

# Il Messaggero



the newsletter of the Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums / Fall 2013



## Our Mission

People often ask: "What do the Patrons do?" In a general audience on March 19, 2013, Pope Francis provided a lead-in to answer. He talked about the universal vocation to be a protector of creation.

"The vocation of being a 'protector,' however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. Be protectors of God's gifts!"

The Pope's words could be extended to include the vocation to protect the artistic gifts of human creation. The Patrons are called to protect the heritage of art as part of the beauty of the world.

At the right are photos that show the process of restoration of The Miracle of St. Peter. This beautiful painting was restored through the generosity of Dr. Bruce Waller, a director on the Patrons Board; and his daughter Greta, an artist and Patron member.

### RESTORING A MASTERPIECE



The painting *Miracle of St. Peter* is the most recent restoration undertaken by the Illinois Patrons of the Arts. This incredible piece of art, created by Giovan Francesco Romanelli in the seventeenth century, measures about 13 x 22 feet and resides in the Vatican hallway which leads to the Pope's balcony. These photographs give you a glimpse into the process of the restoration of masterpieces.

# Introducing our new Junior Board

We asked our Junior Board to comment on why they became involved in the Patrons

## John Collins, Chairperson



**“The collections that are housed with the Vatican Museums are treasures that belong to the world. Through**

**my work with the Patrons, I feel a direct connection to these artists and their work. I find this thrilling!**

John is the Associate General Manager of Goodman Theatre, Chicago's oldest non-profit theatre. He also served as Managing Director of Next Theatre Company in Evanston. John is a graduate of Marquette University and currently resides in Chicago with his wife Melissa and their daughter, Shea.

## Morgan Henington, First Vice-Chairperson



**“Supporting the arts and being a part of the Patrons is a natural fit for my love of history, the arts and my Catholic background. While**

**my interest in the arts was sparked years ago, I can now make a personal commitment to be part of a project that will leave a positive impact for generations to come. The Patrons’ work is engaging, exciting and meaningful.”**

Morgan is the Chief Development Officer for Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. She has led fundraising efforts at notable organizations such as Catholic Charities, the Big Shoulders Fund, and Josephinum Academy. Morgan serves on the board of the Chicago Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and resides in Chicago.

**“Art is vital to understanding our shared heritage...it is our duty, as global citizens, to ensure that these masterpieces are maintained for generations to come.”—John Collins**

## Elizabeth West, Second Vice-Chairperson



**“I was first introduced to the Patrons and their mission by my mother-in-law, Peggy O’Brien Schulze, a**

**longtime member and supporter of this organization. To be a part of the process of preservation, restoration and to help in sharing some of the most important pieces of art is such a privilege. This is a unique way to ensure these treasures are passed on to future generations.”**

Elizabeth is Vice President of municipal sales at Ramirez and Company, a New York based municipal bond firm. She attended the University of Notre Dame, was captain of the Women's Water Polo team and graduated with a degree in Political Science. Elizabeth resides in River Forest, IL with her husband, Brad, and their daughters, Olivia and Madeline.

## Christina Walker, Secretary



**“After visiting the Vatican art restoration museum, I had a much better understanding of what it means to restore art. The**

**process is amazing, from the selection of certain pieces to fundraising to the actual work. I am excited to be able to contribute to this process and to help maintain priceless artwork.”**

Christina has 15 years of experience working in the health care environment. She earned her MBA from Loyola University Chicago with a focus in health care and finance. She is a Certified Clinical Documentation Specialist and is currently living in Chicago with her husband, Joe Walker, and their son, Jack.

## Lauren Brinati, Treasurer



**“The Patrons’ organization brings together individuals from all walks of life who share an interest in the history of**

**the arts and who want to be part of maintaining and restoring the beauty of these masterpieces. Serving on the Board is a unique way to combine historical art culture with non-profit work.”**

Lauren received her undergraduate degree from Marquette University and spent over eight years working for the National Futures Association, a non-profit regulatory organization. She obtained an MBA from DePaul University in Leadership and Change Management and is currently Deputy Chief Compliance Officer for FCStone, LLC.

# The President's Corner



As Sherlock Holmes might say, "The game's afoot!"

In the last President's Corner, I mentioned the possibility of an exhibition of Vatican Art in

Chicago. I called it a beginning. We are now definitely in the middle and moving toward conclusions.

In February 2013, the Patrons convened a meeting in Rome with Cardinal George, Sylvain Bellenger of the Art Institute of Chicago, Fr. Mark Haydu, International Director of the Patrons, Cardinal Bertello, President of the Vatican State, and Professor Paolucci, Director of the Twelve Vatican Museums. At this meeting, it was agreed in principle to have an exhibition in Chicago that would bring together the Vatican Museums, the Art Institute, the Illinois Patrons, and the Archdiocese of Chicago.

In June 2013, Professor Paolucci and Sylvain Bellenger sketched out a preliminary arrangement for a major exhibition of Vatican Art in Chicago beginning in October 2016. Although the exact title of the exhibition and the number and identity of the pieces in the loan have not been determined, the general concentration will be the art and sculpture collected by five Renaissance Popes.

One of the main goals of the exhibition, from the Patrons' perspective, is to have a strong educational dimension. In particular, the children in the Catholic elementary schools in Chicago will be invited into this event in a special way. As soon as there is a final arrangement, I will be in touch. There will be much to do and we will need everyone's help.

I am happy to announce the formation of a Junior Board. They are John Collins, Chairperson; Morgan Henington, First Vice Chairperson; Elizabeth West, Second Vice Chairperson; Christina Walker, Secretary; and Lauren Brinati, Treasurer.

See their pictures and comments in this newsletter.

Gratefully,

*Anne Shea*  
Anne Shea

## OUR MISSION

The Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that raises funds for the preservation, care, exhibition, and restoration of art in the Vatican Museums.

Contact information:

[www.vaticanpatronschicago.org](http://www.vaticanpatronschicago.org)

[illinoispatrons@gmail.com](mailto:illinoispatrons@gmail.com)

(312) 534-5391

## Art as a Carrier of Faith: The Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums

NOVEMBER 20, 2013  
5:45 TO 8:00 PM.  
ART INSTITUTE

Please join us for a reception, viewing, and reflection on *Madonna and Child with St. Mary Magdalene*, by an unknown artist of the sixteenth century and restored in honor of Cardinal Francis George; and Mark Chagall's *White Crucifixion*, a favorite painting of Pope Francis. Invitations will be mailed shortly.

## Great News!

We are pleased to tell you that we are working with the Art Institute of Chicago to bring over the work of art that was restored by the Patrons in honor of Cardinal George. Our goal is to get the piece here in honor of the Cardinal's fiftieth anniversary of his ordination.

I want to express our deep appreciation to the leadership at the Art Institute, Douglas Druick, President; Sylvain Bellenger, Chief Curator in the Department of Medieval to Modern Contemporary Art and Sculpture; and Martha Wolff for their efforts in making the arrangements for moving and accepting the art.

The artwork, entitled *Madonna and Child with St. Mary Magdalene*, will hang in the 16th century gallery, as a one painting exhibit. Next time you visit the Art Institute, please stop by. The painting is expected to arrive in late October.



## BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**Chairman**  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago

**Board Chaplain**  
Rev. John Wall  
Catholic Extension Society

**President**  
Anne Shea

**Vice President**  
Donna Nelson-Stride

**Treasurer**  
Richard Guzior

**Secretary**  
Jonathan Michael

**Directors**  
Rose Ann Anschuetz  
Paula D'Angelo  
Frances Darley  
Ralph Gilbert  
Peggy O'Brien Schulze  
Dr. Bruce Waller

## JUNIOR BOARD

**Chairperson**  
John Collins

**First Vice Chairperson**  
Morgan Henington

**Second Vice Chairperson**  
Elizabeth West

**Secretary**  
Christina Walker

**Treasurer**  
Lauren Brinati

NOVEMBER 6, 2013  
UNION LEAGUE CLUB  
11:30 a.m.

## Luncheon & Book Discussion

with Fr. Louis Cameli, author of *Bread of Life: Exploring the Presence of Eucharist in Our Lives*. This book explores the role of Eucharist in Catholic life and considers central human questions through the lens of the Eucharist.

NOVEMBER 20, 2013  
ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO  
5:45 p.m.

## Art as a Carrier of Faith: The Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums

See Page 3 for more details.

JUNE 2014

## See Rome through the Eyes of the Patrons

Specific dates and information for our next trip to Rome will be forthcoming.

To ensure receiving invitations to these exciting events,

*please be sure your membership is current.*

### Il Messaggero

Office of the Vicar General  
The Illinois Patrons of the Arts  
in the Vatican Museums  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
835 North Rush Street  
Chicago IL 60611

Address Corrections Requested



*Preserving Our Past.....*  
*.....Restoring Our Art*