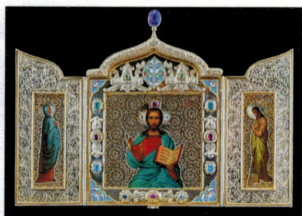


PAVM

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



This 1909-1911 Russian Triptych with Deesis is one of five icons restored by MI-PAVM (see page 3).



FALL 2022

The Proof of God is Beauty *at the Church of the Divine Child*

The Women of Worth Ministry at the Church of the Divine Child in Dearborn, MI, in collaboration with the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums (MI-PAVM), invited Fr. J.J. Mech to speak on the good, the true and the beautiful. His September 29, 2022 presentation was titled, "The Proof of God is Beauty."

MI-PAVM members, Divine Child parishioners, and others in the family of parishes attended the free event. Fr. Bob McCabe, pastor of Divine Child, welcomed Fr. Mech and the MI-PAVM, and provided insight on the format for the evening.

Fr. Mech, a gifted speaker and artist, as well as Chaplain of the MI-PAVM, presented a power point presentation that outlined his own journey to understanding beauty created by God, the Divine Artist. He pointed out that artists are craftsmen, as there is only one Creator. In St. John Paul II's "Letter to Artists" he states:

"What is the difference between 'creator' and 'craftsman'? The one who creates bestows being itself, he brings something out of nothing – ex nihilo sui et subiecti, as the Latin puts it – and this, in the strict sense, is a mode of operation which



Photograph by Jeremy Bastyr

belongs to the Almighty alone. The craftsman, by contrast, uses something that already exists, to which he gives form and meaning. This is the mode of operation peculiar to man as made in the image of God."

The craftsman/artist then, is the one who communicates the beauty of God through their work. Fr. Mech quoted Pope Francis:

"The artist is not even limited in space, because beauty can touch in each person that which is universal – especially the thirst for God – overcoming the frontiers of language and culture."

This impactful presentation ended in prayerful meditation conducted by Fr. Mech. Co-Chair, John Hale, then offered a few minutes of insight into

Above: Fr. J.J. Mech stands in the midst of the beautiful hand-carved statues of the Apostles at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. Below left to right: Fr. JJ Mech, Fr. John Dudek, Fr. Bob McCabe at the event at Divine Child.



the work and mission of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums. Fellowship continued in the parish Gathering Space that included gracious hospitality of coffee and pastries. In addition, a MI-PAVM information table was available for guests to learn more about MI-PAVM and how they could become involved through membership.

Board member Gerard Andree – *He will be deeply missed*

BY KRISTEN ANDREE



We are deeply saddened to announce Gerard Andree passed away unexpectedly on September 4, 2022. A dedicated member of the Michigan chapter for ten years, he served on the board of directors for five years.

Jerry was an avid arts patron and a lifelong learner. He appreciated the opportunity to restore the artwork of the Vatican museums, like the Raphael tapestries. He would often tell others being a member of the Patrons was “the ability to open doors he didn’t even know existed.” After visiting Rome with the group, he stated he could not go back again without the same access.

Highlights of his experiences included meeting Pope Francis, stepping out on the balcony looking out on St. Peter’s Square (to the chagrin of a nearby Swiss Guard), and Dr. Liz Lev’s ongoing lectures during the pandemic.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and his three beloved children, John Paul (and wife Anna) of the California chapter, Lauren, and Kristen.

“One of our treasured memories is being alone in the Sistine Chapel during a chapter tour, being able to witness the beauty and splendor is something neither of us would forget,” said Carolyn.

He will be deeply missed.

JOURNEY WITH THE SAINTS AN EVENING OF PILGRIMAGE

June 2, 2022 was an extraordinary night to be in Detroit at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament (a National Register Historic Structure). Fr. J.J. Mech, Chaplain for MI-PAVM and Cathedral Rector, invited chapter members and their guests to an evening pilgrimage to “Journey with the Saints.” Following Holy Mass, Fr. J.J. shared Archbishop Allen Vigneron’s vision for the Cathedral to become an Apostolic Center of Arts and Culture as part of his “Unleash the Gospel” initiative.

Members and guests learned that the Cathedral has a remarkable collection of relics that include the Apostles and early saints of the Church. Each relic has been authenticated by experts in the Vatican.

Recently acquired were 12 wooden statues of the Apostles and two Angel statues. Each one measures 7’6” tall and was hand-carved from single trees in Austria, circa 1927. Temporarily positioned in the Cathedral sanctuary, participants had a chance to meet each of the 14 stunning statues up close and personal.

The Master Plan is to permanently install each of the Apostle statues, with the corresponding relic, so that the relics will be accessible to all who visit the

Cathedral to pray. According to a relics expert, Fr. Carlos Martins CC, this exhibit will be the only one in the world that provides accessibility in this way.

Attendees were also invited to visit each of the twelve stations that were set up around the interior of the Cathedral. Each station contained a written piece sharing the name of the Apostle Saint, a lit candle and the relic to venerate. All were encouraged to pray for intercession and healing where needed in their lives, and that of their family and friends. The



evening was spiritually powerful and fruitful.

At the conclusion of the evening pilgrimage, once the soul had been fed, it was time to feed the body, as well. Over a beautiful buffet dinner, there was great joy in the room to have been a part of such a wonderful event that spoke to the heart through the beauty of art and the relics of the Holy Ones.



Photographs by Jeremy Bastyr

RESTORED FOR GENERATIONS TO COME: Five Icons from the Tower of Pope John XXIII



Our Lady of Yaroslavl – before and after



Our Lady of Vladmir and Eight Saints



The final report from Rome has been received concerning the restoration of five sacred Russian icons. This project, funded by the MI-PAVM, allowed for the metal coverings (rizas) and/or metal frames to be removed from the wood panels of each icon for further examination and restoration. During this process, restorers were able to update information, discover other unknowns, and determine more exactly the dating and provenance of each icon.

Our Lady of Yaroslavl icon is a Byzantine prototype of the Virgin of Tenderness icon (Our Lady tenderly holding the child Jesus in her arms). Several miracles are associated with this icon that was the object of veneration by two Russian princes of Yaroslavl, Vassily and Konstantin. The icon itself dates back to the middle of the 16th century, while the silver-coated riza was confirmed to be from 1783.

Our Lady of Vladmir and Eight Saints icon is a copy of the famous Russian icon that was written in 1150 for the city of Vladimir. Many miracles have also been associated with this icon, as it is one of the most venerated icons in all of Russia. The silver riza with stones was created by a Muscovite master in 1797. Restorers were able to discover a number of unknowns, which included the Alderman's punch on the riza that identified him as the person who oversaw quality control of the silversmith guild in Moscow at the end of the 18th – beginning of the 19th century.

Our Lady of Kazan icon is a small travel icon that was given to Pope Pius XI

from Ferdinand I, the King of Bulgaria. As copy of the original icon, "Mother of God of Kazan", this piece was created between 1908 and 1917 (before the October Revolution) with oil paints on gilded silver foil. This piece was created in and for the district of St. Petersburg.

Triptych with Christ Pantocrator between Saints Olga and Peter is a travel icon that was given to Pope Pius XI. Commemorating his 50th anniversary of his priesthood, it was a gift from Russian Byzantine Catholics residing in China. The white enamel, precious stones and gilded silver frame was crafted by Finnish master goldsmith, Johan Victor Aarne, between 1899 and 1904 in St. Petersburg. It is quite possible it was created for the Romanov family. The pictorial surface was painted in oil on metal foil.

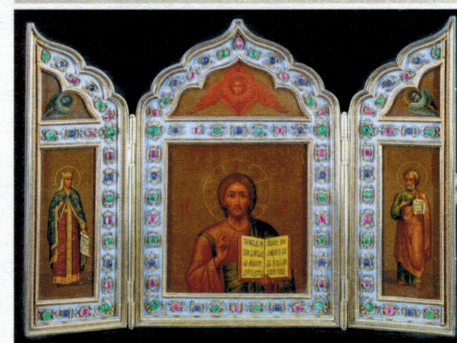
Triptych with Deesis (see photos page 1) is a travel icon with a frame created by Russian goldsmith masters the "Sons of Olovianishnikov" (Ivan and Sergej). Crafted in Moscow between 1909 and 1911, the painting has been identified as oil on zinc foil. To date, there is no documentation relating to the occasion of the gift, but it has been learned that the wooden lacquered presentation box was created by V. Borisov in 1959.

A deesis (pronounced deeee-sis) is a scene with Jesus Christ at the center, and the Blessed Virgin Mary and John the Baptist turned and facing the Son of God.

The total cost of the project, funded with donations from members of MI-PAVM, was € 34,000.



Our Lady of Kazan



Triptych with Christ Pantocrator between Saints Olga and Peter – before and after restoration.

TEN PLUS TWO EQUALS TWELVE



EACH PIECE in the Vatican Museums has a story to tell. The “Twelve Items in Bronze” are no different. The restoration of eleven sconces and one oil lamp are mostly objects from the height of the Roman period; ten pieces are from the Profane Museum collection, and two from the Christian Museum collection. There are two standout pieces among the twelve bronze items:

One item is a typical Etruscan banquet serving piece called a kaythos. Used to pour wine and transfer to libation vases/jars, this particular kathos has been dated between the III and IV centuries B.C.

Another standout piece is an oil lamp shaped as a peacock. Donated to the Vatican Museums in 1887, it is most likely of Egyptian origin, and was acquired by the donor on his Oriental travels. The oil lamp has been dated from the VI-VII century A.D.

Each of the items were in a comprised state prior to restoration. The sheen that was visible on each of the items originally, was no longer apparent. Cleaning intervention was necessary to remove incrustations and light corrosion.

This project was funded by the MI-PAVM through a generous donation from patron Cristina Cameron.



Thanks in Advance

As a MI-PAVM member, we would like to know what you think. Please take a minute to give the question below some thought, and then respond to the email address provided.

We thank you, in advance, for your feedback.

What kind of artistic, faith-filled, and educational events would you like to see MI-PAVM offer to members?

Please email to: info@mipatrons.com

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Michigan Chapter

Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums

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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*.

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

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