered in olive trees and Roman umbrella pines. The pines were protected, and they remain where they were, flanking the temple on both sides. 32 of the original olive trees, which were relocated to various areas on the grounds are thought to be up to 150 years old. These olive trees have been transplanted around the site strategically. Though not original to the site, the four main olive trees planted in the piazza were purchased in northern Italy and range in age from 400-500 years old, as symbolic accents in the piazza.

“There’s tremendous symbolism in olives and in olive trees,” said Elder Bednar in a Newsroom report, noting the depth reached by the tree roots. “Whenever you cut the roots of an olive tree, they’ll sprout. They do not die; they will continue to sprout. Some have suggested that perhaps that’s symbolic of the hope of the Resurrection.”





A fountain flows down the steps that cover a slight incline from the temple down to the visitors' center on the opposite end of the piazza.

The fact that the water flows from the House of the Lord to the Christus statue was a striking symbol of the living water of Jesus Christ to Susanne Torgard, who is the curator of the Church of Our Lady Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark — the church home to the original Christus statue.

"We talked about the water going directly between the symbol and the Source," she said after a tour of the temple and visitors center and its statues. "The water flows from the temple because it's higher here, but it goes to the Source (Jesus Christ) and there is this kind of a circular movement between them."

The main fountain cascades down into four additional pools and is constructed from Travertine stone with bronze grating. Additionally, the grounds feature a reflecting pond near the temple with a flowing stream leading to the Visitors Center, where the statue of the Christus is located.

"With the fountains, the structures and the greenery, this is a magnificent place people

will flow to," President Cordani predicted. "I can imagine spending hours here with friends."

Temple Exterior



The cornerstone of the Rome temple, dedicated on March 10-12, 2019, is shown in the foreground with the piazza and patron housing in the background, the Visitor Center on the right, and the reflecting pond in the center.

The temple exterior is made of Bianco Sardo Italian granite, with artistic stained-glass windows throughout. Design elements, including the bronze entrance doors with art glass panels, reflect the beauty of Italy.



Temple Interior

Great care was taken in selecting and sourcing materials for the temple to ensure high quality. Design elements reflect the beauty of Italy and the local area.

The temple's predominant colors inside are warm earth tones, blues, bronzes, and gold throughout. Materials include Perlato Svevo stone flooring quarried in northern Tuscany; Cenia marble from Spain; Sapele, burl, and cherry wood millwork; and Murano glass fixtures from Venice.



The recommend desk in the Rome Italy Temple.

The grand staircase in the temple's lobby is considered an engineering feat, said project supervisor Bret Woods. "It's connected just at the top and the bottom, so it's essentially a free-floating staircase—and of course, an elliptical shape," he said.

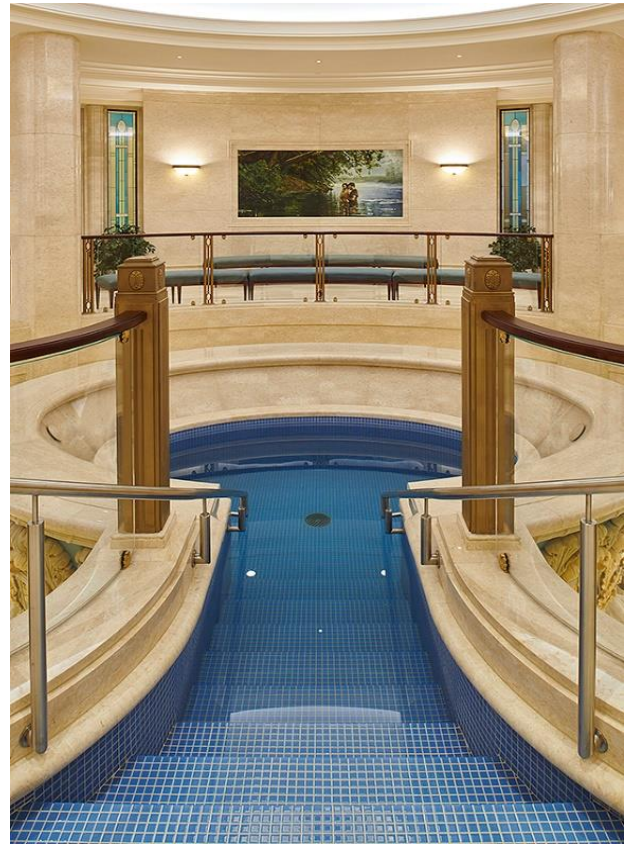
The staircase's oval design suggests the Michelangelo-designed Piazza del Campidoglio and its ramped staircase on Rome's Capitoline Hill.





Original paintings hang in all areas of the temple, reminding temple guests of Jesus Christ and His teachings to follow Him. A picture in the baptistery depicts the Savior's baptism by John the Baptist. The baptistery has an elliptical font with inlaid stones and Roman-style acanthus leaves. Constructed of custom bronze and glass, the railing surrounding the baptismal font incorporates the oval motif used throughout other areas in the temple.

The baptistery's purpose is in keeping with the Savior's example to enter the waters of baptism and His commandment that all must be baptized. In the temple, patrons can act on behalf of those who did not have the chance to be baptized in this life. The font is held up by 12 oxen representing the 12 tribes of Israel.



Other interior features include the instruction room, where Church members learn about God's love, the creation, and the purpose of life. Here, a mural reveals a magnificent setting depicting Italy's landscape ranging from the hills to the sea.



The celestial room has an exquisite chandelier containing thousands of crystal prisms which serves as the centerpiece of the room, a space that represents the progression of reaching heaven. The celestial room is also filled with elegant furnishings made by Italian artisans and sculpted off-white carpets.



A seemingly endless reflection from the mirrors in the sealing rooms symbolizes eternity. In those rooms, Latter-day Saint faithful participate in sacred ceremonies that join families together forever.



The Baroque-style bridal room is enhanced by the crystalline sconces and hand-painted chairs.

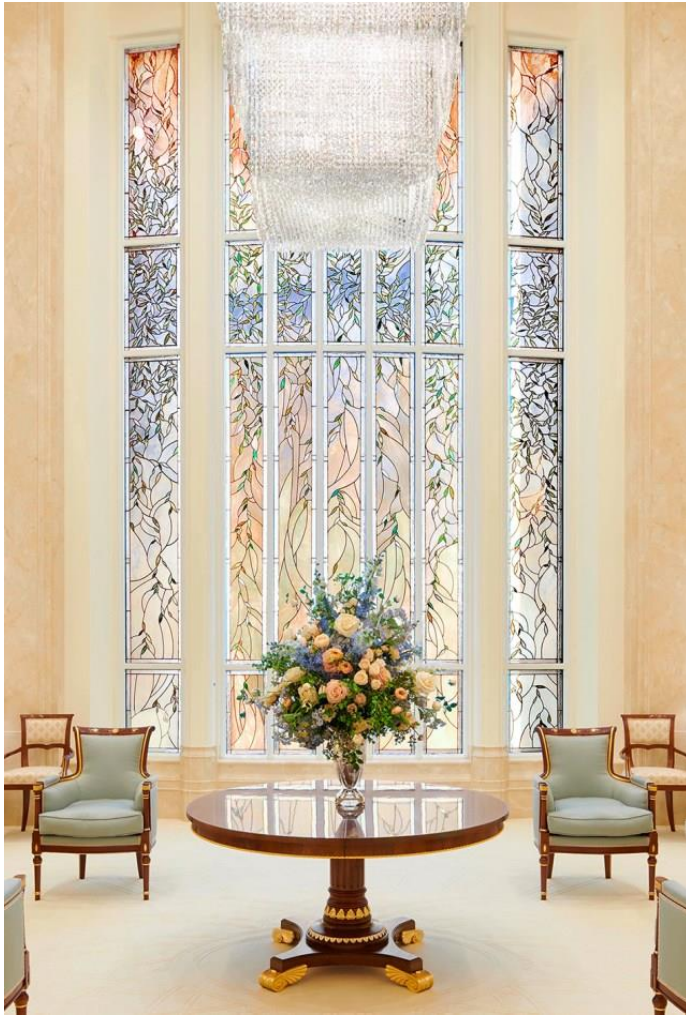
The primary stone used on the floors, stone base, walls and countertops throughout the temple is Perlato Svevo. It was quarried and carved in Italy by Saverna of Pietrasanta, Italy. Accent stone is used on the floor in the baptistry and the grand stair lobby. Patterns were inspired by Michelangelo's Piazza del Campidoglio and include the artist's intriguing oval design. Stones used in the floor patterns are cenia marble, quarried in Spain, and Mediterranean beige travertine, quarried in Italy. Sky lark marble, quarried in Brazil; emperado light marble, quarried in Turkey; and lapis lazuli are used as accents. In other areas of the temple, afyon sugar, Jerusalem gold marble and limestone, quarried in Turkey, and crema marfil marble, quarried in Spain are utilized. Carpeting is of brown, blue, taupe and green hues with an organic leaf pattern, inspired by the site's olive trees. Carpets in the celestial and sealing rooms are off-white with carvings reflected in the decorative painting and inspired by the Campidoglio .



The ceilings throughout the temple are adorned with simple, yet elegant, decorative painting in golds, blues, creams and greens. Some gold leafing is also featured. The designs were inspired by the olive tree, Roman acanthus leaves and the Campidoglio.



Art glass is featured in 19 doorways, one decorative partition and two lay lights. Though seen throughout the temple, it is most employed in the celestial room. Two basic designs were created for the glass: one of a symmetric, non-representational pattern, and the second the same olive tree pattern used in the exterior windows. A variety of hues were included in the glass pallet.



Window detail in the Rome temple Celestial Room



Artistic glass window

The walls are painted with Italian gypsum plaster, and decorative plaster is used in the instruction rooms, above the grand stair area and in the bride's room.



The temple has over 200 decorative lighting fixtures, most made of Murano glass from Venice, Italy, with designs ranging from simple organic textures to carved bowls. Nine chandeliers using Australian Swarovski Strass Crystal and 24k gold custom banding are featured in the instruction rooms. The celestial room chandelier contains rectangular prisms; the shape is repeated in the ceiling lay light.



The grand stair chandelier, inspired by Chihuly, incorporates the Venetian leaf pattern.

A combination of painted and stained woods are used throughout the temple. The primary wood used is sapele. Accent woods include pommele, anigre, burl veneer and cherry.

Doors are manufactured from sapele, pommele sapele and anigre. While some are painted, many doors feature an inlay pattern of two ovals, one on either end. The design is repeated in the door hardware.

The ceilings are constructed of painted hard-lid gypsum plaster and glass fiber-reinforced gypsum.

The murals seen in the instruction rooms are by Leon Parson from Idaho, USA. Artwork in the baptistry depicting the Savior's baptism is by Heather Theurer from Oregon, USA.



Olive leaf pattern in exterior window stained glass.

Visitors' Center

“Not all of the temples have a visitors’ center, so this is a very special place. I hope that the members and the missionaries bring their families and their friends to teach the gospel of Christ right here in this visitors center.”
President Cordani of Piacenza



In the visitors’ center, a full-size replica of the statue of the Christus, which is twice life-size, is accompanied by three-quarter-life-size sculptures of the original Twelve Apostles. These face the temple through full-length windows. The statues are replicas of sculptor Bertel Thorvaldsen’s works displayed in the Church of Our Lady in Copenhagen Denmark. Special permission was received from the Lutheran Church to digitally scan and replicate the original figures. Carrara marble for the statues was taken from the same quarry in Tuscany as the marble for Michelangelo’s David.



The statues are complimented by an original mural by Utah artist Joseph Brickey of olive trees in an Italian countryside that serves as a backdrop. Full-length windows offer a dramatic view of the statues in the rotunda setting and a similar view of the temple from inside the visitors' center.

Rome was the center of the western world when ancient Apostles Peter and Paul walked and taught here almost two thousand years ago. They testified of the Savior, Jesus Christ, and helped build His Church. Modern day Apostles also walked and taught in Rome as they prepared for the dedication of the Rome Italy Temple.



Apostles of Jesus Christ, no matter when they live or where they go, invite everyone to come to the Savior and find peace in Him.

Elder David A. Bednar and Elder Ronald A. Rasband, members of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, visited the prison where it is believed the ancient Apostles Peter and Paul were held captive after publicly sharing their witness of Jesus Christ.

Outside those prison doors, these modern-day Apostles publicly shared their witness of Jesus Christ with hundreds of thousands of people through the use of social media.

Elder Rasband said that he was honored to “witness to the world the same witness that Peter and Paul had of the Lord Jesus Christ.” Elder Bednar testified, “He is the light and life of the world, and the only source of enduring, true joy.”



The magnificent stained-glass mural in the visitors' center by Utah artist Tom Holdman includes over 120 references to the Savior's life and teachings.

Elder Rasband spoke of the Savior's parables depicted in the mural and invited his Facebook followers to see how many parables they could identify . . . and then seek for more learning and understanding of Christ's teachings in the New Testament. "We are always blessed when we turn to the words of Jesus Christ." He shared his special experience of seeing the mural in person. ". . . if I had missionaries in the Rome Italy Mission, I would surely want them to bring people who are interested in the Gospel to this visitors' center, to show them the beautiful cut-out of the temple, and this diorama . . . and bear testimony in front of the *Christus* statue.

While in Rome, Elder Bednar and Elder Rasband had the opportunity to take many friends of other faiths into the temple to explain what members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints believe.

"One might assume that sharing the same message day after day could become tedious," Elder Bednar said. "I can assure you, nothing could be further from the truth because we are talking about items of eternal significance. In fact, there is great power in repetition."

Elder Gary E. Stevenson, also a modern-day Apostle, added his witness of the Savior and the joy of eternal families in the temple visitors center.

The Villa in the Visitors' Center represents the importance of the home and family in the gospel of Jesus Christ. "The center is the perfect complement to the temple, said President Cordani. It is powerful. It reminds you for whom the temple is built. This is like a beacon, he added . . . It feels like we are entering a new phase in this country. This light will not just shine on this square. It will spread throughout the country."

"Already the Church is growing in Italy", said Elder DeFeo, which he called a miracle. "Now the members of the Church here will be happy and proud to take their relatives and friends to this compound and show them the temple and visitors' center."



Relatively few Visitors' Centers have a model of their temple. This display gives visitors an opportunity to see the inside of the temple and learn how temples bless our lives.



The Chapel and the Temple Patron Housing complete the piazza.



Open House

After years of construction, Italy's first Latter-day Saint temple opened for a free public open house, beginning on Monday, January 28, 2019, and continuing every day except Sundays to Saturday, February 16, 2019.

"Now we will be even more visible, and we will have a stronger presence here," said Elder Massimo De Feo, a native Italian and General Authority Seventy who serves in the Europe Area Presidency "I see a bright future for the Church."

"That is a feeling all Church members can share", said Elder Ronald A. Rasband of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. "Now they have this exquisite, beautiful, magnificent temple, that will be a destination temple, not just for the Italian Saints but European Saints," he said. "Saints throughout the world are going to come to the Rome Italy Temple."

Church leaders met with the media to take them on tours of the temple on Monday, January 14, 2019. Tours for leaders of government, business, legal, interfaith and humanitarian organizations were held at the temple from Tuesday, January 15, through Tuesday, January 22, before the public open house began on Monday, January 28, and continuing through February 16th.

The first Italians to tour the new temple stopped just inside the front door and began to point and smile at something familiar, even though none had ever been inside a temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints before.

There in a rug in the foyer — and soon they found it throughout the temple in stained glass, in staircase railings and engraved in the floors and walls — was a unique oval motif created by Michelangelo nearly 500 years ago and familiar to most Romans today, one with added symbolism in a Latter-day Saint temple.

"This is from city hall, right?" local Italian politicians and journalists asked excitedly.

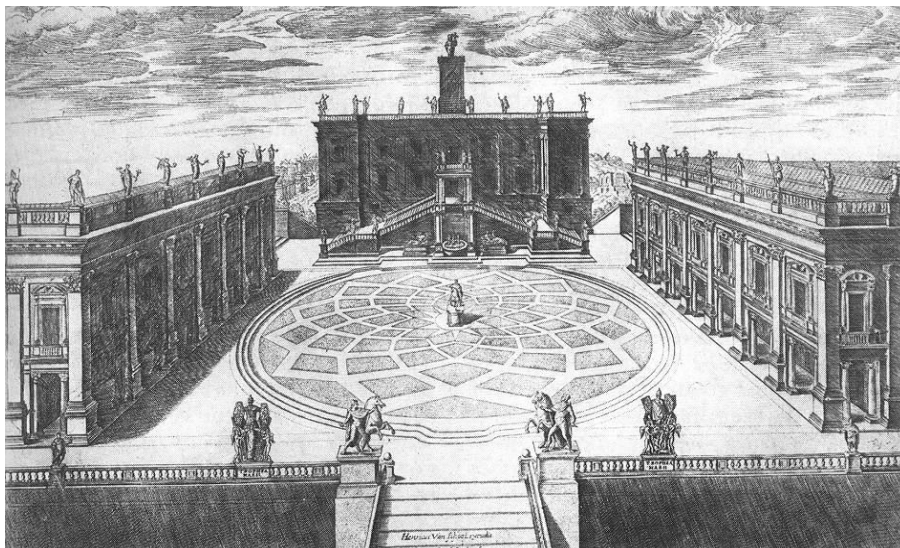
"It's very Roman," said Elder De Feo. "They were smiling because they recognized something that they could connect to immediately."

The design has meaning beyond the architect's desire to tie the temple to Rome's history, art and architecture.

"I think it's a very nice gesture and gift to the city of Rome to place that symbol in the temple," said Marcello De Vito, president of the Rome City Council. "We are honored to have them bring that symbol into the temple. During the tour of the temple, we learned the oval is a symbol of eternity in your religion. The temple combines this symbol of your religion with a symbol of the city of Rome."

In the 16th century, Pope Paul III commissioned Michelangelo to redesign Capitoline Hill, one of the Seven Hills of Rome. Anciently, the hill was dedicated to the god Saturn. Later, it was the site of the temple of Jupiter. By the 1530s, it was in disrepair. The pope hoped the artist could recapture Rome's glory.

Michelangelo designed three new buildings, including one used today as Rome's city hall. The other two now are famous as the Capitoline museums. The sculptor's plans called for a plaza in the center of the buildings decorated with a paved oval surrounding an interlaced 12-point star. All who visit the hill remember the unique Piazza del Campidoglio.



Michelangelo's systematizing of the Campidoglio, engraved by Étienne Dupérac, 1568.

Giovanni Claudio, president of the Third Roman Municipality, said the church's decision to reimagine the Roman symbol for the temple was itself a symbol of its effort to connect the temple to the community.

"Living together is a characteristic of our city, and that is confirmed by the presence of this building in the city. We are very glad to welcome this cultural center in Rome. Our city is well known for its Renaissance and baroque styles. This is a very nice modern architecture which will add to our city," said President Marcello De Vito of the Rome City Council.

"As a citizen of this municipal entity I'm really proud I'm able to participate in this inauguration. I bring the mayor's greetings for this great building that makes our city more beautiful. It's a happy day for all those who believe that different people and religions can live together, who believe being able to communicate is the best way to keep peace among different religions, races and peoples," said President Giovanni Caudo, president of the Rome Municipality.

"When they saw [the oval] in the temple they immediately connected to it, because as Romans they immediately felt this is something that we know," Elder De Feo said. "That was a door opening to them as I explained the significance and the meaning. When they saw that we give value to and honor local authors, and we portrayed Michelangelo, for example, who is the greatest sculptor, they were very proud, and they got excited."



Dedication



The Rome Italy Temple was dedicated on Sunday, March 10, 2019 by President Russell M Nelson. Every member of the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles participated in the dedication.

“The sacred ordinances performed in this holy temple will unite families for eternity. God loves all His children equally and has provided a way for them to be linked in love, generation to generation. We are thrilled to be able to dedicate a temple in this city replete with historical importance throughout the ages.” President Russell M Nelson

Dedicatory Prayer

O God, our Eternal Father, Thou great Elohim, we come before Thee on this sacred occasion in the name of Thy Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to dedicate the Rome Italy Temple.

We thank Thee for Thy Son, Jesus Christ, who assures us of immortality and invites us to repent and have enduring joy here and hereafter. We are grateful to Thee for providing us with Thy great plan of happiness that enables us to return to live with Thee.

We thank Thee for the Restoration of the fulness of the gospel of Jesus Christ through Thy Prophet Joseph Smith. We are thankful that keys of the priesthood have been restored that enable sacred ordinances to be performed on earth for the benefit of Thy children on both sides of the veil.

In this ancient and great city that has stood since biblical times—in this historic nation of Italy—we acknowledge the ministry of two of Thy Son’s early Apostles, Peter and Paul, who once blessed this land with their labors. May the influence of their abiding testimony of Jesus Christ continue to be felt among the vital values of this great country. We express gratitude for the feelings of faith in and service to Jesus Christ that have long established this area as a bastion of Christianity.

We thank Thee that Thou hast called Apostles in these latter days to bear special witness of the name of Jesus Christ throughout the world. We pray for Thy blessings to be upon them as they teach and testify of Thy Son and His gospel. We are grateful that all living Apostles are participating in these dedicatory services.

We are thankful for the early missionaries of this dispensation who dedicated this part of Thy vineyard for the preaching of the restored gospel. We give thanks for those who have labored here ever since. May Thy work continue to flourish, and righteousness prevail in this important part of the world.

We are grateful for the support of church, government, and civic leaders who have offered much-appreciated goodwill in our desire to build this holy temple here in Rome. Wilt Thou bless them for their kindness and fortify their continued desire to preserve religious liberty for all.

Bless Thy children that they may be imbued with an earnest desire to learn of Thee. Help them to be receptive to the promptings of Thy Holy Spirit, seek the path of righteousness, and choose to be blessed by obedience to Thy commandments.

We pray for members of Thy Church who reside within this temple district. Please bless them and their families with faith in and devotion to Thy Son. Bless the youth that they may be valiant in their testimonies of Jesus Christ.

Bless the parents that they will be exemplary and committed covenant keepers who strive to follow Thy Son and become more like Him.

May all Latter-day Saints in this area—young and old—be drawn frequently to this holy temple. Bless them to feel Thy Spirit as they participate in the great redemptive work performed here. May they be infused with the spirit of the gathering of Israel. May they receive and perform sacred ordinances here, with a commitment to stay on the covenant path that leads to eternal life with their families.

Now, Beloved Father, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, and by the authority of the holy Melchizedek Priesthood, we hereby dedicate unto Thee and unto Thy Son the Rome Italy Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We dedicate this beautiful temple—from its footings to its spires—to be a house of the Lord, raised up unto Thy Son for His holy redemptive work. We dedicate each room for Thy sacred use. We dedicate the furnishings, fixtures, and supporting systems for their specific purposes.

We dedicate each of the ancillary buildings. We dedicate the adjacent landscaping and grounds, that they may be attractive and kept safe from harm. As we dedicate the beautiful visitors center, we are mindful that Jesus Christ and His early Apostles are magnificently memorialized there in marble sculpture. May Thy blessings be upon all who visit the center, that they may desire to come closer to Thy Son, learn more of His life and teachings, and be numbered among the Lord's devoted disciples.

Bless all workers who have helped to prepare these beautiful buildings and grounds. Wilt Thou protect these facilities from natural disasters and any human acts of evil intent Wilt Thou bless the temple presidency and matrons who will render consecrated service. Protect them and their families as they fulfill their callings. Bless all who serve here, that their efforts may be extended with love and kindness as they assist patrons who come to receive exalting ordinances for themselves and for their ancestors. Bless all those who come here seeking to know Thy will in their lives, that they may receive needed inspiration and revelation.

Beloved Father, we honor Thy holy name and that of Thy Son. We pray that Thy great plan of salvation will continue to roll forward throughout the earth in accordance with Thy desire to bless Thy children everywhere. On this sacred day, we express unto Thee our love and gratitude for the privilege of dedicating this, the Rome Italy Temple, and do so in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.



Appendix

Location: Via di Settebagni, 376, Rome Italy

Plans Announced: October 4, 2008

Groundbreaking: October 23, 2010

Construction Start: June 20, 2011

Dedication: March 10-12, 2019

Property Size: 14.5 acres

Building Size: 41,010 square feet

Building Height: 59 feet 9 inches

West Spire: 138 feet 6 inches

East Spire: 156 feet 3 inches including the statue of the ancient prophet Moroni

Moroni statue placed: March 25, 2017

Architect: VCBO Architects

Contractor: Consorzio Integra Societa Cooperativa

President and Sister Pickerd share experiences during the Open House and Dedication.

Rome Italy Temple, Open House, January - February 2019:

Sister Missionary Training January 11



In January 2019, final preparations began for the Rome Italy Temple Open House and Dedication. On Thursday January 10, 2019, the 28 sister missionaries serving in Sicily, Sardegna and Puglia (Napoli) travelled to the villa in preparation for training for the open house.

On January 11, all of the sisters in the Italy Rome Mission came to Rome for training with Mark Robbins from the Temple Department at church headquarters in Salt Lake City and Elder Alessandro Dini Ciacci, of the Seventy who is the Area Seventy assigned for Italy. The sisters were privileged to receive instruction from them and President and Sister Pickerd. This may have been the first or one of the first formal meetings held in the chapel. We then toured the visitors' center and had lunch in the patron's center.

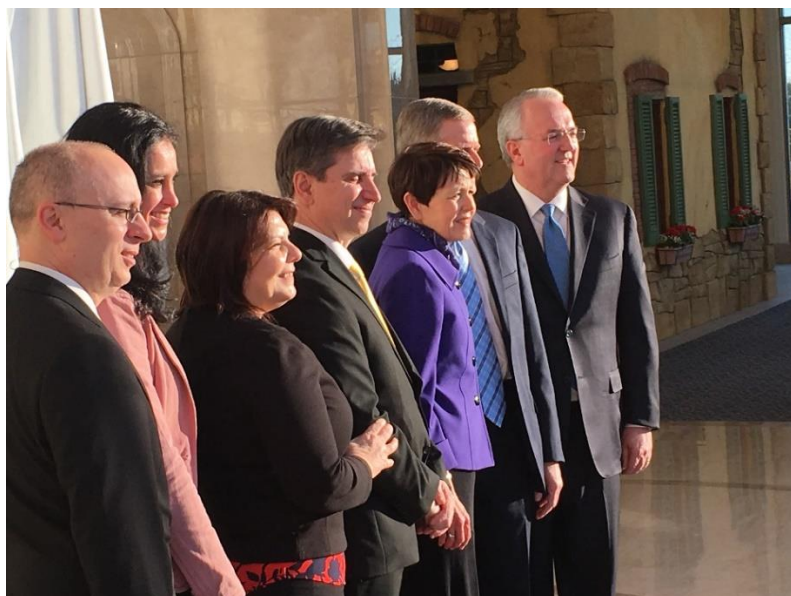




Tom and Gayle Holdman, of Holdman Studios, also came to explain their work “Come Follow Me”, the stained-glass piece in the entry to the Visitors’ Center. The sister missionaries each practiced the Open House Introductory script they had learned and how to use the audio-visual equipment. The sisters returned to their proselyting areas Friday afternoon.

Contractor Tour January 12

The contractor tour was held Saturday, January 12 and the sisters had an opportunity to present live. All of the contractors who worked on some portion of the Temple site construction project were invited along with their family and friends. 1,128 attended, and we were stretched to capacity. They seemingly all arrived within a two hour, 10 a.m. to noon window, in order to be home in time for pranzo! We managed the crush of people as well as we could. We were grateful for this preparatory day for the Open House when the attendees would be on the temple site for the very first time and were not as familiar with the Temple site as the contractors.



Media Day was January 14 and the sister missionaries did not attend as the media was hosted by the General Authorities and members of the Church’s Public Affairs Department. There was very favorable publicity by the major International and Italian new agencies in print, TV and online. A formal press conference was held, Elders David A. Bednar, Ronald A. Rasband and Elder Massimo De Feo answered questions from the media. We were grateful that the stories were accurate and positive.

Special Guests January 15

The sister missionaries served during the special guests open house from January 15 to January 26. They were privileged to interact with a number of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles including Elder David A. Bednar, Elder Ronald A. Rasband, Elder Gary E. Stevenson and their wives. In addition, a number of General Authorities participated including, Elder Paul V. Johnson, Elder Gary B. Sabin and Elder Massimo De Feo all from the Europe Area Presidency, Elder Larry Y. Wilson and their wives and Elder Jack Gerard.



General Public Open House January 28-February 23

The open house for the general public was held from January 28 to February 16. An additional Saturday of the open house was held February 23. Every sister in the mission was allowed to serve. Each week, a different group of sister missionaries would leave their proselyting area, come to Rome and stay at the Villa.

Monday through Saturday, we would travel with the mission vans each day for the temple grounds. We would leave the Villa at about 8:15 in the morning and return about 9:15 at night. Sister Kathleen and Elder Kevin Feil, a Missionary Leadership Service couple serving in Perugia, prepared meals to feed the sister missionaries as they stayed at the Villa. Elder and Sister Feil stayed at the Villa and were a blessing for all.

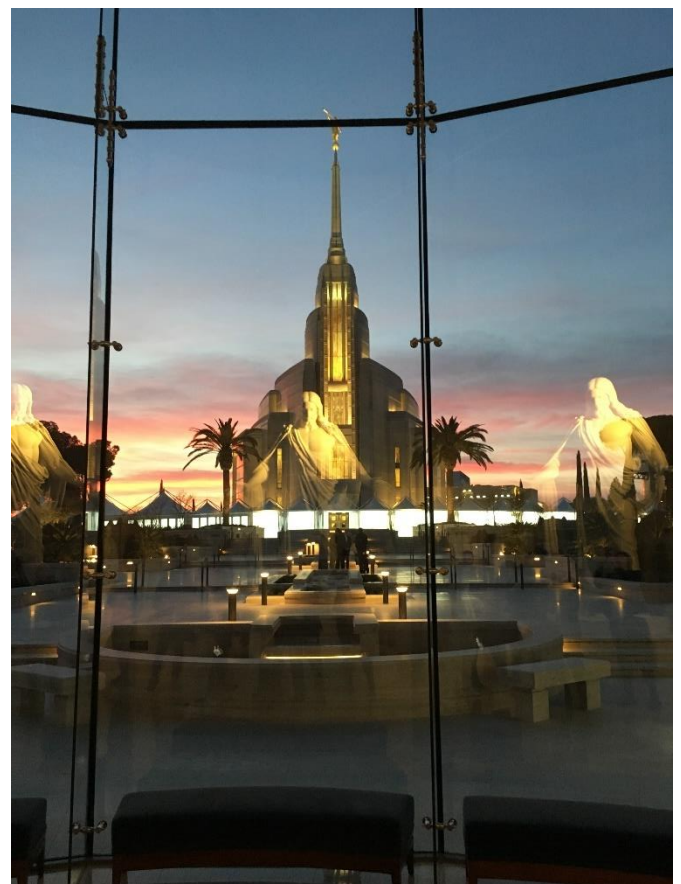


Throughout the open house, the sister missionaries were assigned to work in the Chapel, to welcome the visitors and show them a brief video, or to work in the Visitors' Center, where they could answer questions. Due to the travel costs and time, the sisters in Rome were able to serve more often.

The Public Open House concluded Saturday, the 23rd of February. That day, we were blessed with over 1,800 guests entering the temple, 95% of which were Italian, the majority of which were nonmembers! At the conclusion of the evening, Elder DiniCiacci entered the Visitors' Center and saw it still packed with Italians everywhere.

He became emotional as the Local Chairman of the Temple Committee seeing the fulfillment of the prayers, hope and hard work of the Committee.

For the period of the Open House which began on January 13 with the construction crew, there were over 50,000 people who toured the temple, leaving over 3,000 comments.



President and Sister Pickerd with President and Sister Craig Cardon, who served as President of the Rome Mission 1983-86.



President Pickerd with President Gillespie (1980-83)



Open House Experiences

All who entered the temple were impressed and pleased to have it part of their country on Italian soil. In general, the open house visitors seemed to be of a higher economic, education and social status than the missionaries would normally encounter through street, bus or park contacting. The neighbors were particularly impressed.

During the open house, many wonderful experiences occurred.

- One 17-year-old sister, Nicole Sorrentino, who had been listening to the discussions in Castellammare, decided on the Temple Piazza that she would be baptized.
- One man went into the family history center and discovered in a few minutes that his family tree extended back into the 1600's.
- The Malta Branch came and was led through the temple by President Pickerd. He asked Joe and Joyce Vella, recent Maltese converts, to stand in front of the mirrors in the sealing room and talked to them about their future eternal marriage. The Vellas were sealed in the Rome Italy Temple in January 2020.
- A young man admitted he was an inactive living in Italy from South America. Sister Pickerd connected him with a senior couple, Elder and Sister Whiting, and he attended church the following Sunday.
- A lot of people came out of the celestial room emotionally touched with tears in their eyes. They felt something but were not sure what they had felt.
- One sweet woman came 3 times. She felt the spirit each time in the celestial room. She said she was too old to change.
- A part member family met President Pickerd on the Temple Piazza and were taught by the sister missionaries in the Milano mission.



The Open House truly was a miraculous experience as we greeted approximately 55,000 guests. The temple represents a tangible sign that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been established in Italy as an ongoing part of the restoration. The temple is a great blessing for all within the temple district as it will provide the sacred ordinances and covenants necessary to find true joy in a confused world.

Zone Conferences during the Open House

During the open house, we held three, shortened and combined zone conferences at the temple on Sunday night. Each zone travelled to Rome after attending Sunday meetings in their assigned proselyting areas.

January 27 - Puglia, Palermo, Catania Sorelle

February 3 - Napoli, Sardegna, Roma West

February 10 - Rome East, Le Montagne, Catania Anziani

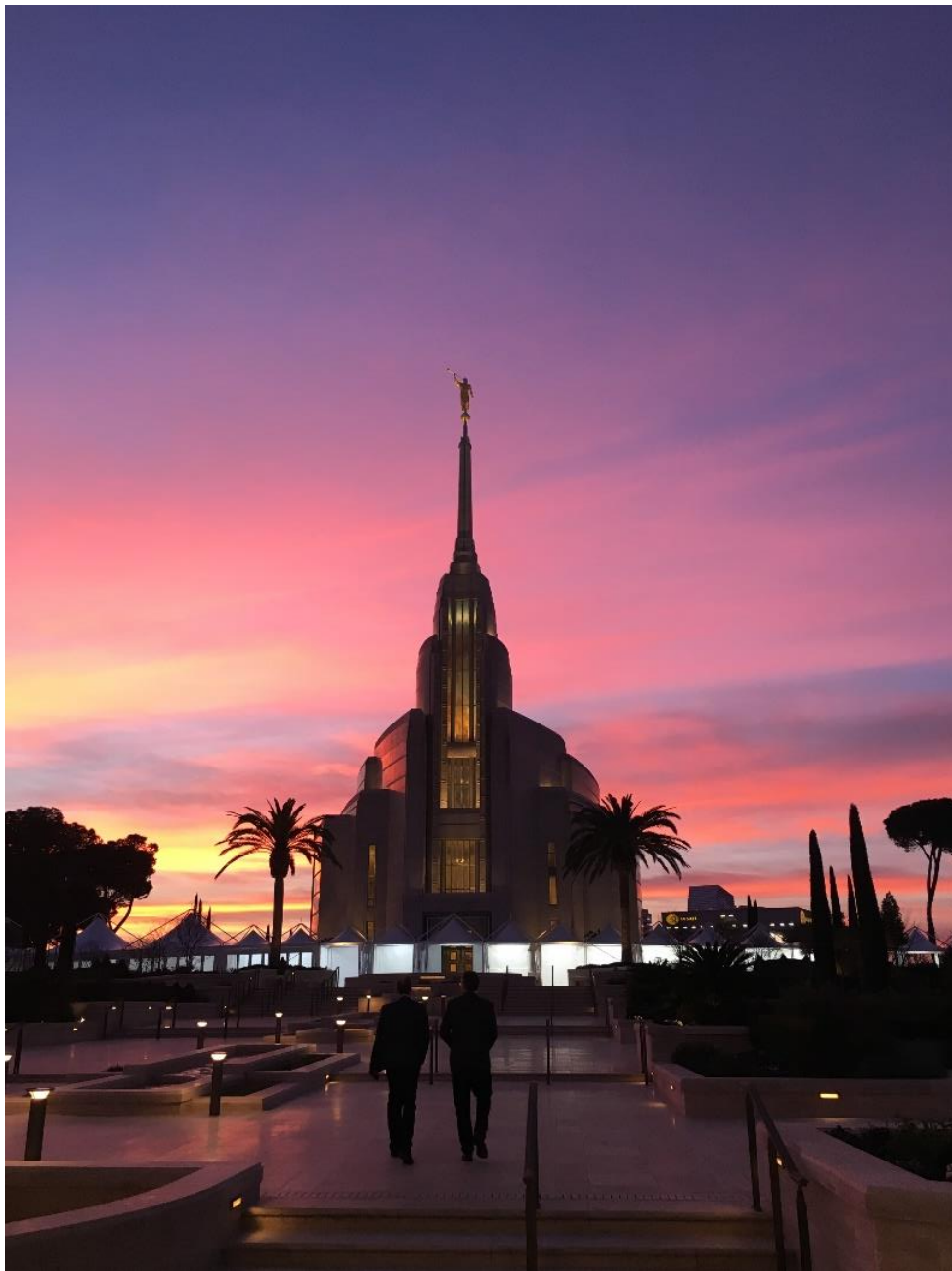
Sister Pickerd talked about the importance of the temple and staying true to our covenants for our entire lives. President Pickerd talked about Doctrine and Covenants 109 and gave the missionaries some quiet time to reflect on the temple grounds. The assistants talked about the four fundamentals of missionary work using cranes as their example. Jesus Christ was their most important fundamental. Zone leaders and sister training leaders were given some time to talk to their zones. We took photos of each zone in front of the Christus in the Visitors' Center.



Early the following Monday morning, the missionaries toured the temple itself. Sister Pickerd was the guide for the sisters and President Pickerd guided the Elders. They both spent considerable time in the sealing and celestial rooms inviting the missionaries to commit to a temple marriage.

In each combined conference, we were blessed with the Spirit through wonderful music, testimonies, instruction and personal reflection and meditation on the temple grounds. On January 27, Elder Jacob Clark, a gifted musician and student at The Hartt School, played the organ. Especially memorable and spirit filled was our singing of the Inno di Roma, the Italy Rome Mission Hymn.

The goal for the combined zone conferences was for each missionary to take the Spirit of the Rome Italy Temple with them throughout the remainder of their missions and their lives.





President and Sister Pickerd

The Rome Italy Temple represents many things to many people.

For members of the Temple District, the Rome Italy Temple is a tangible blessing for them and their ancestors who will have the saving ordinances performed and for their descendants who will be able to have those same sacred ordinances performed. Accompanying the Mosta, Malta branch, the Napoli Branch (with a couple I had taught 42 years earlier as a young missionary), nonmembers who we had invited were wonderful memories. The Rome Italy Temple completes another stage in the ongoing restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We were all humbled to be present for the first temple built on Biblical lands near where Peter and Paul labored.

For those who are not members of the Church, the Rome Italy Temple is another symbol of religious freedom as

Rome has been open to large Jewish synagogue and Islam Mosque. The beauty of the temple is appealing to the Italians who love architecture and art. The Italians were pleased to welcome the temple among them and marveled that it could be built so quickly and with such attention to detail.

For those of us who served as missionaries in the footsteps of Peter and Paul, the temple represents the hopes, prayers and dreams of literally tens of thousands of missionaries. Each of us left our homes and loved ones with a desire to share the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Each of us remain with a love for the Italian people and the friendships and relationships formed as we served the children of God within The Great Italy Rome Mission.

We were honored to join with President Russel M. Nelson in the Celestial room for the first dedicatory session. In subsequent sessions, we were blessed to have many of our missionaries attend dedicatory sessions and join with them. While we were not present, we will always treasure the memory captured in the photo of seeing the entire First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles in front of the Christus Statue and the ancient apostles.

For Sister Pickerd and me, several highlights come to mind. On three successive Mondays at 8:00 a.m. prior to the Dedication, Sister Pickerd led the Sisters and I led the Elders through the temple itself. We both spent considerable time in the sealing and celestial rooms inviting the missionaries to commit to a temple marriage. Our hope and goal for the missionaries was for each missionary to take the Spirit of the Rome Italy Temple with them throughout the remainder of their missions and their lives. As we have returned home, we have been pleased with the many missionaries who have made sacrifices to be sealed in the House of the Lord notwithstanding a global pandemic. We continue to pray for all of those who served with us and will until our final breath.

I will always treasure the opportunity to serve our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, as a missionary.

President Michael D. Pickerd Italy Rome Mission June 2016-June 2019, June 1977-June 1979

Sister Marian Pickerd

My great-great-great grandparents, Phillipe and Marthe Cardon, joined the church in Piemonte in the 1850's. My great-great grandparents, Jean Paul and Susannah Cardon, also joined the church in Italy, and Jean Paul returned in 1900 for a mission to see if work could be started again in Piemonte. On the day the statue of Moroni was lifted up to the spires of the temple in March 2017, I was given the privilege of holding the 1850 copy of the Book of Mormon (now on display in the Visitors' Center) which was donated by the family of Thomas Cardon, the youngest son of Phillipe. As I held that book, I had a strong impression that Phillipe and other early members of the church in Italy were rejoicing over this beautiful temple. I think all of those involved in the work in Italy who are on the other side of the veil rejoiced with the coming of this beautiful temple. I felt so privileged to be there.

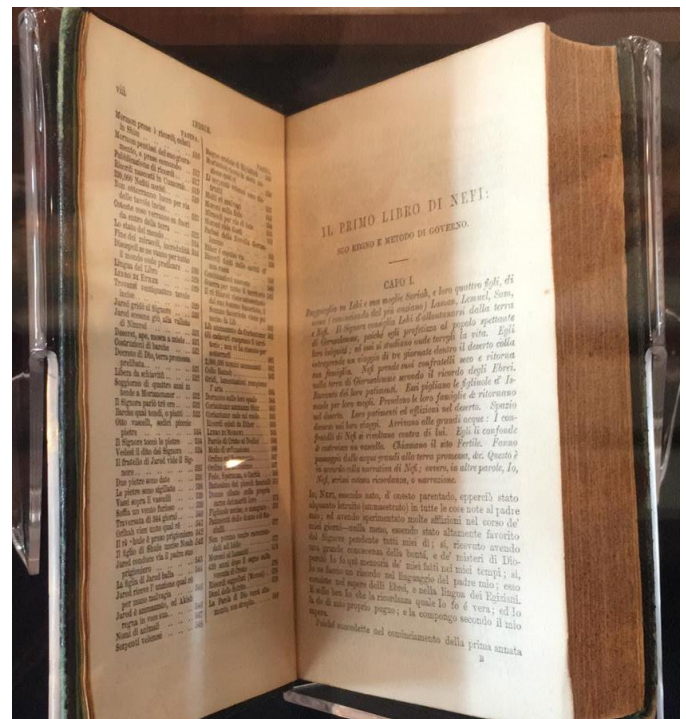
The missionaries in the Italy Rome Mission were all blessed to come tour the temple in the mornings before the public tours started. It was humbling to watch these dedicated missionaries rejoice over the Rome Temple. All of them could hardly believe they had been blessed to be in Italy at this sacred time.

During the open house, I was amazed at how many former missionaries came to see the temple. I served as a sister missionary in the Italy Rome Mission in 1977-1979. It was exciting to see former missionaries and members flock to the temple to rejoice in this beautiful gift to the Saints in Italy. It was such a blessing to see many members who had joined in the early years of the church in Italy still being faithful and coming to the temple.

Before the open house, the temple gave the missionaries a chance to talk to the people of Rome about our church. It was if the temple made our church more respected by the Italians. During the open house, the sister missionaries and I were touched by the fact that we were having Italians coming to us and asking us about our church. The conversations were friendly, and we were given the opportunity to invite hundreds of people to hear our message. We rejoiced over each one who talked to us and those who gave us their contact information.

I have had a strong testimony since 1977 that there would be a temple in Rome. When I got cancer, I was not sure I would be blessed to be there at the open house and dedication. I am so grateful that the Lord gave me this blessing. I rejoice that this temple was built.

Marian Pickerd

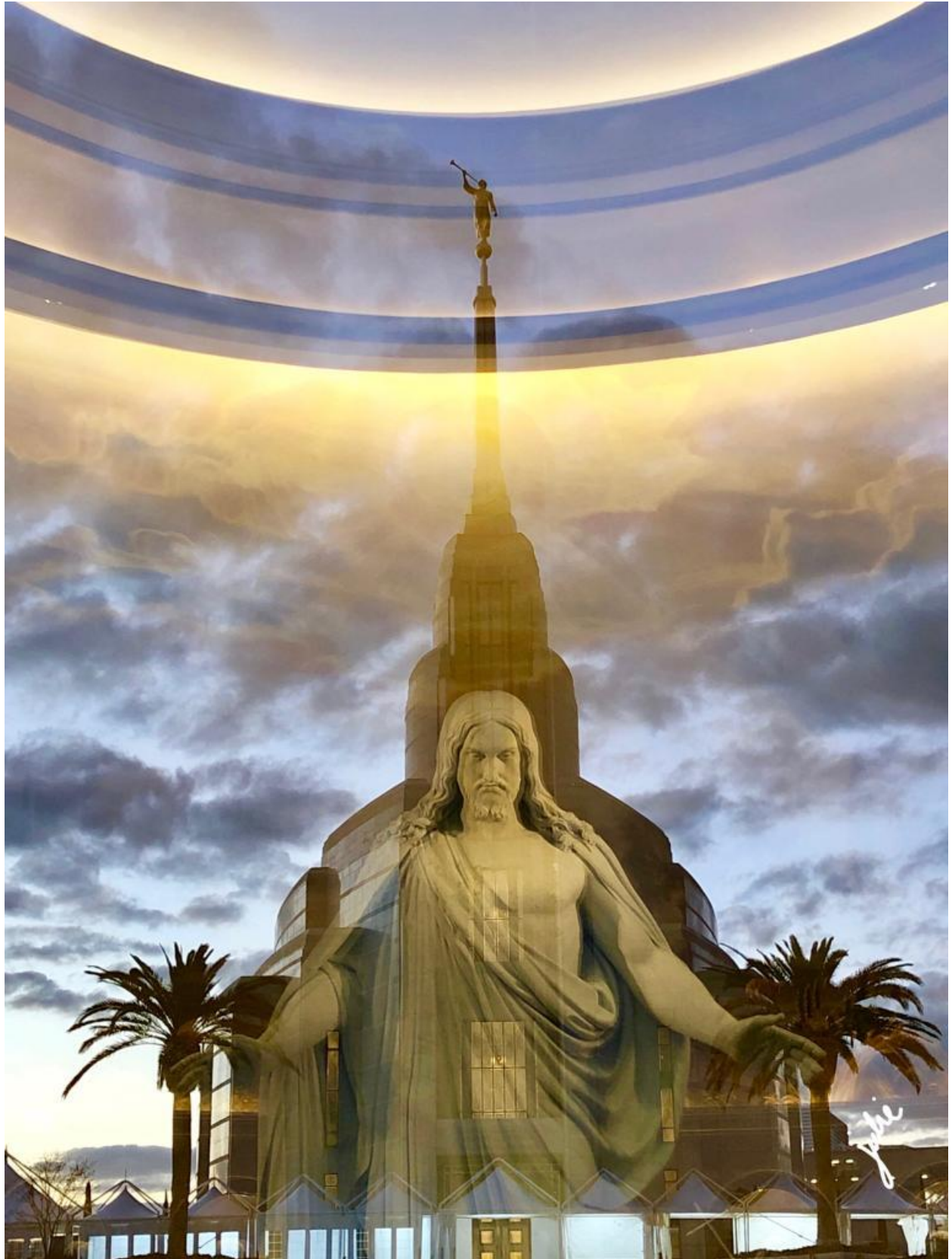


Images of Sacred moments











Président and Sister Donald E. Smith

Since we received our calling to serve in the great Italy Rome Mission, we have recognized the marvelous blessing it is to have the beautiful Rome Temple in our mission. A close second is the incredible Visitors' Center. Contained within are stunning works of art that invite us all to come unto our Savior, Jesus Christ. Although these visual representations of the Savior, his apostles, his life and ministry are breathtaking, truly the most powerful witness comes through missionaries who teach and testify standing beside these inspired works. Even with all the remarkable historic sites to see in Italy, nothing compares to being in this sacred place where we feel the Lord's love and His peace in abundance.

It has been a remarkable time to serve. We have witnessed the Center in full operation, with a busy tour schedule, a state of the art Family History center, and many musical and cultural events. That all changed with the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic. We still remember the last zone conference we had at the Visitors' Center after it closed to the public. It was a tender moment seeing the missionaries silently look at the temple from the Christus room. In that moment, the Spirit communicated to us all that it would be closed for many days to come.



The Lord's ways are not our ways. As we have discovered through restrictions, there are wonderful new ways to share this incredible blessing with all of Italy and the world. The Visitors' Center missionaries have truly been pioneers in this great work of gathering! The possibility of on-line tours brought many into the center virtually who would never have the opportunity to make the journey. All missionaries throughout Italy are now blessed to have this beautiful resource available to help them teach and testify. What a joy it was to be on a virtual tour of the visitor center with 500 connections, an online crowd of possibly a thousand missionaries, members and friends. The sisters gave a beautiful, spirit-filled tour, in ways more detailed than if we had actually been there in person. Certainly, the Lord is hastening His work in His time.



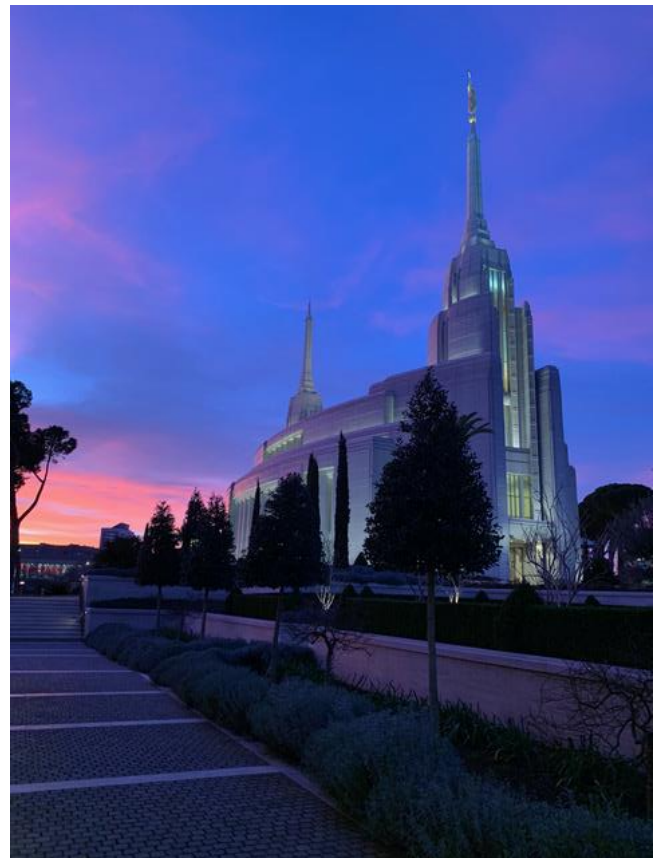
We love all the missionaries who have served in the Visitors' Center, the sisters and the senior couples. Your dedicated service and fervent testimonies have blessed so many here in Italy and abroad. We are grateful to you for your faith, your love and your service to the Lord. Finally, an expression of deepest gratitude and love to Anziano and Sorella Euvrard. You have done a marvelous work and leave some big shoes to fill. We are grateful to you for sharing your inspired leadership, your tireless efforts, your incredible talents, and testimonies with everyone. Most of all, thank you for your love and kindness. We will miss you!





Happy moments!







Anziano & Sorella Euvrard

A two-year Mission, that looks like the mission call of an Elder but, besides the length of it, the experience was totally different...

And what an experience! An extraordinary environment: historical, unique, and above all, consecrated by a prophet of the Lord! And then, there were the people:

- All kinds of visitors, from all countries, personalities, old friends, friends of friends, the friends of friends of friends...Nice ones, sometimes less nice, even some strange one (like this Chinese man from Switzerland whom I met and who saw spies everywhere! It provides stories to tell!).
- The members of the Church always kind and attentive. Some with whom we have created eternal ties through music.
- The Pickerds, the Smiths, the Briscoes, the Hydes, the Lambs, the Reeses, wonderful fellow servants, dedicated, hardworking, all full of humor.
- And then, our more than 55 Sister missionaries, my daughters and granddaughters of heart! They all have been



funny, devoted, talented and courageous. My only regret is that I could not give them a hug before our departure. I hope to see them again in the years to come. I pray they will all have a beautiful life during and after the mission.

Finally, the joy to serve with my eternal companion. This mission will have confirmed that live and work together forever will not be a problem!

Marie-Françoise Euvrard

Elder Carlos A. Godoy, of the Presidency of the Seventy, has recently given a talk entitled “I Believe in Angels” (General Conference, October 2020). I can only concur with him on this and so much more since we have had the privilege to serve in the Rome Temple Visitors’ Center. We have been surrounded by angels, we have heard the voices of angels, singing but also teaching, testifying, laughing. Our dear Sisters, more than fifty of them, have filled the air with their joyful proclamation: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14). And we have also seen a multitude of other angels, our dear Elders, who have contributed also to the spirit of

this special place. We are grateful to them as well.

This mission call was unexpected. It was a privilege we would have never thought of. Yet, it was a blessing to avoid seeing retirement as a time for recreation only! We had a lot of fun and we learned a lot, but mainly through service. The Lord, in His infinite wisdom, kept us on the right path! He gave us inspired leaders and caring fellow companions of service. We were never alone. And all of you Sisters were always game, even when we had ideas and projects that could have seemed unexpected! Thank you for your support!

As it often happens in life, we will go through this new door of “after mission life”. It is not the first time, but this time will be unique. We are confident that some new doors will open, probably different from what we could expect! Heavenly Father is always full of surprises! We will never forget you. Today, the Sisters and couples at the Visitors’ Center, accompanied at the piano by Sister Smith, sung: “God Be with You till we Meet Again”! We hope it will be soon! Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2021 New Year! With love,

Anziano Christian Euvrard

Wonderful Senior Missionary Couples!

Elder and Sister Hyde



Here is an entry from my personal journal that goes with the photo of role playing. After my mission I read my journal and then wrote a 5-page summary of my mission to update my personal history. This is a little long but there are 3 specific beautiful experiences I had in doing role plays with the sisters. Perhaps you may want to share something I wrote. The sisters will remember and relate to those special moments roleplaying.

“When a new sister arrived, within their first 2 weeks I did an informal orientation with them. I used my notes from our trainers from Salt Lake that we received the week the VC opened to visitors. When the VC was newly opened, and all the sisters were new, we role played daily. Any time things were slow, I did role plays. Whenever there were transfers and we had a sister struggling with language or teaching confidence I would focus on that companion pair. When the new Mission President, President Smith arrived he challenged us to a higher level of personal engagement with our visitors (encouraged us to not talk about “statues” but to talk about principles and what they mean to us personally). I began a higher level of role playing, identifying with the sisters the principles that we can teach at each display and what our personal experiences are with each of the principles. Wow did I have some beautiful experiences. I started recording in my notebook principles that the sisters taught in roleplays and compiled them for everyone’s use. I had so many spiritual moments where those sisters really got in touch with their personal experiences with applying the principles of the gospel. We shed many tears doing role plays. Notable was Sister Madsen role playing teaching the principle of repentance as she shared struggles early in her mission and how she, through the help of a previous companion, was now “totally in”. One day I did a role play with Sisters Waddell and Deschine at the temple model. Sister Deschine had struggled with language at the beginning of her mission. She eloquently expressed such a beautiful personal appreciation for the temple we were all three in tears. On another occasion I had a cool experience with Sorella Brooks doing a role play at the same temple model. She and Sister Williams beautifully explained everything in the temple but failed to express their feelings about the temple. I made them

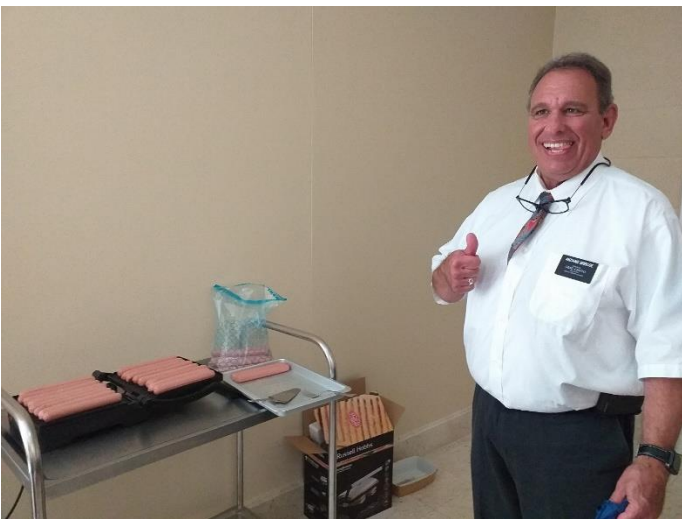
aware of how powerful sharing our experiences can be, and I shared a personal experience and asked her to share her feelings. She really connected with some strong feelings, she teared up as she told me of her love for the temple and she went away convinced that she needed to share these experiences with visitors as they seek to invite the spirit. A day later she wrote us a very sweet note and left it in our locker”.



Elder and Sister Briscoe



It was a wonderful experience for us to serve in the Rome Temple Visitor Center; it was an answer to our prayers and our hearts' desire. We are so thankful that we followed the promptings of the Spirit to retire earlier than we planned and served our mission when we did. We had so many miraculous spiritual experiences while working in the Visitor Center and equally as many sweet memories of serving our sweet Sorelle and getting to know each of them a little better. We will always consider each of them and the Anziani that we got to know as our grandchildren!



Some of our favorite memories were celebrating American Holidays with our Sorelle. July 4th and 5th, 2019, were incredibly memorable. We were able to find American style food to serve for our celebrations, Hot dogs, homemade pickle relish, and homemade J-Dawg sauce. We had to get creative cooking the hot dogs; we bought a little Panini grill to use. On July 4th Giuseppe Armenise caught us cooking in the Visitor Center basement stairwell; he told us to cook in the breakroom the next time we cooked. So on July 5th, we cooked in the breakroom, and Alberto Malara caught us and told us we couldn't cook on a grill in the Visitor Center, thankfully we weren't discovered until we were finished cooking!



The first photo is of one of our 4th of July celebrations at the Visitor Center; we celebrated on July 4th and July 5th so that all of the Sorelle could participate as well as a few Anziani that were in the area.

The 2nd and third photos are of Rich and his encounter with the glass lobby doors. It was a quiet morning in the Visitor Center, Cleaning Staff had just cleaned the Visitor Center, and the large glass doors in the breezeway were



sparkling. We were all studying scriptures before visitors started arriving. Rich was walking the floor while reading his scriptures, suddenly we all heard a thud, Rich had walked right into one of these massive doors! He started bleeding, albeit just a little bit, but it left a bruise. We all had a good laugh on his behalf; he was laughing too. It is beautiful to have so many sweet memories of our days of serving in the Visitor Center.





Elder and Sister Reese

The Rome Temple Visitor's Center was like our home away from home. We feel so blessed to have lived so close, and to have had the privilege to be on the Temple piazza almost every day. We enjoyed going to work in the Family History Center on the 1st floor, and every day was an adventure and a joy. Hosting youth and young adult groups from Italy, Albania, and Greece was a busy and challenging event. Working with the wonderful

volunteer family history consultants was delightful. Helping the missionaries learn how to do family history was so much fun. But most of all, we loved the opportunity, almost every day, of sitting next to one person to help them discover their own family history or prepare ordinance cards to do work in the temple.



The Visitor's Center on the ground floor was the ultimate gathering place before and after our shift. We loved associating with the visitors, the young missionaries, the Euvrards and the senior missionary couples. The Visitor's Center, with its quiet, peaceful environment was always a refuge for us where we could sit and quietly contemplate the vetrata or the Christus and twelve apostle statues, enjoy the wonderful musical talents of so many missionaries, or just sit and visit with friends. We remember very well the day we went to the dark and empty Visitor's Center for the last time just before we returned home because of the pandemic. We were both sad to see it so empty. We will always choose to remember it as the beautiful, peaceful, happy place that was so full of life and goodness.



Closing the Center in March 2020 because of the Covid 19 pandemic!



Elder and Sister Lamb



It was one month shy of one year from the time we received our mission call to the Rome Temple Visitors Center until the time we were actually able to come. Without the persistence and influence of the Euvrards, it is unlikely that we would have been able to come when we did. We are so grateful.

We are in awe of the beautiful Center and all it has to offer in testifying of our Savior. Our amazing sisters do such a great job spreading the joy of the gospel even over great distances through the virtual tours. Their testimonies and strong spirits have blessed the lives of many people around the world. It is a silver lining in a dark cloud that has come about because of the pandemic. Studying the life of the Savior in light of what we see in the Center has blessed our own lives and strengthened our testimonies.

Marvelous Sister Missionaries!



Sorella Bryant



Sorella Maxfield



Sorella Larsen



Sorella Guymon



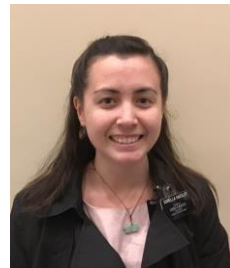
Sorella Sullivan



Sorella Yanacallo



Sorella Decker



Sorella Kaesler



Sorella Peters



Sorella Stepherson



Sorella Cluff



Sorella Johnsen



Sorella Moshier



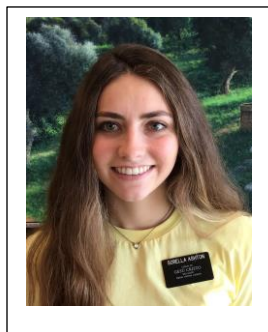
Sorella Brock



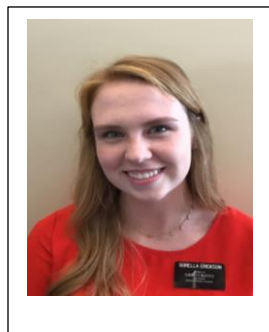
Sorella Reagan



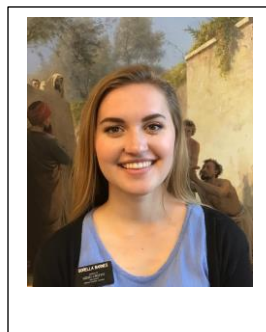
Sorella Spencer



Sorella Ashton



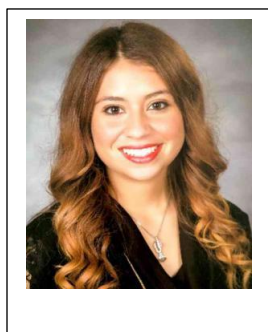
Sorella Erickson



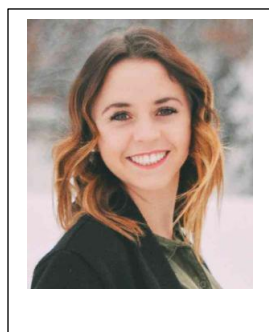
Sorella Avery Barnes



Sorella Bressan



Sorella Hyatt



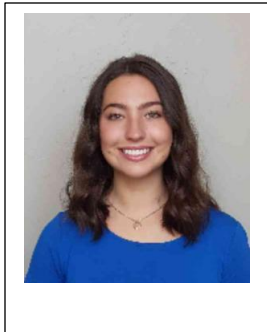
Sorella Madsen



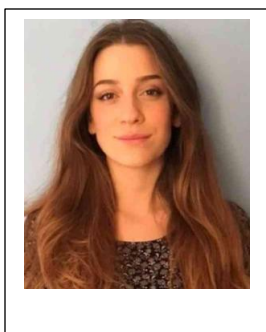
Sorella Waddell



Sorella Aikele



Sorella Becker



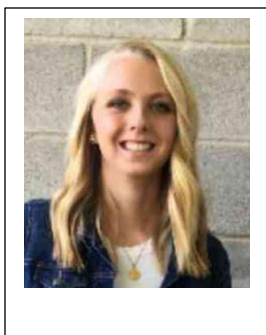
Sorella Deruvo



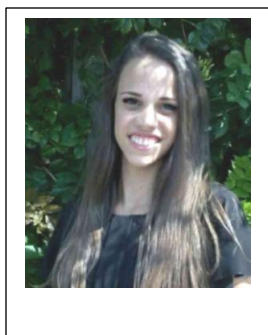
Sorella Deschine



Sorella Heslin



Sorella Kesler



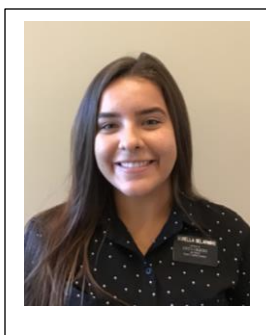
Sorella Ranieri



Sorella Austin



Sorella Reagan Barnes



Sorella Belarmino



Sorella Brooks



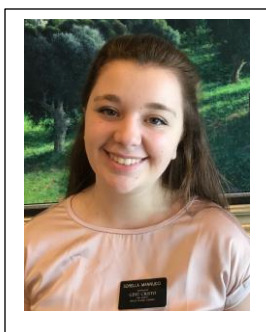
Sorella Butters



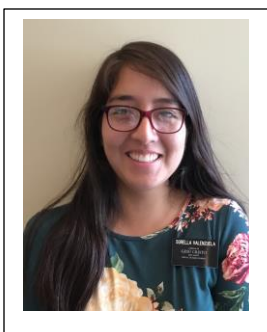
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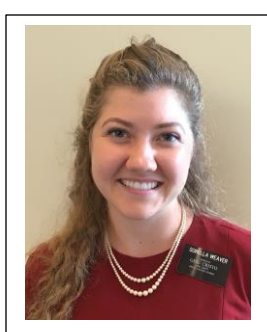
Sorella Magness



Sorella Mannucci



Sorella Valenzuela



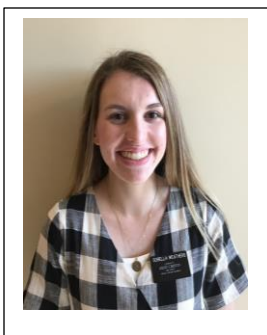
Sorella Weaver



Sorella Worthen



Sorella Zombra



Sorella Weathers



Sorella Fernandez



Sorella Acton



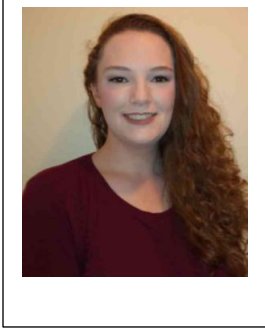
Sorella Nay



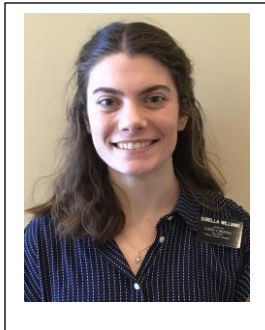
Sorella Wilcox



Sorella Grincer



Sorella Johnson



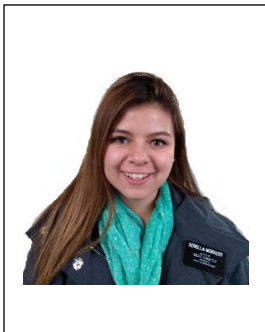
Sorella Williams



Sorella Lavanda



Sorella Hally



Sorella Morales



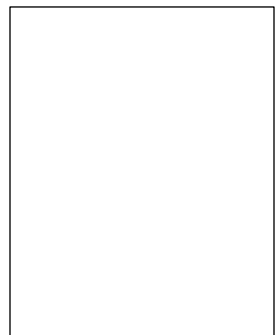
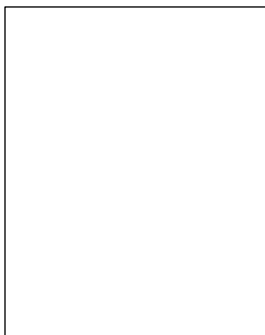
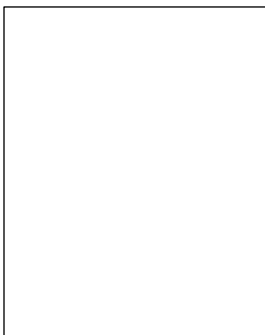
Sorella Moessing

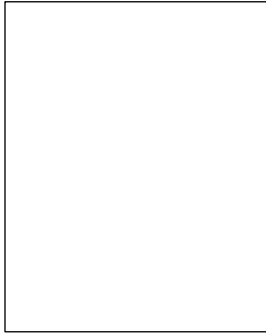
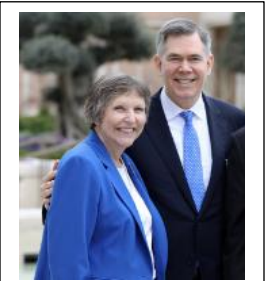
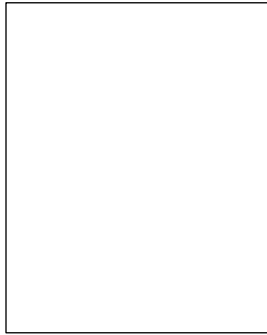
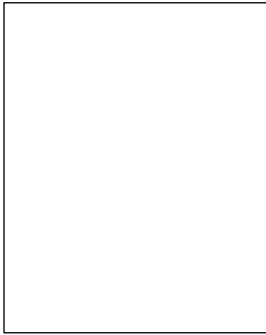
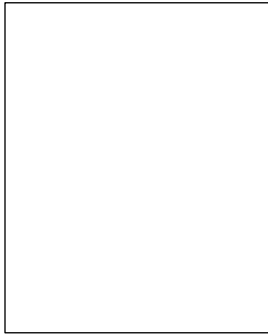
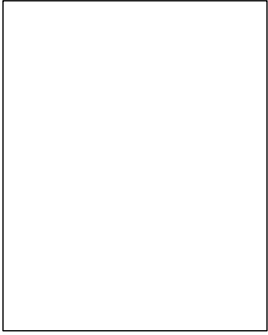


Sorella Vellinga



Sorella Duron

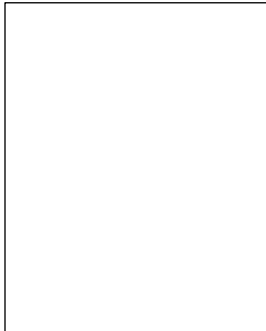




Pres. and Sor. Pickerd

Pres. and Sor. Smith

Euvrards



Hydes

Briscoes

Lambs



		Name	Arrival date	Departure date	Home town
Arrived prior to Open House		Bryant, Kyra	28-Nov-17	16-Apr-19	Oviedo, Florida, USA
		Maxfield, Maren Irene	28-Nov-17	19-Apr-19	
		Larsen, Caitlyn	9-Jan-18	31-May-19	USA
		Guymon, Kiersten	20-Feb-18	12-Jul-19	Jenks, Oklahoma, USA
		Sullivan, Mianna	20-Feb-18	12-Jul-19	Sandy, Utah, USA
		Yanacallo, Keyla	20-Feb-18	12-Jul-19	Genova, ITALY
		Decker, Sadie	3-Apr-18	23-Aug-19	McKinney, Texas, USA
		Kaseler, Megan	3-Apr-18	23-Aug-19	La Canada, California, USA
		Peters, Brooklyn	3-Apr-18	23-Aug-19	Orange, California, USA
		Stepherson, Kate	3-Apr-18	23-Aug-19	Boulder City, Nevada, USA
		Cluff, Sarah	7-Aug-18	19-Dec-19	Orem, Utah, USA
		Johnsen, Olivia	7-Aug-18	19-Dec-19	Alpine, Utah, USA
		Moshier, Makinna	18-Sep-18	7-Feb-20	Prescott, Arizona, USA
		Brock, Katherine	23-Oct-18	13-Mar-20	Salem, Oregon, USA
		Reagan, Cammryn	23-Oct-18	28-Oct-19	Melbourne, Florida, USA
		Spencer, Kenadie	23-Oct-18	13-Mar-20	Meridian, Idaho, USA
		Ashton, Aubrey	31-Oct-18	13-Mar-20	Keller, Texas, USA
		Erickson, Maylin	11-Dec-18	13-Mar-20	Glendale, Arizona, USA
		Barnes, Avery	22-Jan-19	13-Mar-20	La Crescenta, California, USA
		Bressan, Miriam	22-Jan-19	13-Mar-20	Gorizia, ITALY
		Hyatt, Analinda	22-Jan-19	12-Jun-20	Cape Girardeau, Missouri, USA
		Madsen, Karlsyn	22-Jan-19	12-Jun-20	Pleasant View, Utah, USA
		Waddell, Anne	22-Jan-19	12-Jun-20	Provo, Utah, USA
2019 Arrivals		Aikele, Morgan	5-Mar-19	24-Jul-20	Longdale, Nevada, USA
		Becker, Victoria	5-Mar-19	24-Jul-20	Idado Falls, Idaho, USA
		Deruvo, Elisabetta Chiara	5-Mar-19	1-May-19	Catanzaro, ITALY
		Deschine, Naomi	5-Mar-19	24-Jul-20	Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
		Heslin, Jill	5-Mar-19	24-Jul-20	Newtown, Connecticut, USA
		Kesler, Savanna	5-Mar-19	24-Jul-20	Nyssa, Oregon, USA
		Ranieri, Romina	5-Mar-19	1-May-19	Bottanuco, Bergamo, ITALY
		Austin, Taylor	16-Apr-19	21-Aug-20	Laguna Niguel, California, USA
		Barnes, Reagan	16-Apr-19	21-Aug-20	Centerville, Utah, USA
		Belarmino, Rafaela	16-Apr-19	4-Sep-20	Carazinho, Rio Grande do Sul, BRAZIL
		Brooks, Kira	16-Apr-19	4-Sep-20	McKinnon, Victoria, AUSTRALIA
		Butters, Rebecca	16-Apr-19	21-Aug-20	Hillsdale, Michigan, USA
		De Santi, Letizia	16-Apr-19	4-Sep-20	Embu das Artes, São Paulo, BRAZIL
		Magness, Sailor	16-Apr-19	21-Aug-20	Orem, Utah, USA
		Mannucci, Letizia	16-Apr-19	23-Oct-20	La Spezia, ITALY
		Valenzuela, Omayra	16-Apr-19	21-Aug-20	Downey, California, USA
		Weaver, Kelsey	16-Apr-19	4-Sep-20	Las Vegas, Nevada, USA
		Worthen, Chloe	16-Apr-19	21-Aug-20	Phoenix, Arizona, USA

	Zombra, Maria	16-Apr-19	4-Sep-20	Siracusa, ITALY
	Weathers, Jewel	28-May-19	23-Oct-20	Bountiful, Utah, USA
	Fernandez, Carmen	9-Jul-19	15-Jan-21	Milano, ITALY
	Vellinga, Sydney	31-Aug-19	17-Dec-20	Sandy, Utah, USA
	Acton, Rebekah	1-Oct-19	5-Mar-21	Cashmere, Washington, USA
	Moessing, Ashley	1-Oct-19	5-Mar-21	Aurora, Colorado, USA
	Nay, Kelsey	1-Oct-19	5-Mar-21	Farmingont, Utah, USA
	Wilcox, Madison	1-Oct-19	5-Mar-21	Cedar City, Utah, USA
	Grincer, Isabella	16-Dec-19	14-May-21	Landsdale WA, AUSTRALIA
2020 Arrival	Johnson, Emma	4-Feb-20	25-Jun-21	Chatham, Illinois, USA
	Williams, Alyssa	4-Feb-20	25-Jun-21	Fort Meade, Maryland, USA
	Lavanda Coloma, Naelly	9-Jun-20	29-Oct-21	Sovico Monza e Brianza, ITALY
	Hally, Kennedy	1-Sep-20	6-Aug-21	Fruit Heights, Utah, USA
	Morales Contreras, Linda	1-Sep-20	6-Aug-21	Nuevo Cases Grandes Chihuahua, MEXICO
	Duron, Kylee Alicia	15-Dec-20	19-Apr-22	Marana, Arizona, USA
Senior Couples	Euvrard, Christian	5-Jan-19	22-12-20	Tournan-en-Brie, France
	Euvrard, Marie-Françoise	5-Jan-19	22-12-20	Tournan-en-Brie, France
	Hyde, Blaine	13-Dec-18	13-Mar-20	Washington, Utah, USA
	Hyde, Linda	13-Dec-18	13-Mar-20	Washington, Utah, USA
	Briscoe, Carrie	5-Mar-19	15-Feb-20	West Point, Utah, USA
	Briscoe, Richard	5-Mar-19	15-Feb-20	West Point, Utah, USA
	Lamb, Betty	21-Sep-20	21-Sep-21	Cedar Hiills, Utah, USA
	Lamb, John	21-Sep-20	21-Sep-21	Cedar Hiills, Utah, USA
Mission Presidents	Pickerd, Marian	1-Jul-16	29-Jun-19	Provo, Utah, USA
	Pickers, Mike	1-Jul-16	29-Jun-19	Provo, Utah, USA
	Smith, Donald	29-Jun-19	30-Jun-22	Twin Falls, Idaho, USA
	Smith, Rebecca	29-Jun-19	30-Jun-22	Twin Falls, Idaho, USA

Sorella Caitlyn Larsen



The weeks of the Rome temple open house were weeks of pure miracles, and the week that I and the other Sorelle in Sicily got to go up to help was one of the best weeks of my entire mission. Starting tours in the video rooms was fun, but I'll never forget the powerful feeling of answering questions and teaching in the visitor's center when visitors came out from their tour of the temple. Pure miracles - the Spirit of the temple is powerful.

To end my mission with the Rome temple dedication and two transfers in the Rome temple visitor's center was more than I could've ever asked for, and it meant the world to me. It was the happiest I had been in those 18 months. The abundance of miracles, amazing experiences, and simply the peaceful feeling of being on temple grounds was so special. Forza Italia, Forza Roma. Grazie per tutto.

Sorella Euvrard is an AMAZING baker. That was literally the best birthday cake I've ever had. Grazie!!



Sorella Kiersten (Guymon) Meyer



I loved my time at the VC. While it was busy and sometimes overwhelming, the spirit there and all of the beautiful resources there helped me stay calm and feel God's love for me. I also loved all of the time I got to spend with the other sisters. We had so much fun teaching together, working on online teaching, and talking with the amazing senior couples. All of the missionaries I met in the VC are so special to me and I am so glad that I got to serve alongside them.



Sorella Kate Stepherson

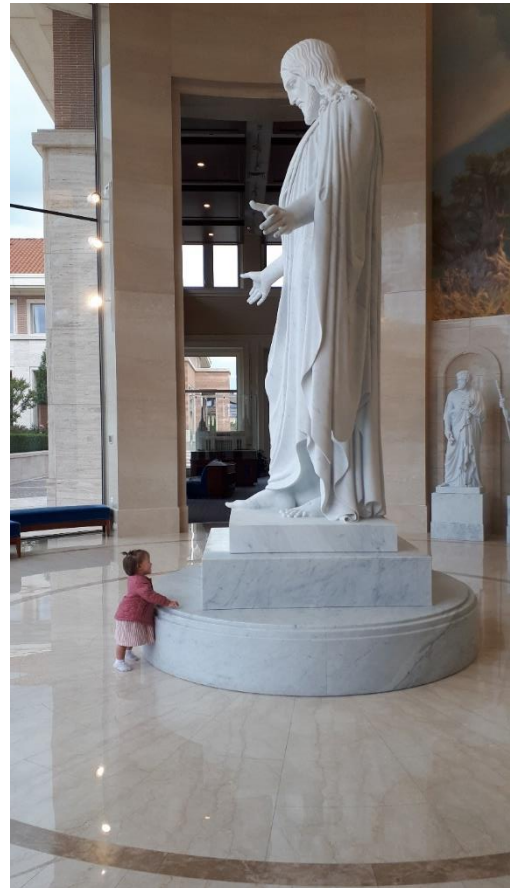


I loved being part of the visitor center! Being surrounded by exceptional people made it an unforgettable experience. I loved how I was able to take part in the Rome temple open house, dedication, and serve in the visitor's center. Throughout those months I felt Heavenly Father was giving me the best gift in the world. The spirit I felt was undeniable. The church is true! I knew it when I watched President Eyring and Oaks say hello in temple. I knew when sorella Hyatt and I talked to visitors. I knew when I talked to people waiting on their family members to get out of the temple. I knew when countless people walked away from our message. I knew the church was true before, but I'm so grateful that my testimony has grown. The church is true!

Sorella Sarah Cluff



Working in the Visitors' Center was the best part of my mission. The atmosphere and feeling inside the Christus room was full of the peace that only comes from heaven, and being able to spend time there was such a blessing. I would often look out and see the temple and feel such a joy in being a member of this church. I remember that people would come in and be so interested in what we were doing, which made gospel conversations easy to facilitate. The spirit is so strong in the Visitors' Center and everyone who enters into it leaves feeling uplifted and peaceful. I'm grateful for the time I was able to spend there.





Momenti di gioia e di amicizia!





Cibo!



Studio!



Canto!



Che squadra!



Sorella Makinna Moshier



I remember my time at the visitor center with such a sweet feeling in my heart.

I had the best companionship. We started with Sorella DeRuvo and Sorella Aikele and they worked so hard but had so much fun! Then it became just Sorella Aikele and I. I was finishing her training, yet she trained me and did more for me than I could ever do for her.

The spirit I experienced at the visitor center was among the strongest I have felt. I loved doing my studies there and felt so close to God.

For me, I had just left the most difficult transfer in my whole mission and the visitor center was a place of healing for me among sisters and senior missionaries who were so genuine and kind. God gave me the group I needed while I was serving there.

I loved showing people around and getting to know them personally. One father and son from Romania had a daughter/sister who was serving in my family's ward back at home! I included that picture (just the son and I). Another older couple told me she wished the missionaries in her ward were like my companion and I. I had felt like a horrible missionary that day and she was an answer to prayers.

Another time my companion and I were teaching a lesson. We couldn't speak very well and the girl was asking questions that were hard to answer. Then suddenly out of nowhere, we both had the words we needed to say. That happened countless times.

The call center was another big blessing in my life. Listening to people's stories and questions touched my heart. Then not knowing what to say but having the spirit guide was incredible. Then when you got to send the missionaries to their house it felt like you hand a small hand in finding Christ's lost sheep. Such a sweet feeling.





So many times, there were Italians who came who said, "Wow, we feel something different here. Something we haven't felt anywhere else."

The best part of the visitor center is the statue of Christ/The twelve apostles and the stained glass. Many times, I would find myself sitting in front of Him meditating, healing, learning, and feeling the peace/love He brings.

My transfer at the visitor center felt too brief. It is a place of miracles, healing, filled with the spirit, full of love, joy, and fun. It grew my testimony exponentially. I am so grateful to have gotten to experience the open house and start-up of the visitor center. It is a memory that impacted me and my future. I know God wanted me there when I was there.

Sorella Cammi Reagan



A non-member woman once told me that the Visitor Center was "come un piccolo paradiso". If I learned anything from my three transfers as a VC sorella it is that truth. There were miracles that could not be explained, feelings that cannot be described, and memories that will never be forgotten from that "piccolo paradiso". I am eternally grateful for every moment I got to serve there.



Returning to the Centro Visitatori for Christmas 2019 felt like returning home. I'd been off my mission just over a month and had struggled with the confusion and sadness that comes with leaving early. The moment I walked through those VC doors, all those doubts and troubles melted away. I knew I was home. There is a powerful feeling of love that resides on those temple grounds, as if Christ himself is there with his arms wide open, beckoning you to come to him. It is my belief that heaven will feel the exact same way.

Sorella Kenadie Spencer



The one with all of the sisters in the chapel was the first morning of the temple open house. We were having a devotional and the Spirit was so strong. Being able to help out with the open house was a once in a lifetime experience. The gift of tongues made itself manifest so many times as I was talking to all the Italians in the VC. It was question after question, but I know Heavenly Father helped me to be able to understand them and answer them in the simplest way.

The other one with the two little girls was just one of many experiences I had with my 1 transfer in the VC. They were from somewhere in Northern Europe and the mom got to testify to us about the power of the Spirit as she told a story where her daughter almost lost her life. It was amazing being able to feel the Spirit so consistently and getting to meet so many people from all over the world. I loved asking people what their 3 favorite lessons they've learned in life are. I learned so many treasures from that!



Nella prima foto, dove ci sono sorella Worthen ed io, volevo aggiungere una scrittura: D&A 84:88 "E con chiunque vi riceve, là sarò io pure, poiché andrò davanti al vostro volto. Sarò alla vostra destra e alla vostra sinistra, e il mio Spirito sarà nel vostro cuore e i miei angeli tutt'attorno a voi per sostenervi." La foto è stata fatta da anziano Briscoe.



La seconda foto è un po' particolare. diciamo che era un gioco tra me, sorella Mannucci, sorella Deschine e sorella Waddell. Onestamente non c'è bisogno di un commento, chi lo sa, lo capisce 😊 ma, se non va bene, non c'è problema se non la mettete! Si tratta di un palloncino con una faccia un po' inquietante...

Mi mancate e vi voglio tanto bene! 💛

Sorella Analinda Hyatt



These two pictures with the Hyde's basically go together. I remember how amazing the Hyde's were in teaching together. They were always helping all of us with the language, studying, and teaching others to come into Christ. They helped out a lot with Lucia's conversion and baptism. We are so grateful for them. As well as typical Anziano Hyde carrying around his iPad and sharing his knowledge of the gospel with us as well as his amazing dance skills, and his humor. We love you guys!





This photo was taken a week before the Briscoes went home. What a sad week it was but I remember how much faith Sorella Briscoe had in her Savior. She didn't know the Italian language, but she did just as much as any other missionary in the mission. She always helped everyone the best she could, and she lived her testimony every day. She always made sure that all of us were safe. Anziano Briscoe always made each one of us feel like a special daughter of God and he embraced us into his family. He always looked after us like a father and I will forever cherish them and those memories.

My favorite memories were spent in the break room upstairs. That was the place where we could take crazy selfies with each other, and where the Hyde's would leave us fudge and peanut butter.

Not to mention Sorella Deschine and I taking our annual naps on the couch in the break room during lunch time.



Sorella Karlsyn Madsen



I had the opportunity to be at the Visitors Center from the very beginning. I didn't realize when I got my mission call how extraordinary of an assignment I had. I saw the VC through the rocky beginning all the way to the end of my mission and it was an honor for me to be called to serve with all the Sorelle and incredible senior couples. There are no words to describe how grateful I am for all the people I met that influenced my life. I am grateful for all the incredible Sorelle that I was able to work with and their everlasting testimonies that have changed me. I am grateful for our missionary grandparents (the VC Senior Couples) and their tremendous love that they had for each and every one of us. They went out of their way for us to feel at home and loved and without them, I wouldn't have been able to get through my mission. Vi voglio un mondo di bene!

Sorella Anne Waddell



One of my most dear experiences at the Visitor's Center and of my mission as a whole was when the Italy Rome Temple had just been dedicated. It was the very beginning of my mission. One of the Rome Stakes asked us to sing a musical number during a Stake conference. We sang *Lo Spirito Arde, The Spirit of God*. I remember looking into the vast audience in the Stake center and seeing tears in some eyes and big smiles and warmth. The arrangement was beautiful. The Spirit was incredibly strong, angels were present and everyone in the room could feel it. God was so aware of this precious group of Italian saints and missionaries, singing such a beautiful hymn, rejoicing in the newly dedicated and first house of the Lord in Rome Italy.

This was one of my most memorable experiences, but I loved singing in concerts. I never considered myself especially musical but there were many moments, songs, and single lines that really moved me, and I would find myself fighting tears and the urge to cry in the middle of the song. It was such a unique experience to be an instrument in the Hands of the Lord in a musical way. I learned a lot of skill, but I learned so much from Anziano and Sorella Euvrard. Anziano Euvrard sitting in the back of the chapel during rehearsals always made us laugh with his honest feedback and animated facial expressions. It made it fun, but it made us better. And Sorella Euvrard with her incredible amount of grace, passion, and patience with a couple dozen chattering Sorelle and sometimes Anziani too. No one could've opened the Rome Temple Visitor's Center and directed it better than the Euvrards.

Besides musical numbers, I was greatly blessed to meet so many people and create an atmosphere and aid in providing an experience. I know the Spirit worked through me to know the right things to say, the right things to ask but also when not to speak and when and how to listen. I had wonderful teachers, training, and examples. The Visitor's Center is such a privilege, some think because we give special tours to Diplomats, Priests, other Religious leaders, even General Authorities, big figures, etc. That's all very cool and I loved that. But one day, we met a young adult girl, named Aruna who was visiting just because she was riding past on a bus, saw the Temple and got off to check it out. She was from India and was Hindu. We had a great experience with her, and her face was shining and sometimes eyes gleaming. She was meek, her heart was soft, and she recognized and felt the light of Christ. We connected on many levels from listening to HER and asking HER questions. We drew a lot of similarities to what she believed in and what we believed in. That experience taught me how much we really have in common with people we may initially perceive as polar opposite from us and the power that came from simply listening. We were finishing up our visit and offered a Book of Mormon. We were speaking in English, but we asked what her native language was. She told us she spoke Telugu but not to worry about it, she

would take an English, and it was unlikely we would have it, as Telugu isn't even a prominent language of India anyway. We went downstairs to check and sure enough, there were 2 copies of the Book of Mormon in Telugu. We brought it to her, and she was in disbelief and pretty floored. Never had I seen a smile quite like hers. I knew that she knew that God knew. And so much had come together at that specific time just for all of that to have been made possible.

I could fill a book with experiences, lessons, blessings, advice I would give, and funny moments during my time at the VC. But I gained a family there. Some of my best friendships were cultivated there and I knew I was surrounded by people who loved me, cared for me, had the same goals as I did, helped me achieve them, saw my potential, and all worked together to bring about the same great work we were all called to perform. My wisdom and testimony increased tenfold from working with senior missionaries who just get it.



Anziano Briscoe acted on a prompting in which led me to be able to use my basic ASL to communicate with a deaf woman. Sorella Briscoe has an exceptional gift for nurturing and I felt like one of her own. Anziano Hyde worked to prepare me for some of my most treasured interactions I would have as a missionary. And Sorella Hyde really had a niche for getting me to think deeply and profoundly and was a master at diving beyond surface-level conversations.

I think of my mission every day and the divine design that brought us all together at such a time. Thank you to every single one of you for what you did to be here and what you continue to do. I know the Lord is so proud and I love you all.

Sorella Victoria Becker



This picture so accurately reflects the joy and happiness you two brought to the VC! I'm pretty sure this was taken right after you sang one of your French duets for us, which were absolutely fantastic and always put smiles on our faces. You would usually sing after our weekly meetings, which were always filled with such wise and spiritually guided instruction that helped me become a better person. I'm so grateful for all that I learned from both of you, because you really changed my life for the better. Anybody who is privileged to know you is greatly blessed.

It's safe to say that there is no cake in this world that beats Sorella Euvrard's (don't tell my mom). If anyone would like to know the recipe for Sorella Euvrard's magnificent cakes, the first ingredient is love and the second is French artistry. These fresh baked cakes always helped us feel so loved on our birthdays and helped bring us closer as a VC family. They also accurately show the hard work and dedication you both put into everything you do, which was a great blessing for all of us as we worked together to open the Rome temple visitor's center. Thank you for helping us feel so loved while at the same time pushing us to do our best! You are incredible examples of Christ in this way.



Sorella Jill Heslin

On this day there was a beautiful rainbow right outside the Visitors Center. I believe that Anziano Briscoe told us that there was no way we could skip an opportunity to take a picture with it. One of my favorite things about the VC was the beauty of the sky that surrounded us.



There is nothing more memorable than Christmas at the Visitors center, focusing on Christ while staring at the temple makes the meaning of Christmas so much more special. There are so many nativities from all around the world, as well as this giant one that you could see from the street. The spirit was always strong at the temple site but it became so much stronger during the Christmas season.



Sorella Savanna Kesler

Decorating the
Visitors Center for
Christmas with
Sorella Euvrard!



Training everyone's favorite future missionary!



Caroling, caroling in the rain!

Sorella Rafaela Bellarmino



During my time at the Visitors' Center, my testimony about Christ and His Atonement increased in an inexplicable way. I am very grateful for the Visitors Center and I know how much we can grow and change lives if we serve with all our hearts!



Sorella Rebecca Butters

I think one of the most memorable moments for me at the Visitor's Center was the day we found out that the number of sisters who would be there was going to be drastically reduced. All of a sudden, we all had this big news that was going to change our missions, and everyone who worked at the VC responded by banding together even closer than before and doing our very best to take the changes in stride and do our work even better. The Visitor's Center went through a lot of unexpected moments during the Euvrards' mission, from starting up and pioneering a VC in a new country, to kicking off Facebook proselyting, to shutting down temporarily less than a year later for COVID, to reopening and pioneering a new way of missionary work- again. I will forever be grateful for the example I saw in the sisters and senior couples there of powerful faith that the Lord knows what He's doing, even when we don't.



Sorella Sailor Magness



Before...



After...

The Euvrard's! Vi voglio tanto bene! You guys have been such a great example to every missionary, especially the visitor center sorelle. You guys have given the Rome temple an amazing start. These pictures are from the first time we met each other at the Reese's house in Utah, to the last time we've seen each other before I left back home from the mission. You guys have been there for me throughout this whole time and I'm so grateful for that! Thank you for all the hard work and dedication you guys do. You guys have made the visitor center a special place for all of us and I am so grateful. I miss you guys lots but I'm so grateful for the time that we were able to serve together, from the music practices and concerts to walking and talking to people on the VC floor, and even all throughout quarantine! You guys have been there and are the kindest people that can make anyone laugh. Thank you for giving us your music talents and for bringing in all sorts of fun things like the exhibits to the visitor center. I'm still waiting for Anz Euvrard to sing his cat song... hopefully one day! You guys are the best Visitor Center presidents ever. Thanks for the small weekly devotionals, the amazing, yummy cakes and the birthday parties. It meant more to us than you guys know! Vi voglio tanto bene di nuovo, ci vediamo presto.



Grazie mille per tutto quello che avete fatto per noi sorelle del centro visitatori e grazie mille per tutti gli insegnanti che mi avete trasmesso nel mio anno e mezzo a Roma. Vi voglio bene.

Sorella Kelsey Weaver

Short story: One day a middle-aged American man and his wife came into the Visitor's Center, accompanied by an Italian woman. As my companion and I talked with them, the American man explained how he had taught this Italian woman here in Rome more than 30 years ago. Although she was never baptized, they had maintained a close friendship over the many years. On his vacation, he had made the effort to reconnect with this woman and show her the new Rome Temple and Visitor's Center. She felt a profound sense of peace as we walked through the exhibits and especially the Christ room together. We exchanged contact information with her. She was baptized a few months later with her ever-faithful Anziano friend present via Zoom.



Memory: Christmas at the VC was a magical, spiritual, heart-knitting experience. It was particularly tender because we all knew a large number of sisters were going to be leaving on their outbound soon thereafter. The Christmas trees, the exotic nativities, the powerful Christ Child short film, the countless Christmas Concert rehearsals and performances, and the

Secret Santa service/gift exchange worked together to make it indeed “the most wonderful time of the year”.



Sorella Chloé Worthen

Sorella Heslin and I were teaching a girl named Ludovika, who was moving to Australia in a short few weeks. She asked us to all pray together so that she would be able to find housing fast before heading there. The day after we started praying, we met the YSA Stake President of Sydney in the Christus room. After a nice conversation, he said he would love to have Ludovika stay with him and his family and would bring her to church and continue to have the missionaries over while in Australia. God provides!



Robert. Anyone who served at the VC knows him and knows that he was among the most prepared people from the gospel. He was brought to the VC by a returned missionary from Canada that we had toured around the day before. Robert was full of questions and began to bawl at the feeling of relief on the temple grounds. He was baptized a short few months later. All my love for Robert!



James' staff. An ongoing joke and miracle that it's now back (and wooden now!).

I love you Euvards, and I'm so grateful for all you have done for me and for the Visitors' Center. You two truly are unmatched! Vi voglio un sacco di bene!

Sorella Jewell Weathers



I loved serving at the Visitor's Center of the Rome temple. It was the most amazing experience of my life. I am so thankful that the Euvrards, on a whim, brought the cello down from Paris just in case. That gave me the opportunity to have so many amazing experiences as a missionary. Music is such a huge part of my life and my testimony and I will always be grateful for the opportunity they gave me to share my testimony and the gospel through music.

I am also so thankful for the relationships that I was able to make. I consider the sisters I served with to be my actual sisters and everyone we worked with to be an eternal part of my life. I'm thankful for the love I felt from each and every one of the missionaries. The best part of the Visitor's Center was getting to testify of Christ every single day. He is the foundation of my testimony. I love Him, and I know that He loves each of us enough to die for us.



Sorella Carmen Fernandez

This picture reminds me of the first time that I saw the visitor's center with all the lights out and I felt the spirit and I was grateful to have the opportunity to serve here at the VC. I have learned a lot about my Savior and I feel more loved by Him, and all this thanks to the Visitor Center



That day was my birthday! We had fun! And Sorella Euvrard made a cake for me! In that day I gave my first virtual tour!

Sorella Rebekah Acton



I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that I have had to work in the visitor center. Especially during this time. We have had so many incredible experiences giving virtual tours to people all around the world. This picture was a picture I took right after we gave a virtual tour for members all over the Rome mission. The limit of 500 connections was maxed out and it was an experience I will never forget. What an incredible opportunity we had that evening. And what a fun time it was to practice songs in preparation for Christmas! Thanks to Anziano and Sorella Euvrard for having patience with all of us non singers. The Visitor center really is a magical place where memories are made that won't ever be forgotten.



Sorella Kelsey Nay

I am infinitely grateful for the opportunity to have seen so many miracles brought to pass in the beautiful Rome Visitors Center. Words cannot describe the faces of God's children looking up at the Christ's open arms with tears in their eyes. They can't describe the feeling in my heart when we get to explain to the curious people at the temple model that families are forever, that this life isn't the end.



I'll just share one little story although there are so many that are similar: one day we stumbled upon a woman with red hair staring up at the Christ's open arms statue. After a bit of talking, I asked her when she finds peace in her life, and I remember her eyes as she looked at me and she frantically stated that she didn't think she had ever felt that and then went off to recount us her day. She said her and her husband were just on their way to visit her brother's grave and they saw this building, and something told her to come here instead. For the next couple hours we had the spirit guide us as we mourned with her, answered her questions and doubts, and we especially talked about the plan of salvation we have thanks to our Savior. A member joined us at the end and told us her conversion story and then the lady told us HER conversion story of that very day how she found the church! It was an experience I'll never forget, and we gave her a book of Mormon and promised her she could find peace. She is currently still being taught.

The Visitors' Center will always have a special place in my heart, and I know it is a literal beacon for God's Italian saints that are searching for His gospel. I'm so grateful to everyone who have worked so hard to make it possible, especially the Euvrard's who helped me so much in stretching my capacities and for giving me so many opportunities to learn, for the wonderful temple workers, the gardeners, and of course the beautiful sisters that have all blessed my life in ways they may not even know.

Sorella Madison Wilcox



Words can't explain how grateful I am for my time at the Visitors Center it may have only been 3 months of my mission, but it was some of the most important months. It was here that I learned to love people, diversities, learn Italian, and just learn how to be a missionary. I love all the people that I was able to meet and for the friendships that I was able to make. A special thanks to the Euvards and all the senior couples who made me feel like a part of a family when I was so far away from my own.



Sorella Isabella Grincerì





Sorella Emma Johnson

Thank you for having me in the VC! I am so sad that I only got to serve one transfer here, but that one transfer has truly blessed my mission and life. Thank you for making me feel a part of the VC family and for your amazing service and talents, from singing to a vast sea of knowledge, thank you for everything that you do! I feel so lucky to have been able to have this amazing opportunity to serve here. Thank you.



Sorella Alyssa Williams



I haven't physically spent as much time in the Visitors' Center as some of the other Sorelle but the time I did have there means so much to me. Something that surprised me the most when I started serving and talking to people in the VC was how strong the spirit always was and just how profound every experience was, even the virtual tours! The spirit I've felt there is unlike how I've ever felt it before. I know that as a missionary my purpose is to invite others to come unto Christ but by being in the VC, I was able to grow so much closer to my Savior than I ever have before and hearing the testimonies of the people I've been blessed to talk to, even just once for not even an hour, has edified me so much. The Visitors' Center is such a special place and I'm so incredibly blessed to have been able to serve there.



Sorella Naelly Lavanda Coloma



La prima foto descrive in pieno il mio servizio qui al Centro Visitatori! Mi ricorda tutti i tour virtuali che ho potuto fare insieme a colleghe (e anche colleghi) bravissimi! Sono grata per la tecnologia e il Covid-19, senza non avremmo mai iniziato! Sono grata per i mille tour, uno dopo l'altro senza pausa, per le domande e richieste più strane da parte dei visitatori e per i "Conigli" ricevuti (bidoni in francese, grazie Sorella Euvrard!) Ma soprattutto sono molto grata a Voi, al vostro impegno, alla vostra pazienza e Amore che sempre ci avete dimostrato!



La seconda foto l'abbiamo scattata il giorno che abbiamo addobbato l'albero di Natale al Centro Visitatori! Mi piace perché mi ricorda tutti le canzoni di Natale che abbiamo praticato e poi registrato insieme! Sono grata per i vostri talenti musicali che avete trasmesso a tutti noi! Mi ricorda inoltre l'importanza di essere una luce e come voi siete stati una Luce per tutti noi che abbiamo avuto l'onore di servire insieme a voi!

Sorella Linda Morales Contreras

For me it has been a miracle to be here in Italy, because of the pandemic I spent 6 months of the mission at the Visitor Center in Mexico waiting to come to Rome. It is a blessing to see the temple and its surroundings every day, the VC is also a consecrated place where I can feel peace and receive personal revelation.

In the 2 months that I have served at the VC I have learned more about my Savior Jesus Christ, everything at the VC reminds me of his great sacrifice and resurrection.

Definitely, God is hastening his work and I can see this through the Virtual tours we do, even though we are living during a pandemic, thanks to technology, we have virtual tours with people all over the world, the VC is a great resource for missionary work (Find, teach and retain)!!!



So many Sisters and... two Elders! Elder Louis Wong Torres & Elder Joan Perez Cuña



As we started to experiment the virtual visits at the Visitors' Center, by the end of August 2020, we were immediately submerged by enthusiastic Brothers and Sisters from South America and Mexico!

We were lucky enough to have at the VC, thanks to President Smith, Sisters who spoke Spanish and Portuguese, but in front of the high number of demands, we were authorized to have the support of two Spanish speaking Elders (and Portuguese speaking also for Elder Perez), to avoid having the Sisters teach 7 hours in a row!

My most sincere thanks to Elder Perez and Elder Wong who have always been willing to help and brought their smiles and testimonies to our virtual visitors! They might still be the only **Visitors' Center Elders** in the whole Church to this day!

We love them for their service, kindness, and spirit!... and their smiles!

Anziano Euvrard

Anziano & Sorella Carmelo Persico



Siamo Carmelo e Isabella Persico. Ci siamo convertiti alla Chiesa nel 1973, quando vivevamo in regioni diverse. Io in Sicilia e lei in Puglia. Non vi erano a quel tempo molti membri della Chiesa per cui ci consideravamo come dei pionieri. Infatti fu nel gennaio del 1966 che i primi missionari vennero in Italia dalla vicina Svizzera.

Da giovani non abbiamo potuto svolgere una missione a tempo pieno, anche se nel nostro cuore c'era il desiderio di farne una senior. Tuttavia qualche anno fa abbiamo svolto una missione part-time per il supporto di FamilySearch.

Non pensavamo che ancora fosse il tempo per inoltrare una domanda, quando improvvisamente il Signore ci ha chiamati per una missione al Centro Visitatori del Tempio di Roma.

Quale gioia è stata per entrambi, prima increduli e poi sopraffatti da sentimenti di gratitudine.

Il Signore aveva esaudito i nostri desideri ed ecco Egli ci aveva condotti a Roma per questo. Siamo grati della fiducia che il Padre Celeste ha posto su di noi per

aiutare i suoi figli a sentire il Suo amore e avvicinarsi al Suo Figliuolo Gesù Cristo, per avere la vita.

Desideriamo con tutto il cuore che ciò avvenga per quanti entreranno in contatto con noi, affinché siano molti coloro che, ricevendo una esperienza spirituale, possano rispondere con tutta la loro anima all'invito dolce e mansueto del Salvatore che dice “Venite a me”.

Di questo rendiamo testimonianza nel sacro nome di Gesù Cristo. Amen

Special Visitors (VIPs), Activities, Concerts, exhibits...Life at the Visitors' Center was busy!

We have been blessed by the visits of many special guests at the Visitors' Center. Here are only a few of them! We were also able to organize outstanding concerts with visiting Choirs and musicians, as well as music provided by talented missionaries and members. We should emphasize how blessed we have been with particularly gifted Sisters in the VC! It was also our privilege to organize Conferences, firesides and devotionals with special speakers: BYU Professors, specialists in Family History, historians, etc. Our blessings were many!



Heidi Kuhn, Roots of Peace

Heidi Kuhn is Founder and CEO of Roots of Peace, a humanitarian-nonprofit organization founded in September 1997 with a vision to transform MINES TO VINES--replacing the scourge of landmines with sustainable agricultural farmland. Her pioneering work empowers families living in war-torn regions with hope leading to the economics of peace through export and trade.



Bishop Janusz Urbanczyk

6 June 2019, private visit:

On 12 January 2015, Pope Francis named Urbańczyk to several related positions within the diplomatic service, all based in Vienna. They include Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO); as well as Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (ONUDI) and the United Nations Office in Vienna.





SUN, JUN 9, 2019

Che cos'è questa cosa che l'uomo chiama morte?

Centro Visitatori - Tempio di Roma - Roma

Brent L. Top, BYU, Conference 9 June 2019



June 13, 2019, we received the group **Pizzicati Strings and Company**, with 13 young violinists from age 5 to 18. They were directed by **Peggy Wheelwright** who herself played with great orchestras.

They also performed in the San Paolo dentro le mura church in Rome.



Gary R. Herbert, Utah Governor
21 June 2019, special visit: Here with President Pacini of the Rome Temple.

Gary Herbert became Governor of Utah on August 11, 2009 after Governor Jon Huntsman stepped down to become [Ambassador to China](#). In 2012, Herbert won election to a full four-year term.

He was accompanied by Michael W. Homer, Honorary Consul of Italy. Mr. Homer is a trial lawyer who practices in state and federal courts and is the Honorary Italian Consul of Utah. He is Chair of the Marriott Library Advisory Board, University of Utah



Summer Concert, 29 June 2019





American Rhythm Ensemble
7 August 2019
 A wonderful group of 30 dancers and singers!



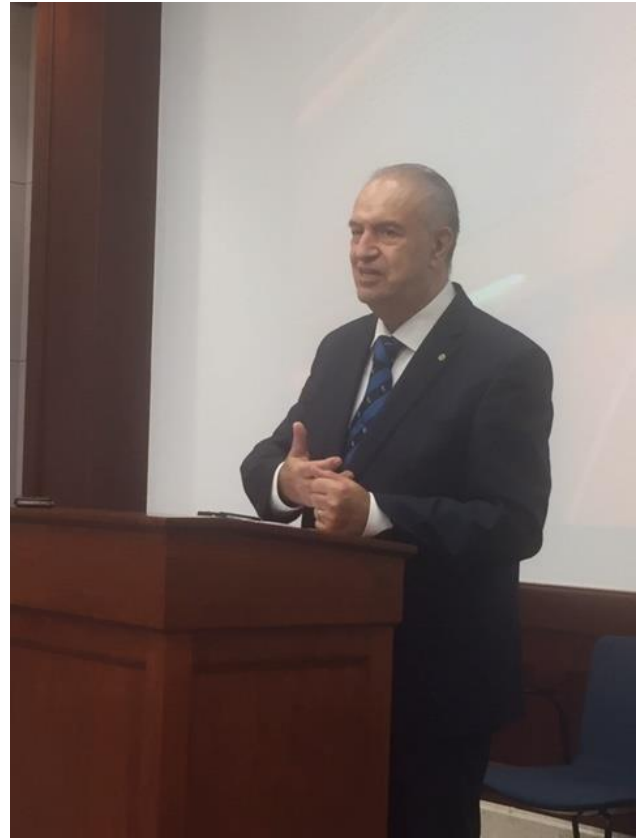
WED, AUG 7, 2019

American Rhythm Folk Ensemble

Centro Visitatori - Tempio di Roma · Rome

Pier Felice Degli Uberti

14 September 2019: L'eredità incorporea nella Storia di Famiglia nel ricordo dei nostri antenati. Presidente della Confédération Internationale de Généalogie et d'Héraldique



Tom & Gayle Holdman

22 October 2019: La vetrata di Roma



“Stained glass almost breathes because the light comes through so it has a life of its own and people are drawn to that,” Gayle said. “Visitors come into this beautiful building with a cool, old Italian home on one side and lovely furniture, and yet they go directly to the windows because light shines through and the Savior is in the center. We are attracted to light.”

“Sometimes we ask ourselves, ‘Am I good enough? Is this good enough?’ It is beautiful to realize that we are all good enough at any given moment because He loves us perfectly, but you’re the only who knows if there’s more for you to give. The Spirit will say to you that there is something you can do better. It is not because He doesn’t love me, but because that

is how I can show that I love Him.” <https://latterdaysaintmag.com/tom-and-gayle-holdman-working-on-stained-glass-for-rome-with-christ-looking-over-our-shoulder/>



Concert Salt Lake Singers, 4 October 2019

Ugo Perego

12 ottobre 2019: Come espandere la propria genealogia con il DNA.

Ugo Perego è Dottore di Ricerca in Scienze genetiche e Biomolecolari. Visiting Scientist all'Università di Pavia (Italia) e Direttore del Campus d'Istituto a Roma e Coordinatore per Seminario e Istituto per l'Italia centrale e Malta. Ci offre anche un'esperienza di vent'anni nel campo della genealogia genetica.





Southern Utah Heritage Choir, 10 October 2019,

In the Stake Center and Visitors' Center of the Rome Temple.





His Excellency **Dr. Mohammad Abdulkarim Al-Issa** has honored us of a two-hour visit at the Rome Visitors' Center and Temple. He met Sisters Johnsen and Worthen and Brother Craig Pacini, President of the Rome Temple. He showed great interest and at the end made the comment: "When people will ask me why they cannot enter Mecca, I will tell them to ask my Mormon friends!"

Few days later, after speaking at the United Nations, he was received by **the First Presidency of the Church**. The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints met Tuesday morning with His Excellency Dr. Mohammad Abdulkarim Al-Issa, secretary-general of the Muslim World League (MWL) and president of the International Organization for Muslim Scholars, based in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Al-Issa visited with Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and toured Welfare Square. He said: "What I've seen here is a great example of the true meaning of mercy and love to humanity."





“Perhaps the first story ever told about mankind and certainly one of the most familiar is that of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Many believe the tale is literal, others consider it a parable. It can be viewed as a story of two people who lived as the first of many or the story of each man and woman. It is the first love story yet simultaneously known by others as the first human tragedy. Some think the story complex and layered with meaning. Still others think it simple. What is clear is that this scriptural account has received a lot of attention and artists are not excluded.”

Aubrie Mema, Exhibit “the Garden”, 20 September to October 11, 2019.



A group of photographers asked the permission to come to the Temple ground to take pictures of this new building in Rome. We welcomed them and proposed to organize a special exhibit with their works which was done from **October 12 to November 8, 2019.**

“Un Nuovo Tempio a Roma” had a great success, and we want to thank **Silvio Mencarelli and Gianni Amadei**, leaders of the Associazione Photosophia, for their help and participation. They also had a special edition of their magazine with a presentation of the Rome Temple:

<https://www.facebook.com/599797346752151/videos/470595943676786>

Hosting Zone conferences



Elder & Sister Merriman November 2019-March 2020



Thanksgiving 2019!

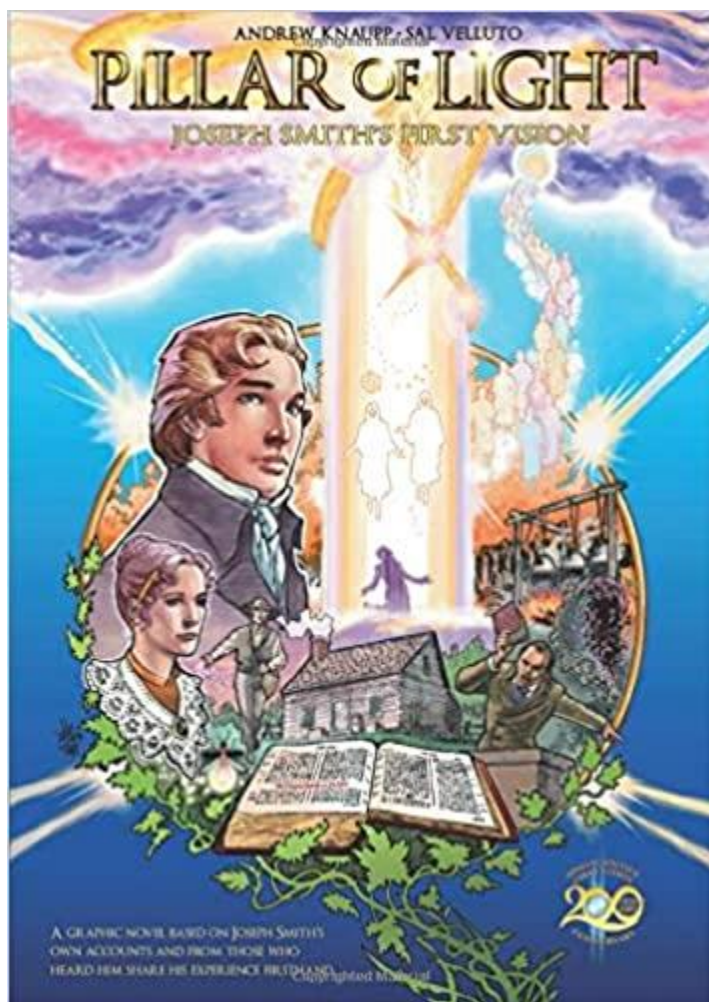


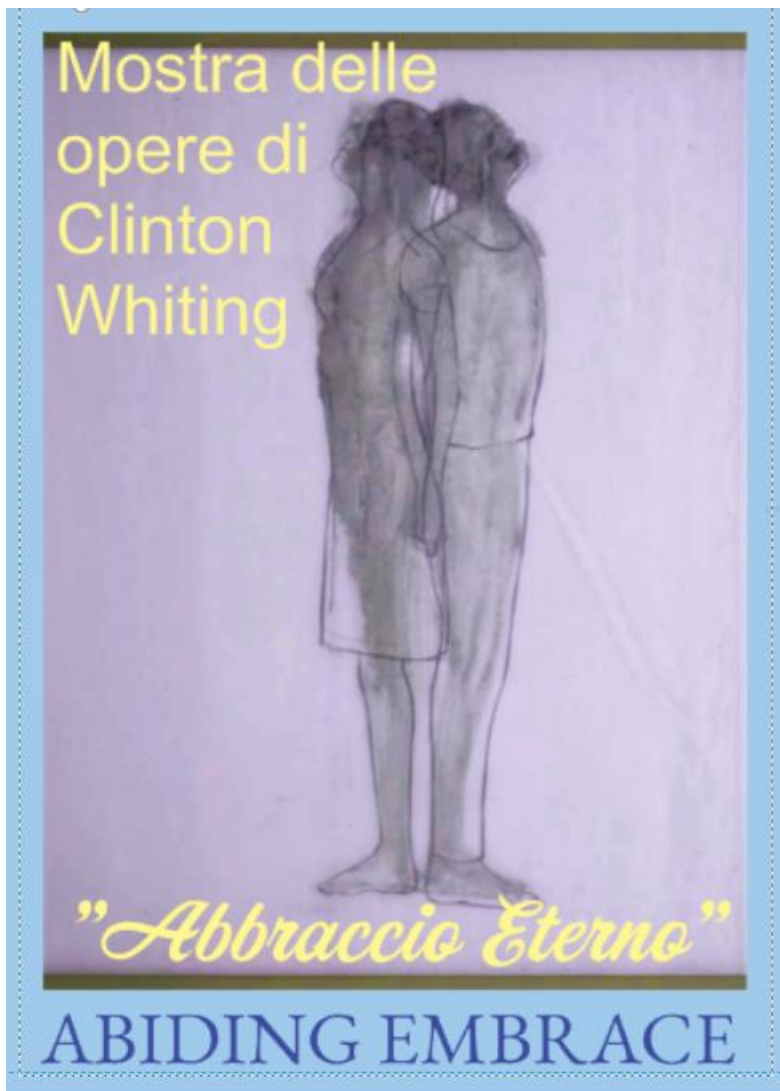
Experiencing the French “macarons”!

Bon Appetit!



Conference by **Sal Velutto**, on his Graphic Novel **“Pillar of Light”**, for the **200 years of the First Vision**.
5 November, 2019.





Abiding Embrace investigates the idea of afterlife reunification of husband and wife inspired by the Etruscan sarcophagus of Arnth Tetnies and Ramtha Vishnai in combination with Latter Day Saint beliefs. Scholars believe the Etruscans represented in tombs what they desired in the afterlife.

“After seeing the Etruscan sarcophagus of Arnth Tetnies and Ramtha Vishnai, I was profoundly touched by the idea that this sarcophagus is a physical representation of the desires of the couple, a desire to be together.

Afterlife reunification is an important element in the theology of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, it is understood that marriage will continue after this mortal life.”

Clinton Whiting

Exhibit, 7 to 19 November 2019

Concert to remember our dear ones.

Saturday 2 November 2019: Soirée musicale, “**Notturni. Nell’ora che penso ai miei cari...**”, attraverso Requiem e musica sacra. Cori, solisti, musicisti, etc. (Mozart, Verdi, Fauré, Wagner, Bach, etc.).

With the presentation of Marco Jacoviello, musicologist, and specialist of opera.





The Basketball Team of BYU in visit at the Rome Temple Visitors' Center. Twelve men in search of excellence looking up to the original Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ!



14 December 2019: Vincenzo Alfano

Conference: “Quanti antenati abbiamo davvero? Dal triangolo al rombo - un paradosso spiegato”

Ricercatore per professione, ha conseguito il Dottorato di ricerca a Napoli. La sua ricerca applica modelli statistici per spiegare le differenze tra le nazioni mediterranee come conseguenze di aspetti storico-culturali. Appassionato di genealogia da anni, affianca l'attività di economista alla passione per la storia di famiglia. E' socio dell'Istituto Araldico Genealogico Italiano (I.A.G.I) e della Società Napoletana di Storia patria; ha svolto e tutt'ora svolge ricerche storico-genealogiche in giro per l'Italia e la Francia. Ha pubblicato su alcune delle più importanti riviste scientifiche di settore, come The Genealogist, Connecticut Nutmegger e Journal of Family History.



CONCERTO DEI TRE CORI Programma

CORO DEI MISSIONARI

Direttrice: Marie-Françoise Euvrard

1. Hidden in My Heart - Parola e musica di Kenneth Cope
Coro delle Sorelle – Pianoforte: Spencer Burgener

2. A mezzanotte in ciel s'udi - Parole di Edmund H. Sears, Musica di Richard S. Willis
Coro dei Missionari – Pianoforte: Chloe Worthen

3. Natal, Natal/Canone di Pachelbel - Canto di Natale inglese tradizionale/ Johann Pachelbel
Coro delle Sorelle – Pianoforte: Chloe Worthen

4. Did the Shepherds Know? - Parole e musica di Kristen Allred
Coro delle Sorelle - Pianoforte: Chloe Worthen

5. Col capo sul fieno - Test Anonimo, Musica di William J. Kirkpatrick
Coro dei Missionari - Pianoforte Chloe Worthen

6. Find the Way to Bethlehem - Parole di Jan Pinborough, musica di Annie F. Harrison
Coro dei Missionari – Pianoforte: Jill Heslin

7. Uno ad uno - Parole di David A. Bednar, musica di Paul Cardall
Coro dei missionari- Pianoforte: Chloe Worthen, violoncello: Jewell Weathers, violini: Savanna Kessler & Kelsey Weaver

ANIMA E CORO

Direttore: Lorenzo Rossato

Pianista: Sara Damiani

1. **Gaudete** – Anonimo, Proprium Mediavale
2. **O Magnum Misterium** - Mariano Garau
3. **Song of Bethlehem** - Carl Strommel, arrangiamento di Lorenzo Rossato
4. **Halleluja** – Georg Friedrich Haendel

CORO DEL PALO DI ROMA-EST

Direttore: Nicola Scarola

Pianista: Francesco Scarola

1. **Tu scendi dalle stelle** - Alfonso Maria De'Liguori
2. **Compagni su cantate** - carola tradizionale basca
3. **Ascoltate tutti** - W. Morris da melodia francese
4. **Marcia dei tre re** - canto tradizionale della Provenza
5. **Rapsodia di natale** - medley di brani famosi- arrangiamento Adolphe Adam

Ringraziamo tutti coristi per la loro dedizione, voce e cuore!





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PROMOZIONE SOCIALE



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RASSEGNA DI CONCERTI DEDICATA A CELEBRI COMPOSITORI



orchestra

PUERI SYMPHONICI

in collaborazione con
coro polifonico

ANIMA E CORO

e con la gentile partecipazione di

Simona Canuti - *soprano*
Alessandro Lanzi - *tenore*
Stefano Viti - *basso*

direttore

LORENZO LUPU

SINFONIA n. 5 D. 485 in Si bemolle maggiore

STÄNDCHEN D. 957 n. 4 - orch. F. Weingartner

GRETCHEN AM SPINNRAD op. 2 D 118 - orch. M. Reger

ERLKÖNIG op. 1 D 528 - orch. H. Berlioz

MESSA n. 2 D 167 in Sol maggiore

FRANZ PETER SCHUBERT

To start the New Year 2020, we organized a beautiful concert with a **Symphonic Orchestra**, directed by a young Director, **Lorenzo Lupi**, on **January 5, 2020**. Also performing with the orchestra, the **Choir Anima e Coro** with excellent soloists.

The program was based on works of **Franz Schubert**.

TEMPIO DI ROMA

CHIESA DI
GESÙ CRISTO
DEI SANTI
DEGLI ULTIMI GIORNI

5 GENNAIO

ORE 18.00

(via di Settebagni, 376 - ROMA)

INGRESSO LIBERO ★ FREE ENTRANCE

Then came the **Covid 19 pandemic**, the closing of the Rome Temple on the 5th of March and the closing of the Visiotrs' Center on the 6th. After a week or so, started the lockdown which started the confinement of missionaries in their apartments.

Most Senior couples went home and the missionaries who were close to their departure date also went home. It was unclear to all what would happen. But in the Greta Italy Rome Mission, under the inspired leadership of President and Sister Smith, the challenge brought even closer unity and willingness to face courageously this new situation. Online work, Facebook research, etc., brought new ways and new possibilities. What seemed like an **obstacle became an opportunity!** Faith prevailed and the work went forward!

A Devotional from France – 29 March 2020

However, we all kept in touch via Zoom! With some outstanding Devotionals!
Thank you President and Sister Smith!



While we take this new road, we have the support of our beloved leaders such as Elder Jeffrey R. Holland!



THU, SEP 3

Riapertura del Centro

Roma, Lazio

With the reopening of the Visitors' Center, a new adventure starts!



Virtual visits through Zoom, thousand of “visitors” from all over the world. In November 2020, we prepared an Advent Calendar for Christmas as well as a Christmas Concert!



A special group goes home: With departing missionaries: 3 December 2020



A special thanks for Elders Stark, Cicotte and Durant for preparing the videos for the Advent Calendar and the Christmas Concert. An expression of love for all the Assistants to the President who have been so supportive, as well as the different Mission staff Elders and Sisters who have made it all possible! We love you all!





“Il est né le divin enfant ! »



« Caro Gesù »



Vi aspettiamo !



Non vi dimenticheremo mai!



Fino al giorno in cui ci rivedrem!

Con amore!

Buon Natale!