Vatican Museums Report

Report Volume LXIII

Winter 2025

Office of Relations with the Patrons
of the Arts in the Vatican Museums



From the President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State

SISTER RAFFAELLA PETRINI, F.S.E.

Dear Patrons and Friends,

There has been an outpouring of emotion in the Vatican and around the world this last year, especially with the passing of our beloved Pope Francis in April and the election of Pope Leo XIV, all which took place during the great Holy Year of 2025 - the Jubilee of Hope. The continuous flow of pilgrims from around the world, as well as large numbers of visitors to the Vatican and the Museums have been a blessing. During the Jubilee, the Governorate has strived to make all visitors to the Vatican feel welcome and accommodated. For many it is a once in a life time experience and it is edifying to witness special moments of God's grace in individuals during their journey, whether spiritual or physical.

Over the past year, in collaboration with the Office of Relations with the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, we have been particularly fortunate with the visit of many Patron benefactors, which allows us to personally welcome them and show our gratitude for their support. As they tour the galleries, gardens, chapels and artistic treasures, they have the opportunity to see firsthand the beautiful results of restoration and conservation projects they financed.

Their generosity is in full public display as the museums now have an average of nearly 25,000 visitors a day walking through its galleries. These visitors become informed and inspired by the artistic, cultural, religious and historical collections conserved in the Vatican Museums.



Sr. Raffaella Petrini in Cleveland with Ohio Chapter Leader Lorraine Dodero and PAVM Coordinator Mons. Hogan

The Administration of the Museums also continues its dedication to improving the management and care of its thousands of daily visitors so that every person who enters the Vatican Museums has a enriching and positive experience.

To support and encourage those who lead the various Chapters of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, on September 2025 the Annual Meeting of Patron Chapter Leaders took place in Ottawa, Canada. Participating were delegations from the Governorate and the Vatican Museums along with Chapter Leaders from around the world. The exquisite hospitality provided by the Canada Chapter and the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada allowed time for lively gatherings to discuss and reflect on the impact of the Jubilee events, as well as the historic transition within the papacy from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. Special attention was given to cultivating friendships and future collaboration for new goals and projects between the Vatican and Patron Chapters.

On October 2025, the Patrons of the California & North West Chapter came to visit, providing opportunities to strengthen relations and personal contacts with officials and representatives of the Vatican. A guided tour of the breathtaking, recently restored Sala Ducale, was the highlight of the series of events, offering a unique experience for all the Patrons who generously participated in completing its monumental restoration. At the beginning of December, I also had the privilege of joining the Ohio Patrons Chapter in Cleveland for their twentieth anniversary, in a well deserved celebration of the Chapter's dedication throughout the years to the restoration of various art works in the Vatican collections. Moreover, as the Christmas season brings hope to mind, we recognize that every act of kindness — whether the generosity of restoring artistic heritage or helping someone in need — allows the light of the newborn Child to shine through the darkness. The Nativity becomes a sign of good will among all peoples and cultures, building bridges that leads people toward true peace.

The Vatican is blessed to have so many active Patron Chapters around the world and I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Leaders and every Patron member for the kindness manifested through your benevolent generosity. I express my deepest gratitude for your faithful support and assure that each of you is remembered in my prayers. May God bless you.



Sr. Raffaella Petrini inaugurates Nativity scene and Christmas tree in St. Peter's Square

From the Director of the Vatican Museums

DR. BARBARA JATTA

Dear Patrons and Friends,

Another year has passed, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you, and to wish you a blessed Christmas and a special New Year.

During the 2025 Jubilee Year, the Vatican Museums have been filled with pilgrims and visitors from around the world, here in Rome for their spiritual journeys and also to honour Pope Leo XIV and encourage him in his new ministry. The Museums have welcomed almost seven millions of visitors. The Museums have also hosted exhibitions, events, and conferences, demonstrating once again their vitality and energy and have organized classical music concerts throughout the galleries as a way to thank all tourists for their support and enthusiasm. We extend our gratitude to all the offices, curators, restorers, security teams, custodians and all who collaborated to make this possible.

On August 2nd, the Museums presented to Pope Leo XIV a restored painting depicting St. Augustine. On this occasion, the Vatican Museums, together with Sr. Petrini and Mons. Hogan, had the honour of meeting the Holy Father.

In September, I joined a Vatican delegation with Alberto Albanesi, our Deputy Director for the Management-Administrative Department, in the Patrons Chapter Leaders' Meeting in Ottawa. Debra and Tom Mauro together with Kathleen Grimes and other devoted members of the Canadian Chapter welcomed us with great joy and enthusiasm. It is always a pleasure to meet the leaders and to share ideas and plans with them for the future of the Patrons.
During October, the Museums hosted the California and Northwest Chapter, the group completed its full pilgrimage to all four Basilicas. Led by the energy of Debra Colletti, and supported by Scott Cooper, the Patrons enjoyed meeting Vatican officials and visiting their sponsored projects inside the Museums.



Dr. Barbara Jatta in her office at the Vatican Museums

As the Jubilee draws to an end, time seems to move ever more quickly, and several of our dear colleagues have retired; the restorers Marco Pratelli, Francesca Persegati, and Chiara Fornaciari da Passano. Others have moved on to new responsibilities, such as Micol Forti, former curator of the collection of Modern and Contemporary Art, who is now the Director of MART, the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rovereto, Trento, Northern Italy. We wish all our colleagues and friends success and a fulfilling future.

Once again, thank you for being our benefactors and friends. I look forward to welcoming you to the Vatican Museums in 2026.

From the Coordinator of the Office of Relations with the Patrons of the Arts

MONSIGNOR TERENCE HOGAN

My dear Patrons and Friends,

This past year, as the Church celebrated the great Jubilee of Hope, we were both blessed and inspired by the thousands of pilgrims, visitors and Patrons who prayerfully passed through the Holy Doors of Saint Peter's Basilica, as well as the three other major basilicas: Saint John Lateran, Saint Mary Major, and Saint Paul Outside the Walls, as well as other holy sites throughout the city of Rome. During the Holy Year, the Office of Relations with the Patrons welcomed several thousand Patrons into the Vatican Museums with its many galleries, gardens, chapels and artistic treasures that both elevated the spirit and truly inspired both the young and the old. Patrons of many years, and new Patrons from around the world, were able to see their handiwork of restoration and preservation in conserving the artistic, cultural, and faith filled history of the Vatican Museums. As we look toward the future, we continue to look with hope and joy because of the dedication, support and response of our Patron Chapter Leaders and all our Patrons throughout the world, all who give of their time and talent in in assuring the conservation of the centuries of art found in the Vatican Museums. In September 2025, Patron Chapter Leaders gathered in Ottawa, Canada with Sr. Raffaella Petrini, President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State along with Barbara Jatta, Director of the Vatican Museums, as well as delegations from the Governorate and the Vatican Museums. Blessed by beautiful weather and the hospitality of the Canada Chapter, the Patron Leaders and the Vatican representatives reflected on the past, by retracing the many events of the Jubilee Year, and the significant passage from the sorrowful farewell to the beloved late pontiff, Pope Francis, to a renewed joy by the election of Pope Leo XIV. Moreover, looking toward the future, this gathering offered a fresh momentum and many insights by the mutual dialogue and exchange about multiple avenues of collaboration between the Vatican and local Patron Chapters in the critical work of preservation and restoration of the masterpieces of the Vatican Museums. As we enter the New Year of 2026, we acknowledge and thank all our Patrons spread around the globe and particularly seek God's special blessings upon each of you and your loved ones.



Mons. Hogan on the Etruscan Terrace



Chapter Leaders' Meeting Hall in Ottawa



Debra Mauro, Canada Chapter Leader, Jatta with Sr. Raffaella Petrini and Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič

Thanks to Your Commitment

THESE PROJECTS ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN EVER



Lot I Ethnological Museum Anima mundi

ITALIAN & INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER - Nishimoto Family

The setting of the area was elaborate and carried out to celebrate, this year, the 100th anniversary of the missionary collection of the Vatican Museums with the collaboration of the collection's curator **Nadia Fiussello**. On the occasion of the Jubilee of 1925, Pope Pius XI wanted to organize in the Vatican a Missionary Exposition in order to illustrate the capillary diffusion of the Catholic missions in the world and, at the same time, to make the cultural, artistic and spiritual traditions of all peoples known.

Thanks to the profuse efforts of missionaries in carrying out the task entrusted to them by the Pontiff as mediators with the local populations, participation was particularly active. The Japanese collection is represented with numerous masterpieces from the Vatican collection, including an 8-scroll copy of the Lotus Sutra, two ink drawings on silk, a painting depicting a woman in a modern *furisode* (a long-sleeved formal kimono traditionally worn by unmarried women), a *Haniwa* (terracotta clay figure placed on burial mounds during the Kofun period), a Satsuma-style tripod incense burner (ceramic incense burner decorated in the Satsuma style, known for its intricate designs and gilding), a *Netsuke* (small carved ornament used to secure items to a kimono sash), a traditional ceremonial garment called *kaparamip*, and several works by Luke Hasegawa.



Anubis Statue

MICHIGAN CHAPTER - Cristina Cameron

Anubis, one of the oldest and most important Egyptian deities, was guardian of the Necropolis and traditionally depicted as a jackal or a man with a jackal's head. In this statue, he appears as a syncretic figure assimilated to Mercury, wearing a knee-length tunic with a mantle, a solar disc between his ears, holding a sistrum in his right hand and a caduceus in his left, beside a palm trunk evoking the Nile. During the restoration process, overviewed by curator **Alessia Amenta**, the cleaning revealed that parts once thought to be additions were original, and further studies showed that the solar disc had been covered with gold foil, later fragmented into nanometric particles during burial, creating its current violet color.

Rospigliosi Triptych

NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

The Triptych, which consists of three panels, has been finally completed. During the final restoration meeting the results of the historical and artistic research were presented, along with an illustration of the restoration details. The pictorial reintegration was carried out by the painting restorer **Alessandra Zarelli** coordinated by **Francesca Persegati**.

The Triptych's central panel "The Coronation of the Virgin" and the two side panels, "The Nativity of Jesus" and "The Adoration of the Magi" are revealing the luminous gold and the intense red which, throughout the centuries, has been used to convey love and rage, authority and self-sacrifice.



Compartment of a Predella with Episodes from the Life of the Virgin, Flight into Egypt

NEW YORK CHAPTER – Donna D'Urso

The flight into Egypt is a story recounted in the Gospel of Matthew and in New Testament apocrypha. Soon after the visit by the Magi, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to flee to Egypt with Mary and the Infant Jesus since King Herod would seek the child to kill him. The restoration interventions on the *predella* (panel) by restorer **Federica Runco** were applied either on the wooden panel and frame by **Massimo Alesi** and **Marco De Pillis**. All the works have been coordinated by **Anna Pizzamano**, Curator of the Department of Byzantine-Medieval Art with the assistance of **Pietro Beresh**. The situation that emerged helped the restorers to better understand the cause of the instability problems of the painted surface. They therefore remedied it with an intervention that restored the uniformity and stability of the surface in order to ensure better preservation in the future. The restoration was an important opportunity for art-historical study to reconstruct its origins and history.



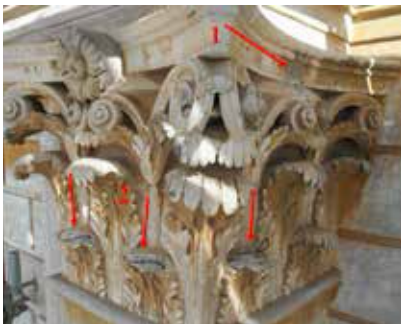
Ongoing Restorations

THESE PROJECTS WILL BE COMPLETED SOON

Bramante Courtyard

The Bramante Courtyard, a central architectural masterpiece of the Vatican Museums. Previous restoration campaigns had left residues and inconsistencies in the wall plasterwork, and large sections had become structurally unstable over time. This phase represents the final and most complex stage of the four-part restoration project, which began in 2016, and will include: surface cleaning and residue removal; plaster repair and reintegration; reconstruction of decorative elements; structural stabilization; and repainting of the wall. The restoration of the courtyard is **a joint effort of a long list of individual Patrons** and **various Chapters**. It symbolizes the importance of our fundraising activity toward large, long-term, and delicate operational projects.







Adoration of the Magi Tapestry

MICHIGAN CHAPTER
NEW YORK CHAPTER – Linda Del Rio

The large and sumptuous tapestry illustrates the episode of the homage of the Magi Kings to the Infant Jesus as described in the Gospel of Matthew.
The design of the reliefs is from Raphael, and the manufactory is from the Brussels workshop of Pieter van Aelst (1450-1532/3).
During these months, the Tapestry Laboratory continued with the consolidation phase, which always begins with dyeing the required yarns. After which the restorers work on the consolidation of alternating stitches. The restoration of this tapestry is a long and patient work and requires the excellency of all the restorers of the Tapestry Laboratory: **Chiara Pavan, Sr. Maria Smolen, Sr. Shiromi Werogoda, Emanuela Pignataro, Kaura Pace Morino, Viola Ceppetelli and Sr. Be Sau Nguyen**.



Same portion of tapestry before and after consolidation of stitches

Chapter Visits

FALL 2025

From October 18 to 23, 2025 the Vatican joyfully welcomed the **California & Northwest Chapter** for a memorable Jubilee pilgrimage. Over the course of their visit, the group centered their spiritual journey around the four Major Papal Basilicas. Passing through the Holy Doors of each basilica, the Patrons joined together in prayer and reflection at the heart of the Church.

The pilgrimage opened at the Vatican Museums, where curators and restorers offered an insightful conference on the recently completed restoration of the Ducal Hall—a project generously funded by the California & Northwest Chapter.

Now fully restored, the hall once again welcomes heads of state and distinguished guests visiting the Holy Father in the Apostolic Palace. On the following evening, the Patrons had the opportunity to visit to the Apostolic Vatican Library that homes priceless manuscripts and historic volumes. They also admired the restored Ducal Hall firsthand during a special tour the Apostolic Palace while walking through the famed Raphael Loggias, currently undergoing restoration made possible through their continued support.

The evening concluded with a delightful aperitif on the Bramante Courtyard Terrace.

The group's final evening in the Vatican began with Mass at the Church of St. Stephen of the Abyssinians, the oldest standing church within Vatican City. After the Eucharistic celebration, Patrons enjoyed a private, after-hours tour of the Sistine Chapel, the Raphael Rooms, and the magnificent Gallery of Maps. The night concluded in the Octagonal Courtyard with a welcome reception, followed by a gala dinner in the Gallery of Busts and Statues. Distinguished guests included Cardinal Rolandas Makrickas, President of the Vatican Governorate, Sr. Raffaella Petrini and the General Secretaries, Bishop Emilio Nappa and Giuseppe Puglisi-Alibrandi, Barbara Jatta, Director of the Vatican Museums, and Vice Directors Alberto Albanesi and Giandomenico Spinola.

The Chapter's pilgrimage was marked by fellowship, cultural enrichment, and a shared commitment to preserving the artistic and spiritual heritage of the Vatican. It was a journey that strengthened bonds of faith and deepened appreciation for the treasures entrusted to the care of the Patrons.



Mons. Hogan with Sr. Raffaella Petrini, Debra Colletti and Scott Cooper



CA & NW Chapter in the Octagonal Courtyard before the gala dinner

Chapter Visits

OUR DAILY VISITS



Dr. and Mrs. Graebe with Gregory Oussani (NY)



From left: Dan and Julia Calinescu, Mons. Hogan and Matthew Walsh (DC)



From left: Barbara Jatta, Mei Wen, Nadia Fiussello, Mons. Hogan, Jean-François Genotte, Alberto Albanesi, Valentina Crollari, Romina Cometti in the Anima Mundi Museum



Anthony and Michelle Gologanoff with David Krakowski (OH) in the Etruscan Museum



From left: Francisco Borja Olano (GA), Federica Cecchetti and Federica Runco (restorers) and Rosemary Olano (GA)



Joe and Arlene Ferrara (IL) with Mons. Hogan and Lindy Nieuwpoort (ORPAVM)



Mons. Hogan, Debbie Wert (FL) and Alberto Albanesi



Jane and Cassian Roberts (IT&INT)



Meg Milani (CA&NW) with guide Chiara Cruciani



Matthew and Tanaka Weisz (IL)



Terri and Robert Ambrose (OH)



From left: Sara Savoldello (ORPAVM), Julie Reveley, Angie McNamara, Carol Anne Casey and Mons. Hogan



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DIRECTORATE OF MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Published by the Office of Relations with the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums' Editorial Staff: Mons. Terence Hogan, Sara Savoldello, Chiara Lorenzetti, Annarita Imperio, Martina Suozzo, Lindy Nieuwpoort, Carlo Verdecchia
Editorial Coordination: Sara Savoldello
Graphic Design: Chiara Lorenzetti, Martina Suozzo
Images and Rights Office: Rosanna di Pinto, Filippo Petrignani, Gabriele Mattioli
Secretary of Departments: Daniela Valci and Gianfranco Mastrangeli
Photographers: Alessandro Bracchetti, Gregorio Calore, Giampaolo Capone, Cristiano D'Alessio, Luigi Giordano, Alessandro Prinzivalle, Mauro Tomasetti
Printed by: Vatican Press

Front Cover: The Ducal Hall in the Apostolic Palace, Vatican City State