



Il Messaggero

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE ILLINOIS PATRONS OF THE ARTS
IN THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

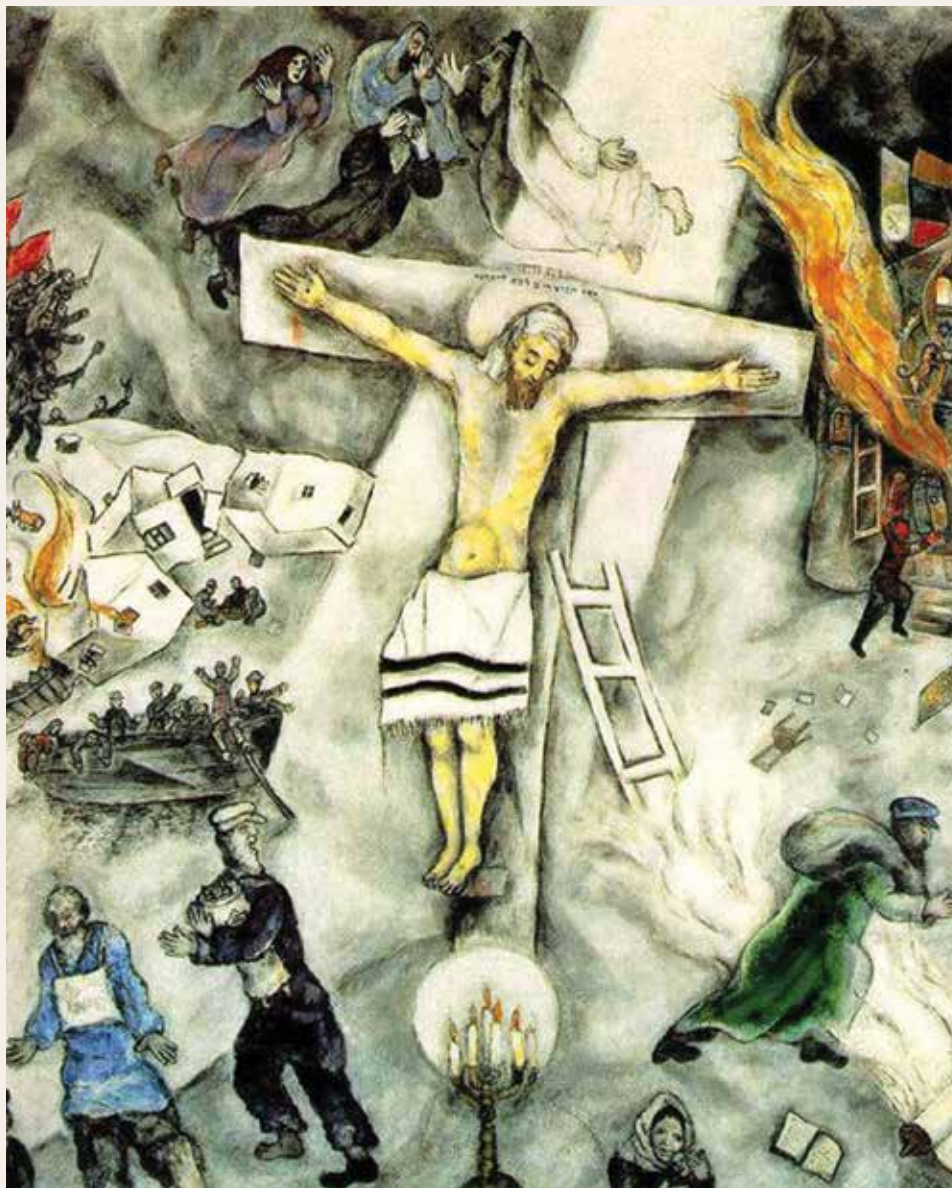
AUTUMN 2015

Patrons Get To Know Pope Francis

BY ANNE SHEA

You get to know someone when you learn their favorite work of art. Marc Chagall's

1938 painting "White Crucifixion" is reportedly a favorite of Pope Francis. People have speculated about why.



Gretchen Buggeln, professor of Christianity and the Arts at Valparaiso University's Christ College in Indiana, thinks the painting expresses the Pope's view of Jesus as a human and divine "exemplar of compassion."

Others think the painting connects to the Pope's longstanding commitment to Catholic-Jewish relations in Argentina. In particular, it reminds the Pope of the suffering of the Jewish at the time of the 1994 bombing of the Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

Whatever the reason, it is a place where faith and art meet. The original is part of the collection at the Art Institute of Chicago.

This photograph of Pope Francis hangs in the entrance hall of the Governatorato, the official administrative center of the Vatican.

In September, I had the opportunity to see this photo. It struck me as both un-papal-like and fun. He looks like everyone's grandfather ready to welcome whoever passes by. *It gave me a sense of freedom to do the work we are called to do.* And we all want to be part of his team!

What do you think when you see this photograph?



The Vatican@Quigley August 18, 2015

On August 18, 2015, the Illinois Patrons were thrilled to host their largest program yet, with Dr. Elizabeth Lev. It was a wonderful opportunity to show the Patrons' work and highlight several restoration projects the Patrons have supported. Nearly 200 Patrons, friends, and guests attended, including Illinois Patrons Chairman, Archbishop Blase Cupich.



Associates' Restoration Project Update



The Associates' held a very successful event at Quartino's restaurant and raised \$4,000 that will go directly toward the restoration project – a marble base carved for a prefect of Rome in the fifth century. Esteemed Chicago artist and Illinois Patrons Board of Directors member John David Mooney gave a brief and powerful lecture on the importance of patronage. For more information on the restoration or to donate, please contact Jeanette Spadavecchio at illinoispatrons@gmail.com.



Thomas Merton

Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.



New Board Member

Janice Brinati has been a supporter of the Illinois Patrons for several years. She explains, "I have always had an interest in, and passion for, the arts in all their varied forms and applications, and believe they play integral part of life for all. Board membership provides a unique opportunity to both explore the organization and its mission as well as to give something back."



Janice participated in the last two Patrons Rome trips in 2014 and in 2012 with her daughter (and Associate member) Lauren Brinati. Throughout the years, Janice has attended many Patrons events, including the most recent event, The Vatican@Quigley, which she helped plan.

Upcoming Events 2015

Wednesday, December 9, 2015, from 5:30-7:30, The Creche @ Christmas with John Shea, at Loyola University Museum of Art. Join the Patrons for an interesting evening of hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, music and holiday cheer.

Invitations will be sent in October.



Upcoming Events 2016

- **Wednesday, March 2, 2016, 5:30-7:30: Associates' Night Out**, at Gibson's Bar & Steakhouse.
- **April 24-30, 2016: Rome Trip.** See information on page 4
- **Thursday, July 7, 2016: Patrons annual summer event** with Archbishop Blase Cupich.

Join Us – Rome In Spring! April 24 – 30, 2016



We are pleased to announce a highly anticipated Patrons trip to the Rome as never experienced before. With guidance from one of Italy's most esteemed art historian, Dr. Elizabeth Lev, we are planning an itinerary that includes a few favorites from prior trips, as well as a host of new events and adventures. Join the Illinois Patrons for a trip and enjoy unparalleled dining and accommodations at the Grand Hotel de la Minerve. Space will be limited. Travel Dates: April 24 – 30, 2016. For more information, contact Jeanette Spadavecchio at illinoispatrons@gmail.com or 312.534.5351.

For more information on events or membership, contact Jeanette Spadavecchio at illinoispatrons@gmail.com or 312.534.5351.

Engage The Illinois Patrons On Social Media

Our newly renovated website:

www.vaticanpatronschicago.org

[Facebook.com/IllinoisPatrons](https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisPatrons)

[Twitter.com/IllinoisPatrons](https://twitter.com/IllinoisPatrons)

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Contact Information

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312-534-5351

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 the arts in the Vatican Museums.