

A talk with Monsignor Terence Hogan, Coordinator of the Office of Relations with the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums

Promoting cultural, spiritual and historical heritage

An effective instrument of conjunction between the Vatican Museums and the Patrons of the Arts for a closer and more fruitful collaboration. It is the mission of the Office of Relations with the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums (Orpavm) that ensures its professionalism and competence at the service of art and faith. In this interview Monsignor Terence Hogan, Coordinator of the Office of Relations with the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, speaks about it.

What is your role in the Patrons?

The Coordinator of the Office of Relations with the Patrons of the Arts reports directly to the President of the Governorate. With the Orpavm staff he oversees the administrative work of the office including planning and development, fiscal management, membership, pledges, restoration projects and donations, as well as Patron visits and other related events. He works closely with each Patron Chapter which are found worldwide.

Art is a source of harmony and peace. How can we promote it in this time of wars scattered around the world?

Promoting art as a source of harmony and peace can be achieved by the continuation of restoring and conserving artistic treasures, making them accessible for future generations. Art inspires, elevates, and reveals the human spirit, providing a universal language that transcends conflicts. Engaging in projects that highlight artistic beauty and cultural significance can serve as a bridge that can unite people across different backgrounds and situations.

Patrons have the critical mission of guarding the beauty of the artistic heritage. What are their priorities?

The Patrons of the Arts are passionate about the arts' ability to inspire, elevate and reveal the human spirit. Our mission is to restore and conserve the works of art of the Vatican Museums, promoting their cultural, spiritual, and historic patrimony and to improve and enrich the Vatican Museums' facilities and collections.

Have you found, in your experience, that many times artistic works lead to faith more than many words and ideas?

The artistic works conserved in the Vatican Museums can profoundly impact faith. Art is able to inspire and convey spiritual truths and beauty that can resonate deeply within an individual. Visiting the Vatican Museums can move one's spirit and lift one's soul, and the work of the Patrons highlights the enduring collaboration of art and faith.

What projects are the Patrons focusing resources on?

Each year the Patrons office shares a wishbook of projects needing to be restored. Over the last 40 years, this has included hundreds of artistic and cultural reassures such as the Sistine Chapel, the Pauline Chapel, the Bramante Courtyard, the Raphael Rooms, the Ethnological Museum of Anima Mundi, the Necropolis of Santa Rosa, paintings, sculptures and other artistic forms representing over 2000 years of civilization.