



WHERE ARE WE IN ITALY?

Do You Know Where We Are?

We have left **Taormina** and we're on the way to our last stop. It's been a long trip and Christmas is not too far off. We've decided to make this stop a longer one—a week at least so we can enjoy all the holiday festivities, the markets, etc. We've decided to fly because the luggage is now bursting with stuff so dragging it up and down the stairs of the train is not an option! Buying the Nativity scene to take home was the last straw! Holy Mother Mary is sticking out of one pocket and St. Joseph is upside down right beside her. Who knows where Karen stuck the Wise Men!

We have one more stop before we end this trip and go home. After all, Christmas is just a few days away! The trip has been fun; we've learned a lot, tried a lot (a cow stomach sandwich, Karen, really?), and bought a lot! But it's time to leave.

The clue of where we are is below. Remember, if you can tell us where you

think we've landed, email Lilly at gllapira@gmail.com (DON'T reply to this email; it won't get to Lilly.) And if you're right and among the first ten people to email, we'll send you a **\$5-off coupon** to use on whatever event we do once we're "back to normal." You pick the event for which you want to use the coupon. **But you only have one day to send in your guess: deadline is 6 pm today.** And unfortunately, each household is limited to winning only two times so if you (or your spouse/other) has been smart enough to get it right and get a coupon twice already, you can't any more. You can still take a guess and if you're right, we'll tell you but you won't get another coupon.

Good luck!



HERE'S YOUR CLUE:

We have picked the most impressive, important, and beautiful city for our stop before the Christmas countdown begins. The lights and decorations are spectacularly beautiful and people seem to be smiling and happy. There is an unexplainable energy in the air—in spite of the cold—that tells us that we're made the right choice for this last leg of the trip. We've got

tickets (Karen got these six months in advance, thank goodness!) for a special mass tonight. After all, this whole month in Italy has been one religious celebration after another so we decided we should participate, too. It never hurts to give thanks for all we have.

"Lilly, are you ready to go inside? We need to go in three hours early in order to get a seat; this church only holds so many people. There's a choir for this service that is unrivaled; the sweetest voices you ever heard. And the decorations should be gorgeous."

"I'm ready, Karen, because I'm freezing my caboose out here. I hope we're not stuck way in the back."

"Stop complaining, Lilly. We'll be nice and warm and toasty in this church. Did you know this mass is actually broadcast all over the world?"

"If we're lucky, maybe our pals in Lincoln Hills will see us on TV! Ya think? We should wave, just in case!"

We go inside and thankfully get seats in the middle, close enough to see what's going on. Holy Smokes! Every cardinal, bishop, nun and altar boy must be in here! And the choir is singing Silent Night. So beautiful.

"Hey, Karen, did you see that life-sized Nativity scene on the way in? We've seen a lot of them but this one had no baby Jesus in it. Boy, you can't trust

anyone anymore even in a church! Who would take the baby Jesus?”

“Actually, Lilly, the baby is up near the altar right now. Once the mass is over, he gets a special kiss and then gets put in the manger where he belongs. It’s kind of a nice tradition in this church.”

“Did you hear the canon blast off? I hope we don’t get blown up before this is over! It sounded very close by.”

“Shh. It’s all about to start. Here comes the procession, Lilly. Wow—I am speechless.”

“For a change, Karen!”

Think you know where we are? Don't forget: email gllapira@gmail.com.

And...congratulations to the winners of a \$5 coupon for our last Where Are We message: JoAnn Faria and Barbara Puntillo.

Thanks to all who sent in a guess to these 14 challenges, right or wrong. We loved hearing from you!

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