

WHEN IN ROME

*Chiesa del Gesù
(Church
of Jesus)*

*It was here
in the chapel
of Our Lady
of the Way
that Mary Pyle
prayed for
guidance
in finding
a spiritual
director.*



When in Rome

When we are in the centre of the Eternal City in the area of Piazza Venezia where the famous “wedding cake” stands, we do well to go two blocks towards Saint Peter and we will find ourselves in the Piazza del Gesù.

The piazza is very small and could be mistaken as a street. All the buildings in this area of Rome are in the baroque style as is the church which takes up a big part of the square. Its name is the Gesù church, for the Holy Name. Once inside, we enter a mammoth building, several storeys high in the busy baroque style using coloured marble in geometric designs.

On the left side of the main altar, there is a two storey high altar decorated in gold. It is dedicated to

Saint Francis Xavier. There is nothing quite like it anywhere else in Rome.

If we go through the arch to the right of this altar, we will enter into a tiny chapel dedicated to our Lady under the title of Our Lady of the Way. It is a very popular chapel with the people of Rome and it was here that Mary Pyle, after assisting at Mass in the morning, would come to invoke our Lady in a novena to help her find a saintly spiritual director. It was following this novena that she went for her summer vacation on the isle of Capri and met the woman who insisted that she accompany her to Padre Pio. The Blessed Mother had answered Mary's prayer: she found the holy spiritual director she was searching for in Padre Pio.

The way is an ancient title for Christianity. Stop in and ask our Lady to help you along the way, when in Rome.