



**Illinois Chapter**  
Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums



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## **The Marian Art Initiative**

Beginning in the Fall of 2020, the Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums will host a 15-month Marian Art Initiative - ***Rosa Mystica: A Journey of Renewal & Restoration***. This initiative is undertaken in the spirit of Pope Francis and the United States and Canadian Bishops and in response to the planetary coronavirus pandemic.

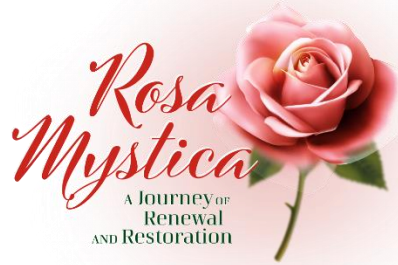
In March, Pope Francis entrusted to Mary the suffering and anguish of millions of people affected by the coronavirus pandemic. In April, the Bishops of the United States and Canada, following the lead of the Pope, “re-consecrated” North America to Mary. When the Pope and the Bishops call upon Mary, they are bringing forward treasures of the Catholic tradition to sustain our spirits as we engage and overcome this danger to our common future.

This is not the first time. In past situations of peril, Christians have looked to Mary – Virgin Mother, Blessed Mother, Mother of the Church, etc. They have created litanies, spiritual practices, liturgies, festivals, etc. to open to and be inspired by the revelation contained in the Marian traditions. Artists were also major contributors to these traditions and made them available to the majority of people. They created memorable paintings that not only reflect their own times but offer beauty and truth for our time.

Now is the time to retrieve the resources of Marian Art to sustain and inspire our spirits.

Over the months of this initiative, The Conservation Center will restore a Marian Painting titled *The Annunciation*, which some scholars suggest may have been completed by Michelangelo’s teacher in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This painting hangs in the Cardinal’s villa in Mundelein. The Conservation Center will record the restoration process, and the various programs will showcase the progress of the restoration. Participants will develop a heightened appreciation of the techniques and results of restoration and the ways of safeguarding our artistic patrimony.

**August 2020**



## **Expert Content Consultants**

As we develop *Rosa Mystica*, we are in communication with our content consultants. We are grateful to these impressive experts in theology, psychology, and art history.

**Rev. Louis Cameli, STD.**

Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, Board member  
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Archdiocese of Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

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**John David Mooney**

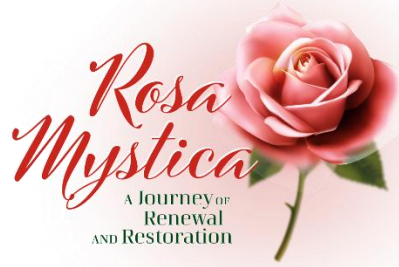
Illinois Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, Board member  
Artist  
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Mariologist  
Pastor, St. Emily Parish  
Mt. Prospect, Illinois

**Dott.ssa Alessandra Rodolfo**

Curator, Department of XVII-XVIII Century Art and Department of Tapestries and Textiles  
Vatican Museums  
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## **Rosa Mystica Sponsors**

We deeply appreciate all of our Patrons who have supported the Rosa Mystica Initiative.

The Illinois Patrons graciously acknowledges the leadership of the following organization donors:

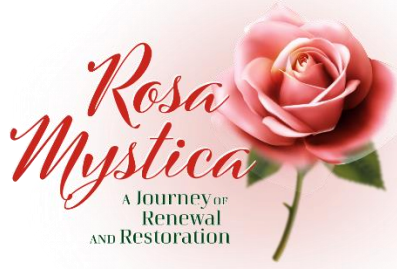
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