

Il Messaggero



The Newsletter of the Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums / Spring 2014



Flag detail

Restoration Projects

The primary mission of the Patrons is to restore and exhibit works in the Vatican's unparalleled collection. The Illinois Patrons have several new exciting restoration projects underway this year. Work began on The Papal Flag of the Palatine Honor Guard in early March. Professor Paolucci is very excited about this amazing upcoming project; the flag is not just a beautiful object of Vatican art, it is a piece of Papal and Roman history! This exquisite 17th century work was made to honor this military unit of the Vatican, formed in 1850 by Pope Pius IX, who ordered that the two militia units of the Papal States be amalgamated. During the restoration process, the flag's entire gold embroidery and the coat of arms of

Pope Pius IX will be detached and placed on a brand new silk support—retaining the original handiwork yet restoring its former glory. The original silk fabric will be analyzed and treasured as a historical part of the Vatican Palatine Guard Tradition. The restoration is to be completed over the course of three years. Other restoration projects currently underway include Fragment from the Roman Forum (sponsored by Joseph and Arlene Ferrara), Three Works by Cesare Fracassini: St. Lawrence Presents the Poor as Treasures of the Church (sponsored by James and Anneke Taglia), and Fragment of the Attic Sarcophagus: Stories of Jonah (sponsored by Susan Mazzone on behalf of her daughter, Page Adler).



TOP PHOTO: Professor Paolucci discussing the restoration project with restorers from the Vatican's Historical Museum. MIDDLE: Page Adler and her family standing in front of the Fragment of the Attic Sarcophagus: Stories of Jonah (sponsored by Susan Mazzone in honor of her daughter, Page). ABOVE: St. Lawrence Presents the Poor as Treasures of the Church (sponsored by James and Anneke Taglia).

Illinois Patrons Board Appoints New Directors

As the Illinois chapter of the Vatican Patrons continues to grow, so too does its board continue to diversify. Last fall, the Illinois Patrons Board gladly welcomed two new directors.



Dorothy O'Reilly is a painter and sculptor based out of Wheaton, IL. In addition to the extensive charity work she participates in within the

area, she has five children and 12 grandchildren to keep her busy. Given that she is an artist herself, Ms. O'Reilly has a great appreciation for the arts and is dedicated to preserving great masterworks for future generations. "I feel it is important that our cultural heritage be preserved. Those that will follow us in this world should have the opportunity to enjoy these artworks and the stories they tell," Ms. O'Reilly explains.



Joe Walker is originally from Evanston, IL. He attended Creighton University in Omaha and after college he joined Deloitte's Omaha office.

After a two year assignment in London, Joe returned to Chicago and is now an accounting partner in Deloitte's Merger & Acquisition Transaction Services practice. Joe currently lives in Lincoln Park with his wife, Christina, and 18 month old son, Jack; they are currently expecting their second child this spring. Joe greatly enjoys art history. "Being able to contribute to the preservation of one of the world's most notable art collections is an honor," says Joe.

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JOE WALKER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Art & Jazz in the Courtyard

Mark your calendars for an evening of art and jazz in the elegant courtyard of the Archdiocese on Thursday, July 24, 2014. Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres and live music as we discuss some of the Patron's past and present restoration endeavors. Please watch for more information and an invitation soon!



Associates Board leadership left to right: Lauren Brinati, Chrissie Walker, John Collins, Morgan Henington, Liz West

Associates Board Summer Social

The Associates Board will host an event for new Associate members on Thursday, June 5, 2014. Join us for wine and appetizers and get to know your fellow Associates! For more information on the event or Associate level membership, contact Maggie Carrigan, Project Director, at (312) 543-5351.



Guests enjoy themselves at the Associates Board's first event.

Associates First Event

On Thursday, March 6, 2014, the Associates Board hosted their debut event, "Patrons First Night Out." Held at Gibsons Bar & Steakhouse, the multi-generational event attracted over sixty guests including potential young professional members and long-standing patrons. "We are thrilled with the reception that our first event received," says John Collins, Associates Board chairman. "With the help and expertise of the Illinois Patrons Board, we were able to jump start the Associates, attract new members, and spread the word of the Patron's mission."

The President's Corner



Dear Friends,

So much to tell you about—both positive and negative.

First, the positive. The painting that the Patrons sponsored in honor of Cardinal George, Madonna and Child with Saint Mary Magdalene, arrived at the Art Institute in late Fall. There was a wonderful reception on November 20th that brought together Patrons, the Office of Catholic Schools, and members of Legatus, a national association of Catholic laity. Cardinal George spoke appreciatively about his long-term association with the Art Institute and how honored he was to have the painting on display. The painting was also on display at the celebration of the Cardinal's 50th anniversary as a priest. The loaned painting was returned to the Vatican museums in January.

Now, the negative. When we last communicated, the negotiations between the Vatican Museums and the Art Institute were going strong. It looked like the exhibition at the Art Institute was a done deal. However, just before the holidays the negotiations faltered. Early this year, Cardinal George got in touch with Cardinal Bertello regarding this matter; however,

by that time, the entire project had to be put to rest. This major exhibition was to have a strong educational component for the Catholic school children of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Upon reflection, losing this opportunity to enrich the lives of our children hurt the most.

This was a tremendous disappointment—both for the Board and for all the Chicago individuals and institutions that were involved. Although the exhibition did not come to fruition, I want to thank all who were involved in trying to make it happen, especially Cardinal George, Douglas Druick and Sylvain Bellenger of the Art Institute.

However, the mission continues. As you will read in this newsletter, our Associates' Board has taken off! Also, we are planning a very unique trip to Rome—I hope you'll join us.

We are all one in telling the story of our civilization through the restoration of its significant artistic achievements.

Sincerely,

Anne Shea



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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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Patrons enjoy courtyard dining at the Vatican Museums, Rome Trip 2012.

We're pleased to announce a Patrons trip to Rome as never experienced before. With guidance from one of Italy's most esteemed art historians, Dr. Elizabeth Lev, we have planned an itinerary that includes a few favorites from prior Patrons trips, as well as a host of new events and adventures. In addition to an exclusive tour of the Vatican museums, Mosaic Studio and restoration labs, we will also explore the Roman provinces of Agnani and Tivoli while enjoying unparalleled dining and accommodations at the Grand Hotel de Minerve. Few openings remain. Travel Dates: September 29–October 4, 2014. For more information, contact Anne Shea, President, at (708) 642-2511.

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Address Corrections Requested



**The New York Times named
the Vatican one of the top
50 places to visit in 2014!**

*Join us this fall for our
exclusive trip to the Holy See.
See page 3 for details.*

PRESERVING OUR PAST ———
————— RESTORING OUR ART