



# FROM THE HEART OF THE STATE

## The Governorate tells its story

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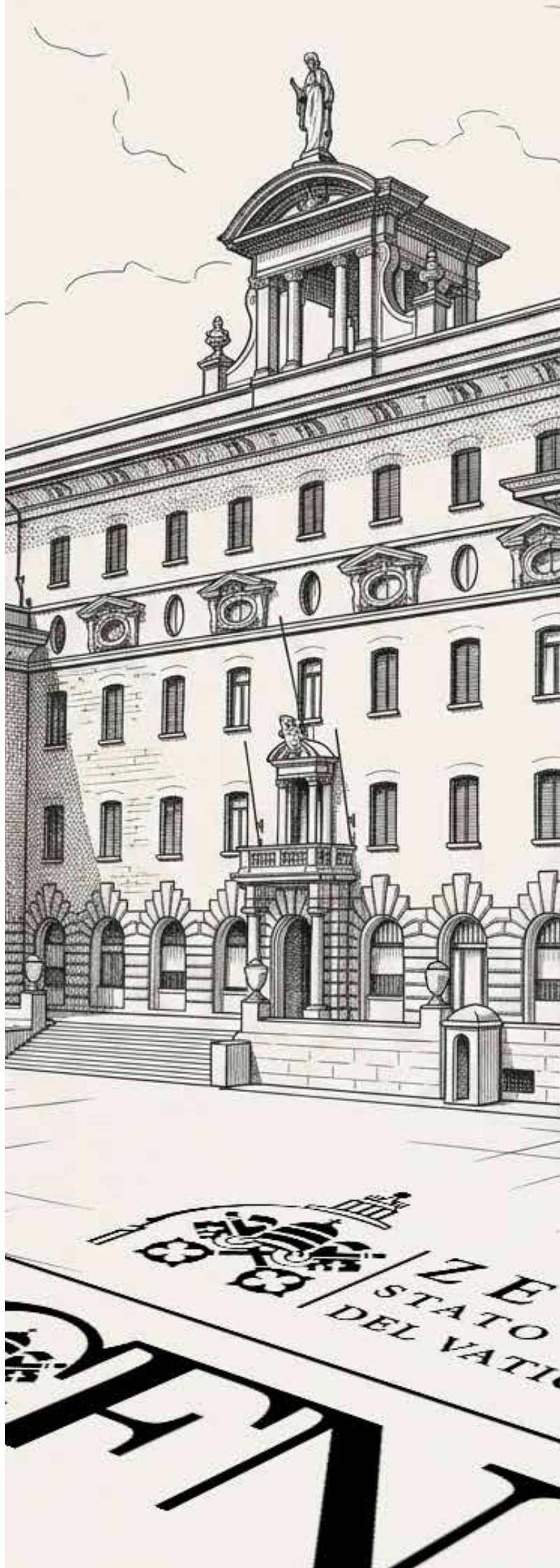
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# VATICAN COINS AND STAMPS: BETWEEN FAITH, TRADITION AND INNOVATION

In an increasingly digital and globalized world, the appeal of coins and stamps continues to thrive through collecting, investment, and passion for these artistic objects.

The Vatican City State issues coins through its Mint and distributes them through the Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office (CFN), which has its own website, [www.cfn.va](http://www.cfn.va).

It is important to recognize that Vatican philatelic and numismatic issues are unlike any others. They possess the unique characteristic of contributing to evangelization and to the Pope's mission of bringing his message to the world.

This newsletter was created precisely to introduce everyone to the reality of the Vatican City State Mint and the work of the Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office. It is an editorial project dedicated not only to presenting new issues and minting activities, but also to showcasing the teamwork of those engaged in creating these small works of art.

In this sense, the Vatican Mint represents the meeting point between tradition and technology: on the one hand, the history of the art of coinage; on the other, the use of advanced production processes, environmental sustainability, modern certification systems, and new distribution and sales strategies. Every coin is the result of artistic elaboration that combines creativity, technical expertise, and attention to detail, transforming metal into an object capable of preserving both economic value and symbolic meaning.

Through the pages of this newsletter, we will present the world of numismatic production during the pontificate, as well as the sale of coins and stamps through the completely redesigned website, [www.cfn.va](http://www.cfn.va).

Our mission is to provide readers with information, insights, and a perspective on the innovations that are transforming the world of the Mint and the Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office. We aim to highlight the work of the artists who create these works, as well as those who distribute and preserve them, promoting a culture of coins and stamps that brings together faith and tradition.

Because we firmly believe that coins and stamps endure over time, crossing eras and generations, becoming witnesses to a constantly evolving world on its journey toward an encounter with Christ.

Nicola Gori  
*Editor*

# THE VATICAN CITY STATE MINT AND THE PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC MARKETING OFFICE (CFN)

For millennia, coinage has accompanied the history of humanity. Coins originated as a means of exchange and, over the centuries, have also become a symbol of national identity, economic development, and even an object of historic and artistic value. Every coin bears witness to an era and tells a story: from the ancient currencies of empires and kingdoms to contemporary coinage that reflect technological evolution, historical events, and anniversaries. The same can be said of postage stamps.

It is important to recognize that behind every coin there is a process of study, research, and expertise. Within this context lies the role of the Vatican City State Mint, where tradition meets the most advanced technology. Clearly, the Mint is not merely a place of production, but also a repository of historical and economic memory because, through the processes of engraving, casting, and minting, it creates coins that imprint on metal a message of universal significance.

This newsletter, therefore, is intended to be a space dedicated to the specialized world of the Vatican Mint and the Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office (CFN). Its aim is to make the role they play in transmitting the extraordinary historical, religious, and artistic heritage of the Vatican—present in every coin—known to as wide an audience as possible.

There is no doubt that every new coinage or stamp issue is inspired by a story meant to be shared with the general public. Equally certain is that the value of coins is not measured solely by the quantity or worth of the metal from which they are made, but also by the historical, artistic, and symbolic significance they convey.

In particular, each issue serves as a vehicle for the Petrine Magisterium and commemorates some of the fundamental milestones in the history of the Church and the solemnities of the liturgical year, such as Easter and Christmas.

Recently, the Vatican Mint has made significant investments in young artists, entrusting them with projects for the creation of new issues. In this regard, I would like to recall the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 21 April 2026 between the Governorate of the Vatican City State and the Italian State Mint (Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato, IPZS), involving the historic School of Medallion Art of the Italian Mint, which since 1907 has been a part of Italy's cultural and educational heritage.

The agreement provides collaborative activities in numismatic and philatelic production, including the involvement of students and scholarship recipients of the School of Medallion Art (SAM) in special projects promoted or commissioned by the Governorate, as well as the development and implementation of joint projects and experimental initiatives aimed at innovation, exchange and sharing of knowledge through meetings, workshops, and seminars.

And last but not least, I would like to highlight the commitment of the Directorate of the Economy in their research of recyclable materials for the unique packaging, and the renewal of sales methods for Vatican stamps and coins through the website [www.cfn.va](http://www.cfn.va), which has been entirely upgraded in both graphic design and content.

Sr. Raffaella Petrini, F.S.E.  
*President of the Governorate of the Vatican City State*

# WHAT'S NEW WITH VATICAN PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC: DIGITAL INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Enrico Bartelucci  
Director of Economy



For almost a year now, the Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office of the Vatican City State (CFN) has entered a new phase in its history. What began in 2024 was not simple rebranding, but a carefully planned process of operational reorganization involving systems, procedures, and methods of access to products. Following a temporary suspension of sales, necessary to complete the renewal process, since July 2025 the new CFN has a modern, transparent, and fully digital management model.

At the heart of this transformation lies compliance with Decree No. DCLVII of April 30, 2024, which introduced new standards for the protection of personal data. The revision of historical customer records represented a fundamental step toward ensuring greater security, reliability, and control. Collectors already included in the CFN registers were invited to update and confirm their personal information, while the renewed institutional portal, [www.cfn.va](http://www.cfn.va), opened access to new users as well, making participation more inclusive and efficient.

The main innovation is the complete transition to online sales. Products are now marketed through a new e-shop designed to provide an intuitive, secure, and globally accessible user experience. By focusing distribution on digital channels it is now possible to overcome the limitations of physical points of sale and reach the international community more effectively.

The new system also introduces a principle of fairer distribution. Previous allocation methods have given way to uniform rules applicable to all customers: any limitations are determined exclusively by the availability of coinage allocations, ensuring equal opportunities for access to products. Furthermore, collaborations with selected commer-

cial partners are currently being finalized. These partnerships will be valuable not only in making distribution even broader and more widespread, but also in continuously gathering feedback and identifying new market trends.

Sustainability is one of the defining features of the new CFN. The new packaging prioritizes almost entirely recyclable materials and low environmental impact solutions. This approach is consistent with the principles of sustainable development promoted by Vatican City State, making collecting not only a cultural and artistic experience, but also an act of responsibility toward the future.

During the sales suspension period, philatelic and numismatic production never came to a halt. Artistic and technical activities continued without interruption to ensure the release of new issues during a year of extraordinary historical and spiritual significance, marked by the Jubilee and the transition of the Pontificate.

The new CFN represents a synthesis between the centuries-old tradition of Vatican philately and numismatics and modern needs: greater efficiency, quality, security, and sustainability define a model aligned with contemporary demands.

The path undertaken, made possible also thanks to the synergistic collaboration among the various departments and professionals of the Governorate, is not merely a technological change, but the beginning of a new experience for all collectors, founded on accessibility, trust, and innovation.

# TRADITION, HISTORY, AND INNOVATION VIA THE 2026 NUMISMATIC COLLECTIONS: THE NEW FACE OF VATICAN COINS AND THE RENEWED STATE MINT LOGO

Andrea Lollobrigida  
Deputy Director, State Accounting Sector, Directorate of Economy



The year 2026 marks a fundamental turning point for the Vatican State Mint, which designs and develops the numismatic issues of Vatican City State. During the 2025 Jubilee Year, a process of profound institutional and image renewal was undertaken, enabling the Mint to redefine its identity with the aim of strengthening collaboration with the Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office in promoting works born from the fusion of art and messages of faith, so that they may reach the widest possible audience.

This strategic decision responds to the need to preserve the integrity of the Mint's institutional mission while ensuring a level of distribution efficiency suited to the world of collectors.

The distinction between the State Mint and the Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office should therefore be understood as a form of functional specialization. The Mint remains the center for creativity, the place where dialogue with artists and the valuable collaboration of various institutions of Vatican City State make it possible to develop an annual numismatic program shared with the Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office. The latter, through its in-depth understanding of the numismatic clientele—which enables it to enhance and promote the numismatic sales catalogue—acts as a bridge to the world.

This structure allows the Mint to focus exclusively on numismatic quality, free from direct marketing pressures, ensuring that every coin is first and foremost a historical and artistic artifact. The collaboration nonetheless fosters an ongoing research that makes it possible to translate collectors' expectations into works of medal art without compromising the intrinsic value of the product.

A new logo becomes the expression of this renewed reality which aims to serve as an instrument for spreading the

words of the Holy Father, promoting artistic and cultural heritage, and celebrating historical anniversaries and figures that have shaped the course of humanity. The objective was to create a graphic symbol that would be immediately recognizable, capable of embodying the institution's historical heritage while projecting it toward the expectations of the twenty-first century.

For almost a decade, Vatican coinage followed Pope Francis' explicit wish for his image to not appear on Vatican coins. Therefore, instead of the papal bust, the obverse featured his coat of arms. This coat of arms, with the symbols of the Society of Jesus (the radiant sun) and the motto *Miserando atque eligendo*, redefined contemporary numismatic aesthetics, accustoming collectors to a heraldic interpretation of the coin. Nevertheless, over the years, while respecting the wishes of Pope Francis, the artists collaborating with the Vatican State Mint successfully reinterpreted his coat of arms, skillfully combining its traditional symbols with the themes represented on the coin's reverse.



The previous year's program also graphically reflected the solemn moments of the *Sede Vacante*. In numismatics, this period is characterized by the representation of crossed keys surmounted by the canopy of the Apostolic Chamber and the coat of arms of the Cardinal Camerlengo. These special issues serve as a bridge between two papacies, in marking the Church's period of expectation.

Among the various innovations of a program that combines tradition, history, and innovation, the 2026 numismatic collection will be distinguished by the representation of Pope Leo XIV's image on the obverse of the coins. While during the Holy Year three different images alternated—from the coat of arms that characterized the Pontificate of Pope Francis, to that of the *Sede Vacante*, and subsequently to Pope Leo XIV's coat of arms—2026 will mark a moment of profound transformation for Vatican numismatics.



The transition to the representation of the new Pontiff's coat of arms represented an element of continuity during the Jubilee Year, giving appropriate temporal significance to the major innovation of 2026, namely the depiction of Pope Leo XIV's portrait. The artists have modeled this portrait by seeking a synthesis between physiognomic realism and solemnity, while also capturing the humanity of the new Shepherd.

Contributing to this effort is the extremely high level of precision achieved in numismatic production through the increasing use of modern technologies, which make the new collections catalogue artistically more diverse.

Several issues of the current year are also dedicated to the Holy Father's Magisterium, placing at the center the depth of the messages addressed to all humanity, such as the appeal for a "disarmed and disarming peace," recalled in one of the forthcoming commemorative two-euro coins.

In addition, collaboration with other Vatican institutions continues to be expanded, as was the case with the Fabbrica of Saint Peter on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the consecration of Saint Peter's Basilica. This cooperation will enable the production of two commemorative coins for the event, one of which will feature a reissue of a seventeenth-century medal originally created to commemorate the occasion.

A flagship feature of the 2026 collection is undoubtedly the decision to use gold with a fineness of 999.9/1000. Pure gold represents a guarantee for customers, allowing for a superior qualitative realization of the intended design and enabling the presentation of coins with exceptionally high intrinsic value in addition to artistic value.

All these innovations aim to merge the tradition of Vatican City State numismatics with elements of modernity and innovation necessary to respond to the evolving demands of collectors, while attracting an ever-growing audience of enthusiasts.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF PACKAGING IN NUMISMATIC COLLECTING

Nicola Francescucci  
Deputy Director, Commercial Activities Sector Directorate of the Economy

## In the world of collectible coins, every detail matters

Not only the coin itself, but also everything surrounding it contributes to enhancing its value, telling its story, reflecting its significance, and showcasing the care with which it was created. In this context, packaging is not merely a container, but an element of identity and storytelling, capable of transforming the collector's experience into something unique and memorable.

For the 2025 collection, the decision was to focus on entirely handcrafted packaging, created by master Italian artisans. Each box is the result of a meticulous design process that combines aesthetics, functionality, and symbolism. The choice of materials, textures, and color tones has been carefully designed to harmonize with the characteristics of each coin, enhancing its distinctive features.

These are handcrafted paper-based products made by expert hands. For the Jubilee year, the chosen color is gold (with the exception of the Christmas coin and the coin dedicated to the Sede Vacante, both of which are in burgundy).

Nothing has been left to chance: inside the boxes, a profile element is coordinated with the material from which the coin is made (gold, silver, or copper). Another aesthetic choice serves to identify the material of the coin contained in the case: the coat of arms of the Governorate, embossed on the upper part of the box, may appear in gold, silver, copper, or blue (the latter chosen for the bimetallic coin). This solution creates an immediate connection between the packaging and its contents.

The outer sleeves, finally, become an additional element of distinction and prestige, thanks to the photorealistic reproduction of the coin itself — a detail that enriches the presentation and conveys the essence of the object they protect.

This approach not only enhances aesthetics and quality, but also provides collectors with a complete purchase. Opening the packaging thus becomes an integral part of the pleasure of collecting: a progressive discovery, a ritual that brings together not only passion, tradition, innovation, but even respect for the environment.

In a world increasingly attentive to authenticity, the value of details, and — why not — environmental responsibility, packaging confirms its role as a fundamental element in the story of every coin: a guardian of beauty, meaning, and craftsmanship.





# AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNORATE AND IPZS PLACES AT CENTER THE RENOWNED SCHOOL OF MEDALLIC ART

Enrico Bartelucci  
Director of Economy

*A three-year Memorandum of Understanding between the Governorate of Vatican City State and the Italian State Mint, the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato - IPZS, opens the world of Vatican numismatics and philately to the young artists of the School of Medallic Art of Italy for the design of Vatican State coins and stamps.*



## A Shared Institutional Commitment

On 21 April 2026, the Governorate of Vatican City State and the Italian Mint (IPZS), signed a Memorandum of Understanding involving young talents trained at the School of Medallic Art (SAM)—the historic institution which, since 1907, has preserved a tradition of artisanal and artistic expertise unparalleled in Italy.

## What the Memorandum provides

The agreement, which has a renewable three-year duration, establishes an integrated framework of collaborative activities involving SAM in the design of Vatican City State's numismatic and philatelic productions. Students and scholarship recipients of the School will participate in special projects promoted by the Governorate, contributing original designs that may be selected and transformed into minted coins and printed stamps.



The Memorandum also regulates the development of joint initiatives and experimental activities aimed at technical and artistic innovation, as well as a structured exchange of knowledge and expertise through meetings, workshops, and specialized seminars. The scope of the agreement therefore extends beyond creative participation: it represents the creation of an educational ecosystem combining artisanal excellence with

The agreement was signed by Sister Raffaella Petrini, President of the Governorate, and Michele Sciscioli, Chief Executive Officer of IPZS: an institutional commitment that integrates new generations of artists into two of the most enduring expressions of a State's identity—currency and stamps—placing them at the center of high-profile historical and artistic production processes.

research applied to contemporary minting and printing techniques for Vatican City State.



Governatorato SCV - IPZS - SAM



Governatorato SCV - IPZS - SAM

### A previous successful collaboration: The Christmas coin for 2025

The Memorandum formalizes and strengthens a collaboration that has already produced an object. For the Christmas 2025 collector's coin, the Governorate promoted a competition of ideas and preliminary designs among the most talented students and scholarship recipients of SAM. The challenge involved designing a €25 silver coin, rectangular in shape with colored elements, inspired by *The Adoration of the Shepherds*—an artwork conserved in the Gallery of Tapestries of the Vatican Museums. The award went to scholarship recipient Giada Reale. Subsequently the coin was minted at the facilities of the Italian Mint, completing its journey from the creative proposal of a young artist in training to a finished piece destined for collectors worldwide.

### The School of Medalllic Art: A Distinguished Partner

Founded in 1907 within the Italian State Mint and now part of the *Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato*, the School of Medalllic Art provides free, high-level education in the arts applied to medal-making, small-scale sculpture,

engraving, and minting. Its students learn techniques rooted in tradition while simultaneously engaging with the expressive and technological demands of the present day. It is precisely in this combination—historical foundations and openness to contemporary practices—that the Governorate identified an outstanding partner for the artistic conception of its numismatic and philatelic productions.

As Michele Sciscioli, Chief Executive Officer of IPZS, emphasized at the signing ceremony: “The signing of this Memorandum strengthens the prestigious collaboration between the Governorate of Vatican City State and the *Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato* and reflects our shared commitment to promoting the talent, expertise, and innovative spirit of new generations, offering young artists the opportunity to engage with real projects of significant historical, cultural, and institutional value.”

### A Commitment to excellence, foundations for the future

For the Governorate of Vatican City State, numismatic and philatelic production represents a universal language by which Vatican City communicates with the world. For this reason, excellence is a commitment renewed with every coin struck and every stamp printed.

Maintaining this standard requires the ability to identify and nurture the talents capable of carrying forward a demanding tradition while enriching it with a contemporary perspective and rigorous technical preparation. In this sense, the Memorandum signed with the *Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato* embodies a precise vision: that of a Vatican State production that does not merely preserve a tradition, but lays—generation after generation—the foundations for an excellence that continually strengthens and renews itself.



Governatorato SCV - IPZS - SAM

# THE JUBILEE AND THE “SEDE VACANTE” CELEBRATED THROUGH VATICAN STAMPS AND COINS

Marica Fabris  
Distribution Activities for Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing (CFN)

In 2025, the ecclesial community experienced months of extraordinary intensity. The joy of the 28<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, the Holy Year of Hope proclaimed by Pope Francis, was followed on April 21 by the sorrow of his passing. Then came the *Sede Vacante*, the silence of the Conclave, and finally the election of Pope Leo XIV. To these events—so different yet so closely connected in time—the Vatican philatelic and numismatic production of the Governorate gave these historic events form and memory, translating into stamps and coins the remembrance and significance of a year that deeply touched the world.

Vatican numismatics accompanied the Jubilee of Hope with issues of high symbolic and artistic value, entrusting the narrative of its opening and conclusion to two most valuable €200 gold proof coins, the maximum denomination in the series. The first, dated 2024 and dedicated to the theme of Sharing, depicts Jesus breaking bread and offering it to his disciples, together with symbols of grapes and wheat, evoking the hope that springs from the act of true sharing, and doing so generously. Sealing the issues is the €200 coin dated 2025, representing a family crossing a doorway, symbolizing the Holy Door, while in the foreground, beside a column, appears an anchor—a sign of salvation and stability—with Saint Peter’s Basilica in the background.

The inauguration of the 2025 Holy Year found an effective visual representation in the commemorative €2 coin *Anno Santo MMXXV*, minted in both brilliant uncirculated and proof versions. It portrays the Pontiff opening the Holy Door in an image of powerful symbolic value that invites people to cross the threshold of faith and hope. The Pope, standing before the Door, thus becomes a sign of the shepherd leading his people toward reconciliation with God and His merciful embrace, expressing the meaning of a Jubilee conceived as an “open door” of forgiveness, capable of welcoming all, especially those who are distant, who suffer, and who live on the margins.

Among the other Jubilee issues are the €20 silver coin dedicated to *Maria Stella Maris*, portraying the Virgin guiding Peter’s boat through the storms of history, and the €50 gold coin inspired by the Porziuncola and the night of 1216, when Saint Francis of Assisi obtained the plenary indulgence, universal forgiveness from Christ—one of the deep and often overlooked roots of the Jubilee tradition.



Alongside these issues are the Coin Cards and *Stamp & Coin Card IUBILAEUM 2025*, thirteen products gathered into three collections designed to accompany collectors on an ideal journey through faith, art, and history, transforming the Jubilee pilgrimage into an accessible experience.

The Coin Cards featuring the 50-cent coin are dedicated to the four Papal Basilicas of Rome: an essential and recognizable path recalling the most significant places of Christianity and the Jubilee pilgrimage. Alongside these is the series featuring the €1 coin dedicated to the Holy Doors—not only of the four major Papal Basilicas but also of the Rebibbia Prison, a concrete sign of inclusion and mercy. Five blister packs, arranged according to the sequence of the opening of the respective Holy Doors, create a progressive narrative of the Jubilee passage. Finally, the Stamp & Coin Cards complete the picture, combining in a single composition the 50-cent coin from the Pontificate of Pope Francis and the commemorative Holy Year stamps: a synthesis of the Governorate’s primary two institutional forms of expression.

Philately also accompanied both the opening and conclusion of the Holy Year, outlining a coherent symbolic journey. Opening it was a set of four stamps dedicated to the 2025 Jubilee, depicting the foundational event of the opening of the Holy Doors of the four Papal Basilicas of Rome and the Rebibbia prison, expressing the journey of hope and mercy inaugurated by Pope Francis.

Ideally sealing this journey is the Christmas series: on November 7, 2025, two stamps and a booklet were issued inspired by *The Adoration of the Shepherds* by Pieter van Aelst, a 16th-century Flemish tapestry preserved in the Vatican Museums. The same subject appears on the €25 silver coin dedicated to Christmas 2025, creating visual and symbolic continuity among the different issues and closing the circle of the Holy Year under the sign of the Incarnation.





In this atmosphere of hope, on April 21, 2025, came the announcement of the death of Pope Francis, who had wished for and opened that Holy Year, choosing its theme. The Jubilee of Hope therefore continued, carrying also the weight of mourning. The *Sede Vacante* began—the solemn period that the Church experiences, not as an interruption but as a particular form of expectation and reflexion. The Governorate immediately implemented the established procedures: by April 28, four stamps of the *Sede Vacante MMXXV* series were already available, in denominations of €1.25, €1.30, €2.45, and €3.20. The iconography is well established: the pavilion of the Apostolic See, the *umbraculum*, and crossed keys of the papacy supported by angels, signifying a power that does not cease but remains safeguarded during the time of waiting.

On the numismatic level, the narrative developed through the same language—essential and at the same time deeply symbolic. The €2 coin bears on its obverse the coat of arms of the current *Camerlengo* of Holy Roman Church, who during the interregnum is the highest authority. In this case it is Cardinal Kevin Joseph Farrell, whose coat of arms is surmounted by the *umbraculum* and crossed keys. Around the edge, the dove of the Holy Spirit recalls the invocation accompanying the discernment of the Cardinals as they vote for the new pope.



Linked to this same period are the €5 silver brilliant uncirculated coin and the €25 colored proof coin, which entrust their message to art and contemplation. Inspired by *The Descent of the Holy Spirit* by Guido Reni, a fresco preserved in the Vatican Apostolic Palace, we see two angelic hosts flanking the central dove, capturing the invisible yet decisive moment of divine action. It is the image of a Church looking toward heaven, aware that every authentic choice arises from guidance coming from above and emphasizing the continuity of the Church even during the *Sede Vacante*.

What unites all these collectable issues is not merely their theme, but a way of understanding their work: fidelity to the times they represent. In 2025, stamps and coins did not simply celebrate events; they fixed them in a lasting form, offering a historic narrative of the continuity of the Universal Church, which moves through time, celebrating, waiting, and renewing itself without ceasing.

# THE NEW GLOBAL E-SHOP FOR VATICAN PHILATELIC AND NUMISMATIC

Roberto Visone  
Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing (CFN)

Art, faith, and history are now truly just a click away. The Philatelic and Numismatic Marketing Office of the Vatican City State (CFN) is taking a revolutionary step toward innovation with the launch of the new CFN e-shop portal, a digital platform that opens Vatican coin and stamp collecting to an international audience, making it accessible worldwide in a simple and secure way. This is not merely an institutional website, but a true digital hub dedicated to philately and numismatics. Stamps and coins become storytelling tools capable of recounting the history of the Church, papacies, and major religious celebrations, transforming collecting into a cultural and historical journey.

## **A Global Platform for Collectors**

The portal allows users to register and create a personal profile through which they can access all official issues of the Vatican City State. The interface is intuitive and organized into thematic sections, featuring multimedia content and an advanced search engine that enables users to locate stamps and coins by theme, artist, or occasion. Each issue is accompanied by information sheets, images, and video materials illustrating its historical and symbolic context, offering an experience that goes far beyond simple collecting.

## **Global E-Shop, Security, and Sustainability**

At the heart of the platform is the e-shop, designed to enable fast and secure purchases. Available issues include those dedicated to the pontificate of Pope Francis, the 2025 Jubilee Year, the traditional *Sede Vacante* issue, and future series related to the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV.

Particular attention has also been given to sustainability: the packaging used is either plastic-free or made from recycled plastic, in line with a fully eco-sustainable approach. The shipping system has likewise been designed to reduce environmental impact while ensuring efficient delivery to collectors worldwide.

## **Transparency and Innovation in Distribution**

Digitalization also introduces new methods of distribution. The traditional pre-allocation system is giving way to more transparent criteria: users can check real-time availability of issues and receive personalized notifications about updates. At the same time, CFN has launched partnerships

with selected distributors to strengthen the presence of Vatican philatelic and numismatic products in international markets, ensuring authenticity and quality to collectors.

## **Young Artists and Technology**

The new portal also places particular emphasis on promoting young artists specialized in the design of new numismatic and philatelic issues. Through the study and future implementation of new projects, the public will be able to gain insight into the creative process, from the conceptual phase through printing or minting, behind the production of Vatican stamps and coins.

This will reveal a new narrative, highlighting the work, research, and artistic sensitivity that shape each issue.

Technology and tradition thus meet in a virtuous balance: on the one hand, advanced digital tools enabling increasingly precise and innovative design; on the other, the continuity of artisanal techniques representing a unique heritage of expertise. The result is the creation of works that combine art, history, and spirituality while preserving the symbolic value that has always characterized Vatican productions.

In this context, the portal presents itself as a dynamic and continuously evolving reality. The platform is still under active development and is updated daily with new content: photographs, videos, and contributions directly linked to artists' creations progressively enrich the user experience, making it increasingly complete and engaging.

It is an open process that accompanies the project's growth step by step and strengthens its participatory and contemporary dimension.

## **A Global Community**

Finally, the website aims to become a point of reference for the global community of enthusiasts. Through this digital platform, CFN reinforces its role as a bridge between tradition and innovation: stamps and coins become not merely collectible objects, but also instruments of knowledge and memory capable of telling the story of the Church in the twenty-first century.

## From Registration to Delivery: The Digital Path of CFN Vatican Philatelic and Numismatic Purchases

The Philatelic and Numismatic Commercialization Office (CFN) of the Governorate of Vatican City State is responsible for the promotion, sale, and distribution of Vatican philatelic and numismatic issues. Behind these activities lies a complex system of administrative, digital, and logistical procedures that accompanies users from registration on the portal through to the delivery of the items purchased.

But how does this process actually work? The journey begins with online registration on the CFN portal. Users interested in purchasing philatelic and numismatic issues must create their own personal profile by entering complete and up-to-date personal information. The procedure also requires the upload of a valid and perfectly legible identity document, an essential requirement to guarantee the authenticity of the information provided.

A particularly innovative element of the system is the identity verification phase. Using a smartphone or a computer equipped with a camera, users are guided through a video authentication process that enables the capture of facial images together with the front and back of their identity document. This step allows the CFN to verify that the person requesting registration matches the declared information and the documentation submitted.

Once the identification phase has been completed, the application is reviewed by the relevant CFN offices. Staff members carry out the necessary administrative checks before authorizing access to purchasing services. Processing times may vary depending on the number of applications received and the complexity of the checks required; however, each request is handled with the utmost care to ensure accuracy and transparency.

After registration has been approved, users can access the reserved area of the portal using their credentials (e-mail address and customer code confirmed during registration) and browse the catalogue of available issues. From this point onwards, they can purchase philatelic and numismatic products in accordance with the applicable methods and general terms and conditions of sale.

Behind every order, a structured logistical process then begins, involving various CFN departments. Requests are initially handled by the Valuables Storage Warehouse, where authorized personnel retrieve the selected items, verify their conformity, and prepare them for shipment. This activity requires particular attention, given the historical, cultural, and collectible value of the issues distributed.

At a later stage, orders are transferred to the Packaging and Shipping Department. Here, specialized staff carry out the packaging, wrapping, and labeling operations with dedication, precision, and attention to detail, while also preparing all the documentation required for transport. Each shipment is organized according to procedures designed to ensure the protection of the materials and the correct identification of the recipient.

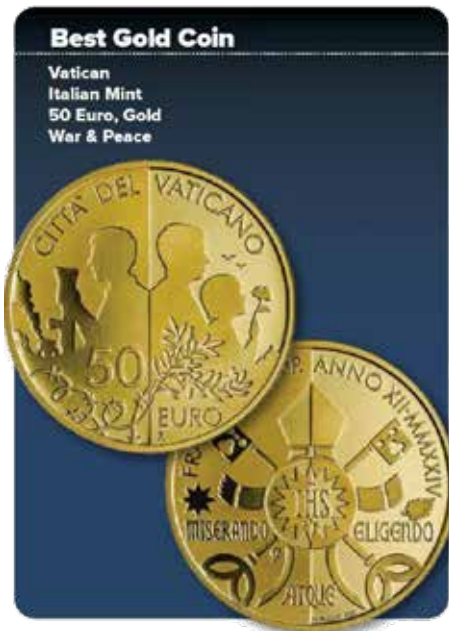
The final step in the process involves handing over the package to the carrier responsible for delivery. Thanks to the tracking systems in place, it is possible to follow the progress of the order until it reaches its final destination. The entire system has been designed to enable the CFN to manage the distribution of philatelic and numismatic issues efficiently and securely, promoting the Vatican's artistic and cultural heritage through issues that tell the story of its history, tradition, and values.





# INTERNATIONAL BEST GOLD COIN AWARD 2025 FOR THE “WAR AND PEACE” €50 GOLD COIN

Anna Cicerchia  
Secretariat of the Directorate of Economy



On August 21, 2025, during the World’s Fair of Money organized by the American Numismatic Association in Oklahoma City, the annual Coin of the Year 2025 (COTY 2025) awards ceremony took place, honoring coins issued with the year mark 2024.

The international jury awarded ten different categories, and among them the award for **Best Gold Coin** was

granted to the Vatican’s €50 proof gold coin (included in the annual proof set issued by the Mint of the Vatican City State) designed by artist Chiara Principe. The gold coin is dedicated to the theme of *War and Peace*, selected by the Vatican—in accordance with tradition—from themes particularly close to Pope Francis during the final year of his pontificate.

Communicating in a direct and immediate way is one of the principal requirements of numismatic design: only a few millimeters in diameter to tell stories and convey values and important messages in a form that is instantly understandable.

The innate duality of the human heart is expressed in this coin design with remarkable harmony through a vertical fracture that separates and contrasts two opposing scenarios. On the left appears the hollow silhouette of a soldier—a man emptied by the horrors of war—while in the background the smoke of explosions rises and barbed wire seems to imprison the world. On the right side, the barbed wire transforms into an olive branch, and the figure of the same man now appears in relief, no longer alone but accompanied by symbols of a peaceful future of hope: a little girl holding a flower, standing before a landscape no

longer marked by death but by life. The simplicity of the imagery makes the message conveyed by the coin immediately clear.

The combination of polished raised elements with incuse details distinguished by a satin finish on the gold surface, the transformation of symbols of conflict into symbols of peace, and the timeless duality of good and evil recurring throughout human history were recognized by the COTY 2025 jury as an exemplary synthesis of a universal message. With great sensitivity, Chiara Principe transformed this concept into a design using a modern style that, while far removed from realism, possesses strong evocative power.

From a purely technical standpoint, for the first time in the history of Vatican numismatic issues, the process of the coin’s creative pre-production was carried out exclusively on a computer, without the use of pencils, paper, or sculptural materials.

This “digital baptism” for Vatican coinage represents a significant step toward the future and also reflects the openness that has characterized the Vatican Mint in recent years. In collaboration with the Italian State Mint, it has introduced new products and techniques to the traditional range of coins familiar to collectors.

In a statement released immediately following the award, Chiara Principe explained the significance of receiving this recognition on both an artistic and professional



level. What made her especially happy was that the award was granted for a coin she created specifically for Vatican City, which represented her first step as a coin artist. After many years of growth, experience, and the creation of many other coins, receiving this award for Vatican City symbolically represents, for the artist, a way of returning the trust that had been placed in her years earlier.

This highly symbolic interplay of negative and positive planes of the design also contributes to the perfect compositional balance and was the result of a long and meticulous design process. While initial inspiration may arise instan-

taneously, developing the corresponding composition is always a process involving experimentation, verification, and experience. The challenge of translating inspiration into an image that also respects the intrinsic characteristics of a coin—its dimensions, material, and minting technique—appears to have been the successful result of teamwork between the artist and the Mint of the Vatican City State, rewarding not only technical and artistic excellence but also the strength of the universal message expressed by the award winning coin.



# A JOINT ISSUE BY VATICAN CITY, ITALY AND SAN MARINO TO CELEBRATE THE 800<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Anna Cicerchia  
Secretariat of the Directorate of Economy

Eight centuries after the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, his message continues to resonate in our world today. To celebrate his cultural and spiritual legacy, a joint numismatic issue brings together the Vatican, Italy and San Marino in a spirit of remembrance and shared values, as formalized by the agreement signed by the three States on 30 March 2026.



For the first time ever, the mints of the three States have joined forces in a common project to pay tribute to one of the most influential figures in European religious and cultural history. The tribute takes the form of a triptych of €0.75 copper coins dedicated to the *Canticle of the Creatures*, retracing its most significant passages. The choice of a “humble” metal such as copper, the brilliant uncirculated finish, and the modest face value all reflect the simplicity and humility that characterized Saint Francis.

Artist Marta Bonifacio, commissioned to create the numismatic triptych, highlights on the common obverse of the coins the itinerant nature of Saint Francis, who brought both material and spiritual support to others by meeting them wherever they were. In the background, the Umbrian hills recall San Damiano in Assisi, where Saint Francis found refuge for a period of his life. Along the path to the right appear the inscriptions “1226–2026” and “SAN FRANCESCO D’ASSISI”, while to the left is the name of the issuing State—the only distinguishing feature among the obverses of the three coins: “REPUBBLICA ITALIANA”, “REPUBBLICA DI SAN MARINO”, and “CITTÀ DEL VATICANO”, together with “R”, the mint mark of the Rome Mint. At the bottom is “MB”, the artist’s monogram.

The *Canticle of the Creatures*, also known as the *Canticle of Brother Sun*, composed around 1224 and recognized as the earliest recognized work of Italian literature whose author is known, takes shape on the reverse of the three coins through three different representative and deeply meaningful themes.

A hymn to life and a praise of God through nature, the harmony that emerges from the *Canticle* combines the images depicted on the three coins with balance and proportion, each developing independently around the Franciscan symbol of the Tau cross.

The praise of the Lord begins with a sense of cosmic fraternity. The Italian coin depicts the contemplation of the heavens through “Brother Sun” and “Sister Moon and the Stars”.

The San Marino coin expresses the connection between the Saint and the natural world through the praise of the four fundamental elements: Brother Wind, Sister Water, Brother Fire, and Mother Earth.

The Vatican coin, finally, celebrates the closing verses of the *Canticle*, which speak of humanity and its virtues. It is an exhortation to live with gratitude toward God, culminating in a hymn to Sister Death, who is to be “honored and blessed” and is represented here by burning incense.

Further enhancing the significance of this project, presented in Assisi on May 14 in the Cimabue Hall of the Sacred Convent of Saint Francis, is the patronage granted by the National Committee for the Celebration of the 800th Anniversary of the Death of Saint Francis and the support of the wider Assisi community, represented by the Diocese, the Municipality, the Friars Minor of the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels, and the friars of the Sacred Convent.

This initiative offers an opportunity to reflect on the deeper meaning that a coin can embody: not merely a medium of exchange, but also a powerful vehicle for communication and values. The issue dedicated to Saint Francis evokes the idea of a new economy inspired by his teachings, founded on sharing, circularity, fraternity and solidarity. It is a message that remains profoundly relevant today, capable of transcending time and continuing to inspire a concrete rethinking of the way we live and relate to one another.



**IPZS**  
ISTITUTO  
POLIGRAFICO E ZECCA  
DELLO STATO



**POSTE**  
SAN MARINO

**ZECCA**  
STATO CITTÀ  
DEL VATICANO

**CFN**



