

## Heritage Choir Newsletter #31 – Rome, Italy

*It's Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, during your 2019 Rome, Italy Performance Tour. Next, it's almost time for your 8:00 pm Farewell Performance. Take time to admire the Dome and other areas of the Church of Sant'Ignazio.*

**The Fake Dome** - It is one of the most famous works of art by Andrea Pozzo, known above all for its amazing and wonderful effect. Through his painting the artist creates a fake architectural work which gives an optical illusion effect.

**The Vault** – The large fresco is the main piece of decoration of the church. The paintings exalt the apostolic activity of the Society of Jesus in the world. Pozzo creates an optical illusion that gives the impression of an infinite space.

The most famous painting represents the glory of Saint Ignatius of Loyola accompanied by the angels. The trigram of the IHS of Christ, the logo of the Society, on his shield shows the divine recognition of his work.



**The Presbytery** - The presbytery and the apse are works by Andrea Pozzo. The scenic effect is amazing: the apse wall seems multilateral while in reality it is a concave wall. Pozzo worked on the frescoes between 1685 and 1701.



The paintings illustrate the fundamental moments of Saint Ignatius' vocation and the foundation of the Society of Jesus: the siege of Pamplona, the service given to the plague victims, the entry of Francis Borgia into the Society and the sending of Francis Xavier to the Indies. In particular, the apse depicts the vision of La Storta (Rome).



**The side altars and the tombs of the Jesuit saints** –

On the right of the transept we find the altar dedicated to Saint Aloysius Gonzaga produced by Andrea Pozzo. The marble altarpiece in the center represents the ascent of Saint Aloysius to heaven. The symbols of Penance and Purity are above it. The urn in lapis lazuli containing the remains of the saint is situated under the altar.

**Next**, we will return to the hotel for the evening. Tomorrow, it will be time for us to say farewell to Rome, as you either depart for the airport to return home or board the motorcoach to travel on to **Siena...**to be continued in next week's Newsletter.

**Rome "Fun Fact" #31** – The best way to view the dome illusion is to enter the church keeping your eyes low until you reach the circular marble marker that indicates the ideal vantage point for taking in the dome illusion. A second marker on the floor indicates the ideal viewing spot for the rest of the ceiling.

On sunny days, the illusion is quite effective; if it's cloudy outside, the inside of the "dome" with "sunlight dimly streaming in" (illuminated by a golden light) will look a bit funny. Sadly, the original "dome" painting was destroyed in 1891 and this is a replacement. You can only imagine—given Pozzo's talent—that the original was even more spectacular.