

A MESSAGE OF HOPE FROM  
*Our New Holy Father*

With reverent joy, the Church welcomes Pope Leo XIV, the first American-born pope and a member of the Order of St. Augustine. Formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost of Chicago, he brings a pastoral heart, missionary experience from Peru, and global leadership as former Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops.

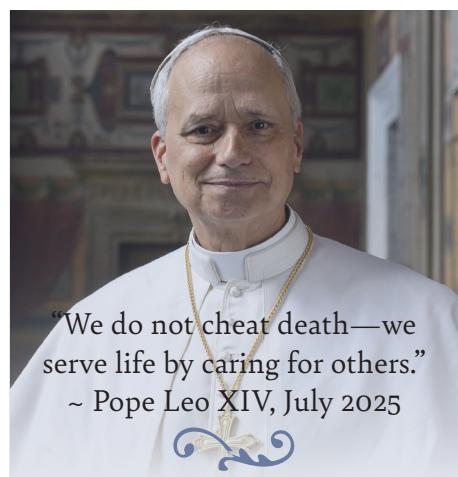
Pope Leo's deep pastoral spirit is rooted in his years of service in Chiclayo, Peru, where he ministered to the poor and built strong communities of faith. His priorities reflect Pope Francis's legacy and continue the call to: Serve the poor - Promote peace - Care for creation - Listen with mercy.

Pope Leo XIV has already made it clear that his papacy will continue the spirit of Pope Francis, calling Catholics to care for the poor, the planet, and one another. His early messages emphasize mercy, unity, and social justice, encouraging all people to live out the Gospel in practical ways.

His episcopal motto, *"In Illo Uno Unum"* ("In the One, we are one"), expresses his Augustinian spirituality and his desire for unity in the Body of Christ. This message is also beautifully captured in his coat of arms, symbolizing purity, divine love, and conversion.

From his first words as Holy Father—"Peace be with you!"—to his continued presence on social media (@Pontifex), the Church is to become a people of dialogue, reconciliation, and shared mission.

As his pontificate begins, Pope Leo XIV offers a hopeful vision not of fear or division, one grounded in grace, courage, and communion: "although we Christians are many, in Christ we are one." ~



"We do not cheat death—we serve life by caring for others."  
~ Pope Leo XIV, July 2025

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Photo credit: Ohio Patron Member Mr. Harry Gremore.

Pope Leo XIV greeting pilgrims in St. Peter's Square on May 28, 2025.

CELEBRATING, SUPPORTING & ENJOYING THE TREASURES OF THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

## CHAIRMAN LETTER

### *Ciao Patrons,*

Summer has arrived in full force here in Cleveland—with its share of sunshine, heat, and plenty of rain to keep things interesting! Despite the weather, we've been embracing all the joy and energy this season brings.

We kicked off summer in the best way possible—by spending time together! It was such a pleasure to see so many of you at our recent Wine Tasting Event. The evening was filled with laughter, great conversation, and of course, some truly wonderful wines. Be sure to check out the photo highlights in this newsletter—you may spot a few familiar faces!

Spring and early summer also brought many of our members to Rome for unforgettable visits to the Vatican and the Vatican Museums. We've received glowing feedback and some fantastic photos from these once-in-a-lifetime experiences. While we wish we could share every Patron's special moment, enjoy a few snapshots featured here from friends who kindly shared their memories.

Looking ahead, we're excited about what the rest of the year holds. We hope you'll join us for our upcoming events—starting with a truly special evening featuring Dr. Elizabeth Lev, renowned art historian and author, who will join us from Rome. She'll speak on the Jubilee Year and explore the history behind some of the Vatican's most treasured masterpieces. It's not to be missed!

You'll find a full list of upcoming events in this newsletter, and we hope to see you at each one. These gatherings are more than just social—they're opportunities to support our mission, share goodwill, and enjoy meaningful time with fellow Patrons.

Wishing you a safe, joyful, and healthy summer. As always, I look forward to welcoming you to our next event. And remember—if you know someone who would enjoy being part of our vibrant Ohio Chapter, we'd love to share more about how to join. *~*

*Best regards and heartfelt thanks to all of you,*  
Lorraine Dodero, Chairman  
PAVM, Ohio Chapter

PAVM

PATRONS OF THE ARTS IN

THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

OHIO CHAPTER



## Experience the Vatican Museums Like Never Before

[Become a Member](#)



With more than 6.8 million visitors in 2024, **the Vatican Museums rank among the most visited museums in the world.** Guests travel from around the globe to catch a glimpse of Michelangelo's iconic frescoes in the Sistine Chapel, explore the Gallery of Maps, admire religious relics, and marvel at the papal carriages that once transported the Holy Fathers of the Church.

But for members of the Ohio Chapter of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, a visit offers something far more extraordinary. **As a Patron, you gain access to private, personalized tours that bring the Vatican's masterpieces to life**—away from the crowds, often before the Museums open to the public. Enjoy peaceful, early-morning access to the Sistine Chapel, Raphael Rooms, Borgia Apartments, and the Upper Galleries, or add exclusive entry to select venues only available during morning hours.

Afternoon tours—offered only on Tuesdays and Thursdays—may include a visit to one of the Vatican's renowned Restoration Laboratories, where expert conservators care for historic documents, sacred vestments, paintings, sculpture, and more. These behind-the-scenes glimpses reveal the extraordinary mission Patrons help support.

Tours are reserved for current Patron Members and must be booked at least three weeks in advance.

### **Membership Levels:**

- Junior Membership (ages 18-34): \$250
- Clergy Membership: \$250
- Individual Membership (ages 35+): \$600
- Family Memberships include children under 18: \$1,200

**Tours may be requested directly through our website:**  
[patronsaticanmuseums.org/book-your-visit](http://patronsaticanmuseums.org/book-your-visit)

**Questions?** We're happy to help! Contact us at [vaticanpatronsoh@aol.com](mailto:vaticanpatronsoh@aol.com) or call 440.498.1300.

# Salute to Spring!

## OHIO PATRONS SIP, SAVOR & CELEBRATE TOGETHER



On Monday, April 29, the Ohio Chapter of the Patrons welcomed the season in style with an elegant and joy-filled wine tasting at Via Roma Event Center & Ristorante in North Royalton.

More than 75 Ohio Patrons and friends gathered for a festive evening of fine wine, delicious pairings, and warm camaraderie. Guests were treated to six hand-selected wines from four countries, expertly curated and presented by special guest and certified sommelier, Jim M. Francisco. Each wine was paired with a thoughtfully crafted small plate, designed to complement and elevate the tasting experience.

As glasses clinked and laughter filled the air, the evening also offered a special moment to celebrate the birthday of our beloved Ohio Chaplain, Father Dan Schlegel. Patrons joined together to raise a toast in his honor—a fitting tribute surrounded by friendship and good cheer.

To everyone who attended, thank you for making it such a memorable night. We look forward to gathering again soon. Until then—salute!

*continued on page 4*



Father Robert Ramser  
and David Krakowski



Fr. Dan Schlegel



Jim Francisco, Wine Sommelier



Mark and Mary  
Elizabeth Cotleur



Lorraine Dodero,  
Chorbishop Anthony Spinoza



Yakov Muskin, Megan Petrello,  
Corinne Salvador, Lorraine Dodero, Nick Salvador



Bill Dodero, Frank Grk



Carolyn Mandato, Connie Frankino, Alice Kljun



Ohio Patrons SIP, SAVOR & CELEBRATE TOGETHER

SWIRL  
SIP  
ENJOY

# Salute to Spring!

continued from page 3



Frank Grk and Lisa Fazio-Grk



Dan Sirkot, Lorraine Dodero, Lisa Dukles



Raquel and Louis Berroteran, Donna D'Attoma



Joan Kosko, Gloria Solarz



Mary Beth and John Lee



Paul and Kimberly Trickett, Anthony and Michelle Togliatti



Ron and Rosemarie Mintz, Father Dan Schlegel,  
Tom and Julie Corcoran



Suzi and Dennis Castiglione



Mary Elizabeth and Mark Cotleur, Sandra Graubard and Scott Irwin



Sydney Phillips, Nicholas Zerinsky,  
Lorraine Dodero, Michael Nowacki





## OHIO MEMBERS VISIT THE *Vatican Museums*

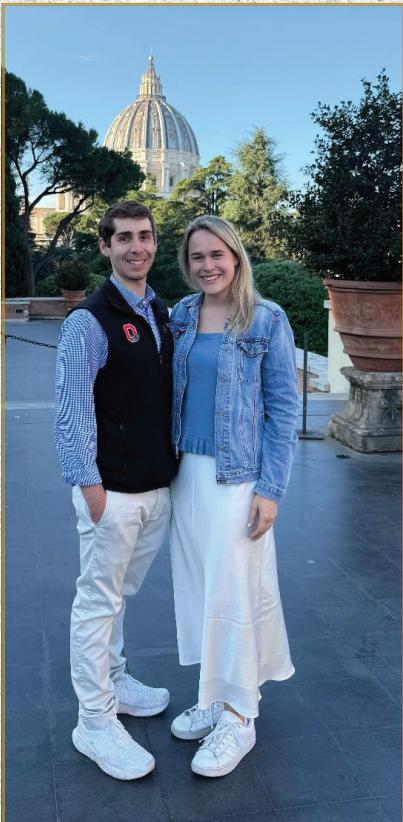
Our Ohio Patrons have been busy this spring traveling to Italy and, of course, touring the Vatican Museums!

### OHIO MEMBER: Antonio "Tony" Perfetto

During his visit in March, **Antonio "Tony" Perfetto** had the unique opportunity to explore some of the Vatican's most breathtaking sites. His exclusive tour included the Papal Palace of Castel Gandolfo - Apostolic Palace, a walk through the serene Secret Garden, and a final stop at the renowned Vatican Observatory (Specola). This extraordinary journey offered a rare and unforgettable glimpse into the history, beauty, and grandeur of these iconic Vatican locations



*Tony Perfetto*



*Michael and Katie Poliner*

### OHIO MEMBERS:

**Michael and Katie Poliner**

Columbus, Ohio members **Michael and Katie Poliner** visited the Vatican Museums and Castel Gondolfo in May to celebrate their honeymoon. Upon returning, they said "Chiara and Roberta were both wonderful guides. These private tours were the highlight of our honeymoon. Thank you again for making our visit so special!"



*John and Lisa Rydell at Castel Gandolfo*

### OHIO MEMBERS: John and Lisa Rydell

College Grove, TN residents **John and Lisa Rydell** visited the Museums only days after Pope Leo XIV was inaugurated, adding an extra layer of excitement to their visit! Following their tour, John told us "Our guide was great and the security allowed us in rooms our guide had never seen before. She was even more excited than we were!"



## OHIO MEMBERS VISIT THE Vatican Museums

### OHIO MEMBERS: The Nemeh family

The **Nemeh family** visited the Museums in early June. Ashley Nemeh said "Our tour guide was spectacular, and it was truly wonderful! We will never forget the beauty we saw and the kindness we were shown. We were treated like family!"



Dr. Issam and Kathy Nemeh, Deborah Nemeh, Fadia Nemeh, Ashley Nemeh, & Wadi Nemeh

### OHIO MEMBERS: The Soulsby family

Following the recent Museums tour by the **Soulsby family**, Dave Soulsby shared their photos on social media and stated "we received a VIP private tour at the Vatican today. Easy access to everything. No waiting in line. The Sistine Chapel was amazing!"



Dave Soulsby, Priya Soulsby, Joe Soulsby, & Asha Soulsby

### OHIO MEMBERS: The Gremore family

The Gremore family, new from Columbia, MO, had an extra-special surprise during their trip to the Vatican Museums. While greeting visitors to the Vatican, Pope Leo XIV came to a stop right in front of them (You can see a photo of this unique moment on the cover page of this newsletter.) Harry Gremore said "We just happened to be standing in the right place in the Square! He stopped right in front of us to bless a baby! And this was May 28th- our granddaughter's 6th birthday." He added that their tour "was fantastic! Our guide was so good and kept our granddaughters engaged the whole time. It was incredible to visit the Sistine Chapel before it was open to the public. We're so thankful we had the opportunity!"



(In back) Julia Warren, Matthew and Marsha Gremore, Harry and Cathy Gremore;  
(In front) Savannah Gremore and Saige Gremore

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
BOOKING A SPECIAL PATRONS TOUR,  
PLEASE VISIT THE PATRONS' WEBSITE:  
[patronsaticanmuseums.org/book-your-visit](http://patronsaticanmuseums.org/book-your-visit)

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

**Keynote Speaker ~ Dr. Elizabeth Lev**

*Joins us from Rome, Italy.*

*Renowned author, historian, and Vatican expert*

**Wednesday, September 3, 2025**

**6:00 pm** DOORS OPEN • **6:30 pm** PRESENTATION

*Experience an evening of historical enlightenment as Dr. Elizabeth Lev brings the masterpieces of the Vatican Museums and the rich history of the Jubilee Year to life through her captivating storytelling and unparalleled expertise.*

**Gilmour Academy**

The Lorraine and Bill Dodero Center for Performing Arts  
2045 SOM Center Road, Gates Mills, Ohio

**Special Guest Performance by Ashley Nemeh**

*Musical Artist & Songwriter*

**Ticket Price: \$50 per person**

Open seating | Business Casual

A meet-and-greet reception will follow the presentation.

**Kindly RSVP by Wednesday, August 27**

Purchase online only. Scan the QR code or visit [vaticanpatronsohio.org](http://vaticanpatronsohio.org). This is a ticketless event. Your name(s) will be held at the door for check-in.

For questions, please contact Racheal Seibert at [rseibert@vaticanpatronsohio.org](mailto:rseibert@vaticanpatronsohio.org) or 440.532.2548.



**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO A RESTORATION PROJECT WITHIN THE VATICAN MUSEUMS**

We encourage you to reach out to our Ohio Chapter office or view the Wishbook lubilaeum 2025 at

[https://irp.cdn-website.com/c5b54846/files/uploaded/Wishbook\\_Iubilaeum\\_2025.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/c5b54846/files/uploaded/Wishbook_Iubilaeum_2025.pdf)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

It is with pleasure that we "welcome" the following families and individuals as new members to the Ohio chapter.

**MR. CHAS BRITTON**  
VOORHEES, NJ

**MS. KATHERINE COOK**  
COLUMBUS, OH

**MR. & MRS.**  
RONALD DEES  
WESTLAKE, OH

**MR. & MRS.**  
HARRY GREMORE  
COLUMBIA, MO

**MR. & MRS.**  
MATTHEW GREMORE  
COLUMBIA, MO

**MS. ARLEEN MARINI**  
BRECKSVILLE, OH

**MR. ANTONIO**  
PERFETTO  
KNOXVILLE, TN

**MR. ERIC PERFETTO**  
KNOXVILLE, TN

**MS. JULIA WARREN**  
COLUMBIA, MO

**MS. SHANNON**  
WEILAND  
WESTLAKE, OH

**OHIO CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**GUEST SPEAKER - DR. LIZ LEV**

Author & Professor of Art History, Rome, Italy  
Wednesday, September 3, 2025 - Gilmour Academy at  
The Lorraine and Bill Dodero Center for Performing Arts,  
Gates Mills, Ohio

**ANNUAL FAMILY CLAMBAKE**

Sunday, September 28, 2025  
StoneWater Golf Club, Highland Heights, Ohio

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

Friday, December 5, 2025  
InterContinental Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio

*Look for formal invitations to  
follow to all our members.*



*Check our website and follow  
us on Facebook for updates!  
[vaticanpatronsohio.org/events](http://vaticanpatronsohio.org/events)*

Patrons of the Arts in the  
Vatican Museums, Ohio Chapter now  
accepts credit card payments  
for donations, membership  
fees and events. **Thank you!**



mastercard



DISCOVER

**CHAPTERS OF THE PATRONS OF THE ARTS IN THE VATICAN MUSEUMS**

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California & Northwest  
Canada  
Colorado

Florida  
Georgia  
Illinois  
Louisiana

Michigan  
Minnesota & North Dakota  
New England  
New York

Ohio  
Pennsylvania  
Texas  
Washington, DC

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Belgium

Italian & International  
Principality of Monaco  
United Kingdom