

2007 Mueggenborg Trip Itinerary

Below is a summary of our 2007 Mueggenborg trip to Weseke, Germany and Rome, Italy..

Day 1 – Some American Mueggenborg's arrived in Weseke, Germany. Josef Mueggenborg's family prepared Wedding Soup for us and provided plenty of beer and schnapps. Dinner was served in the very historical and ornate "Heimet House" in Weseke.

Day 2 - Drove to Munster – toured two churches in Munster (St Paul's Cathedral and St. Lamberti). St. Paul's Cathedral – built in the 13th century in a mixture of late Romanesque and early Gothic styles. It has been completely restored after WWII damage. Saw the Astronomical Clock. Since 1540, the clock has kept track of the time, date, phase of the moon, and position of the planets (the five known at that time). The clock, an amazing example of technology and ingenuity, will continue to tell the correct date until the year 2070. Adorned with hand-painted zodiac symbols, which traces the movement of the planets, and plays a Glockenspiel tune every day at noon (we heard it play). The carved wooden figures that adorn the clock come to life. One figure starts the show by clanging a bell (top right), and the figure of Death next to him turns his hourglass over. At the top, the three magi enter from the right, bow to the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus, and exit left. The clock plays Christmas tunes, and chimes the hour. (The sequence also happens at midnight, but the church is closed at that time.)

Went into the Hall of Peace, which is a former courthouse in the Prinzipalmarkt, is another unique site in Munster. Here the Treaty of Westphalia, which ended Europe's 30-year war, was signed on October 24, 1648, giving the Netherlands its independence. The ornate 16th century carvings were evacuated to a castle for safekeeping during World War II. The Hall of Peace was rebuilt and the carvings returned.

Saw St. Lamberti's church, which was built in 1375-1450, but the openwork finial of the tower dates from 1887. The black effect of the ornate spire is a result of weathering of its limestone surface. High up in the spire hang three infamous giant iron cages, just above the clock. During the Protestant Reformation, a group of Anabaptists followed a prophet to Munster and settled there, chasing off the Bishop who ruled the city. The group believed the world would end on one Easter Sunday in the 16th century. When it didn't, their prophet was killed in a fight. A new leader stepped forward and was crowned king. The new king ruled for only 18 months before his people got fed up and let the Bishop's men into the city walls. In the ensuing battle, the new king (Jan van Leiden), his second-in-command and his executioner were tried, found guilty and tortured to death in 1536. Their bodies were hung in these cages on the spire as a message to anyone who would go against the bishop. These are the original cages from the

16th century, protected during the bombings of World War II and re-hung in the spire of St. Lamberti Church. True to Munster's love of modern art, light bulbs now hang in the cages, as a symbol that ideas cannot be bound by bars.

More American Mueggenborg's arrived. Drove to Heinrich Mueggenborg's house and met his family. Went to brewery Brauhaus Stephanus for dinner. They showed us how German beer is made.

Day 3 – Drove to Aachen to see museum and cathedral. From 800-1400 Aachen was a very important city. Saw the Belts of the Virgin Mary and Jesus. Also the robe that Jesus was scourged in. Pelican is symbol of Christ because it will feed its young its own blood by ripping open its breast. Charlemagne began construction of the Palatine Chapel in 786. When he died in 814, he was buried there and his bones are still preserved in a special shrine, which we saw.

Saw Imperial Hall where the statue of Charlemagne is. He unified Europe. Saw Imperial Crown Jewels – original objects are in Vienna – these were reproductions. Book of Gospels from 1500, Cross 1024, purse – 9th century, crown – 10th century, Sword of Charlemagne 9th or 10th century.

Went to Josef and Magdalena Haverdill's house for dinner. More American Mueggenborg's arrived. Ate ham, homemade sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, gravy, fried onions and rum pudding. Went to Holy Thursday mass at St. Ludgerus Catholic Church in Weseke. Went to Ludgar Mueggenborg's house.

Day 4 – Drove to Koln (Cologne), toured the Koln Cathedral which took over 632 years to complete and is the largest Cathedral in Germany and the second-tallest Gothic structure in the world (second only to the Ulm, Germany steeple). Monsignor Dan went to confession with a German priest!

Went to Elizabeth Mensing's house – they run a dairy. Had asparagus soup, bread and egg sandwiches (Good Friday). Had some vanilla schnapps – good!

Day 5 – drove to Winterswijk, Netherlands to an open market – wonderful fruits, veggies and cheese. Drove to Josef Mueggenborg's house for lunch (the original Mueggenborg home place) – they had a big German barbeque with grilled brats and bacon and salads. Some of the American Mueggenborg's left to come home.

Looked through old family photos at Josef's. Went to cemetery in Weseke and saw family graves. Ate dinner at Tesing restaurant with Mueggenborg families. Ate salad, schnitzel, rouladen, fried potatoes, pineapple pudding and ice cream with cherries. Sang German drinking songs and "Oklahoma".

Day 6 – Monsignor Dan said an English Easter Mass at 7:00AM in St. Ludgerus church, said goodbye to German family. Drove to Weeze Airport (in Dusseldorf) to fly to Rome on Ryan Air – stayed in apartments at the North American College.

ROME –

Day 7 – Walked to St. Peter's Basilica. Monsignor Dan said mass in one of the chapels in the crypt around St. Peter's tomb (Cappella della Madonna delle Partorienti). Saw Michaelangelo's Pieta (Mary holding Jesus). Walked to the top of the dome – 320 spiral steps but beautiful view.

Took taxis to St. Paul's Outside the Walls Basilica then rode subway to St. John Lateran Church. Holds title of "Mother Church of the whole inhabited world". Completed in 1735. Oldest church in Rome, it is the cathedral church of Rome and the official seat of the Pope, as Bishop of Rome. Heads of Sts. Peter and Paul are buried at the high altar (gold statues above the high altar symbolize them).

Went to Basilica of St. Mary Major – this is the only Basilica that is original and is also called Liberiana. All the other churches burned or were destroyed by earthquakes and had to be rebuilt. The high altar is a papal altar, used only by the Pope himself or a priest given specific permission by him. It is traditional for the Pope to lead a mass here on the Feast of the Assumption of Mary, every August 15.

Day 8 - Took bus to Assisi. Visited 3rd church that Francis rebuilt with his own hands, Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. Basilica was constructed between 1569 and 1679 enclosing the 9th century little church, the Porziuncola, the most sacred place for the Franciscans. Saw the Cappella del Transito, which is the small room where St. Francis died on October 3, 1226. Saw the Rose Garden and the Rose Chapel. Doves nest in a basket on the statue of St. Francis in the rose garden. Went to Basilica of St. Clare. Clare was the cofounder of the Order of Poor Ladies (the Poor Clares). She was 18 when she heard Francis preach, which inspired her to live closer to the Gospel. On Palm Sunday, Clare attended high Mass at the cathedral, but she didn't move forward to receive a Palm. The bishop descended from the sanctuary and placed the palm in her hand. She saw that as a sign of what she was to become. That night, she left her wealthy father's house and St. Francis cut off her hair, to help hide her from her family. Saw the crucifix that spoke to Francis, tomb of St. Clare, Tunic of St. Francis, Clare's hair, dress that Clare made, Clare's vestment and the vestment of Francis.

Day 9 – Walked to Vatican City for Papal audience – lasted 2 hours. Walked to Coliseum, Arch of Constantine and saw chariot track indentions in the rocks of the street. Saw Arch of Titus, Roman ruins, Pillar of Trajan and Trajan's Market.

Took cab to Catacombs of Priscilla. Saw the oldest known paintings of Mary (with child) and Good Shepard with goats. Rome has 60 miles of catacombs but

only 40 have been uncovered. Dan said Mass in the church at the Catacombs. Took taxi to Trevi Fountain and saw the Pantheon.

Day 10 – some of us took taxis to Bocca della Verita (lion's mouth), St. Peter in Chains Church to see Michelangelo's Moses statue and the chains that bound St. Peter, saw the Pantheon and Spanish Steps. Went to the Vatican Museum to see the Sistine Chapel, amazing!

Day 11 – Flew home.