

The Rome Temple Visitors' Center

A Place of Learning, Peace and Contemplation



The Rome Temple Visitors' Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides a multimedia experience complete with beautiful artwork and guided tours for anyone who wants to know more about the temple and how it brings people closer to Jesus Christ. The center is free to the public and open daily.

Guests entering the Rome Temple Visitors' Center will be drawn immediately to a five-panel stained-glass mural depicting scenes from the life of the Savior Jesus Christ. The artist, Tom Holdman, and his team of 25 assistants meticulously hand cut the more than 6,000 pieces of glass to provide visitors a visual and spiritual experience. The mural contains more than 120 references to Jesus Christ's time on earth, including symbolism from each of His parables from the New Testament.

The glass in the mural incorporates many items from the Holy Land, including a shell from the Sea of Galilee, salt from the Dead Sea and 2,000-year-old coins from Jerusalem. These elements bring to life Christ's miracles, teachings and personal interactions with His followers. Holdman said, "We wanted to illustrate a large portion of Jesus Christ's life. We want people to feel the moment of healing that those who Jesus healed felt."

As visitors continue around the rotunda, they are greeted by life-size statues of the resurrected Christ surrounded by the Twelve Apostles. These statues are replicas of the Bertel Thorvaldsen statues found in the Church of Our Lady in

Denmark. Similar replicas of the statue of Christ are found in many other visitors' centers around the world. The inscription on its base, "Come unto me," highlights how those who believe in and come unto Christ can find healing, peace and joy. The statues are carved from Carrara marble that was quarried from the same source as the marble Michelangelo used to create his masterpiece David.

Behind the statue of Christ is a mural by Joseph Brickey. Brickey took great care to ensure that the mural would complement the statues. He included light rays surrounding the Savior and olive and cypress trees to represent the Italian landscape. He also painted twelve different types of lambs to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. He said, "These lambs are encircled by the olive trees, which I hope will help visitors feel included as members of God's family."

Another compelling feature of the visitors' center are the various exhibits that explain some key doctrines of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For example, one of the central teachings of the Church is that families can be together forever and that this sacred union is made possible in holy temples. One video highlights a couple who tragically lost a child but have found peace in the knowledge that they will be with their little one again after this life because of sacred ordinances performed in the temple.

The visitors' center is located near the Rome Temple to help explain the purpose of the temple and its importance in the lives of Latter-day Saints. Although visitors will not be able to enter the Rome Temple after it is dedicated, an exact model of the temple with cutouts to show the different rooms inside is on display at the visitors' center. Missionaries also are available at the center year-round to give tours and answer questions.

Elder Brent H. Nielson of the Church's Missionary Department said, "All of the experiences at the visitors' center are designed to draw people's attention to the Savior, to invite their hearts and their minds to turn toward Him, and to direct them to the ordinances of the temple in order to return to the Father."

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS