



An update from the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums



Save the Date!

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Join Fr. J.J. Mech and the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums-MI Chapter for "A Journey to the Upper Room" at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

This event is an exclusive sneak peek into the cathedral's developing pilgrimage, which is not yet available to the public. The evening includes Mass and a strolling dinner, plus a chance to glimpse our magnificent apostolic statues, and spend some intimate time with these saints through related reflective offerings and personal encounters with their relics.



Restored by the Michigan Patrons, **Madonna and Child with Sts. John the Baptist and Jerome** by Marco Palmezzano, hangs in the Vatican Painting Gallery.



Keeping up with our Restorations in Rome

The Michigan Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums (PAVM-MI) is currently funding four major restoration projects in Rome. The chapter has raised €143,000 (approximately \$166,000) from generous donors to begin and complete these projects.

Future issues of *Renovatio* will keep you up-to-date regarding all these PAVM-MI restoration projects. If you are interested in helping to fund future projects, please let us know by contacting John Hale at jhale@ctscentral.net

PROJECT 1	
	<p>Five Icons from the Tower of Pope John XXIII: The Icon with Madonna of Jaroslavl; the Icon with Christ Pantocrator, Princess Olga and St. Peter; the Icon with Madonna of Kazan; the Icon with Triptych of Deesis; and the Icon with Madonna of Vladmir.</p>
PROJECT 2	
	<p>Four Icons from the Vatican Collection: The Icon Triptych, Madonna and Child, so called "Virgin of The Sign" with Saints Peter and Paul and two Angels; The Face of Christ with "Fiery Eyes"; Icon of the Dormition of the Virgin; Icon of the "Holy Trinity with the Twelve Feasts."</p>
PROJECT 3	
	<p>Four Marble Artworks from the Niche of Apollo del Belvedere: Neoactic Relief, front of a Continuous Frise Sarcophagus, a Statue of Athena Promachos, and a Statue of a Female Figure.</p>
PROJECT 4	
	<p>Twelve Items in Bronze: Eleven sconces and one oil lamp dating from III-IV century B.C. Several of the twelve are shown above.</p>



NEW PATRONS MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

By Denise Molitsky, PAVM North American Office Coordinator

In September, at the North American Chapter Leader's Meeting, new membership levels were introduced to our Chapter Leaders. These new membership levels allow PAVM to further carry out our mission of promoting, restoring and conserving the artistic patrimony of the Vatican Museums.

There were no changes to the Basic Membership Level. The new membership levels, Executive Circle, Director's Circle and Cardinals Circle, will provide more opportunities and avenues for our Patrons to support our organization and also allow us to honor a Patron's desire to help the Museums meet its most pressing and urgent needs.

BASIC MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

The Basic Membership includes the Standard and Restorer levels. As a Patron, you are part of a community dedicated to the conservation of the Vatican Museums.

Standard Level: \$1,200 family; \$600 individual

The honor of supporting the conservation of a world-renowned museum
Special Patrons Welcome Letter & Packet
Digital Membership Card
Discounted pricing for the PAVM Insider's Course and in the Museums' gift shop
Invitation to join Rome Chapter Trips (Chapter Trips take place every 3 years)
Exclusive Patrons Group Tour of the Vatican Museums with handpicked guide
Email instructions to request Papal Audience tickets
Communications (e-Parcel & Newsletter)
Local Events

Restorer Level: \$ 2,500

All benefits of the Standard Level, plus
Patrons' Pin and special Welcome Gift from the Chapter
Exclusive Patrons Group Tour with hand-picked guide and access to the restoration labs or the Vatican Gardens

EXECUTIVE CIRCLE

This Level of annual giving promotes a greater awareness of our mission and opportunities to participate in it. The Executive Circle includes Bronze, Silver, and Gold Levels.

Bronze Level: \$ 5,000 annually

Wishbook gifted to you every year
PAVM Thank-You Gift
One free semester of PAVM Insiders Course modules
Bespoke Patrons Rome Planning Packet and Recommendations List

Priority access to Grand Tours + Retreats + Events
Private Patrons Tour with private guide + visit to Restoration Lab
Additional Private Patrons Tour with private guide to the Vatican Gardens
Opportunity to visit the Patrons International Headquarters inside the Vatican
Special Communications: video updates & special reports

Silver Level: \$ 10,000 annually

All benefits of the Bronze Level, plus:
Two free semesters of PAVM Insiders Course modules
High priority access to Grand Tours + Retreats + Events
Special Papal Audience seating coordinated by the Vatican office (upon availability)
Up to 2 vouchers for your guests to join you on your Patrons' tour

Gold Level: \$15,000 annually

All benefits of the Bronze & Silver Level, plus:
Free access to all PAVM Insiders Course
First priority access to Grand Tours + Retreats + Events
Special Papal Audience seating coordinated by the Vatican office (upon availability)
A private 1-hour tour of St. Peter's with the possibility to arrange a special family Mass
Up to 4 vouchers for your guests to join you on your Patrons' tour

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

\$100,000 payable over three years

Patrons at this level "sustain our operations, advance our mission, and secure the future of our institution" by directly contributing to the most urgent and significant needs of the Vatican Museums as indicated by its director. All the Executive Circle privileges plus:

Special Welcome Gift
Annual PAVM Thank-You Gift
Complete access to Insider's Course, and priority participation in Q&A
Invites to Special Events for Director's Circle Patrons
Pre-registration for Executive Circle events
Unique accessibility opportunities for your friends, family, and prospective Patrons
Customized Patrons tours tailored to your interests
Ceremonial conferral of The Bernini Award
Privileges extending up to 4 years

CARDINAL'S CIRCLE

\$ 1,000,000

For pledges of \$1,000,000 or more towards the new PAVM Endowment, please inquire about our Cardinal's Circle.

If you have questions or would like additional information on these membership levels, please feel free to contact John Hale or Eileen Druzynski at (313) 565-8888 or email edruzynski@ctscentral.net

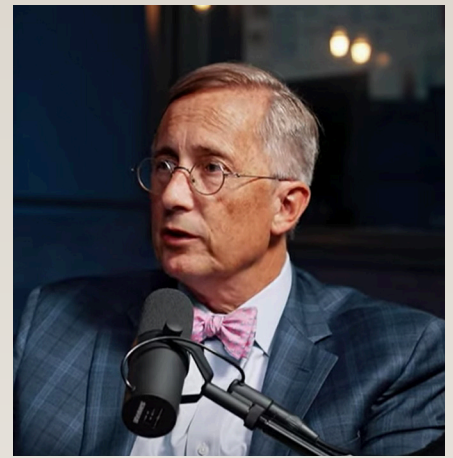
Please join us December!

The annual PAVM-MI "Advent Evening of Fellowship" is on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021** at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth. Following Mass in the Chapel, join us for a reception, dinner and a presentation titled "Architectural Myths at St. Peter's." Our Special Guest Speaker is Duncan G. Stroik, AIA. He is a Professor of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame, as well as a renowned author and lecturer on sacred architecture. Please join us for wonderful evening celebrating the arts! **For more information or to register, please visit: MIPatrons.com/Michigan-events**

Q & A

Duncan G. Stroik, AIA

Renowned Architect, Author and Lecturer on Sacred architecture



The PAVM-MI “Advent Dinner” on December 14, 2021 will feature Special Guest Speaker, Duncan G. Stroik. A frequent lecturer on sacred architecture and the classical tradition, Stroik is a practicing architect, author, and Professor of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame. He has authored the book, *The Church Building a Sacred Place: Beauty, Transcendence and the Eternal*. His award-winning work includes Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel in California, the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Tampa, and Christ Chapel at Hillsdale College.



Interior and exterior of award-winning Christ Chapel, Hillsdale, Michigan



The name of your talk for the “Advent Dinner” is Architectural Myths at St. Peter’s.” Can you elaborate on the content of your talk and why you chose it?

Built above the bones of the first pope, St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome has been the center of the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church for centuries. It is a magnificent building with tombs of saints, more than 40 side altars, and famous works of art including Michelangelo’s Pietà and the Cathedra Petri by Bernini. Its history goes back to early Christianity and involves emperors, popes, an ancient Egyptian obelisk, spoglia, and incredible artistic innovation. With this long and layered heritage, some “myths” have developed over the years, and I think it is an interesting way to look at the building and discuss some of the less-well-known features of its 1650-year history.

Can you share with us why sacred architecture is important in today’s post-Christian society?

In his Letter to Artists in 1999, Pope St. John Paul II said, “The Church needs architects,

because she needs spaces to bring the Christian people together and celebrate the mysteries of salvation.” This will be true in any age or society. Church buildings are a visible sign of God’s presence in the world and an invitation to those outside of the Church to discover it. I believe we should continue to give our churches prominent locations in cities and towns.

Is there a connection between worship and worship space?

A beautiful and transcendent worship space should make it easier to lift one’s mind and heart toward Heaven and contemplate Heavenly realities.

Can sacred architecture also include more modern elements and still be considered sacred?

Yes, we all like the modern elements of air conditioning, sound systems, and electric lights. However these “modern” elements should not be distracting or take away from the beauty of the space.

Your work in sacred architecture is most impressive. What is one of the most important things you’ve learned over the years?

Behind any successful project is a visionary patron and generous committed donors. None of my projects would be possible without them.

What project(s) are you currently working on?

A Catholic retreat house in La Crosse, Wisconsin, a classical academy in North Dakota, and an artist’s villa on Lake Michigan.



Dr. Elizabeth Lev on the “Grand Tour”



On Wednesday, August 6, 2021, PAVM-MI hosted “An Evening with Dr. Elizabeth Lev.” Visiting from Italy, Dr. Lev is an art historian, author and tour guide, who spoke to a large crowd of Patron members and their guests on the European Grand Tour. The special event and reception was held at Corporate Travel Services in Northville; appetizers were provided by Antonio’s Cucina Italiana.

Introduced by PAVM-MI member and Corporate Travel Services CEO, David DiFranco, Dr. Lev discussed the tradition of wealthy Europeans traveling to Florence, Venice and in particular Rome. Coming of age, educated and wealthy young gentlemen (and later young women) who had leisure time to spare, and with a great interest in art and literature, traveled and commissioned local artists to paint the unforgettable Grand Tour “photo.” During the height of the Grand Tour, artists benefitted from the desire of the traveler to put themselves in a posed painting to memorialize the trip.

The invention of the enclosed horse-drawn carriage (Berlin), for multiple passengers, made it possible for the Grand Tour to become successful. Not the most comfortable ride for a long trip over dirt-covered roads, the desire to upgrade the basic carriage to the more luxurious, was a natural evolution. There was also a need for traveler accommodations and dining en route, so hotels and other establishments were opened to fulfill the growing demand. The travel industry was born.

Dr. Lev shared that in the Vatican Museums Carriage Pavilion, visitors can see the evolution of the travel vehicle on display. From the simple to the ornate carriage, from the Grand Gala Berlin used by Popes Leo XII and Gregory XVI to today’s Popemobiles, there is so much to see and learn, and Rome remains at the center of this great travel adventure.

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Renovatio 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*.

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

Writer/Editor Kathleen Bordo Crombie, dignityoflife@yahoo.com

Designer Jeanne Stevenson, info@CardsForHisGlory.com



PAVM
Michigan Chapter

Join the Patrons to become a part of the patrimony of restoring the art of the Vatican Museums!

To become a Patron, please visit: MIPatrons.com