

## Heritage Choir Newsletter #15 – Rome, Italy

*It's Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. As we continue our visit, this evening, the Choir will have a Performance at St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican....*



We will continue our visit to **St Peter's Basilica**, as the Choir prepares for their 5:00 pm Mass performance at the Vatican.

St. Peter's Basilica is the home to one of Michelangelo's most famous masterpieces, the *Pietà*; probably the world's most famous sculpture of a religious subject. Michelangelo carved it when he was 24 years old, and it is the only one he ever signed.

With this magnificent statue Michelangelo has given us a highly spiritual and Christian view of human suffering. Artists before and after Michelangelo always depicted the Virgin with the dead Christ in her arms as grief stricken, almost on the verge of desperation. Michelangelo, on the other hand, created a highly supernatural feeling.

Some of you may recall, the *Pieta* traveled to the United States in 1964 and was on display at the World's Fair in New York. If you were able to view it years ago, the beauty and expression leaves you with a lasting impression.

In 1972, an individual attacked the *Pieta* Statue, which has since been restored, but now, it's protected by bullet-proof glass—even as other priceless sculptures in St. Peter's remain out in the open.

At 4:30pm today, the Choir will be seated in the Choir area, with a 10-minute sound check and choir rehearsal.

At 5:00 pm the Mass will begin. Mass will end at approximately 5:40 pm

During the Mass we will enjoy the following repertoire sung by the Southern Utah Heritage Choir.

- Entrance: Set Me as a Seal – by Rene Clausen
- Offertory: Hear My Prayer – by Alexander Kopylov
- Communion: God So Loved the World – by John Stainer
- Exit: Alleluia – by Ralph Manuel

Next, it's not too early to Review, Renew or Obtain a Passport.....**to be continued in next week's Newsletter.**

**Rome "Fun Fact" #15.** The four-poster, solid-bronze canopy over the main altar, or the *baldacchino* of St. Peter's, appears almost dwarfed by the dome towering right above it. You may think it's not that tall. But it is. It's almost 10 stories tall—it's just that the dome, above it, is even bigger: 452 feet. (The *baldacchino*, by the way, also uses no less than 100,000 *pounds* of bronze).