

INSIDE

Rome Special Feature



Renovatio

From the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums ❧ WINTER 2014

Upcoming EVENTS

Monday, May 12

Cranbrook Institute of Science

Dr. Stafford will give a talk on *Treasures of the Cranbrook Collection*, followed by a five minute presentation by Alexandra Lis-Planells on her exhibition *Paddling Across the Continents*.

Guided visits of the galleries and dinner will follow.

The evening will be hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Miguel Lis-Planells.

August 6-8

Patrons trip to Niagara on the Lake, Canada, with

Col. Daniel Anrig, current Commander of the Swiss Guard where we will stay at the Prince of Wales hotel, enjoy an optional wine tasting, a play, and a joint event with the Canadian Chapter in Toronto along with a visit to an art gallery.

Thursday, Oct. 2

Celebrity Chef, Fr. Leo Patalingbug, famous for defeating Food Network's Bobby Flay on his TV show, will give an exciting talk and cooking demonstration at Tre Monte Restaurant in Troy followed by a terrific Italian dinner! Visit Fr. Leo's website: gracebeforemeals.com

A Stellar Evening in Detroit

Living in a large metropolitan city all your life doesn't mean you've seen everything there is to see when it comes to art and beauty. That was certainly the case for many during the December Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museum – Michigan Chapter evening in Detroit. Many people have visited historic buildings in Detroit, but the Patrons event allowed for behind the scenes access in understanding how the restorations, completed and continuing, are accomplished.

Detroit's Historic Gem Theater was our first stop for the evening. His Excellency, Archbishop Allen Vigneron, (Archbishop of Detroit) celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in a private room for the Patrons and their guests. A lovely wine

and hors d'oeuvres reception followed, with an optional tour of the theater. Built in 1927, the cozy 450-seat theatre, we learned, was in ruins before the 1990 restoration. New plaster, intricate painted patterns and gold leaf now adorn the walls and ceilings of this beautifully restored building. Every turn of the head is a feast for the eyes. Moved five blocks in 1997 to make way for construction of Detroit's new ballpark, the Gem Theatre remains a brightly-colored jewel in the midst of the city.

With motor coach transportation at the door, Patrons and their guests were taken to the Colony Club just a few minutes away. Greeted by staff and volunteers, the Patrons were escorted upstairs to the Versailles-like ballroom for a



Michigan Patrons discover that the Gem Theatre remains a brightly-colored jewel in the midst of the city. (Photo courtesy of Gem Theater)

strolling dinner. Over wine and delectable selections of food, Patrons had the chance to mix and mingle with old friends, make new acquaintances, and listen to first-hand stories about the Patron's Rome pilgrimage and private audience with His Holiness, Pope Francis. For those who were interested in a tour of the 1929 historic building, guides were delighted to share their knowledge about the 3rd and 4th floor ballrooms, as well as the sculptor's studio at the top of the building.

Mass, wine, good food, great architecture and restoration work, wonderful men and women who understand art and beauty through the eyes of their Catholic faith – it was a stellar evening in Detroit!

❧ By Kathleen Bordo Crombie



Archbishop Allen Vigneron celebrates Mass at the Michigan Patrons December event at the Gem Theater.



30th
Anniversary

Patrons Experience a Wondrous Celebration in Rome



Dr. Elizabeth Lev addresses the Patrons in the magnificent Sistine Chapel.

There are countless clubs and organizations with which we have participated over our years and for various reasons, our involvement in many of those groups has dwindled. In our busy lives, we need to prioritize the commitments competing for our time and efforts. With this in mind, you may have asked yourself why you joined the Patrons. Was it to help restore, preserve and increase the artistic legacy of the collections and buildings of the Vatican



Dale Chiara, David Wilson, Patty Chiara and Lisa Wilson enjoy the Anniversary Gala dinner in the Museo Chiaramonti.

Museums? Perhaps it was to enrich your knowledge of art through the amazing volume of works housed in the Museums? Or, was it as simple as trying to avoid the lines during your next visit to the Vatican State (one of our perks)?

Regardless of your initial motivations for participating, if you had the honor and privilege of attending the Patrons 30th Anniversary Celebration in Rome, you would have returned from this amazing journey with your intentions both solidified and strengthened. You may even say that this event-filled holiday became a sort of “pilgrimage” for the 300 or so North American and European philanthropists (41 from the Michigan Chapter) in attendance.

With champagne in hand and numerous delicacies exciting our pallets, the events began as we stood in the Giardino Quadrato, a large courtyard just behind the Vatican Gardens. Every one of the five senses were being teased

as musicians played and colored lights accented larger than life ice sculptures of Michelangelo’s Creation of Adam. The Opening Reception concluded with small group tours of the Carriage Museum, a behind the scenes view of how former and present pontiffs travel.

Each event seemed to top the one prior. The next morning, you could hear a pin drop as the head curators and restoration directors shared detailed explanations of how the Museum’s priceless works are restored and conserved. We left the Synod Hall to meet and watch firsthand as these artisan restorers used state of the art techniques to repair mosaics, paintings, paper, and wood. That evening, after a tour of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the Archpriest of this pristine basilica celebrated Mass for us. Not only did he greet us individually, but gifted each of us with a work of art (a sculpted gold commemorative coin).

It was surreal to get a peek behind the scenes of the Vatican State. The next day, not only did we get a taste of its inner workings through presentations by the Prefecture of the Papal Household, the Senior Advisor for Communications, and the Vatican Secretary of State, but afterwards we were given behind-the-scenes tours of rooms in the heart of the Apostolic Palace normally closed to the public. How do you top this? How about eating



Michael Marz, Irene Lis-Planells and Beth Moore enjoy a moment before entering the Sala Regia, State Rooms in the Apostolic Palace and Papal Chapels.

a four-star meal in a gallery that evening mere inches from masterpieces created by Caravaggio, Raphael, and DaVinci?

Not sufficiently awed or humbled? How about being thanked and challenged by the Pope himself. Of any single moment shared on our journey, I can confidently say that the most wondrous, was as we gathered in the Sala Clementina waiting for the Pontiff to enter. The nervous energy



During the special audience with the Holy Father, Pope Francis greeted each Patron individually, including Bill, Carol and Aubrey Brewis.

was expressed through laughter, cheers, and tears as the Leader of the Roman Catholic Church entered the hall and imparted his Apostolic Blessing. Not only did His Holiness graciously thank us for being stewards of the Church's heritage of art, but challenged us to allow our actions to be a sign of our interior participation in the spiritual life and mission of the Church. It is difficult to describe the myriad of emotions one can experience as you witness this very holy and busy man patiently and graciously greeting each of us individually. Truly, truly an unforgettable honor!

The Anniversary celebrations ended with two wonderfully spiritual liturgies. The historic events that had taken place in the hallowed halls of the Sistine Chapel echoed along with the angelic voices of seminarians as we prayed Vespers. Finally, beneath the famous Bernini window of the Holy Spirit, we culminated the Anniversary with Sunday Mass celebrated by the President of the Vatican City State. Elegantly executed, the entire trip was an opportunity to create new friendships, enrich older ones, and experience beauty in its many forms. So let us reflect on the question again: "What motivates you to participate and be a member of the Patron of the Arts in the Vatican Museums?" Let me share part of Pope Francis' address to us to help you answer: "In every age the Church has called upon the arts to give expression to the beauty of faith and to proclaim the Gospel message of the grandeur of God's creation, the dignity of human beings made in his image and likeness, and the power of Christ's death and resurrection to bring redemption and rebirth to the world touched by tragedy of sin and death."

By Fr. J.J. Mech, Chaplain and Board Member of the Patrons, Michigan Chapter

Michigan Membership Continues to Grow!

On behalf of the Michigan Patrons, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members and a sincere thank you to those who have renewed their annual memberships. I am pleased to announce our membership continues to grow and now stands at 245.

projects of the Michigan Chapter, receive recognition as a Michigan Restorer Member at the Michigan Chapter Annual Event and in all Chapter publications, and receive all regular benefits listed for one-year.

The response has been favorable! We would like to give special recognition and gratitude to the following Restorer Members:

New MEMBERS

We welcome the following New Members as of January 31, 2014:

Richard and Lisa Altig, Peter Bernadich, Margaret Besh, Fr. Francis Boyle, Dr. Dennis and Andria Bojrab, Victor and Kathrine Chelovich, Dale and Patty Chiara, Margaret Cirocco, Chad Crombie, Linda Couzens, Duane and Donna DiFranco, Jane Door, Kaitlyn Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Frey, Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Susan Golden, Dr. Leonard and Mrs. Barbara Glinski, Timothy and Michelle Green, Jeff and Martha Guella, The Klackle Family, Dr. Michael and Mrs. Janice LaRouere, The Lockwood Family, Bert Lord, Timothy and Maria Machelski and Family, Joanne Murphy, The Robert Nagle Family, Frank Pagani and Nancy Anastasi, David Pohl, Mr. and Mrs. Ruhl and Family, Christopher and June Rutkowski, Thomas and Jeanne Stevenson, Mark Syjut, David and Patrice Tay, Barbara Zimmer, Shrikant Chandulal and Neena Mehta.

The annual membership benefits

include: newsletters, semi-annually produced by the International Vatican Patrons and the Michigan Chapter, personal, guided Vatican Museum tours in Rome and special annual member events.

Last year, we added another category to our membership over and above the individual or couple membership. This has generated an additional \$9,625 in revenues. The category is that of a **Restorer Member** – \$500 for a single person or \$1,000 for a couple – and includes the following benefits: assist with the restoration of the

Restorer MEMBERS

Dr. Lourdes Andaya, Gerard and Carolyn Andree, Dianne Ahern, Richard and Lisa Altig, Peggy Ann Berguer, Vincent Bianco, Dale and Patty Chiara, Linda Couzens, Leslie Dame, Donna England, Deacon and Mrs. Dan Foley, Dr. Leonard and Barbara Glinski, John and Kristan Hale, Rev. Thomas Johnson, Dr. Miguel and Irene Lis-Planells, Dr. Charles and Mrs. Rhonda Main, James and Barbara Martz, Gwenda Mayes, Jeff and Myreya Meyers, Donna Niester, Daisy Neves, Deacon Dominik and Teresa (Tomeo) Pastore, Barbara Quilty, Tony and Suzanne Rea, Jerry Robinson, Dr. Matthew Romano, Barbara Quilty, Thomas and Sharon Shumaker, Mark and Mary Sobeck, Ken and Maureen Soens, David and Norma Stone, Msgr. Anthony Tocco, Katie and Same Valenti, Stan and Dorrie Wencley, David and Lisa Wilson, James L. Wilson

After having recently celebrated our 30th Anniversary in Rome, we are even more cognizant of our mission. Thank you to all for supporting our efforts to continue to grow our numbers by sharing your Patrons' experiences with others. I was fortunate to meet many of you at our celebration in Rome and at our December event and look forward to welcoming new members. As we move into our next restoration projects we do so with the spirit of humility, enthusiasm and satisfaction in knowing we are doing our part in restoring these treasures for future generations to come.

By Maureen Soens, Membership Chair



Conservator... or Contortionist?

Restorers have to master many talents – they are scientists, historians and of course, artists. But who knew they have to have a touch of maverick-acrobatic and balancing skills, dexterity and a bit of finesse.

Restorer, Ignacio Gonzalez Panicello, is pictured dangling over the back of Marco Palmezzano's *Madonna and Child with St. John the Baptist and St. Jerome* (above right), an incredible late 15th century painting currently undergoing restoration thanks to the generosity of the Stange Trust of the Michigan Chapter.

It calls to mind the visual of how Michelangelo himself must have been in a similar but inverted compromising position when painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

✍ By Carolina Rea, Patrons Office in the Vatican



*Madonna and Child
with St. John the Baptist
and St. Jerome*
By Marco Palmezzano

*This beautiful painting
was reproduced on the
cover of blank note cards
by the Michigan Patrons
and are available for sale.
All proceeds benefit the
Michigan Chapter.*

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Please mail order form & check payable to "Patrons - Michigan Chapter" to: Margaret Cirocco, 4214 Sheridan Drive, Royal Oak, MI 48073.

Questions? Email: mcicrocco@wowway.com. Note card packages come 10 cards & envelopes per box and make wonderful gifts. They will also be available for sale at future Patrons events.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

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