

**Heritage Choir
Newsletter #28 – Rome,
Italy**

**It's Monday, October
14th, during your 2019
Rome, Italy Performance
Tour. Next, we will enjoy
lunch by the Tiber
River.....**

The Tiber River has played a significant role for millennia on the Italian Peninsula. The 252-mile river is the third longest in Italy. The source of the Tiber River is in the Apennine Mountains in Emilia-Romagna, specifically from two springs that are separated by only 30 feet on Mount Fumaiolo. Mount Fumaiolo is in the south of Emilia-Romagna and serves as the natural border between it and Tuscany. The Tiber passes through Emilia-Romagna, Umbria, and Lazio before emptying into the Tyrrhenian Sea.

The springs that give life to the main water source of Rome throughout its history are nestled in a beech forest where Benito Mussolini had placed a marble column with an inscription that reads, "Here is born the river, sacred to the destinies of Rome."

The history of the Tiber River is in many ways the history of Rome itself. Roman legend declares that Rome was founded in the year 753 BC on the banks of the Tiber near Ostia. The story of the founding of Rome states that Remus and Romulus, two infant brothers, were abandoned on the waters between the ancient center of Rome and the island Isola Tiberina. They were rescued and ultimately saved by a wolf. Later the two brothers would murder their great uncle who had done the same to their father. A dispute ended in Romulus killing his brother Remus, and the name of the city was officially established. Whether or not the history of the Tiber River ever included two human beings named Remus and Romulus is up for speculation. What is for certain is the exceedingly significant role that the history of the Tiber River has had in terms of the development of Rome.

Tiber River facts tell us that at one time the trade route along the Tiber could see goods delivered as far as 60 miles upstream. The river was an essential element to the developing strength and ultimate

dominance of the Roman Empire. Besides being a crucial route for trade and commerce, it was also the major supply source of water for the city. Its functions and uses were virtually limitless and the ancient Romans put the water source to remarkably innovative, good use.

Next, you will have a rehearsal at Sant'Ignazio as you prepare for your evening performance....to be continued in next week's Newsletter.

**Rome "Fun Fact" #28 –
The Tiber was originally
called Albulula because it
was so white, but it was
renamed Tiberis after
Tiberinus, who was a
king of Alba Longa who
drowned in the river. It
has been said the Tiber
was the natural highway
for traffic in Latium and
provided an early defense
against neighbors on the
other side of the river.**

