

## WHERE IN THE WORLD....?

Since you won't see me this week and next, I thought I'd let you know where I've been for the past week and where I hope to be for most of the next two.

I will have spent most of last week in Dubrovnik (after an overnight in London) for my cousin Elyse's wedding. Elyse and her now-husband, Nick, both live and work in Chicago and they were married civilly over Labor Day weekend at the senior living facility in Indianapolis where her grandmother resides. The Croatia excursion is the five-day destination wedding portion of the celebration for 60 of their "closest friends" and those members of the family who were able to travel there. The best part for me is that this side of my family are Methodist, so all I've had to do is have fun in one of the most beautiful cities in the world!

By the time you read this, I will (hopefully) have gone on to Greece where I'll spend three days in Thessaloniki exploring the Macedonian civilization of Philip II and Alexander the Great as well as checking out any traces of St. Paul's time in that area. After living the first twenty-five years of my life thinking that I was 100% Croatian, I was told by a Croatian priest that my last name is actually Macedonian, and the original spelling is *Kaiafas* (pronounced kay-fazh). Since then, I found out that my paternal grandfather was born in Vienna, but that's all I really know, since he never said much to my Dad about his life in the old country and died while Dad was serving in northern Africa during WWII. So I don't really know if the Macedonian connection is from Greece or the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. But to make matters even more confusing, there is a city in Greece—in the western Peloponnese, not the Greek region of Macedonia—that is my name, in its original form—*Kaiafas*. I plan to be in that area at the end of this week in an attempt to unravel that mystery. In between those two parts of the country I'll spend a few nights in a seaside town called Nafplio which Rick Steves calls one of the most beautiful cities in Greece, and I'll hopefully visit Corinth en route.

After nine days in Greece, I'll take my sixth flight in two weeks and head back to London for three nights and three West End plays in two days, as well as my first time touring Buckingham Palace; it's only open when the Queen isn't there, and at this time of year she's usually up at Balmoral in Scotland. God willing, I plan to be back here the last weekend of this month, perhaps a bit jet-lagged, but hopefully unscathed by all the flights and the driving in a country where, as is the case in Italy, a stop sign is merely a suggestion.

Fr. Bob