

# M A C K I N A W P A V M

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



The image in the masthead above is from the Vatican Gardens – Madonna della Guardia, restored by MI-PAVM.



## Did you miss the boat?

Or should we say the ferry from Mackinaw City to Mackinac Island on Labor Day, September 2, 2024. If you did miss the trip, you won't want to miss the next time Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums – Michigan Chapter goes to Mackinac Island. It was a fantastic three-day excursion.

A group of enthusiastic members of MI-PAVM, boarded the ferry to cross the Straits of Mackinac to meet up with Dr. Barbara Jatta, Director of the Vatican Museums, and trip chaplain Msgr. Chuck Kosanke. The Inn at Stonecliffe retrieved our luggage for transport to our rooms, and our group then boarded two horse-drawn carriages for a leisurely ride to the remote north shore of the island to visit the historic Silver Birches Lodge.

Arriving at the lodge, we were greeted by owner and restorer Liz Ware (also the Vice President of Sales and Marketing of Mission Point Resort). A lovely private hors d'oeuvres and wine reception awaited our group. This rare 100-year-old Adirondack style Arts & Crafts log-built lodge is included in the State Register

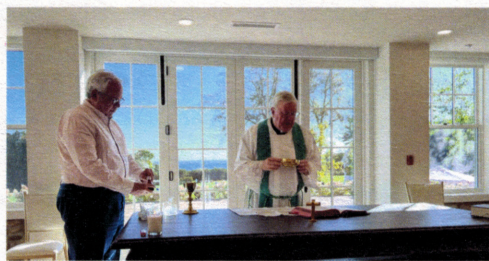


of Historic Sites. It has taken Liz and her team more than seven years to restore the main building to its original style and atmosphere. High on a bluff overlooking the pristine water, the view is spectacular and the lodge stately and grand. Liz gave us a bit of history about the lodge and restoration, as well as a tour of the entire main house.

Boarding the awaiting carriages, we enjoyed

a leisurely ride to our home away from home. The Inn at Stonecliffe, a spectacular five-star resort on the island, is owned by the Pulte Foundation. After checking in, Msgr. Kosanke celebrated Mass for the group in the Inn's Sunset Event Pavilion. Following Mass, John Hale introduced each member of the Patrons to Dr. Jatta before she spoke about the work

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## *Did you miss the boat?* Continued from page 1

of the museums, the value of historical art, as well as the truth and beauty it brings to countless people and generations. Then Pulte Foundation Vice President, Mark Pulte, and his wife, Julie, joined us as our hosts for an alfresco Welcome Dinner on the patio overlooking the water and the extraordinary sunset. The weather and company could not have been more perfect.

The next day began with Mass, breakfast, and a plein aire painting class on the sunlit patio. Dr. Jatta's last talk was immediately following breakfast before her return flight to Rome. She shared more about the many museums that make up the Vatican Museums and the role of the PAVM. It was a delight to have her with us for two days. Arrivederci, Dr. Jatta!

Later that afternoon we visited a selection of paintings from

the Richard and Jane Manoogian Collection newly installed in the Art Gallery at Grand Hotel in June 2024. The President of Grand Hotel, David Jurcak, provided an overview of the collection, as well as a brief history of how the hotel was built in 93 days. Immediately following, the group walked from Grand Hotel to the historic Manoogian Summer House on the west bluff of the island. Our group was invited to a private visit and tour of the home with Richard and Jane Manoogian as our hosts. The summer house and its furnishings were breathtaking, not to mention the large walled garden towards the back of the property. Mr. Manoogian proudly shared that his wife, Jane, planted all the various vegetation herself.

Although the trip was only three days long, the memories will last a lifetime. Many of the participants can't wait to go again the next time this kind of trip is offered through the MI-PAVM. Remember, don't miss the boat!

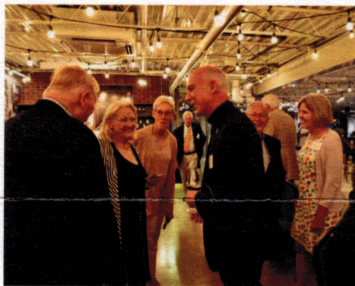
# An Italian Night in Northville

**O**n July 17, 2024, Cantoro Italian Market and Trattoria, in collaboration with Corporate Travel Service, hosted the Michigan Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums for a presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Lev to highlight the newest Chapter restoration project, "The Adoration of the Magi" tapestry. The drawing/cartoon for the tapestry is accredited to the hand of Raphael, and the detailed weaving to the studio of Pieter van Aelst. Approximately 120 members and their guests attended the weeknight event, and enjoyed a most memorable three-course Italian dinner.

"For whatever reason," Dr. Lev began,



**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU** to John Fallone from Cantoro's (pictured here with Sr. Raffaella Petrini and Michelle Bommarito) for sponsoring and hosting the wine and dinner portion of the evening. Thanks also goes to Corporate Travel for sponsoring Dr. Lev's presentation.



"tapestries had really fallen by the wayside." Early on, however, the Church understood that tapestries were a form of evangelization to the Gentiles. Dr. Lev went on to share some of the history of tapestries that had conveniently risen the same time as the history of wine around the 5th millennium B.C. "Tapestries are one of the oldest arts there is," she added. Around the 11th-13th centuries, tapestries came back into popularity as a way to decorate, insulate, and show a sign of wealth. As a result, tapestry studios began to evolve.

Pope Leo X (Medici) wanted to show everyone how making exquisite tapestries was done, so he created an entire new

system. Dr. Lev shared, "The tapestries that were designed by Raphael for the Sistine Chapel were drawn by Raphael and company in Rome, the finest craftsmen in the world making the cartoons, and then they were sent to Belgium." In order to create an exceptional tapestry, one must begin with a great cartoon in color, that is then given to high quality weavers who can accurately execute the piece. In essence, what Leo X did was to bring together the greatest tapestry weavers in the world and the greatest draftsmen/cartoon designers to create a new way of making tapestries ... a trend that was followed by most in the future.

"The Adoration of the Magi," is one

of 12 original tapestries commissioned in 1621 by the cousin of Leo X, Clement VII. Six were to be designed to be used for Christmas and six for Easter. Of the 12, an amazing 11 have survived. The "Adoration of the Magi" is the dominant and largest of the Christmas series. Dr. Lev shared that tapestries are "finicky, fussy, and delicate, which is why the Vatican does not have a lot of them." The story of the adoration of the Magi is one of the oldest Christian images dating back (conservatively) to 250 A.D. as found in the catacombs.

In closing, she thanked the MI-PAVM for our support and for keeping the arts alive.



“This image is one of the most important in the history of art.”

DR. ELIZABETH LEV

## “Adoration of the Magi” Update

Our current MI-PAVM restoration project is the “Adoration of the Magi” tapestry. The total cost of the restoration and the Chapter’s commitment is \$1,137,515.23. The first payment of \$142,189.39 was made on July 1, 2024; seven more installments will follow over the course of time.

As of October 1, 2024 donations received to date total \$181,000.00; an additional \$814,325.84 is still needed to complete the Chapter’s commitment. Donations for this project are most welcomed and are tax-deductible.

**Checks should be made payable and mailed to:**

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41780 Six Mile Road  
Northville, MI 48168

Or contact John Hale at:  
(313) 565-8888  
jhale@ctscentral.net

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR**

*An Advent Evening of Fellowship  
A Jubilee Journey to Italy*

*with*

**TERESA TOMEO**

*Author, Syndicated Catholic Talk Show Host & Motivational Speaker*

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club.**  
Mass at 5:30 p.m., cocktails at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner & presentation.

**Kindly reply by December 1: [mipatrons.com/michigan-events](https://mipatrons.com/michigan-events)**  
(Or use the RSVP card in your mailed formal invitation.)

# PAVM

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MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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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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