

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



Early Christian Sarcophagi: Constantinian Monogram restored by MI-PAVM (see more about restorations on page 2).

Renovatio

FALL 2023

Rolling out the Advent Red Carpet in Detroit

One of the big local events that members of the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums (MI-PAVM) and their guests look forward to each year is the Annual Advent Celebration. It's a great opportunity to wear beautiful after-five attire, meet new and old friends, have some wonderful conversations over a lovely glass of wine, and an elegant dinner to remember.

A highlight of the evening is always our Special Guest Speaker. This year, we are delighted to welcome Sister Raffaella Petriani, FSE, who is traveling all the way from Rome, Italy, to be with us at the Detroit Athletic Club (DAC).



Above: A beautiful transformation will take place in this DAC space to welcome MI-PAVM members and their guests.

Top right: Pope Francis congratulates Sister Petriani on her new appointment.



SISTER RAFFAELLA PETRINI, FSE

Sister Raffaella Petriani is a native of Rome, and was appointed Secretary General of the Governorate of Vatican City State in 2021 by Pope Francis. She is not only second in command, but also the highest ranking woman in a management position within the Vatican.

Working as a lay person in the Vatican, she later discerned that God was calling her to religious life. She entered the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist and professed her vows in 2007. Elected to the order's General Council in 2017, she holds a Master of Organizational Behavior from the University

of Hartford. She also holds a degree in Political Science from the Free International University of Guido Carli, and a Doctorate in Social Sciences from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum), where she also teaches.

In 2022, Sister Petriani was one of three women to be appointed to the Dicastery of Bishops who assist the Holy Father in selecting bishops. Prior to her appointment as the Secretary General of the Governorate of the Vatican City, she was an official of The Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples from 2005.

PLEASE JOIN US on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at the Detroit Athletic Club (241 Madison St.). The cocktail reception begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner, and all the evening's festivities. Watch for your invitation in the mail — please RSVP and purchase tickets promptly as seating will be very limited for the dinner with Sister Raffaella.



We thought you'd like to know

FOR MORE THAN 24 YEARS, the MI-PAVM Chapter has been raising money and funding Vatican Museums projects that have been in dire need of restoration. With a highly skilled staff in the Vatican laboratories, 30 restorations have been completed with the financial assistance of our Michigan Chapter for a total of €2,363,098 (\$2,518,061.78). A special thanks to our donors who have helped make these completed projects possible for many more generations to enjoy in the Vatican Museums. (Some of the restored art from the list is included in the photo collage, left.)

Completed PAVM-MI Project	Year	Funding in Euros
Relief of Prometheus	2023	8,034
Twelve Items in Bronze	2021	9,000
The Americas – Anima Mundi Ethnological Museum Donation	2021	200,000
Four Icons of the Tower of Pope John XXIII	2021	53,316
Five Icons from the Tower of Pope John XXIII	2020	34,000
Four Marble Artworks from the Niche of the Apollo del Belvedere	2020	50,000
Coronation of the Virgin, "Oddi Altarpiece"	2019	35,000
Menorah Exhibition Grant	2017	10,000
Fragments from Nine Vases (in honor of the Bishop Cistone Group)	2016	7,600
Decorated Kopi Vase for Water and Oil	2015	13,636
Tambaran Shield	2015	20,174
Vatican Gardens: Madonna della Guardia	2015	286,000
Bundu Costume	2015	15,000
Camassei's Cain and Abel	2014	23,565
Raphael Tapestry: Blinding of the Elymas	2014	797,100
Assortment of Mythological Statuettes	2013	88,830
Embroidered and Painted Silk Tapestry	2013	30,000
Statue of Perseus	2013	30,000
Wrestling with the Beasts in Coliseum	2012	90,526
Barocchi Crucifixes Collection	2012	9,200
The Borgia Apartments: The Room of the Saints	2012	90,000
Madonna and Child with Sts. John the Baptist and Jerome	2012	31,175
Ten Beautifully Decorated Glasses	2011	10,670
Early Christian Sarcophagi: Constantinian Monogram	2011	22,000
Regolini Galassi Tomb: Eleven Bronze Ribbed Paterae	2011	22,400
Fountain in San Damaso Courtyard	2011	95,000
The Candlesticks in the Pauline Chapel	2008	5,000
Assyrian Reliefs: Slaves and Workmen Carrying a Colossus in the Swamp	2001	1,800
Botticelli's Events from the Life of Moses	1999	250,000
The Painted Word: The Popes and the Art	?	24,072
	30	€2,363,098

Two Rize

of the Icons of the Tower of Pope John XXIII

Over the years, like anything, there comes a time for cleaning and restoration, and that includes great art. The Two Rize of the Icons of the Tower of Pope John XXIII, is a project funded by the MI-PAVM Chapter, and the restoration has been completed on both the "Dormition of the Virgin" and "The Face of Christ with Fiery Eyes."

Once a preliminary inspection and documentation of the icons were performed, dust was removed first with soft bristled brushes. Blends of pure alcohol and acetone were used to eliminate the oily and waxy materials from the icons. Metal alloy salts were also removed through immersion

baths, as well as the brown patina by using micronized calcium carbonate and demineralized water. When the cleaning process was nearly completed, all elements of the icons were washed, underwent an infrared lamp treatment, and an application of a specific varnish that will protect and maintain the color surfaces and brightness for many years.

A riza ("rize" is perhaps the plural) is an ornate precious metal and/or metal and gems covering that protects an icon from exposure. A riza covered each of these icons and they were both in serious need of restoration and preservation.

The elaborate riza on the "Dormition of the Virgin" (above right) was chiseled and embossed from a thin layered silver plate. A tiny stamp was noted on the bottom of the frame during an inspection of the riza. Historian Dr. Petro Beresh was able to study the stamping and correct

the date of the riza to a timeframe of 1697-1698.

The riza on "The Face of Christ with Fiery Eyes" (left) was not one, but two concentric frames. The inner frame was made of silver with exquisite filigree; it was attached directly to the icon. The outer frame was chiseled and embossed, but attached with metal nails to the wooden box that held the icon. In the reassembly of the icon, it was decided for conservation purposes, to anchor the inner filigree frame to the wooden box holding the icon, same as the outer frame.

With these icons restored and preserved for many years to come, they will continue to teach those who gaze upon them in the galleries of the Vatican Museums.



"THE ICON OF JESUS WITH THE FIERY EYES reminds Deacon Dom and I so much of the powerful image of Christ the Teacher. It's the eyes. You're always drawn to the eyes as they are pools of such deep love. One can't help but be captured by the look in the Lord's eyes. And we hope and pray that by supporting the restoration of this mesmerizing image of our Lord, it helps people of faith grow in their relationship with Him, and for those who do not consider themselves religious, causes them to stop and think about the One in this image. That is why we decided to become a part of the Patrons, in the first place. As pilgrimage leaders we realize there are many people who journey with us, along with the millions that visit the Vatican yearly, who may not be that religious or have any faith at all but the art draws them into contemplation and reflection and only the good Lord knows where that might lead."

— Teresa Tomeo and Dcn. Dominick Pastore

Oh, what a relief!



We're not talking about being relieved that a package arrived on time for an important occasion, or receiving confirmation that the canceled flight has been restored. No! We're talking about a current project of the MI-PAVM Chapter; the restoration of a *Relief with Prometheus*.

The first restoration meeting took place in the Vatican Museums laboratories in July 2023. Carved from marble by an unknown artist at the end of the first to the beginning of the third century A.D., the relief measures 68 x 98 cm (approximately 27" x 39"). Discovered in Ostia, the relief became part of the papal collections while Pope Pius VI was the Bishop of Rome. The total cost of this restoration today is €8.034,77 (\$7,853.18) and is being funded by the MI-PAVM Chapter.

Who is Prometheus? According to legend, he was a Greek Titan god. He was the god of forward planning and thought as he looked to the future. He was also responsible for forming man out of clay. Finding himself in conflict with

Zeus over favoring his creation, he was banned and left to suffer while being bound to a stake for generations.

This relief is about the creation of mankind. The inscriptions assist in identifying individual forms as described in the "Protagoras" by Plato. Prometheus is easily identified by the inscription, but also by his beard (he is seated on the far right). He is in the process of forming a woman.

In this relief are a donkey and bull, both domestic animals of the time that Prometheus would draw molecular matter from and then transfer it into the human he was creating. Also included are the three Fates: Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos. Fates are the three goddesses who oversee the birth and life of humans. The god Mercury is depicted holding the arm of Anima; she is known to be the softer, feminine side of man.

All restoration procedures are being performed by Valentina Felici. She is an on-site restoration specialist from the Stone Materials Laboratory of the Vatican Museums. Phases of the restoration include photographing the relief before, during and after the restoration; preconsolidation, cleaning, and grouting.

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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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