



# VATICAN

# MUSEUMS

## REPORT

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### The Vision of St. Augustine

In the Jubilee year of 1600, Agostino Ciampelli completed his work *The Vision of St. Augustine*.

Forgotten in the storage room of St. John Lateran for centuries, it remained there, untouched, until it was recently found. As a result, this painting has provided the restorers and art historians of the Vatican Museums with a unique opportunity to study and research Agostino Ciampelli.

Due to these indescribably rare circumstances, where a painting has remain untouched since its creation, our restorers and art historians were able to study an unadulterated example of XVII Century pictorial technique as well as the historic methods of structural support. The extraordinary condition of the piece also meant that our restoration team only had to intervene minimally in order to restore *The Vision of St.*



*Augustine* to as close to its original state as possible. Originally, the fabric of the canvas had been applied to a poplar support, but had become torn in two places.

The back of the wooden frame was damaged in the central area and the overall surface of the canvas was covered with dust and insects. Thus, the restoration process because with cleaning the piece. Through the careful application of expert techniques, the painting regained its brilliance, most notably the richness of the blue lapis lazuli and the delicacy of the red lacquers.

Typically, the restoration process includes the application of a new fabric lining to the back of the canvas. In this case, however, the buckling and warping of the canvas was able to be fixed using heat and steam. The central tears of the canvas

■ The Holy Trinity with Saints, by Agostino Ciampelli – restored thanks to the generosity of the Ohio Chapter

*Follows from page one*



■ Wooden structure of the painting. The support system which allows the canvas to be flexible and move without causing further damage to the work was also restored.

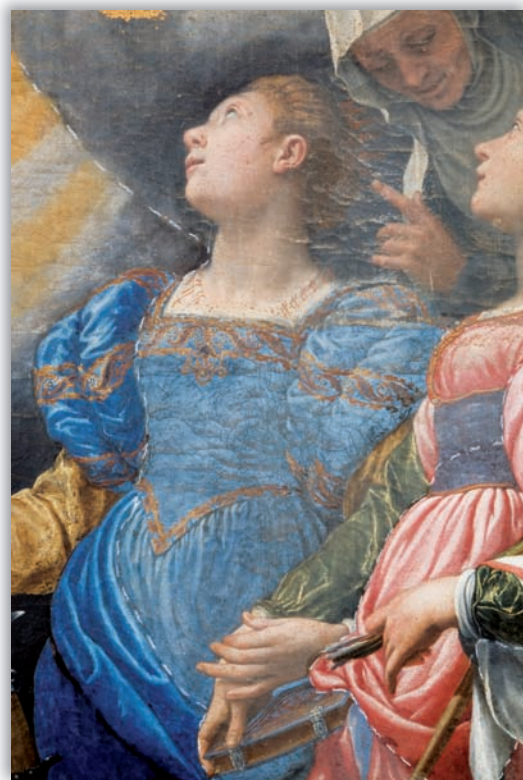
were hand-sewn with the aid of a microscope. Finally, the restorers filled the remaining gaps with stucco and started the pictorial reintegration of the missing colours.

The restoration team was able to maintain the original wooden support system as well as the original canvas. They were also able to complete a special process which enabled them to enlarge the edges, also known as hems, of the canvas. These new hems were then attached to the support system through springs which will allow for the natural movement of both the wood and the fabric.

The restoration was supported by the Laboratory of Scientific Analysis during every step of the process.

All these delicate interventions were necessary in order

to restore the beauty of this painting, forgotten for many years. The restoration of this virgin painting is a small glimpse into the artistic environment of the XVII century, capturing the viewer with the elegance of the colour pairings, the refinement of the depicted clothing and the over-all balance of the composition.



■ Detail of the painting. On the blue dress the restored vs. unrestored section is visible. Note the delicate hands and the bright colours.

#### NOTE ON THE PAINTER

One of the most important masters of the Baroque period, Agostino Ciampelli was born in Florence, Italy on August 29, 1565. He trained in the workshop of Santi di Tito, one of the leading artists of the Counter-Reformation. Under Santi di Tito, Ciampelli learned the principles of depicting religious subjects in a reserved and devotional manner, one which expressed a delicate reverence for his subject material that would come to characterize the Florentine reform. He was admitted into the Accademia del Disegno in Florence in 1585. Some of his earliest known works include his contributions to a temporary triumphal arch constructed by Santi and his pupils for the entry of Christina of Lorraine into Florence in 1589. There he is also known for a fresco at the Tornabuoni Chapel representing the biblical story of Esther and Ahasuerus. Later in life, Ciampelli traveled to Rome with his patron and protector, Alessandro de Medici. Arriving in 1594, Ciampelli would remain in Rome until his death on April 22, 1630. He produced many works under the patronage of Alessandro, examples of which can be found at Sant'Agnese outside the Walls in Trastevere. Once in Rome however, he would also paint under Pope Clement VIII. While in Rome, Agostino executed the *Crucifixion* for Santa Prassede, angels adorning the walls of the apse of Santa Maria in Trastevere as well as the *Visitation* in Santo Stefano di Pescia. He also painted several other important works in Rome, including canvases in the Duomo and SS Stefano e Nicola in Pescia, a Nativity of the Virgin in S. Michelino Vismidini in Florence, and a fresco representing Old Testament themes for Palazzo Corsini. He also known for the Chapel of St. Andrew in the Chiesa del Gesù in Rome, where he illustrated *The Martyrdom of St. Stephen* on the walls, *The Glory of the Virgin Surrounded by Holy Martyrs* on the vault, and *The Martyrdom of St. Andrew* on the altarpiece.

Heavily influenced by his instruction under Santi, Agostino Ciampelli remains a prominent master of the Baroque period known for his skill in depicting religious subjects.

## Letter from the International Director

**O**n one of my most recent trips to America, I found myself on the road returning from an appointment. The cool, crisp air and fall colors could have been in anyone's hometown, but for me they brought the comfortable familiarity of my own Ohio town and reflections of my journey. Thoughts of the projects I had just presented were intertwined with normal personal concerns and those few restorations left to be adopted. Turning off of Exchange Street and onto Providence Avenue, my eyes fell on an old brick Presbyterian Church. Considerably taller than it was wide, it sat squatly amidst a light dusting of golden leaves and a lone bare maple. Perpendicular to the road was a matching sign, built solidly of red bricks. Behind the layer of slightly scuffed plexiglass, removable black plastic letters spelled out an important prayer. "Lord grant me the grace to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference".

Discerning what to change and what we must accept is a question that we all face – whether it be matters of business, politics or parenting. In a way, this is what restoration is all about – leaving, removing, apparently changing by merely restoring – and the wisdom to know the difference. Much of restoration is not about changing anything at all, instead it is the removal of what shouldn't have been there to begin with, the protection of what should be, and, of course, the wisdom to know the difference. This is why the study of a piece is so important. It is necessary to know what the author did originally, what has been changed or added in previous restoration attempts, and, if so, how those restorations affected the piece. All this, to return the work to its original state – as it was in the beginning. As I drove past the



■ Msgr. Terence Hogan with Mary M. Viator, Ruby S. Rinker and Andrew Bytnar.

sign and followed Providence to my next appointment, I found myself contented. This is our life. It isn't so much about changing appearances as much as it is releasing the original underneath – bringing to the foreground what we are really meant to be; exposing what is most beautiful and removing that which hinders God's creation in us from shining through. I am so lucky to be surrounded by reminders of this every day. This call for the beauty that is within, the truth that can be revealed, is seen in every one of the restored works in the museums.

I was able to share this message during my trip to Mackinac Island to present the restoration of the Sala dei Santi of Pinturicchio as well as in the other recent projects featured in this newsletter. This concept was central to the Feminine Beauty in the Arts pilgrimage organized by the Patrons office and members of the Michigan Chapter, a snapshot of which can also be found in this newsletter.

The spirit of the Patrons, one impassioned by the desire to restore and preserve

that original beauty, is evident in the original gleaming white of cleansed marble of the Braccio Nuovo, the intense hues of Raphael's School of Athens, or the elegant gilt lines of the Papal Carriage collections. This difference can be seen clearly in the renewed shine of the gilt frame of the Mandylion, delicate repairs of the Japanese xylographies, rehydration of the African Lireae and preventative measures ensuring that the ancient bronze amour and swans are prepared for centuries to come. The results of these efforts are seen in projects of all sizes, materials, and eras. With the Bernini Laboratory, visitors to the museum can now even witness this process in action. The generosity of the patrons is shown time and again through your dedication, efforts and eagerness to take on these projects which will benefit millions of people for years to come. We can see this at all of our patrons gatherings, where projects, progress and personal faith are discussed and shared with an indescribable energy. Meeting with all of these wonderful patrons, both on my travels and with the groups that come to see us in Rome, continues to incite enthusiasm and passion for the work that is being done here, the efforts of all involved in this process and the ways in which we can apply these ideas of cleansing, renewal, and restoration in our own lives to truly let the original beauty of God's creation shine through.

An expert restorer knows what is not original and removes it. She doesn't aim to add anything of her own, but merely tries to recover what was always there and reveal that to the viewer. God has placed so much beauty in each one of us but time, bad habits, and past wounds all seek to obscure that original masterpiece. As you begin the new year, may you let what God created in you come forth, by removing all that is not Him. May God grant you the grace to accept what only He can restore, restore what you can and the wisdom to know the difference!

Yours in Christ,

Father Mark Haydu, LC

## Completed Projects



Restorer Flavia Serena di Lapigio showing the restored Xylographies to Anne Shea, Illinois Chapter President and **Dr. Joseph Kovach, PhD** who sponsored the project.



XIX century coloured Xylographies on Japanese paper, by Ando Hiroshige and Master Sadahide Utagawa.



Beautifully decorated miniature armour, II century B.C. Its restoration has been made possible thanks to **Baron and Baroness Gaetano and Sophie Manno**, Belgium Chapter.



This precious object is part of the Pontifical Sacristy and has been restored in the Vatican Museums' Labs thanks to **Bob Snyder and Sotheby's Institute**, Washington, DC/Baltimore Chapter.

**Anne Marie and Chris Scibelli**, California Patrons together with Father Mark and restorer Fabiana Francescangeli in the Ceramic and Metal Restoration Laboratory viewing their recently restored Swan Decorations.



II century B.C. Bronze Swan Decoration which in Roman times was used for adorning the head of the beds.



One of the two African Lirae, made of wood, pumpkin, bamboo, snakeskin, fur, fabric tendons and metal. They belongs to the Missionary Ethnological Museum and they have been restored thanks to the generosity of **Sir David Krakowski, KCHS**, Ohio Patron of the Arts.



Il restauro della Liberazione di San Pietro è stato reso possibile grazie alla generosità di Mr. Richard Smith dei Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums della Florida

2010

The restoration of "St. Peter delivered from prison" has been made possible thanks to the generosity of Mr. Richard Smith of the Florida Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums

Dated 1700 ca. by an anonymous artist of the fresco made by Raphael. It has been restored thanks to **Richard Smith**, Florida Patron, and it is hung in the Patrons' Office, Apostolic Palace, officially recognizing the patron's generosity.

## Events at the Vatican

### UNVEILING OF THE ROOM OF THE TRIBUTES, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2010

**U** Mr. Joseph Incaudo, California Patron and dear friend to the Patron's Office, dedicated his recent restoration of *The Room of the Tributes* in the Vatican Museums to the memory of his dear and beloved wife, Beatrice. Relatives and friends joined Joseph from all over the world to gather in honour of Beatrice. A special welcome was given to Joseph and to all of his friends by Dr. Micol Forti, the Curator of the XIX-XX Century, and by the Vatican Museums' restorers Bruno Mattei and Marco Pratelli.



■ Joseph Incaudo and Fr. Mark unveiling the plaque dedicated to Beatrice

### SEPTEMBER 2010, WORLD PRESIDENT'S ORGANIZATION: GLOBAL COUPLES FORUM EVENT

In September the Patrons office hosted a very successful meeting of the Global Couples Forum organized by Canada Patrons **Debra and Tom Mauro**. This short visit was highlighted by fruitful discussion and a newfound appreciation of the Vatican Collections. It was concluded with a private evening tour of the museums followed by cocktails and a candlelit Gala Dinner in the Octagonal Courtyard which was made possible by the generous patronage of the Mauro's and a group of newfound Patrons of the Arts.



■ First row, left side: Debra and Tom Mauro with the World President's Organization

### OCTOBER 2010, ILLINOIS CHAPTER VISIT

The schedule of the Illinois Chapter visit this October was packed with sights, smells, and tastes which were immaculately planned by Chapter Leader

**Anne Shea** and Illinois Patron **Paula D'Angelo**. On their first night in Rome, **Father Jack Wall** asked the group to share their favourite past experiences in Rome. While answers ranged, memories of past chapter visits continued to crop up happily around the dinner tables and a tangible excitement for the week ahead soon filled the air.



■ HE Giovanni Cardinal Lajolo, after Mass, with the Illinois Chapter.

### OCTOBER 2010, CALIFORNIA CHAPTER VISIT

Organized by our friend and patron **John McDonnell** and driven by the boundless energy of Chapter Leader **Michael Feely**, the California Chapter arrived with notable excitement, prepared to celebrate a week in Rome, the progress of their generous projects, and the diverse beauty of the collections of the Vatican Museums. On a personal note, the group celebrated the lives of two special individuals with close ties to the Patrons organization. **Marcia Wilson-Hobbs** and the California Patrons chose to commemorate her father, the late **Ambassador William A. Wilson** with the restoration the Statue of Ariadne. At a welcoming reception in his home, current ambassador Miguel Diaz recognized the late Ambassador for his role in the development of the Patrons. Later that week **Ada Regan** was also able to commemorate her late son, **Glen Regan**, in the Vatican Gardens. An active Patron, Glen was passionate about the Gardens and planted several of the trees surrounding the Casina of Pius IV. The ability to celebrate these individuals as a group and in such a memorable location paid tribute to their passions and their participation in the Patrons organization.



■ Ambassador Miguel and Dr. Marian Diaz with Marcia Wilson-Hobbs in the center, at the US Embassy to the Holy See



■ Ada Regan and Jennifer Feeley

## Father Mark's Trips

### GRAND HOTEL MACKINAC ISLAND RETREAT, MICHIGAN OCTOBER 2010

In early October the Michigan Chapter hosted an exclusive retreat to the Grand Hotel at Mackinac Island. They were joined by Fr Mark Haydu LC and **Master Restorer Maurizio De Luca**. Organized by **John Hale**, historic Mackinac Island is home to the oldest standing structures in Michigan and a National Historic Landmark Parade Ground.

These three days were filled with informative presentations on recently completed restorations and daily mass in a variety of locations as well as a special evening with the Manoogian family for light refreshments.



■ Maestro Maurizio De Luca, John Hale, Fr. Mark and Tony Rea enjoying a casual evening together



■ Lorna Richardson, McKenna Martin, John Zappone, Allison Zappone and Judy Martin

### ILLINOIS EVENT, NOVEMBER 2010

On November 29<sup>th</sup> Father Mark Haydu, LC, went to Chicago for a variety of successful patrons events organized by Chapter Leader **Anne Shea**. They were addressed by **H.E. Cardinal Francis George** and met with world renowned architect **John David Mooney** in his Chicago studio. Afterwards **Mr. and Mrs. William Darley** held a delightful event for families and friends at an exclusive Chicago country club.



■ Leigh Rizzieri, Mary and David Brown, Mark Rizzieri and E. Burns McClindon during cocktails

### OHIO & WASHINGTON, DC/BALTIMORE EVENTS DECEMBER 2010

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> he continued on to Ohio for their winter gala immaculately organized by Chapter Leader **Lorraine Dodero**. Held at the Ritz-Carlton in downtown Cleveland, he was able to celebrate the Christmas Season at one of the most well-attended events in the history of the Ohio Chapter.

After Cleveland, Father Mark proceeded to the gala of the Washington D.C. / Baltimore Chapter where the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, **H.E. Archbishop Pietro Sambini**, welcomed everyone to the Apostolic Nunciature. Their enthusiasm after a joint visit to Rome with the Pennsylvania Chapter along with the leadership of **Judy and C.E.M. Martin**, has fuelled the organization of more frequent activities as well as increased both individual and chapter projects.



■ Lorraine Dodero at the Patrons' Christmas Party



■ The Laughlin Family, Illinois Patrons, at the John David Mooney Foundation

## Feminine Beauty in the Arts: A Mother/Daughter Pilgrimage to Rome

From December 27th to January 3rd the Patrons' Office welcomed a beautiful group of mothers and daughters intent on exploring Feminine Beauty in the Arts. Born from a conversation with Michigan patrons **John Hale** and **Teresa Tomeo** in the Patrons' Office, we wanted to organize a trip that would not only afford patrons the normal benefits, but would also share the all important message that, as creatures of God, true beauty comes from within. The Vatican Museums and the Art of Rome are powerful communicators of deep truths. This week long pilgrimage included tours of the Vatican Collections, the Churches of Rome and other cities with feminine heroes – Nettuno and Siena. They were joined by several speakers including Teresa Tomeo, Catholic Radio Personality and motivational speaker, former model and Pure Fashion spokeswoman **Leah Darrow**, and expert guide and art professor, **Dr. Elizabeth Lev**.

Their travels highlighted concepts of beauty in the art of Ancient Greece and Rome, the spiritual beauty and power of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Maria Goretti and an examination of true beauty in our modern era. We look forward to welcoming another trip next year and would like to encourage all patrons on their explorations of their own beauty, inside and out!



■ In the Chapel of Mary Mother of the Family, with HE Giovanni Card. Lajolo



■ Dr. Elizabeth Lev explaining the Octagonal Courtyard to the young beauties!



**FRANK D. STELLA** *passed away on September 27, 2010.* **President of the Michigan Patrons of the Arts**, Frank held seats on the boards of numerous organizations and received many awards for his commitment and dedication.

He is remembered by his loving family of seven children and his wife of 53 years, Martha Yetzer. A man of faith, his love of God was the guiding force in his life and permeated all that he achieved. He will be missed by many and by all the Patrons.



**HELEN F. BOEHM** of Palm Beach, Florida, *passed away on November 15, 2010.* Boehm Porcelains are exhibited in museums throughout the world, including the **Vatican Museums**. Mrs. Boehm made official presentations of Boehm porcelains to Popes John XXIII, Paul VI and John Paul II. **The Etruscan wing of the Vatican Museums has been dedicated in honor of Edward Boehm and the Micro Mosaic Room dedicated in honor of Helen Boehm.** Surrounded by many devoted friends, she will be remembered for her generous heart and positive attitude towards life.



**JAMES C. COLROSS**, long time resident of Coral Gables *passed away peacefully on December 3, 2010* surrounded by his wife of 44 years, Grace, and four daughters. Jim Colross, a former **Vice President of the Florida Patrons of the Arts**, gave his time, energy and strength to many charitable organizations including the Knights of Malta, the **Patrons of the Arts of the Vatican Museum** and the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, Italy. We will remember him for his active enthusiasm for charity and his faith.

## We invite you to join

AS A MEMBER OF THE PATRONS OF THE ARTS in the Vatican Museums, you are an honored guest of our galleries. Not only is your admission to the Museums complimentary, but you will be accompanied by your own guide who will deepen and enrich your visit. Patrons are also invited to tour sections of exhibitions and areas closed to other visitors, including the restoration laboratories, to see firsthand the conservation efforts you have made possible. Membership includes a personal subscription to the eNewsletter and Vatican Museums Report which will update you on activities and special projects as well as inform you of invitations to social events in the Vatican and elsewhere, keeping you in touch with your fellow Patrons. Each local chapter hosts a variety of amazing and unrivalled events in your area to encourage enthusiasm for the arts. More importantly, your annual donation\* will help to preserve the cultural and historical treasures that make up the collections of the Vatican Museums.

\*Donations are \$500.00 (or €500) per person or \$1,000.00 per couple including children under 18.



■ VM Guide William Alcaro with Jennifer Feeley and Patti Griffith of the CA Chapter



Check out our Patrons of the Arts Facebook page for all the latest updates and information from Rome.

Go to Facebook or Google and search for "Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums."



■ Fr. Lawrence Fama, NY Patron with Romina and Sara



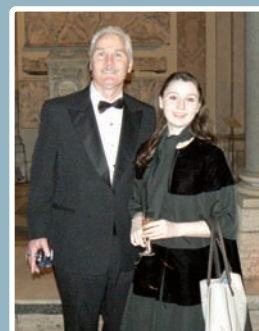
■ Dr. & Mrs. Carron, MI Chapter, with Gabriella Lalatta



■ PA Patrons Frank & Lori Petroski with and VM Guide Marco Muzi



■ Mr. and Mrs. Rothweiler of Germany with Fr. Mark and Carolina



■ James Williams, DC Patron and his daughter Anne

### Spring and Fall Chapter Visits

If you are interested in joining the groups, please contact your Chapter Leader. We all look forward to meeting you.

April 28-30, 2011	Belgium & International Patrons
May 1-6, 2011	Minnesota/North Dakota Chapter
May 17-22, 2011	New York Chapter
September 4-7, 2011	Texas Chapter
September 11-14, 2011	Michigan Chapter
October 6-12, 2011	Canada Chapter
October 25-27, 2011	Ohio Chapter

For information regarding the Patrons please visit our web sites:

[www.vatican-patrons.org](http://www.vatican-patrons.org) or [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) or contact your nearest chapter:

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