

MI PAVM

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



New Eight-Year Restoration Project

for the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums – Michigan Chapter (MI-PAVM)

The *Adoration of the Magi* tapestry is a Vatican Museums restoration project that will take eight years to complete. The drawings/cartoons were created by Italian master Renaissance artist Raphael Sanzio da Urbino (more commonly known as simply Raphael). The actual needlework belongs to the

workshop of Pieter van Aelst of Brussels from 1524 to 1531.

The MI-PAVM Project Committee recommended to the Board of Directors, that the Chapter adopt *The Adoration of the Magi* and begin raising the €1,266,129,66 (\$1,237,515.13) in donations to complete the restoration. The Board has agreed on behalf of the Michigan Chapter. This is the second Raphael tapestry to be restored by MI-PAVM; *The Blinding of Elymas* restoration took seven years to complete from 2014 to 2021 at a cost of €797,100 (approximately \$858,343.85).

The Adoration of the Magi is a large tapestry of wool, silk and metallic yarns that measures 568 x 958 cm (approximately 19 ft. x 31 ft.). As only one of the twelve tapestries depicting the mysteries of the Life of Jesus Christ from the “New School”, this particular panel is on display in the Gallery of the Tapestries inside the Vatican Museums. The grouping dates back to the time of Pope Clement VII and depicts the mysteries of the Life of Jesus Christ from the Gospel of Matthew.

Over the next eight years, the restoration procedures will include chemical/physical

investigations to define the state of preservation, assessment of the degree of pollution, identification of original dyes, imaging investigations with ultraviolet and colorimetric analysis, removal of incoherent deposits with a micro-aspirator, elimination of previous interventions and preparation washing, and photographic and graphic documentation.

The MI-PAVM has been given a \$100,000 matching challenge donation towards *The Adoration of the Magi* restoration.



Any financial commitment to this project can be paid over the eight-year restoration period. Those interested in donating to the restoration of *The Adoration of the Magi* should contact:

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

All the Way from Rome ...

There was great excitement in the air the evening of December 6, 2023. Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums – Michigan Chapter members and their guests, arrived at the Detroit Athletic Club in downtown Detroit for the annual Advent Dinner. What was all the excitement about? Sister Raffaella Petrini, FSE, the Secretary General of the Governorate of Vatican City State, had traveled from Rome just for this special occasion. She was joined by Msgr. Terence Hogan, SLD, who is the Coordinator of the Office of Relations of the Patrons of the Arts. We were also graced by the presence of Archbishop Allen Vigneron of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

During the pre-dinner reception, members and guests had a chance to mix and mingle over cocktails and

hors d'oeuvres. It was also an opportunity to individually meet and welcome Sr. Petrini, who was eager to learn more about the Michigan Chapter and those who were in attendance. She was delighted to be in Detroit, was thankful for the work and support of the Michigan Chapter, and was looking forward to addressing the group later in the evening.

Moving to an upstairs banquet room that was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, the crowd of approximately 100 found their tables and was seated. Dinner began with a lovely amuse-bouche, followed by salad and the entrée. No matter the main course ordered, they were cooked to perfection and the presentation was stunning. Coffee and dessert were served as Msgr. Hogan stepped to the microphone to personally introduce Sr. Petrini.





Since the Holy Father appointed Sr. Petrini to her newest position in 2021, not only is she the second in command as Secretary General of the Governorate of Vatican City State, but she is also the highest ranking woman in a management position within the Vatican. That's quite an honor, but also a huge responsibility.

One of those responsibilities also includes overseeing the Vatican Museums, the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums (PAVM) and its chapters. Sister's slide presentation included a breakdown of the management structure and offices within the Vatican, how she is striving for more transparency, and how the Vatican Museums and the PAVM fit into the big

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We don't have anybody else, except the Patrons. So, the Patrons are the source for the maintenance and the restoration... Your generosity has allowed us to be where we are today. We would never be able to do what we do without the Patrons... I cannot tell you how grateful we are. Your generosity and the spirit with which you help us, is a treasure in itself. It is greatly appreciated and valued at the highest level.
 ”

**Sister Raffaella Petrini, FSE,
 the Secretary General of the
 Governorate of Vatican City State**

picture. It was a fascinating presentation. Sr. Petrini thanked the members of the MI-PAVM for the restoration work that we fund for the Vatican Museums. She mentioned the yearly Wishbook that lists identified pieces for restoration, but also the carefully prepared financial resources that will be necessary for each project. She told us that the work we do is incredibly necessary to preserve and restore the art in the Vatican Museums for the world to appreciate for many more generations. It was a joy to welcome and host Sr. Raffaella Petrini in Detroit.



ROME & VATICAN CITY

PAVM 40th Anniversary & MI-PAVM

From private guided evening tours through the Vatican Museums, special gala dinners and concerts to an audience with Pope Francis, the many behind-the-scenes benefits of a MI-PAVM membership are extraordinary.



Pilgrimages



Roma in October *with the MI-PAVM*

The MI-PAVM invites you on a beautifully curated pilgrimage to Rome and Vatican City from October 12–19, 2024. **We have the privilege to lead you on a tour behind the scenes, beyond the red ropes, and across the closed door thresholds of Rome and Vatican City.** You will enjoy unparalleled behind the scenes visits, exquisite meals, and incredible encounters with some of Rome's most captivating historians.

Trip highlights include **special seating on the diaz for the weekly Papal Audience, private tours of the restoration labs in the Vatican, private tours with Dr. Elizabeth Lev, including two special wine-paired meals with your favorite sommeliers, Liz and Thomas, a private concert with members of the Sistine Chapel Choir at St. Mary Major ending with a rooftop reception, and visits to the Angelicum, San Clemente, and the Vatican Library.**

The trip will culminate, as always, with a private Mass celebrated at the Governor's Palace in Vatican City, **a private evening guided tour of the Vatican Museums,** followed by a cocktail reception and **a gala candlelit dinner,** all inside the Museums.

Space is limited! Please don't hesitate to reach out to the team at Corporate Travel Service at (313) 426-0737 to learn more and/or if you have any questions. We hope that you will be able to join us on this incredibly special visit to Rome and Vatican City.



Q&A

PAVM 40th Anniversary *Pilgrimage to Rome*

An Interview with Anthony Rugerio, CEO/President of Antonio's Cucina Italiana and Roman Village, Founder of the Rugerio Promise Foundation and member of the MI-PAVM Board of Directors.



How long have you been a member of the PAVM, and what influenced you to join?

I have been a member since the start of the Patrons of the Arts of the Vatican Museums–Michigan Chapter. My mentor and dear friend, Frank Stella, founded the Michigan chapter and asked me to join him on the board.

Was this your first trip to Rome and/or the Vatican Museums?

My wife, Sabrina, and I have traveled many times to Italy with the Patrons, as well as family and friends. We have family and a home in Perugia, and family in Calabria.

What was the highlight(s) of the trip for you?

Of course you never forget the blessing from the Holy Father. To see and be part of such a wonderful experience, like the choir singing in the Sistine Chapel. Dining in the halls where only the Patrons are

permitted. Walking through such a historical place with a small group of people as if you own it. These are experiences you will never forget.

What struck you about the Vatican Museums collections?

To go behind the scenes to see the work that is being done to preserve the art, the tapestries, and the mosaics. You feel a sense of great accomplishment, knowing that you are preserving the history for your kids and their kids to one day see and experience.

Were you able to meet new people on the trip that have created some lasting friendships?

Absolutely – we met some wonderful people from different chapters around the world. Getting to hear their stories and love for why they are involved. It was also wonderful to see the clergy and the bishops sit and break bread and toast to a new friendship.

I will not forget my new friend Barbara where we shared stories, and laughed all night at the Michigan chapter's dinner. Hosted by my dear friend and chairman of the board John and Kristan Hale, Sabrina and I were happy to see friends on the trip from home and enjoy this experience together. It seems that when we are all home we are very busy with the day-to-day schedules and we don't make enough time to visit. On the trip it was so wonderful to spend quality time with Lourdes Andaya and the some of the others from our Michigan Chapter.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

With all the different foundations that Sabrina and I work with and support, I must say that the PAVM is the most remarkable and rewarding groups that we are a part of.

MI-PAVM Pilgrimage to Rome & Vatican City

An interview with Lori Maher who is a mother, grandmother, a volunteer for several non-profit organizations in Ann Arbor, MI, and a new member of MI-PAVM.



Lori Maher (center) with Kristan and John Hale.

How long have you been a member of the PAVM, and what influenced you to join?

I originally booked a yoga retreat to Tuscany and was flying in and out of Rome. I knew I wanted to do “something” in Rome, just to say I had been to Rome — and not just in the airport. I had met Kristan and John Hale years ago through Detroit Opera. John always said to me that if I ever traveled to Rome that I should talk with him. Even though I hadn’t spoken to him in several years, I emailed John, explained my situation and then the magic began!

Did you travel to Rome with family and/friends?

I met John and some of his staff at their offices. Since the dates of my retreat were just before the Patrons trip, they

convinced me to join the group in Rome and even helped plan a few days in Florence before meeting up with the Patrons.

Was this your first trip to Rome and/or the Vatican Museums?

I had never been to Italy, was travelling alone — only knowing the yoga instructor and John and Kristan. With my itinerary set, I was off. Before even getting on the plane to Rome, I reconnected with parents of grade school classmates of three of my children, who were travelling to Rome for their nephew’s Ordination. Our flight was delayed so we were able to catch up and set a date to get together once we returned home.

What was the highlight(s) of the trip for you?

With a fabulous week in Tuscany and an amazing few days in Florence under my belt, I was off to Rome. Everything was new and exhilarating. My brain was so stimulated. I stopped taking pictures and just devoured the beauty of the collection. I had seen many photographs, but those don’t capture the wonder and detail of each piece. Now it is etched in my brain! Our guides were so knowledgeable that I couldn’t help but devour their words as they described whatever I was staring at — whether it be the landscape, architecture, paintings, sculptures, or talking about the history of Rome — I held on to every word!

What struck you about the Vatican Museums collections?

For me, there are so many “aha” moments: the breathtaking view of the sun setting over St. Peter’s Basilica, Dr. Lev’s tour of “Women Who Rocked Rome”,



Wearing a stylish hat on a bright sunny day, Lori Maher snaps a close up photo of the Holy Father.

visiting the Papal Gardens and Summer Residence along with the Observatory, Vatican Library and Restoration Labs, Sistine Chapel, moving daily masses and a concert by members of the Sistine Chapel Choir. But the ultimate highlight of this trip for me had to be attending the Papal Mass. I was close enough to touch the Holy Father — I still get shivers when I think about that moment.

Were you able to meet new people on the trip that have created some lasting friendships?

I met some extraordinary people, who made me feel welcomed and at ease. Some of whom I am still in touch with. I became a member of PAVM in order to be a part of the Michigan Patrons Bespoke Rome Tour. To say this trip changed my life would be an understatement.

Is there anything else you’d like to share?

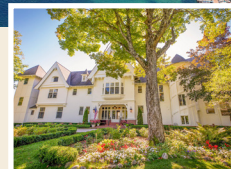
I am not sure if I will have a chance to return to Rome, but I’m ready, as I just renewed my membership and am looking forward to attending other Michigan Patron events and reconnecting with my fellow travelers.

Relief with Prometheus

Restoration Completed

In the Fall 2023 issue of "Renovatio", we shared that the Relief with Prometheus restoration, funded by the MI-PAVM, was currently in progress. We are delighted to announce that the restoration has been completed by Valentina Felici of the Stone Material Laboratory of the Vatican Museums. The results obtained were outstanding.

The total cost of the restoration was €8.034,77 (\$7,853.18). The third century relief, carved out of marble, measures 68 x 98 cm (approximately 27" x 39"). See a detail of the relief, at the top of page one, in the "Renovatio" masthead.



Save the Date

Circle your calendars now! Join the MI-PAVM at the historic and newly renovated five-star Stonecliffe Inn on Mackinac Island with Dr. Barbara Jatta, Director of the Vatican Museums, from **September 2-4, 2024**.

More information will be made available very soon — watch your email inbox for further details or **to sign up now, visit: booking.ctscentral.net and enter Trip Code: 86865 and Group Code: 5931.**



Before



After

PAVM

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*.

Co-chair *John Hale*, JHale@CTScentral.net, (313) 565-8888
Co-chair *Tony Rea*, TonyRea_area@hotmail.com, (248) 357-0999
Writer/Editor *Kathleen Bordo Crombie*, DignityofLife@yahoo.com
Designer *Jeanne Stevenson*, info@CardsForHisGlory.com

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