



Dear Patrons of the Arts,

May the arrival of this new wishbook be accompanied by our warmest greetings from Rome. The arrival of a new wishbook always marks a celebration of the past and an expectation for the future. And so what is worth celebrating? The end of a wonderful year of progress in the Vatican Museums! The ending of the Pauline year which commemorated and celebrated the life of the Apostle to the Gentiles. And yes, the end of one of our most successful years ever in the Patrons of the Arts office!

This year the Museums have seen so many innovations that it is hard to know where to begin. We have a new curator for the Ethnological Museum and a new route for visitors through the museums. Now, our guests spend an average of thirty minutes longer in the museum. Over the past year we also extended the hours and now offer a chance to see the "Vatican by Night" opening at 7 pm and leaving at 11 pm. Online ticketing has cut the average wait in line to a mere 25 minutes. All this makes us so very proud to be serving in the Vatican Museums!

Our Pauline year was an amazing unfolding of events, framed forever in time by the unforgettable opening of the Pauline Chapel. This is by far our most audacious fundraising and restoration project yet. We gathered so many memories and graces in our final days of finishing touches on the chapel. And many more during the celebration of its opening.

And what does the future hold? You are holding it in your hands! The 2010 wishbook is full of many new and promising projects in urgent need of your generous support. Thanks to all of you, a vast majority of last year's projects were adopted. All the more space for very interesting new projects in this year's wishbook!

The Holy Father and the Vatican Museums are counting more than ever on the Patrons of the Arts of the Vatican Museums. Our challenging financial times call each of us to a renewed generosity and an ever deeper covenant with the Vatican Museums in preserving our common heritage.

On behalf of Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo and the Director of the Vatican Museums, Antonio Paolucci. I thank all of you for your generosity. In friendship, may we continue to serve this world class museum for our own generation and generations yet to come!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Fr. Mark Haydu, LC
*International Director of the Patrons
of the Arts in the Vatican Museums*

Lorenzo Sabatini,
The Stoning of Saint Stephen,
Pauline Chapel