

Il Messaggero

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

SPRING 2015

We Asked, You Answered

In order to grow the Patrons as an organization, the Board thought it was important to get input from our members. They wanted to see what worked and what needed to be improved.



In the fall of 2014, we created an anonymous online survey. The results were surprising and provided interesting feedback. The responses were both positive and negative. It was great to reflect on certain aspects that went well, and brainstorm new ways to improve the Patrons.

Our Patrons had some marvelous suggestions. One constant theme was that you wanted more evening events that included lectures. In organizing our 2015 programs, your input was critical in the planning process.

We are starting the year off with a bang—the Associates Night Out, an event that is always well received and an enjoyable evening for all. In addition, though it was difficult to schedule due to her high demand, we are pleased to inform you that the well-renowned Dr. Elizabeth Lev will be joining us this summer for an art lecture in the beautiful courtyard at Quigley (the Archdiocese central office). In December, we will have distinguished theologian Jack Shea discuss the meaning of the crèche.

We are confident that these events, and others throughout the year, will continue to improve the Patrons' organization and help to fulfill the needs of our current members.



Associates' New Restoration Project

Did you know that the Illinois Patrons are the first chapter in the world to create an Associates Group? The Associates Board was established two years ago and is thriving. What better way to succession plan!

Since then, the Associates have been successful at hosting events and bringing in a younger generation of Patrons.

The Associates' plan to take on a new role and set the standard for other chapters globally by adopting their first restoration project: a marble base carved by a Prefect of Rome in the fifth century. As the Vatican Museum's wishbook explains, "In ancient times, this marble base supported a statue of Acilius Glabrio Sibidius who, as the inscription makes clear, had important government roles in Greece, Campania and west Gallia. Although there is little certainty as to the base's place of origin, the long inscription on the front indicates that it was mounted in a public space in ancient Rome."

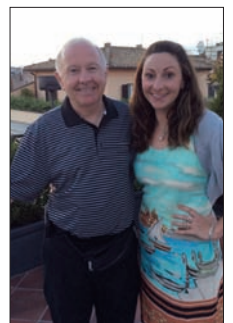
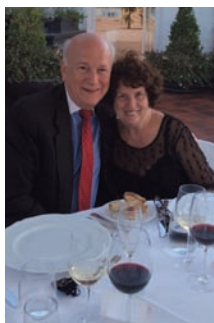
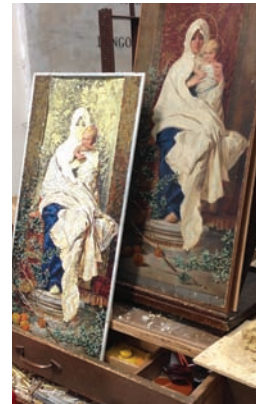
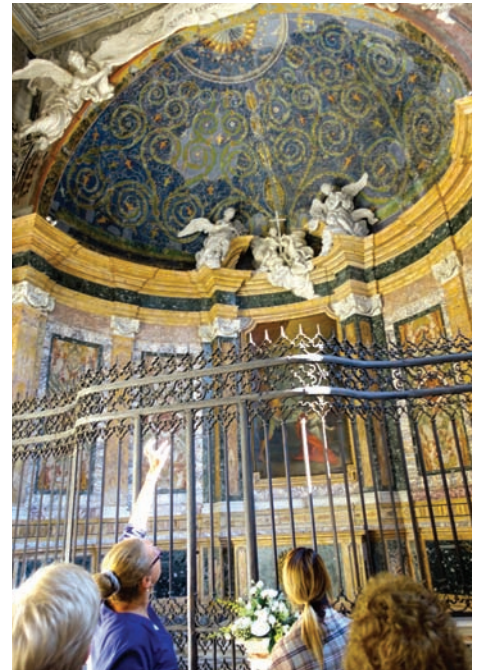
We will be sure to keep you updated on the progress of the restoration.



Rome Trip 2014

This past fall, twenty-plus Patrons traveled to the Eternal City for a unique and opulent trip. Throughout the trip, Patrons were able to experience an array of new events and adventures, along with a few favorites from prior trips.

Some of these events included day trips to Anagni and Tivoli, a private tour of the Vatican's Mosaic Studio, and private dining in the Vatican Pinacoteca in front of the *Deposition* by Caravaggio.



Illinois Patrons Board Approves New Directors

The Board of the Illinois chapter of the Vatican Patrons recently approved three new directors to our Board in fall 2014. We are honored to welcome Elizabeth Keough Flood, John David Mooney, and Leonard Wiatr.

Elizabeth Keough Flood is an attorney who specializes in Religious and Not-For-Profit Organizations within the law firm *Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, PC*. She focuses her practice on issues related to risk assessment and risk management, including representing religious organization in mediation



and other alternative dispute resolution processes. While in law school, she served as Executive Notes Editor for the *Global Studies Law Review*. Ms. Flood received her BA, magna cum laude, in Anthropology and Classics from the University of Notre Dame in 2008 and received her JD from Washington University School of Law in 2011.

John David Mooney is a well-respected Chicago artist who has created large-scale pieces in many locations around the world, including in Australia, Rome, Edinburgh, Atlanta, Malta, and our very own Chicago, to name a few. He is the founder and artistic



director of the John David Mooney Foundation, a not-for-profit public educational organization that is dedicated to providing an advanced interdisciplinary experience to the next generation of artists and architects. The organization's strives to give these artists and architects the necessary tools to fulfill their responsibility to society. John David's work is in numerous private and public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Leonard E. Wiatr is the Executive Managing Director and Chief Risk Officer for The Private Bank. In addition, he is a member of the CEO's Operating Committee of the Bank. He is responsible for the development and execution of the Enterprise Risk Management Program, for managing regulatory affairs, and for the oversight of the Compliance, Operational Risk, and Loan Review Departments. He earned a BA in Business Administration from St. Joseph's College and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Bankers. Len is active in the community and serves on the boards and finance committees of Catholic Charities, St. Anthony's Hospital, and A Silver Lining Foundation.



Upcoming Events

Associates Night Out. Mark your calendars for an evening at Quartino Ristorante celebrating the Associates first ever restoration project. The Associates will be discussing in detail the restoration project in the Vatican Museums. Enjoy the event with wine, hors d'oeuvres, and the company of our fellow Patrons. **Wednesday, March 18, 2015, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Invitations will be in the mail shortly.**



The Vatican at Quigley. The Patrons will sponsor an elegant evening in the courtyard of the Archdiocese. Archbishop Cupich will be attending and Dr. Elizabeth Lev will be traveling from Rome to present a unique lecture on art and the Vatican. The evening will be accompanied by live music, hors d'oeuvres, and cocktails. **August 18, 2015.**

Creches and Christmas. In December, the Patrons will be hosting a Christmas program at the Loyola University Museum of Art with Jack Shea. **Wednesday, December 9, 2015.** For more information on events or membership, contact Jeanette Spadavecchio, Project Coordinator, at 312.543.5351.

Welcome Archbishop Cupich

The Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museum would like to welcome Archbishop Blase Cupich as their new Chairman.



From the President

Dear Patrons,



Our Rome trip this past fall was a unique experience. We visited a multi-layered church in Anagni whose first

layer was from the fourth century, took in Princess Isabella's apartment at the Palazzo Colonna (fans of the movie *Roman Holiday* know it well), checked out the pope mobile, and dined in front of the *Deposition* by Caravaggio. The consensus was that the trip was over the top.

In the fall, we also sent out a survey and asked you what you thought about a number of topics. We read your comments and requests carefully and are in the process of responding. One thing you asked for was more programs and events. In the light of that suggestion, we have scheduled three programs.

On March 18, the Associates Board will be holding a reception, **The Associates Night Out**, at Quartino Ristorante on State St.

In the summer, we are planning a program, **The Vatican at Quigley** with Dr. Elizabeth Lev (considered to be the top art historian in Italy).

On December 9, we are holding an event at the Loyola University Museum of Art, **Creches and Christmas**, with my favorite theologian, Jack Shea.

As these dates come closer, we will be in touch by email and newsletter.

It is always good to remember our mission and make sure our activities support and extend it.

The Patrons restore artwork in the Vatican Museums. Perhaps the deepest motivation for this is: **Art expresses and communicates faith. It is important to maintain this theological perspective in the world in which we live. It is this perspective that guides our restoration efforts.**

It is my hope that these programs will guide us to see how art expresses and communicates faith. Thank you for your support of the Patrons.

Warm regards,

Anne Shea

Interesting ... Eucharistic Congress

One of the most significant pieces in the Historical Museum is a large painting by Julius Von Blass titled *Imperial Procession with the Emperor Franz Joseph at the Twenty-Third Eucharistic Congress in Vienna*, created in 1913. This work is currently being restored by the Illinois Patrons.

On June 22, 1926, the Twenty-Eighth Eucharistic Congress was held in Chicago, roughly four hundred thousand attended a High Mass held at Soldier Field. In the Roman Catholic Church, a Eucharistic Con-

gress is a gathering of clergy, religious, and laity bearing witness to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, which is an important Roman Catholic doctrine. Congresses bring together people from a wide area, and typically involve large open-air Masses, adoration of the Eucharist (Blessed Sacrament), and other devotional ceremonies held over several days.

We thought it would be interesting to view the painting from the Eucharistic Congress in 1913 and a photograph of Cardinal Mundelein at the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago.



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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.