

## Heritage Choir Newsletter #30 – Rome, Italy

*It's Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. Next, we will enter the Church of Sant'Ignazio for rehearsal in preparation for your performance this evening.*



**Sant'Ignazio Church - The Ceiling Fresco - Inside the church**—designed by the Jesuit mathematician Orazio Grassi, who modeled it after plans by Carlo Maderno—the sense of theater continues.

In 1685, the ceiling of the Basilica of Sant'Ignazio was designed by Andrea Pozzo (who was himself a lay brother of the Jesuit order) when he was forty-three years of age. The medium that was used to cover the seventeen-meter wide Basilica was fresco. A technique known as dark Trompe L'oeil, which means to “fool the eye,” was used during the painting process.

This technique makes the ceiling's flat surface appear to be vaulted. Another aspect that contributes to the ceiling's illusions are the three-dimensional stories that depict the defense of Pamplona where St. Ignatius wounded his leg, and the entry of Saint Ignatius into Paradise after his religious conversion.

Some of the other figures that are included in the story also prove the depth of the ceiling because they appear to be horizontally climbing skyward. This symbolizes their desire to enter Paradise as well. Notice how heaven is capsuled in portals and Jesus is floating on a cloud directly in the center. This emphasizes that the Christian faith should be centered on Christ.

Tear your eyes away from it long enough to find the first marble disc set in the floor of the nave, then look back up. This is the spot from which the perspective is deigned to all line up and cause the ceiling to literally seem to extend right up into the heavens.

Now continue down the nave to the second marble disc set in the floor and look at the **dome** over the crossing up ahead, dimly illuminated by a golden light. Now keep walking toward the transept but keep your eye on that "dome."

Next, we will continue with the “dome” and other areas of the *Church of Sant' Ignazio as the choir prepares for their Farewell Performance at 8:00pm.....*to be continued in next week's Newsletter

**Rome “Fun Fact” #30** – The first thing most visitors do at Sant'Ignazio Church is look up at the sumptuous frescoes that decorate the huge ceiling and the church's cupola. But on the outside, there is no dome, and this complex fresco is a trompe-l'oeil (visual illusion in art, especially used to trick the eye into perceiving a painted detail as a three-dimensional object). This was accomplished by painter Andrea Pozzo to hide the fact that the Jesuits could not afford to build a dome.