

For Immediate Release**“The Dream of Rome” – The Capitoline Venus
June 8 through September 5, 2011****From the Capitoline Museums in Rome to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC**

Washington, DC—Today, June 7, 2011, the Mayor of Rome, Gianni Alemanno, opens the exhibition of the Capitoline Venus at one of the most prestigious museums in the United States and the world, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. The great treasure preserved at the Capitoline Museums in Rome will be precious witness to the “Sister City” treaty of friendship and collaboration between the two capital cities. The exhibit will be open to the public from June 8 through September 5, 2011.

The event will also serve as the context for the ratification of a bilateral agreement between the museums for the achievement of technical projects and the achievement of important works and exhibits that will further enrich the already extraordinary cultural offerings of the Rome Capital City museum.

Also present at the opening will be the Italian Ambassador of Italy to the USA, Giulio Terzi, the Director of the National Gallery of Art, Earl A. Powell III, the Director of the Capitoline Museums, Claudio Parisi Presicce, and the President of the Knights of Columbus, Carl Anderson.

Today, June 7, 2011, marks the launch from the city of Washington of “The Dream of Rome,” the broad program of exchanges and cultural events between Rome and the United States, born with the close collaboration of Rome and the Catholic service organization, “Knights of Columbus” (8 million members and 15,000 offices in 16 countries). Between 2011 and 2013 some of Rome’s ‘eternal’ masterpieces will be on display in the most prestigious museums in major U.S. cities: Washington, DC, San Francisco, Toronto, New York, Los Angeles, and Boston. In addition to demonstrating the invaluable historic legacy of the city of Rome, *The Dream of Rome* will give the eternal city the opportunity to share best practices with local American institutions regarding the great challenges faced by modern times in environmental sustainability and mobility and to display its credits as a modern capital able to meet future challenges, including the candidacy for the 2020 Olympic Games.

“It is truly an honor for me to be here today at the National Gallery to celebrate, through the millennial history and culture of our city, the achievement of an ideal bridge between Italy and the United States, and between their two capitals, Rome and Washington, DC, in particular. It is a true privilege for the Mayor of Rome to have the opportunity to show you one of the greatest Roman masterpieces: the Capitoline Venus, an extraordinary sculpture that is crossing the ocean for the first time to bear witness the strong alliance and a new season of technical cooperation between the Capitoline Museums and your splendid Gallery. This alliance will allow both to further enrich their already extraordinary and priceless cultural offerings. *The Dream of Rome* project opens here and it is my hope that it will also return with a major closing event,” said Mayor of Rome Gianni Alemanno.

Contacts : UFFICIO STAMPA +39 06 67102211-6905 - ufficiostampa@comune.roma.it
Pietro Masi +39 392 8353598 - pietro.masi@comune.roma.it