



From the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums  FALL 2015

Upcoming EVENTS



Wednesday, Dec. 9
Advent Evening of
Fellowship
at 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for this festive blacktie event at the Detroit Athletic Club! Call Eileen for more information: (313) 565-8888 ext. 174.

Spring Trip

A Stratford trip is being planned for the Spring! Watch the website for details: mipatrons.com

Growth in the Vatican Gardens

Through our experiences with the Patrons of the Arts organization, we have been able to view amazing works by great artists throughout the centuries. Each work of art, in a unique way, may help people, walking through different sections of the Vatican on tours, to appreciate God and His work in creation.

We selected the 'Restoration of the Vatican Gardens: Madonna Della



Guardia' because it combines the work of God in creation through the plants, trees, and flowers along with the statuary work of great artists to complement the gardens. This specific project was brought to us through prayer.

In August 2014, Carol felt a call to help 'restore' the honor and love of the Blessed Mother by restoring a Marian work of art. She felt the 'restoration' was through the Patrons and that a friend in the Patrons would confirm Carol's call. Carol's friend relayed a story about how Pope Benedict XVI would sit on a garden bench at Castel Gandolfo praying the Rosary before a statue of the Blessed Mother. This garden bench was moved to the Vatican Gardens for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. This convinced us that the Madonna Della Guardia was



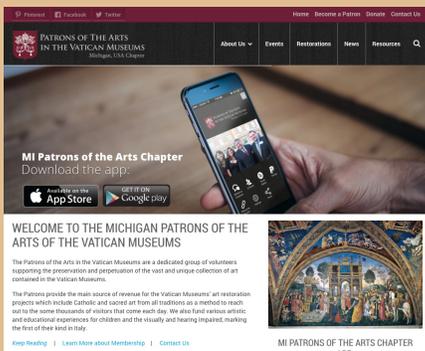
the right project.

Knowing the history of the Gardens is a great draw: so many popes praying, contemplating and making momentous decisions, impacting so many souls, bringing them closer to Jesus. It is also a great joy to know that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI enjoys his daily rosary in this part of the garden as well. We have a special love for Blessed Mother – knowing that she is truly mother of us all, our guardian and our protector – so helping to restore her statue to it's original beauty was important to us.

We are excited that future popes will continue to have the opportunity to pray for us in this beautiful garden space.

By Bill & Carol Brewis

Announcing the Michigan Patrons new website and app!



We are excited to inform you the new Michigan Patrons website is up and running, ready to inform you of upcoming events, restoration projects, connecting Patrons with photos of past events and allowing for online membership renewal. You can also download the app – please go to the website mipatrons.com for the direct links. In addition, we are now on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter. Please help promote the Patrons with a social media presence... make sure to like us on Facebook, post comments and Tweet!

Go to: mipatrons.com

From the Mediterranean to Rome



By reference to the calendar, the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museum's Mediterranean Cruise and Rome visit of May 1 - May 10, 2015 took place over a 10 day period. However, during that time, many of the places we visited had us figuratively traveling from the present back over three millennia of church history, art and architecture.

Starting in Barcelona, Spain we had a tour of the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia ["Holy Family"] whose now iconic towers have come to represent the city of Barcelona. Under construction since 1882 and primarily designed by Antoni Gaudi, the Basilica is still under construction with a target completion date of 2026. We were blessed to have a guided tour given by a local priest who has been stationed in the parish next to the cathedral for the past 15 years and was intimately familiar with the elaborate statuary portrayed on the outside of the cathedral as well as Gaudi's symbolic architectural messages on the inside.

From Barcelona we sailed to St. Tropez, France where we stepped back nearly a thousand years while touring the grounds of Le Thoronet Abbey, a Cistercian monastery in Provence built in



Above: Interior of Le Thoronet Abbey outside St. Tropez, France. **Bottom:** Our Michigan Patrons after a Private Mass in the Chapel of the Governatorato with Cardinal Harvey.

1146 in the Romanesque style and still remarkably preserved.

Our travel back through the millennia was then completed in Rome where we visited the Basilica of the Holy Cross with the Holy Stairs (brought back from Jerusalem by St. Helena and, according to Catholic Tradition, are the stairs which once led to the praetorium of

Pontius Pilate and were climbed by Jesus during His Passion) and the Chapel of St. Lorenzo which was the center of the Church prior to when St. Peter's and the Vatican were built. This was then followed with a tour of the St. John Lateran's Basilica, the site of the very first Christian Church built on land given to the Christians by Emperor Constantine in 313 AD.

Of course, we did not visit these sites as wandering pilgrims. We were accompanied and guided by Dr. Elizabeth Lev who, as the Professor of Art History at Duquesne University's Rome campus, at each stop provided a seemingly endless fountain of fascinating background information.

In fact, in-between these stops Dr. Lev also treated us with additional on-board lectures on Matisse, Van Gogh, Chagall and Fr. Marie-Alain Couturier as well as on a separate tour to visit the Matisse-inspired Rosaire Chapel in Vence, just north on Monte Carlo.

While in Rome, the Patrons were also able to visit the exquisitely beautiful Papal Gardens at Castel Gandolfo, the Papal summer residence, and had the opportunity to attend Mass at the Church of St. Tommaso da Villanova where the Pope would say Mass. In fact, Fr. Mark Haydu, LC remarked on the privilege of celebrating the Mass for us wearing the very same vestments that had been worn by St. John Paul II for many years.

Of course, no trip to Rome would be complete without the opportunity afforded to Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums for special access to the Vatican Museums. This trip was no exception. One visit included a tour of the Tapestry restoration labs below the Vatican Museum where restoration projects are ongoing. The Michigan Chapter members, in particular, were treated to an up-close-and-personal examination of the Raphael tapestry that is the focus of its current fundraising efforts to restore.

Finally, the after-hours tour of the Vatican Museum was a highlight all on its own. Perhaps only those who remember what it was like, prior to becoming a Patrons member, to visit the Vatican Museums with crowds of people can fully appreciate the privilege of being lecture-guided through the Raphael rooms by Dr. Elizabeth Lev and then sitting in the serene quiet of the Sistine Chapel while Dr. Lev spoke at length pointing out things that were fresh and new to you despite this perhaps being far from your first visit.

*By Gerard Andree, Board Member,
Michigan Chapter*

Dear Patrons,

It is with much excitement that we are pleased to announce the new memberships levels for the Patrons of the Arts Michigan Chapter. We believe providing various levels of membership will afford many the opportunity to join us in restoring this precious art while contributing to the future of leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Below you will find the different levels of membership outlining the benefits associated with each one.

Affiliate Patron	\$75	Entitles Patron to Michigan and International Vatican Museums newsletters
Associate Patron	\$300 Individual \$600 per couple	Membership entitles Patron to Michigan and International Vatican Museums newsletters and entitles Patron to purchase of admission to locally and nationally sponsored events.
Conservator Patron	\$600 Individual \$1200 per couple	Membership entitles Patron to local and International Vatican Museums newsletters and entitles patron to purchase of admission to locally and nationally sponsored events including personal, guided Vatican Museum tours in Rome.
Jr. Membership (under 35)	\$250	Membership entitles Patron to all benefits of Conservator Patron
Clergy	\$125	Membership entitles Patron to all benefits of Conservator

*If you prefer you may go directly to our new website
and renew your membership online at:*

mipatrons.com

As you know these glorious works of art evoke emotion that brings about an improved wellbeing spiritually while allowing us to enjoy their natural aesthetic beauty as well. We look forward to welcoming previous and new members to join us in our restoration efforts. May God bless all of you for your selfless contributions and on behalf of the Michigan Patrons, we look forward to welcoming you at future events.

Kindest Regards,

Maureen Soens

Michigan Chapter Membership Chair



Exciting tapestry restoration

The Michigan Chapter is privileged to restore a Raphael Tapestry through the generous grant of a matching gift of \$400,000 by the Stange Trust, David Stone, Trustee. The opportunity to restore this tapestry is an historic event for our Michigan Chapter, as the tapestry will be hung in a prominent place in the Vatican Museums. The Stange matching gift will be paid over the course of the next 7 years commencing December 2015. This time frame corresponds to the anticipated time for the restoration.

The Board of the Michigan Chapter is pleased to announce that approximately 80% of the matching gifts have been secured and several of the installments have already been received. The Michigan Chapter would like your help to fulfill this commitment and ask you to consider a gift to be given over the next 7 years. The names of all donors whose gift of a minimum of \$10,000 (cumulative) will be included on a permanent plaque that will hang in the Vatican Museums. We ask you to consider a gift and invite a friend to join you in support of this exciting restoration!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS *Patrons of the Arts, Michigan Chapter*

Ms. Dianne Ahern
Dr. Lourdes Andaya
Mr. Gerard Andree
Mr. Graham Beal,
Detroit Institute of Arts (Honorary Member)
Mr. and Mrs. John and Kristan Hale
Dr. Elizabeth Lev *(Honorary Member)*
His Eminence, Adam Cardinal Maida
Archdiocese of Detroit (Honorary Member)
Fr. JJ Mech *(Chaplain)*
Mr. Mark Napolitano
Mr. and Mrs. Antonio and Suzanne Rea
Mr. Anthony Rugiero
Mrs. Maureen Soens
Mrs. Jeanne Stevenson
Mrs. Teresa Tomeo



Patrons wine event

Michigan Patrons enjoyed a fabulous summer event at Cantoro Italian Market in Plymouth with wine pairings and a delicious dinner as we heard about the theological and artistic connections between wine and soul. Our friends and guest speakers, husband and wife team, Art Historian, Dr. Elizabeth Lev and Theologian, Dr. Thomas D. Williams presented on the theme of the evening – “A Matter of Taste: The History, Culture, Spirituality and Enjoyment of Wine.” The delightful evening included lively, poignant illustrations and stories as well as the opportunity to experience the five S’s of wine.



Renovatio, published biannually, covers news and events for the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons. The Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums is a select group of people dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of the vast and unique collection of art contained in the Vatican Museums. The name of the publication, *Renovatio*, is the Latin translation of the word renewal. *For more information or to join the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons, contact Membership Chair Maureen Soens at dpartistry@comcast.net or (248) 842-5126.*

Co-chair **John Hale**
jhale@ctscentral.net, (313) 565-8888
Co-chair **Tony Rea**
Tonyrea_area@hotmail.com, (248) 357-0999
Printing Corporate Travel, CTSCentral.net
Design Jeanne Stevenson, CardsForHisGlory.com