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# Renovatio

SUMMER 2025

## “Adoration of the Magi” Tapestry

FOURTH ONGOING RESTORATION REPORT

**T**he intricate and delicate work to restore the “Adoration of the Magi” tapestry continues in the Vatican Museums Tapestry Lab. This piece, credited to Italian Renaissance master artist Raphael Sanzio de Urbino for the drawing and the needlework to the Brussels workshop of Pieter von Alest, measures approximately 19’x31’. The entire restoration will span an eight-year timeframe to completion.

One of the essential items in the lab are the hundreds and hundreds of yarns that are dyed by hand to match every portion of the tapestry. Even the slightest variation of a color must be provided to complete the restoration with the utmost efficiency and detailed match to the original.

A technique called alternating stitches is employed by a team of highly skilled artisans who are

committed to restoring the tapestry back to its glory. The consolidation process refers to the use of alternating stitches to repair the broken and fragile fabric in an effort to strengthen parts of the tapestry from further deterioration.

Great progress is being made on this PAVM-MI chapter-adopted project. It is a slow and methodical process that

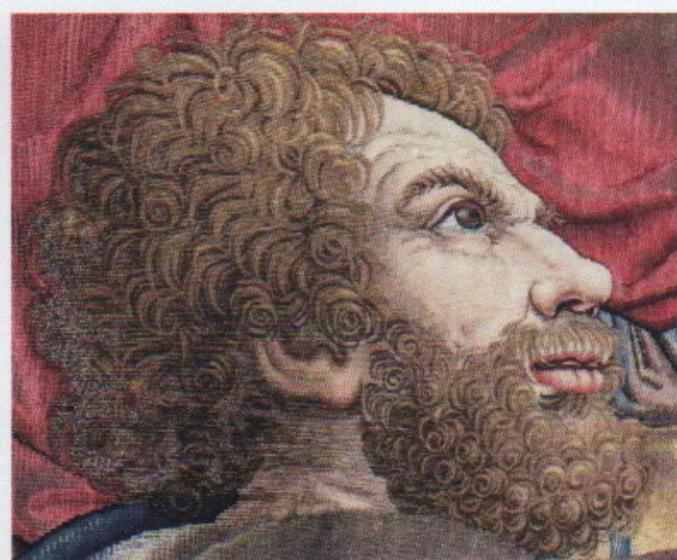
will take several more years to complete and additional fundraising.

*If you are interested in being a part of this special restoration project and would like to financially contribute toward its completion, please contact **John Hale at JHale@CTScentral.net or by phone at (313) 565-8888.***

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

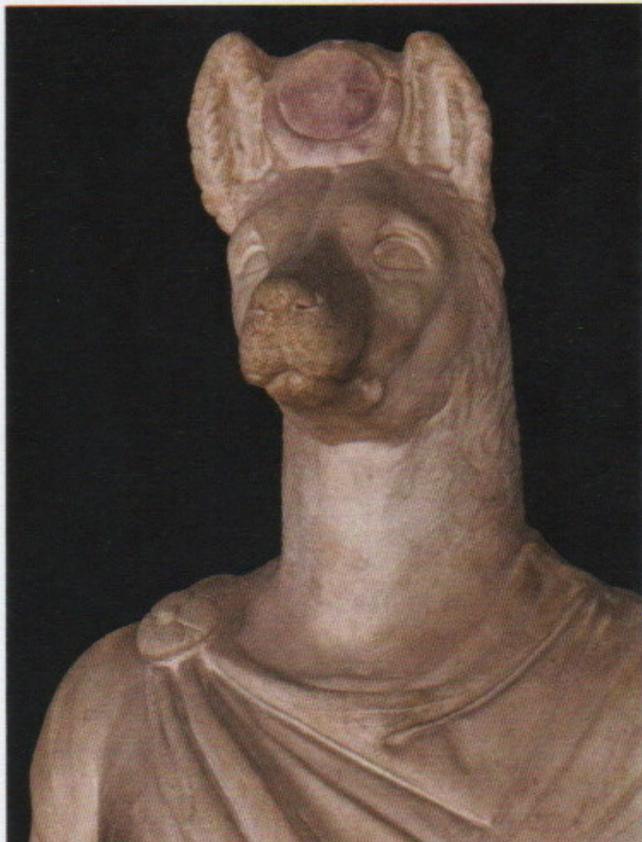


**Above, Patrons from our Michigan Chapter visit the progress in March. Below, before and after consolidation in alternating stitches.**



*The image in the masthead above is a detail from the fountain in the San Damaso Courtyard, restored by PAVM-MI in 2011.*

# New projects for PAVM-MI



## Anubis Statue

Anubis was well known in ancient Egypt as the god of the dead. His role in the afterlife was to guide the deceased to the underworld. He is easily recognized in hieroglyphs and other ancient artwork as the body of a man with the head of a jackal (a predator that roamed near the ancient burial sites). Highly respected by Egyptians, he is one of the most recognized of the ancient deities.

A high-priority project in the most recent PAVM *Wishbook Iubilaeum 2025*, is a marble Anubis Statue from the 1st – 2nd century A.D. Measuring 155 x 50 x 28 cm (approximately 61" x 19" x 11"), Anubis, holds a sistrum (musical instrument) in his right hand, and in the left hand a winged rod meshed with two entwined snakes (called a caduceus). This project was adopted by PAVM-MI member Cristina Cameron.

Restoration procedures include providing preliminary chemical protection for the marble, the removal of surface salts and deposits, the use of laser equipment to eliminate scratches and/or stains, and a review of any metal elements.



## "The Ecstasy of St. Francis of Assisi"

Placido Constanzi was the Italian artist of the Baroque period who painted "The Ecstasy of St. Francis of Assisi" in 1724 A.D. This painting is another high-priority restoration project found in the PAVM *Wishbook Iubilaeum 2025*. This project was adopted by Kristan and John Hale and is one of eight different pieces in the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major Restoration Project.

"*The Ecstasy of St. Francis of Assisi*" is a Constanzi masterpiece that is located on the altar of the St. Francis of Assisi Chapel in the left nave of the basilica. Through the masterful use of color and light, the artist successfully captures the essence of a divine moment in union with God.

This oil on canvas work measures 228 cm x 170 cm (approximately 90" x 67") and is encased within gilded stucco frames. Restoration will include the removal of surface deposits and altered protective layers, a review of the relining, and pro-conservation and consolidation of detached portions.

# Received a warm welcome in Rome

**An interview with Claudia Burns, PAVM-MI member, and professional artist, on her recent trip to the Vatican Museums**

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

About five years ago, my friend and PAVM member, Dianne Ahern, told me about a trip to Rome she had recently taken. One conversation led to another and soon I became a Patron. As a practicing artist and committed Catholic it seemed like a perfect fit. I enjoyed our gatherings and meeting new friends.

Unquestionably the most amazing advantage of being a patron is the invitation to tour the Vatican Museums with a personal guide, including the right to enter the Museums without waiting in line. In addition, we were invited to visit one of the Restoration Labs.

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

Last time I was in Rome I took my first Patrons Museums tour and visited the Mosaic Lab (I had done work in mosaic, so my interest was piqued.) As a classically trained painter, now painting regularly, I chose to visit the Painting Restoration Lab on this trip.

**What was your experience arriving at the Vatican Museums as a PAVM member?**

I arrived at the Exit Door on the Viale Vaticano shortly before my appointed time and entered to meet my guide, Christine. A week or so before I had asked if I could check in with Monsignor Hogan. He was free and he and one of his staff members, Lindy, were kind enough to chat with me for a little while before my tour.

Then my guide, Christine, and I wound our way through halls and up and down staircases until we reached the Painting Lab. We met two different restorers. One was working on a huge canvas that was a "cartoon"—a preliminary painting used as a guide to create a large mosaic. I believe it was from the school of Raphael. They thought of it as a sketch, perhaps, but to me it was a beautiful, finished work.

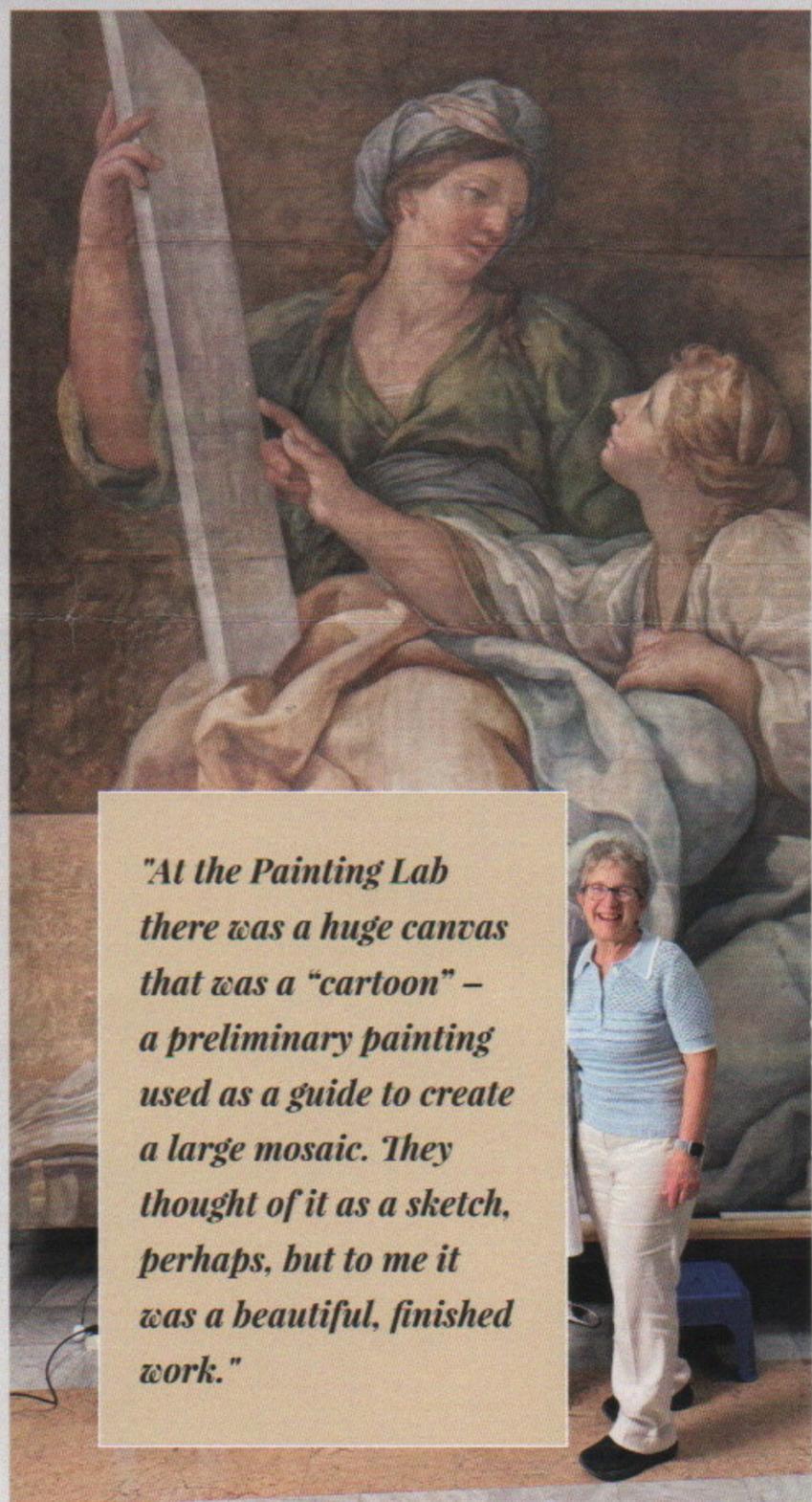
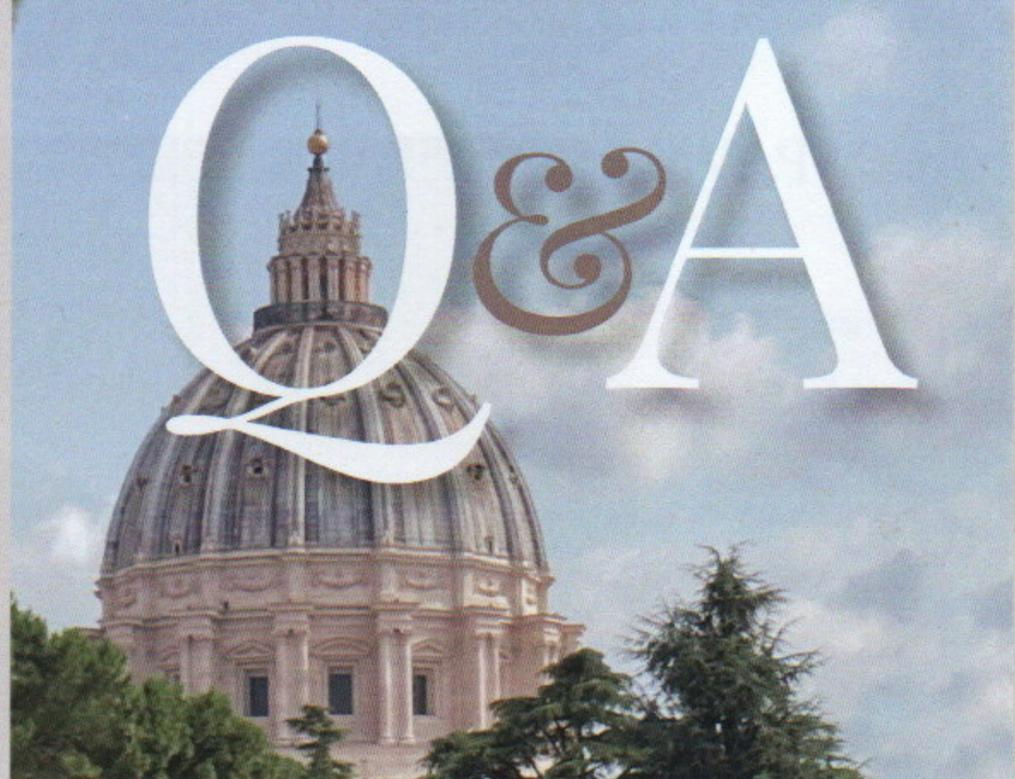
**What was the highlight of your visit?**

The Painting Restoration Laboratory tour was the highlight of my trip. I felt like an insider, experiencing parts of the Museums seldom seen by the public.

**Is there anything else you would like to share?**

We had time to tour the Museums Upper Galleries, the Raphael Rooms, and the Sistine Chapel. I had been there before, but these glorious works never cease to amaze and impress me. I felt like a V.I.P. as Christine led me through the crowd. Her impressions were interesting, insightful, and different from the previous guides. The Conclave had ended only a week before and I considered the historic space I found myself in.

I shared with Christine my interest in heading to St. Peter's Basilica after the tour had ended. She led me through a back door, once again avoiding the lines.



*"At the Painting Lab there was a huge canvas that was a "cartoon" – a preliminary painting used as a guide to create a large mosaic. They thought of it as a sketch, perhaps, but to me it was a beautiful, finished work."*

Entering the Holy Door, I stopped at the *Pietà* and gazed in wonder at the artistry. Then, in a side chapel where Eucharistic Adoration was taking place, I knelt and prayed, thanking God for the privilege of being a part of the day's events. I felt truly blessed.



# HABEMUS PAPAM... from the U.S.

*This is a once-in-a-lifetime journey into the soul of Catholic Rome – guided by the spirit of an American Pope.*

**I**n May 2025, the world witnessed a historic moment with the election of Pope Leo XIV, the first American-born pontiff in the Church's history. Born Robert Francis Prevost in Chicago, Pope Leo XIV brings a unique perspective to the papacy, having spent significant time in Peru and serving as a missionary and archbishop there. His election is not only a spiritual milestone but also a cultural one, offering Catholics, particularly American Catholics from Michigan, a compelling reason to visit Rome!

Since his election, Pope Leo XIV has embraced his role with a message of peace and unity. He has taken possession of St. John Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of Rome, and has visited other significant basilicas, emphasizing his commitment to the city and its rich religious heritage.

## **A Unique Opportunity for Pilgrimage and Discovery**

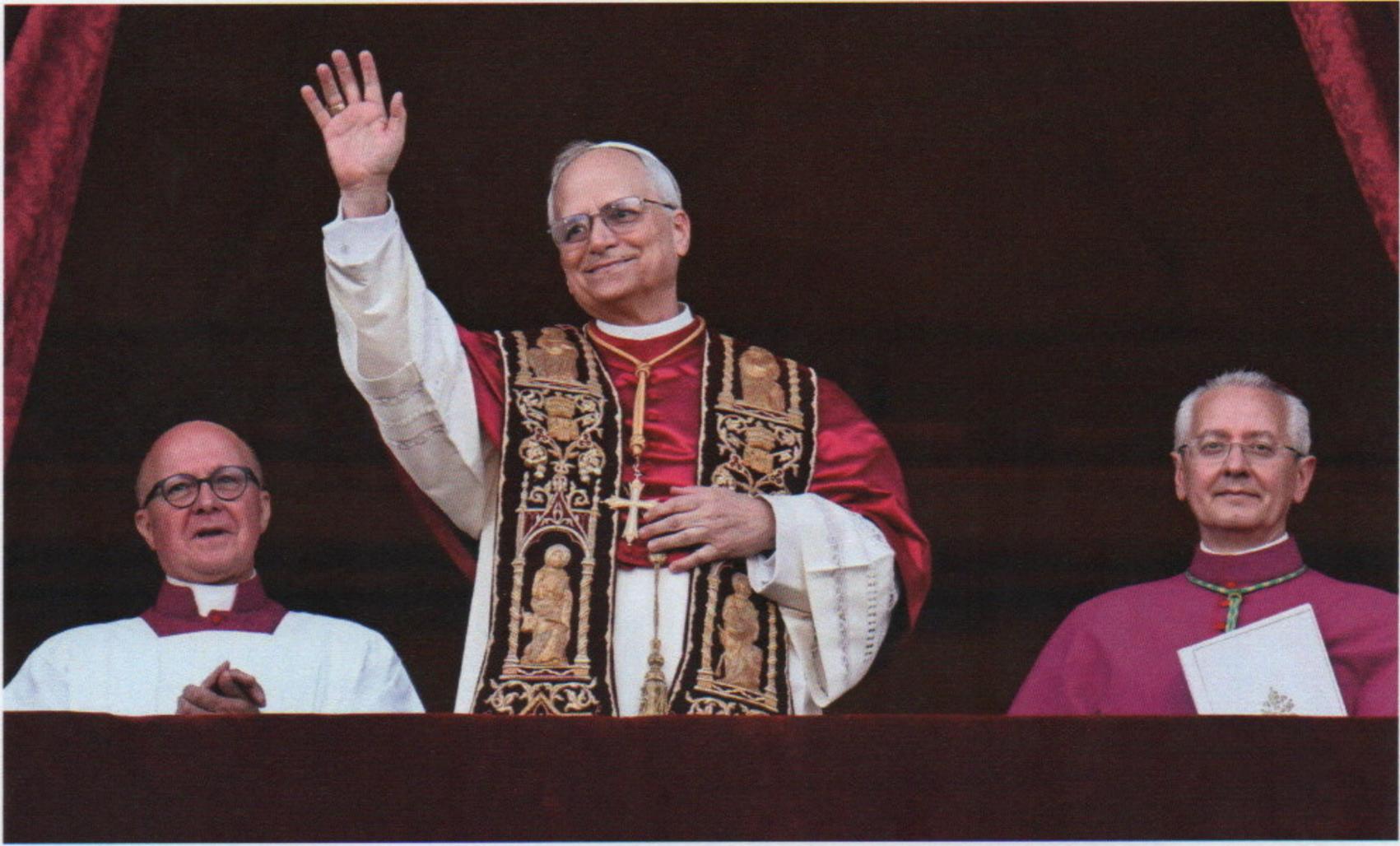
The recent papal inauguration, attended by dignitaries and clergy from around the world, highlighted the city's role as a center of religious and artistic significance. For the Michigan Patrons, a visit to Rome to witness Pope Leo XIV's papacy offers a rare opportunity to engage with the heart of Catholic tradition and art. With his distinctly American lens, this Patrons' visit will feel an unexpected but profound sense of home amid the marble corridors of the Vatican.

**Mark your calendar for the PAVM Michigan Chapter Tour: An American Rome with an American Pontiff, March 22-28, 2026.** Spend five unforgettable nights at the luxurious 5-star Hotel de la Ville, perched elegantly above the Spanish Steps. Experience warm American hospitality at some of Rome's most iconic American institutions: St. Patrick's Church (the American Parish in Rome), the Pontifical North American College (where U.S. Cardinals, Bishops, and priests have lived for generations), and the American Embassy to the Holy See. Enjoy private, after-hours access to the stunning Basilica of St. Mary Major and the Vatican Museums. Stand in the heart of St. Peter's Square in the presence of Pope Leo XIV, and explore the historic depths of San Clemente Basilica and Santa Maria in Vallicella. This is a once-in-a-lifetime journey into the soul of Catholic Rome – guided by the spirit of an American Pope.



**Scan the QR code to enter your contact information to receive more information when the formal booking link is available.**





# SAVE THE DATE

## *All roads lead to Michigan*

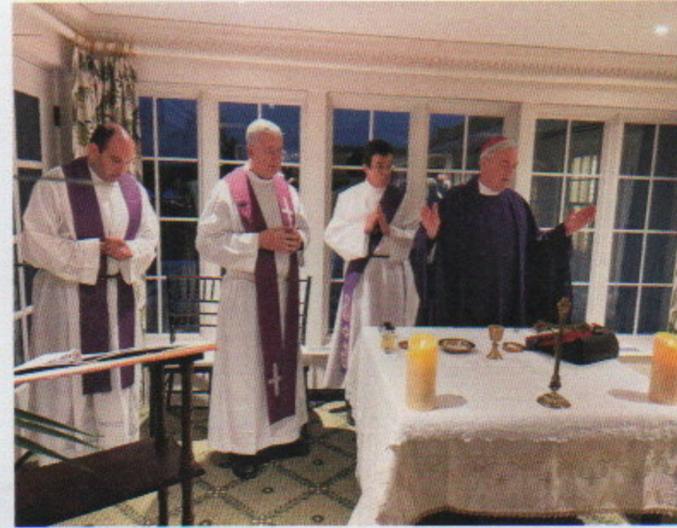
THE PAVM-MI CHAPTER will be hosting the annual PAVM Leadership Meeting **September 18-20, 2026**, at Saint John's Resort in Plymouth, MI. Hosting this event with PAVM Chapter leaders from around the country attending is a great honor



for the Michigan Chapter. In addition, PAVM-MI members will be invited to join one of the evenings for a grand dinner with guests Sr. Rafaella Petrini (President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State and President of the Governorate of Vatican City State), Archbishop Edward Weisenberg (Archdiocese of Detroit), as well as local and international leaders of the Vatican and the Church. Stay tuned for an update on the exact date and time for the grand dinner and your invitation.



*Saint John's Resort in Plymouth, MI, will host the PAVM Leadership Meeting. Above left: 2024 Patrons' Leadership Meeting in New Orleans.*





# SAVE THE DATE

## *Patrons Advent Dinner*

We have confirmed **December 1, 2025**, at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club for this year's annual PAVM-MI Advent Dinner. We are honored that Archbishop Edward Weisenberger will join us for the evening.

## A wonderful evening last December *with our Patrons and special guest speaker Teresa Tomeo*

**T**here were many smiling faces and good cheer at the annual PAVM-MI Advent Dinner on December 10, 2024, held at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club. Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, Most Rev. Robert Fisher, celebrated Mass, followed by a lovely open bar cocktail hour, and a flawlessly prepared dinner. Special Guest Speaker and PAVM-MI Honorary Board Member, Teresa Tomeo, gave an insightful presentation on the *Jubilee of Hope* which would begin when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Teresa also shared more about her newest book, *"Italy's Shrines and Wonders: Discovering Sacred Spaces, Fascinating Places, and Destinations Off the Beaten Path"* that was released in early 2025.

A very special thank you goes to PAVM-MI Board Member, Elizabeth Moore, for her tireless and detailed coordination of this event. We look forward to her plans for Advent Dinner 2025, and extend our grateful appreciation, in advance, for all her hard work on our behalf.



## Special opportunity for Michigan Patrons

"The Voice of Beauty and the Hand of Grace" featuring members of the Sistine Chapel Choir, Sixtini Cantores, and Dr. Elizabeth Lev, will be held on **September 4, 2025**, at Saint John's Resort in Plymouth, MI. The event is sponsored by Corporate Travel Service, Saint John's Resort and AIP Speaker Series. PAVM-MI members are being offered a **special member discount of 10%** on tickets purchased for the evening. Please use the code **PAVMIO** when checking out online.

## THE VOICE OF Beauty & THE HAND OF Grace



You are cordially invited to an evening of unforgettable music by members of the Sistine Chapel Choir, *Sixtini Cantores* and inspiring history as presented by world renowned art historian, *Dr. Elizabeth Lev.*

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025**

### VIP EXPERIENCE

- 4:30 pm Private Mass Celebrated by Archbishop Weisenburger at the Saint John's Resort - Saints Mary and Joseph Chapel
- 5:30 pm Private Dinner in The Lily Room at Saint John's Resort with Private Concert by the Sixtini Cantores and Presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Lev
- 7:30 pm Premium Seating for the Sixtini Cantores Performance and Presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Lev in the brand new Monarch Ballroom at Saint John's Resort

Saint John's Resort 44045 Five Mile Rd,  
Plymouth, MI 48170



Scan code for pricing  
and to purchase tickets



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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!

**To become a Patron, please visit: [mipatrons.com](http://mipatrons.com)**