



STATO DELLA CITTÀ DEL VATICANO

GOVERNATORATO
DIREZIONE DEI MUSEI

*Rapporti con i «Patrons
of the Arts» dei Musei Vaticani*

Vatican City, September 8, 2017

Dear Patrons,

Greetings from Rome where today I officially take the helm as the International Director of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums.

Since my arrival in Rome July 14th, I have had seven weeks to "shadow" Father Daniel Hennessey both here in the Vatican, as well as on a brief trip to the United States which included meetings with the Chapter leaders of DC and NY as well as with Msgr. Terry Hogan and Lorna Richardson. Here in the Vatican I am becoming a "recognizable figure" for the Swiss Guards and Gendarme and Vatican Museums Staff. It seems the only one left for me to meet is the Pope Francis!

Ever since meeting Bill Wilson and a group of Patrons in the early 90's when I was a seminarian in Rome, I have been impressed by this distinguished group of individuals. And now, after walking the museum halls these past two months, I continually see these words at the base of a work of art: "this restoration was made possible by the generosity of the Patrons of"! Friends, I am truly honored and awed to now be officially a part of the Patrons of the Arts, even if I have had the grace to mix with you on various occasions in the past. You should also be proud to be members of a unique Vatican association that is soon to reach its 35th year of service to promote and preserve this great patrimony of humanity housed in the Vatican Museums.

Although I am still dedicating much thought and prayer as to what I believe I can personally offer all of you at the service of this organization, three words come to mind and heart.

The first is **stability**. I know changes always can make us uneasy, even if it can bring good things. And the change at the helm of leadership is no exception. Additionally, we will also be changing our Vatican location as we move our offices closer to the Museum's administration offices which are much nearer to the main entrance. While we face these changes, many things remain that provide us with stability. First of all, the excellent staff that I have been gifted which so many of you know, such as Sara Savoldello and Romina Cometti among others here in Rome, as well as Msgr. Terry Hogan and Lorna Richardson in the U.S.. Stability is also provided by my own previous experience working in the Vatican at the Pontifical Council for the Laity, where I headed up the "Church and Sport" office for eight years. Additionally, the dedication and passion of all Patrons to promote and to preserve the beauty of art as an enduring spiritual legacy provides us continuity as well. In order to be poised for future and current growth, we need to have a stable and strong foundation. In light of this, I want to recognize all that Fr Daniel has done in his tenure to bring stability by institutionalizing our PAVM Fellowship program in order to accommodate the growing number of visitors we have each week as well as take measures to bolster our technological savvy to keep up with these new demands.

