

Our Vision

Dignitatis Humanae is the Vatican II declaration on religious liberty that inspired Kevin J. “Seamus” Hasson to found The Becket Fund. It is fitting that this document was written in Rome: site of both triumphs of religious freedom and horrors of religious persecution. To celebrate that document and the work of The Becket Fund that it continues to inspire, we’ve structured our Roman experience around 4 major themes:

Religious Liberty and Cinema

Producer Steve McEveety will share the inside story of the making of the landmark film, *“The Passion of the Christ”*. Highly anticipated and highly scorned, the release of this film exemplifies the tensions associated with expression in contemporary society. The subject of world wide controversy, Mr. McEveety will share his experience of making and releasing this film. Join us for a discussion and chance to converse with the producer, the cast and crew of *The Passion*.

Religious Liberty and Persecution

Rome is no stranger to religious persecution. At the height of its imperial power, the Roman Empire dominated the Holy Land abroad, and systematically hunted and killed believers of a “new” religion at home. Even in the modern era, Rome has experienced cases of religious persecution.

Join us for a visit to the ancient Roman Forum and the Coliseum, locations of the martyrdom of many Christians, followed by a tour of the Jewish Ghetto, one of the ancient communities of the Jewish Diaspora and home to spectacular synagogues.

Religious Liberty and Scholarship

December 7, 2005 will mark the 40th anniversary of *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Vatican II declaration that inspired The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

To commemorate this anniversary, we have organized a half day conference at the prestigious Gregorian University in Rome’s historic center. The topic of our conference is Religious Liberty and Relativism. Listen to leading scholars of all faiths from around the world discuss this profoundly important document.

Religious Liberty and Fine Art

The Vatican Museums contain perhaps the world’s most important collection of fine art. From Michelangelo’s frescos to the Raphael Rooms, to sculpture gardens with ancient Roman and Greek statues, most of these priceless art treasures are great works of religious expression. Unfortunately, however, large crowds often make it impossible to appreciate the grandeur and majesty of it all.

But not this time. We’ve booked an exclusive, intimate, after-hours tour for the guests of The Becket Fund. Imagine seeing the Sistine Chapel without crowds, the Courtyard of the Pinecone without tourists. No lines, no waiting-- just fine art as it was meant to be viewed, in peace and quiet.



Schedule of Events

The following itinerary reflects our vision of experiencing religious liberty through fine art, history, film and scholarship. We also leave you plenty of free time to explore Rome on your own. The trip includes breakfast, lunch and a cocktail hour each day (though on one day we provide dinner instead of lunch). And we will gladly recommend some of Rome's finest restaurants for the remaining dinners.

Itinerary

Tuesday, December 6th

- Check-in (Caesars and Senators)
- Welcome Banquet at Villa Pamphilj

Wednesday, December 7th

- Breakfast
- Private Scavi Tour under Saint Peter's Basilica
- Tour of Saint Peter's Basilica
- Lunch
- Check-in (Citizens)
- Personal time all afternoon
- Late afternoon conference with the cast and crew of "The Passion of the Christ"
- Cocktails
- Personal time all evening

Thursday, December 8th

- Breakfast
- Tour of the Roman Forum and Coliseum
- Tour of the Synagogue and Jewish ghetto
- Lunch
- Personal time all afternoon
- Cocktails
- Personal time all evening

Friday, December 9th

- Breakfast
- Personal time all morning
(lunch is on your own this day)
- Private tour of Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel
- Dinner (this is a must see restaurant that only serves dinner- we hate to add confusion, but the restaurant will be worth it!)
- Personal time all evening

Saturday, December 10th

- Breakfast
- Conference on Religious Liberty
- Lunch
- Personal time all afternoon
- Cocktails
- Personal time all evening

Sunday, December 11th

- Breakfast
- Check-out



Accommodations and Pricing

Overlooking the Pantheon, one of masterpieces of Roman architecture, is the *Grande Hotel de la Minerve*. Within walking distance of Rome's greatest attractions including: The Spanish Steps, Piazza Navonna and the Trevi Fountain, this magnificent renaissance palace offers everything you'd expect from a luxury five-star hotel. An outstanding Breakfast is served each morning in the hotel dining room, and each evening, join us for cocktails in a private hotel salon!

Built in the 19th century, the family-owned and operated *Hotel Santa Chiara* is a quaint, three-star hotel located right behind the Pantheon. It is an ideal location close to all major attractions in the city. Guests who chose this hotel will enjoy a full breakfast each morning in the hotel dining room, only a short walk to the events taking place at the Grand Hotel de la Minerve.

Citizen Package

\$2,995* per person; \$5,495* per couple

Includes all of the following:

- Four nights at the three-star Hotel Santa Chiara (check in Dec. 7, check out Dec. 11)
- Breakfast, a second meal (usually lunch), and cocktail hour daily
- Private tour of Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel
- Private tour of Forum, Coliseum, Synagogue, and Jewish Ghetto
- Discussion with cast and crew of "The Passion of the Christ"
- Conference at the Gregorian University Dignitatis Humanae, "Religious Liberty and Relativism"
- Transportation to and from all scheduled activities
- All gratuities and taxes

Senator Package

\$3,995* per person; \$6,995* per couple

Includes all features of the Citizen Package, plus:

- A fifth night at the three-star Hotel Santa Chiara (check in Dec. 6, check out Dec. 11)
- Welcome gala at Villa Pamphilj (Tuesday night)
- Private tour of scavi and St. Peter's Basilica (Wednesday morning)

Caesar Package

\$5,495* per person; \$9,495* per couple

Includes all features of the Senator Package, plus:

- All five nights at the five-star Hotel Minerva (check in Dec. 6, check out Dec. 11)
- Transportation to and from Rome's Fiumicino airport
- Welcome gift basket
- Private concierge service



* Prices do not include airfare. All prices are based on payment in full by September 15, 2005. Prices are 10% higher if payment is completed anytime thereafter. The final date for all payments is November 1, 2005.