

## A Final Farewell – Arrivederla!

Well, the time has finally come. I will be departing Traverse City Airport this Sunday morning, July 12<sup>th</sup>, and will be arriving in Rome the following morning to start my new seminary experience. This culminates my last few days of packing everything I will need for 2 years – even though I'll be studying for 5 years, I will return for a summer assignment in 2017. Even though I might forget to pack one item or another, I know that I will never be short on prayers from my St. Philip Neri parish family and friends! Thank you so much.

I will be landing in Rome, where I will spend a few days to unpack and get acquainted with the North American College (NAC) where I will be living for the next 5 years. After a few days, I will put another suitcase together to go to Assisi, Italy for my 6 week Italian Immersion Program. All the classes will be taught in Italian, so I will hopefully have a good grasp on the new language in a few months! But there is a great system there for American students with English study materials and notes, so I should be just fine.



The 2014 class of new seminarians attending the North American College. I will be in a class of about 70 new men.

I have found people asking me what I am excited for most and what I will miss the most from home.

**Things I am excited for:**

First and foremost, I am excited to pursue my studies toward the priesthood. The opportunity to learn in Rome where the Church's history, beautiful Churches and the lives of so many saints have taken place are going to abundantly enrich my education and experience. I look forward to finding one of the many chapels to spend some time in prayer – especially in front of St. Philip Neri, my confirmation saint!

Secondly, I am excited to meet all the priests and seminarians at the NAC and around Rome. The various backgrounds and vocation stories are going to be amazing to learn from. Just to experience the Universal Church in Rome, to see how God is working in the lives of men and women from around the world, will be eye-opening.

Lastly, I am looking forward for the opportunity to travel around Italy and Europe. Many pilgrimage sites are just a short plane or train ride away, such as Fatima, Lourdes, the Camino de Santiago, and many more. I look forward to getting to know the saints of the Church on their own turf!

**Things I will miss:**

I will certainly miss my family, friends and all of you! The people are always what makes home in Empire so special. Being back home in Northern Michigan has been so special, especially after going away for college and work for over 6 years. The opportunity to be a priest, God-willing, in Northern Michigan is a wonderful blessing.

I will especially miss my friends at seminary, particularly my brother Gaylord Seminarians. We have such a great group of guys, and I have enjoyed growing in faith and fraternity over the last 2 years at the Josephinum.

Of course, there are other little things like the 4-seasons (especially the 80 degree summer days), the late evening waterski, the sunset on the dunes, and all our Northern Michigan area that God has abundantly blessed.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. Please feel free to write me while I am studying overseas at:

Pontifical North American College  
Attn: Mitchel Roman  
00120 Vatican City State  
Europe

God bless (or *Che Dio ti benedica*),

Mitchel Roman  
Seminarian, Diocese of Gaylord  
Pontifical North American College

