

# RELIGION

## Alternate World Youth Day takes area youth to Italy

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*Editor*

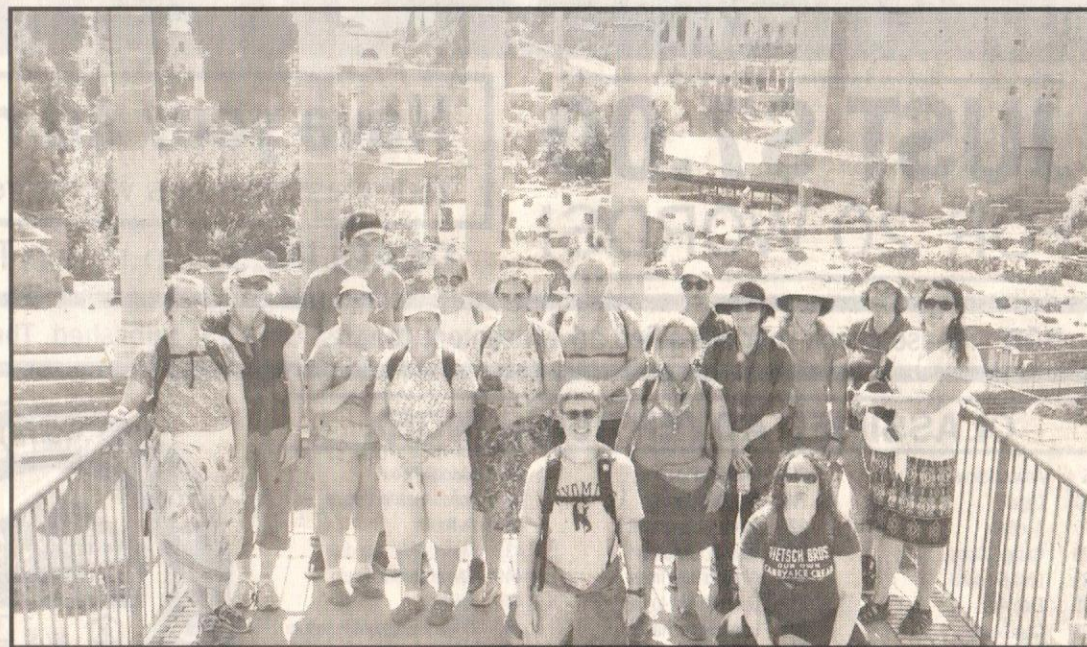
Sixteen Fremont County Catholics returned from a pilgrimage to Italy in late July. This trip was an alternate World Youth Day for area youth who were unable to go to the church's huge event in Panama this past year.

"It was really cool," said high school student Maddie Tate. "I loved looking at all the historical monuments and buildings. It was pretty fun to get to know the other kids." The 10-day excursion was the first time Tate had been out of the country.

The same goes for her mother, Mary Tate, who went with her. "My favorite place was Assisi because it's quiet. And really it has more architectural flair than Rome."

The pilgrims spent the most time in the

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Pictured at Roman Forum are Melissa Bautz, Francesca Jones, Jess Corbett, Margaret Phinney, Mary Podzemny, Jenny Bautz, Theresa Bautz, Maddie Tate, Mary Tate, Brett Jones, Terry Federer, Jessica Baron, Laracel D'Andrea, Anne Baron, Carol Baron, Maria Corbett.



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cities of Assisi and Rome, seeing the ancient cast La Rocca, visiting St. Peter's Basilica and the tombs of saints.

"I learned more about St. Francis than I ever thought I knew about him," said Terry Federer, who went as an alternate chaperone. "I had to give him a very special thank you because he saved my calf a couple years ago."

Federer said the best part of the trip was the youth. "As much as I enjoyed seeing the

things, it was seeing the youth participating, looking, and learning, that was the best."

The participants have been fundraising for three years to make this trip possible. "So you get to work with each other in these three years of time and become an extended family and look out for each other," said Federer. "I watched the faces of these young people—our children—in these special places. The support of the entire commu-

nity is absolutely phenomenal."

The travelers said they were struck with the weight of history in these ancient cities. "I learned a lot of history, like how the roads are rutted out because they are so old," said Maddie.

Looking at the churches and tombs and basilicas, Mary said, "There is not an inch in the basilicas or anything that not covered. painted, or has statues or carved."