



# Renovatio

From the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums WINTER 2013

## Upcoming EVENTS

**April 13**

**Ladies Floral Design Class & Luncheon** – with local artist David Calcaterra  
Thrifty Florist, Southfield

**May 3-5**

**Art For God's Sake**  
Elegant religious art gallery – proceeds directly benefit Patrons. Special opening night preview.  
[www.artfgs.com](http://www.artfgs.com)  
St. Anastasia Church, Troy

**May 11-19**

**Patrons Toronto weekend to visit the Art Gallery of Ontario**  
Visit the special and spectacular exhibit:  
*Revealing the Early Renaissance: Stories and Secrets in Florentine Art*  
(see insert)

**October 16-21**

**Patrons 30th Anniversary Events in Rome**

**December 2**

**Advent with Archbishop Vigneron**

## Sacred Art show in Michigan comes to light again

**A**rt for God's Sake (AFGS), an inspiring art celebration, a rarity in the Archdiocese of Detroit, will be presented May 3-5, 2013 on the campus of St. Anastasia Roman Catholic Church in Troy, Michigan. Proceeds will directly benefit the Detroit chapter of the Patron of the Arts. Archbishop Vigneron will serve as the Honorary Chairperson of the Patron's board, which includes Tony and Suzanne Rea, John and Kristan Hale, and Teresa Tomeo as part of the AFGS honorary committee. Reservations are now available for a special early arrival where Patrons and other benefactors will have first chance to preview the art and make purchases. Artists will also be available at that time to meet and greet the guests. The special price of \$125.00 also includes a family pass for Sunday.

AFGS's mission is to expose the community to the transcendent beauty of sacred art, while inviting artists to share their talents so that, "the knowledge of God can be



Among the attendees of 2011 Art For God's Sake was Archbishop Vigneron.

better revealed and the preaching of the Gospel can become clearer to the human mind." It is a juried, professional art show that highlights sacred themes. The first AFGS show featured art from four countries and 29 states. The purpose for the May event is to promote the mission of the Patrons and allow people to immerse themselves in the many ways that God can reach out to us through art.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Fr. J.J. Mech, Pastor of St. Anastasia, board member, and chaplain for the Patron of the Arts Detroit Chapter, created Art for God's Sake with a basic goal in mind. He wanted to bring people together and, by utilizing the art, present opportunities for prayer and for developing a deeper relationship with the Lord. Fr. Mech believes that *Art for God's Sake* is an uplifting opportunity to remind us that, even in challenging times, the Catholic Church protects and honors the masterful beauty expressed to us by talented artists who are blessed with a measure of the Lord's creativity.

Patrons are encouraged to attend. To make reservations and for further information visit [www.artfgs.com](http://www.artfgs.com)

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have added a new category to our membership – **Michigan Restorer Membership** (\$500.00 for a single person or \$1,000 .00 for a couple.)

### Annual membership benefits are:

- Newsletters, semi annually produced by the National Vatican Patrons
- Personal, guided Vatican Museum tours in Rome
- Special annual member events
- Assist with the restoration of the projects
- Receive recognition as a Michigan Restorer Member at the Michigan Chapter Annual Event and in all Chapter Publications
- Receive all benefits listed above for a one-year Patron Membership

# Michigan *Blessings*

On July 21, the Michigan Patrons of the Arts took full advantage of the perfect sunny and warm weather for a historical tour of the coast of Michigan's Thumb which turned out to be a most pleasant, enjoyable and educational trip, even for those who had thought that they already knew the area.

After meeting at St. Joan of Arc we took a bus ride to Port Huron, stopping first to see the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, Michigan's oldest lighthouse on the Great Lakes. A guided tour, including a climb to the top, was then followed by a visit to the nearby lighthouse ship "Huron". A lighthouse ship served in areas where a lighthouse couldn't be built. The Huron Lightship was the last operating lightship on the Great Lakes serving for over 50 years when she was retired in 1970. For 36 of those years she was stationed at Corsica Shoals, a sandy area 6 miles north of Port Huron. She is now permanently moored along the banks of the St. Clair River in Port Huron. We enjoyed a tour of the ship and viewed an extensive collection of artifacts, including many model ships, as well as a live camera feed of the



*Miguel and Irene Lis Planells and family enjoy a guided tour aboard the Huron Lightship*

bottom of the river taken from a camera positioned in the bow.

We then stopped for a visit at the Edison Depot near the Blue Water Bridge. What a gem of a museum in our backyard! Located in a traincar, it depicts the life and accomplishments of Thomas Edison who grew up in this area and worked on the trains between Detroit and Port Huron as a boy.

The trip then took us north to Port Sanilac. On the way, we were entertained by our tour guide, "Freighter Frank", who regaled us with amusing local maritime stories, legends, and items of interest.



*The Michigan Patrons after Mass with Bishop Cistone at the 19th century St. Mary's Church Port Sanilac, Michigan.*



*Fr. Mark blesses the vines with John Hale, Jr. holding the holy water.*

Upon arriving in Port Sanilac we had a delicious gourmet lunch at Van Camp's restaurant where we were joined by the Most Rev. Joseph R. Cistone, Bishop of Saginaw. Fr. Mark Haydu also updated us on the current Patrons projects in the Vatican. Later that afternoon we attended Mass with Bishop Cistone at St. Mary's, Port Sanilac's historic 19th century church.

A particularly unique experience of this trip was a stop at the vineyard of the Blue Water Winery. Owners Connie Currie and her husband, Steve Velloff, thought this a perfect opportunity to have a "blessing of the vines", an ancient tradition still practiced in Italy and several other European countries. While walking through a row of vines, Fr. Mark blessed the grapes with water and wine – from the vineyard, of course! It was a beautiful ceremony and we were privileged to take part.

The tour ended in

Lexington at the Blue Water Winery with a wine tasting and boxed dinners for the bus ride back home. Judging by the comments made, all agreed it was a fun, informative, and fact-filled day. Many thanks to "Freighter Frank" and Corporate Travel for a great time!

However, the storytelling of "Freighter Frank" did nothing but whet the appetite for what was to come. On October 16 the Patrons were treated to something truly special, an Irish "shanachie." A shanachie is a storyteller. In the dark days of Ireland when the British Crown attempted to quash Irish education, language, and culture by what became known as the Penal Laws, the role of the shanachie developed to keep the legends, lore, and traditions alive by verbally passing on lessons taught in "hedgerow schools", where children would gather because Catholics were forbidden to attend the formal schools. In more recent times, the shanachie is still a storyteller, but one whose primary intent is to entertain. The Patrons were not disappointed. Batt Burns, a renowned, award-winning shanachie



*Michigan Patrons enjoy Blue Water Winery.*

entertained us at an evening entitled "Ireland meets Italy". The evening was a combination of great Italian food presented by Anthony Rugiero at his restaurant, Antonio's Cucina Italiana, and the Irish entertainment of Batt Burns who captivated the group with post-dinner anecdotes and stories about growing up in Ireland which ranged from life to death and stops in between that were both funny and poignant. If the mark of a good entertainer is that the crowd demands encores and departs wishing there were more, then Batt Burns was truly a good entertainer! Many thanks to Anthony and Suzanne Rea for arranging the appearance of Batt Burns and to Anthony Rugiero for hosting the evening with his excellent fare.

*By Gerard and Carolyn Andree*



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

*Member of the Board of Directors*

# Teresa Tomeo



TERESA TOMEO IS AN AUTHOR, syndicated Catholic talk show host, and motivational speaker with more than 30 years of experience in TV, radio and newspaper. She spent 19 of those

years working in front of a camera as a reporter/anchor in the Detroit market. In the year 2000, Teresa left the secular media to start her own speaking and

communications company, Teresa Tomeo Communications, LLC. Her weekday morning radio program, Catholic Connection, is produced by Ave Maria Radio in Ann Arbor, Michigan and now heard on over 200 Catholic stations nationwide through the EWTN Global Catholic Radio Network and is also carried on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio.

Teresa is a columnist and special correspondent for the national Catholic newspaper, Our Sunday Visitor and appears frequently on the EWTN Global Catholic Television Network. Teresa

co-hosts the new EWTN television series, The Catholic View for Women, and is the field reporter for their annual March for Life coverage in D.C.

As a speaker, Teresa travels around the country addressing media awareness and activism, as well as sharing her reversion to the Catholic Church. She also leads several pilgrimages and retreats each year to various holy places around the world. In 2008, she was chosen as one of 270 delegates from around the world to attend the Vatican Women's Congress held in Rome marking the 20th Anniversary of John Paul II's Letter entitled *On the Dignity and Vocation of Women*. Teresa has authored six books including her latest best-seller *Extreme Makeover: Women Transformed by Christ, Not Conformed to the Culture*.

Passionate about sharing her faith and educating others on the truth, Teresa has just been named a Professor for St. Benedict Press' Catholic Courses, teaching on subjects such as Modern Media and Reclaiming Feminism. Teresa's new book for women, *Wrapped Up: God's Ten Gifts for Women* was released in August 2012 with Servant Books, and she is also currently working on a new book about finding God's will for your life, which is expected to be released by Random House/Image Books next year. ☸

## TREASURER REPORT

In 2012, Michigan Patrons member fees and donations provided \$119,102.00 to restoration projects in the Vatican. We are thankful and proud of our members' accomplishments in the year.

The new tax rules extend to 2013 the option of donating IRA funds directly to qualified charities, such as the Patrons of the Arts – Michigan Chapter. *If you are interested in this opportunity or would like to discuss the rules in detail, please call Mark Napolitano at (734) 416-3166.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Patrons of the Arts, Michigan Chapter*

Dr. Lourdes Andaya

Mr. Gerard Andree

Mr. Graham Beal,

*Detroit Institute of Arts (Honorary Member)*

Mr. Leo DiGiulio

Mr. and Mrs. John and Kristan Hale

Dr. Elizabeth Lev *(Honorary Member)*

Dr. and Mrs. Miguel and Irene Lis-Planells

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. Shelly Tyshka

Mrs. Teresa Tomeo

## Renovatio

*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:

**John Hale** jhale@ctscentral.net  
(313) 565-8888

**Tony Rea** Tonyrea\_area@hotmail.com  
(248) 357-0999

**Printing** Corporate Travel  
**Design** Jeanne Stevenson, CardsForHisGlory.com

[www.vatican-patrons.org](http://www.vatican-patrons.org)