

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MATER DEI & CORNELIA CONNELLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EMBARK ON CHORAL PILGRIMAGE THROUGHOUT ITALY

*The combined 220 member choral group will perform for Pope Benedict XVI in
St. Peter's Basilica*

Orange, Calif., (June 15, 2006) - The Mater Dei High School choir will set out on a 12 day choral performance tour with the Cornelia Connelly School choir, June 18 – 29. The performance schedule includes visits to the sacred cities of Como, Milan, Venice, Siena, Florence and Rome. The pilgrimage will culminate as the students are recognized as the feature choir of the papal High Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Wednesday, June 28 at 5:00 p.m.

"I am continually inspired by the dedication and inspiration of our parochial students. Mater Dei and Cornelia Connelly continue to be leading educational institutions that encourage extra curricular development with a focus on the arts. I look forward to attending their choral performance at St. Peter's Basilica with Pope Benedict XVI," said the Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange.

The 12 day pilgrimage will allow the students to visit a number of holy sites throughout Italy in addition to their choral performance schedule. The Diocese of Orange group will celebrate mass and perform as the featured choir at San Marco Cathedral in Venice, the Duomo Cathedral in Florence, SS Giovanni e Paolo in Venice, SS Trinità die Monti in Rome, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

“Our choir has worked extremely hard all year raising money for this trip. We are all excited to learn more about our Catholic Faith and share Christ’s love through our music,” said Elizabeth Martin, Mater Dei choir parent.

Choral Schedule Highlights:

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2006

3:00 p.m. - Perform at the altar ‘San Giovanni Buono’ at Milan’s Duomo Cathedral

9:00 p.m. - Concert at Chiesa Santa Maria in Valvendra

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2006

6:45 p.m. - Mass concert at San Marco Basilica in Venice

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2006

5:30 p.m. - Concert at SS Giovanni e Paolo in Venice

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2006

6:00 p.m. - High Mass at Duomo in Florence

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006

6:30 p.m. - Mass at SS Trinità die Monti in Rome

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2006

5:00 p.m. - High Mass at St. Peters Basilica in the Vatican City

6:30 p.m. – Private concert at the Sistine Chapel

9:00 p.m. - Concert at Basilica dei SS Bonifacioe Alessio all’Aventino

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