



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



For Immediate Release
April 13, 2009

Contact: Gilbert Gallegos
505-476-2217

Governor Richardson Travels to Rome for Lighting of the Roman Coliseum in Honor of New Mexico

Ceremony to Honor New Mexico for Replacing Death Penalty with Life in Prison

SANTA FE, New Mexico – Governor Bill Richardson and Most Rev. Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop of Santa Fe, are part of a New Mexico delegation traveling to Rome this week for a special ceremony at the Roman Coliseum in Rome, Italy. The ceremony will honor New Mexico for replacing the death penalty with life in prison.

On Tuesday, Governor Richardson will speak to travel and tourism professionals as well as International press at a reception in Rome. The Governor will deliver a speech to industry officials on what New Mexico has to offer Italians including our culture, history and an authentic Far West experience. Embassy officials, tour operators and Italian press have been invited.

Last year visitors from Italy to the United States grew by 23%. In January 2009 Italian visitors to the U.S. numbered 41,000, up 6% over the same month last year, and making Italy the only European market with an increase in visitors to the United States. Italy ranks #4 in overseas markets for New Mexico.

Governor Richardson's Public Schedule for the Week of April 13th:

**Please note: Italy is 8 hours ahead of New Mexico –
Mountain and Central European Summer Times are shown below**

Tuesday, April 14th

9:30am (New Mexico)

5:30pm (Italy)

**Reception with Tourism Officials and International Press to
Promote New Mexico**
Regina Hotel Baglioni
Via Veneto #72
Rome, Italy

Wednesday, April 15th

1:00am (New Mexico)

9:00am (Italy)

Public Audience with Pope Benedict XVI

- Governor Richardson and Archbishop will meet Pope Benedict XVI as part of a VIP receiving line following the general a audience

Sala Nervi
Vatican City, Italy

5:00am (New Mexico)

1:00pm (Italy)

Press Availability with Governor Richardson

Headquarters of Sant'Egidio
Piazza S.Egidio 3/a, 00153
Rome, Italy

12:00pm (New Mexico)

8:00pm (Italy)

Ceremonial Lighting of the Coliseum in Honor of New Mexico

Roman Coliseum
Rome, Italy

Trip Contacts:

Gilbert Gallegos	505.500.5504
Allen Sánchez	505.319.3334
Viki Elky	505.205.3750

###