

«Avvisi» dalla Vaticana



From the message of the prefect, Msgr. Cesare Pasini, to the staff of the Library, September 3rd

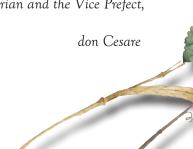
At the beginning of this new academic year let us wish each other "happy new year". I would also like to share the vivid and strong desire to set out towards the goal with determinate purpose: we have a project and plan in front of us, which is always our service to people (readers and all those who come to or draw on our Library) and more at its root, a cultural service which - especially in times of uncertainty - becomes even more necessary and precious.

From June 1 to July 15, which was then followed by the summer break, we experienced a very special period in our relationship with scholars, significant for the number of attendances and for the feeling of gratitude that was expressed to us, even more than in "ordinary" times.

After visiting us, some have spoken or written to us that this service has proven equally welcoming, even if the gloves, masks, distancing and other precautions make it less comfortable. Those who came were able to resume their research again with eagerness and it seems to me that they were helped and satisfied. We likewise are pleased because this is our task, we are here for this purpose: to open the doors to those who want to deepen their knowledge.

On September 16 the readers are returning, after having already experienced our new rhythms and schedules. We wish everyone the best for their work, in the certainty that good research can only give good results.

A warm greeting also on behalf of the Librarian and the Vice Prefect,





The new website of the Vatican Library











n July 16, a new website of the Vatican Library was inaugurated that better responds to the needs and research methods of those who are for various reasons interested in having contact with our Institution.

The site's address is "vaticanlibrary.va". Its activation required a long period of preparation and the commitment of several people, especially the technical staff of the IT Services Coordination. The site has a new graphic layout and grants easier access to services and all available content. In addition to the catalogs, which can be consulted directly from the home page, one will immediately find the reserved area, which after a simple registration enables access to both the general catalog and the special catalogs, divided by the type of documents.

The search engine for titles in the editorial catalog that contains the Library's publications has also been improved, presented and illustrated with care. In this area photographic reproductions can be requested. The procedures for requesting images of the various documents that are kept in the Library for both study and professional use have been simplified and made more intuitive and linear.

In this section the reader, user, or the curious person may send the questions they wish to ask the Library. A specific section is dedicated to "news and events", where all the appointments to be shared are reported: an event in progress or important moments that already took place within the Institution; this is the editorial news.

In this area all the issues of our quarterly newsletter can also be found, with information, little stories and curiosities about the Library; also broadcasted here are tweets from the Twitter account @bibliovaticana, which announce the appointments and institutional initiatives in a more immediate way.

The moment for such an operation of "re-styling" is all the more opportune in this difficult period, since the rules for the safety of everyone's health necessarily reduce access to people and the opening hours of the rooms.

"We want to be truly at the service of our visitors with a modern and current tool that immediately provides what one is looking for or maybe even gives them something more," said the prefect during an interview. «With the site we want to make ourselves known for what we are and for what we have, and to offer a service that aims to reach the ends of the world. Pope Francis often talks about the fact that we must reach the peripheries: so, I believe that there is nothing like an online site that would allow us to reach all the borders and all countries of the globe, near and far. Of course, we do not neglect the service of those who come to visit us in person and we try to serve them well. But, especially in the period of the health emergency we are experiencing, in which the movements of people are limited and it is more difficult for many to come to the Library, this open and communicative, rich and captivating site is intended to be an important place of welcome, of collaboration and of openness."

Work in the stacks of Printed books

fter the complex operation to replace the large windows on the eastern side of the Cortile del Belvedere, completed last March, a new phase of work has been undertaken that will lead to the construction of an air conditioning system in the locales of the six floors in the building known as Julius II, where the monographic printed collections are preserved.

An intervention involving the implantation will make it possible to equip the stacks with a modern thermal ventilation system that works according to an annual cycle, replacing the old system which guaranteed operation exclusively in winter heating. The new system, designed by the Directorate of Infrastructures and Services - Laboratory and plant engineering office of the SCV Governorate, in collaboration with the US Carrier, will guarantee, within a certain tolerance, the constant control of the thermohygrometric conditions desired for the correct conservation of the works and the necessary exchanges of external air, thanks also to the application of an efficient regulation and automatic microprocessor control system.



The ventilation system adapted to the rooms of the

Prints Cabinet

The Prints Cabinet, located at the end of the fourth floor of the building was also involved in the works, and is now equipped with a thermoventilation system, specifically designed to obtain the desired effectiveness with the lowest possible impact on historical environments; to perform them it was necessary to move materials and workstations, then relocate them to their proper place. The environments are finally more suitable for hosting precious graphic documents and those who take care of them. This phase of the works, completed in September, was also carried out thanks to the generosity of our benefactors; we thank the Sanctuary of Culture foundation for its tireless work in favor of the Library.

Visits to the Vaticana



A view of the Sistine Hall



ince last March, due to the pandemic it has no longer been possible to organize visits for friends and benefactors of the Library who sometimes ask us to come and admire the historic spaces of the Vatican Library.

We cannot resume this pleasant service again as we would like, even if it is particularly important; it aims to illustrate and raise awareness of the mission and activities of the Papal Library, and make it easier to understand what is being done to safeguard a unique heritage that requires constant care and attention.

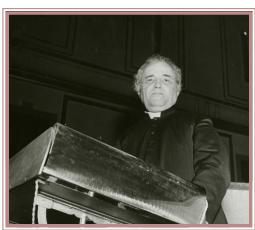
Over time, some of our guests have inspired new ideas to enhance the Library's holdings and we are also grateful to them for this.

We postpone the initiatives involving the participation of groups of people, but we are preparing to return to host our kind visitors as soon as possible. See you soon!



Musical documents: the Perosi collection





Among the musical manuscripts of the Vatican Library there are many works composed by Lorenzo Perosi (1872-1956), "a poor Piedmontese priest", as he liked to call himself. Perosi, strongly inspired by an uncommon musical spirit, became "one of the most significant protagonists of musical creativity between the 19th and 20th centuries." When the young priest was director of the Marcian Chapel he received great encouragement from the patriarch of Venice, Giuseppe Sarto. Becoming in 1903 Pius X, Pope Sarto supported a great impetus to liturgical music, which then benefitted from new and original ideas according to his intentions. He conceived of music as "the true art, since it is not otherwise possible to achieve on the mind of the listener a kind of efficacy that the Church intends to obtain by welcoming the art of sounds into its liturgy".

Perosi was the ideal interpreter of the new liturgical musical era, which he integrated into his priestly mission by uniting the two offices harmoniously.

Appointed director of the Sistine Chapel from 1898 by Leo XIII, he held the post until 1956.

Considered mainly a composer of sacred music, he is renown for having renewed the genre of the "oratorio", Perosi also composed chamber music and orchestral works. He is one of the great European composers of the period "for his vocal, chamber and symphonic creativity, both sacred and profane". He received many awards and was an emeritus academic of the World Academy of Artists and Professionals.

In 2013 the Library published the Catalogo ragionato delle composizioni di Lorenzo Perosi (1872-1956) con esempi musicali originali, in four volumes, edited by Maestro Arturo Sacchetti, to promote a deeper knowledge of the vast work of Perosi. While his corpus suffered the loss of several compositions, the catalog constitutes "a first attempt at reorganizing Lorenzo Perosi's immense creativity." The catalog especially involves the manuscripts, partly donated by the composer's family, and partly purchased in subsequent auctions by the Holy See.

In addition to Perosi's compositions in the Vaticana's musical collections, and to his correspondence (*Vat.lat.14817-14819*), other compositions are preserved along with printed volumes, objects and various documents in large boxes, about 5000 elements in all, an extraordinary harvest of materials waiting to be further described and studied.





Concerto for piano and orchestra, in A min. (1916)

Autograph score - Vat.mus.197





Adoramus te Christe; motet for 8 voices, dedicated to Pius XI (1934)

Autograph score - Vat.mus.404

Restoration of a lunette of the Sistine Hall



The fresco before the restoration

n September, work was completed to restore one of the lunettes of the vaults on the southern side of the Sistine Hall. The lunette, which had been severely damaged by humidity, is that which represents the Lateran Obelisk. Even the fresco representing the *Bibliotheca Caesarensis*, which is located on the wall below, was involved in the interventions, due to the removal of the paint's color on the surface of the fresco, but this constituted a partial intervention, carried out on the most critical parts while the complete restoration of the fresco has been postponed.

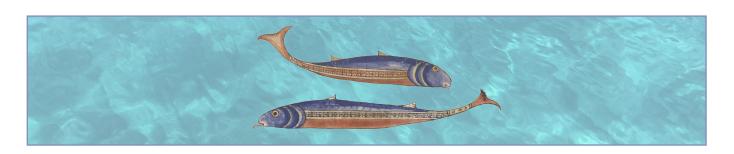
The restoration work, entrusted to the Vatican Museums, were curated by Dr. Fabrizio Biferali; the conservative interventions were entrusted to Francesca Cencia, Chiara Notarstefano and Emilia Rizza, restorers of the Paintings Laboratory of the Vatican Museums, directed by the chief restorer, Maestro Francesca Persegati.

The frescoes were monitored by the Museums from the moment of the first appearance of the damp spots, in December 2014, until they were completely dry. Only then was it possible to plan the intervention. In the meantime, all the damage to the roof was repaired in every part by restoring

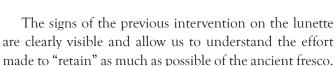
the eaves, which are embedded; clogging had caused water stagnation and consequent damage to the frescoes. After the structural works had been completed in October 2019, a walkway was created to facilitate monitoring of the activity and any future interventions.

The salts contained in the masonry have surfaced on the painted surface and after crystallizing, reveal small flakes of color, many of which have been lost.

In the past, urgent interventions were also carried out in that area of the Hall due to humidity. In 1981-1982 there was a major infiltration of water that put the right side of the lunette at risk; the staff of the Museums took care to "tear" half of the fresco and adhere to a canvas in order to re-sheath it before repositioning it in its original place. They used a supporting structure of aluminum and cork for the purpose. That portion of the lunette is the only "painting on canvas" of the Hall, in addition to the oil painting by Pietro Facchetti which portrays Sixtus V (with his two nephews, Antonio Carafa-the librarian chosen by the pontiff-, and the "officials" of the Library on the side), in the act of receiving the project of "his" Library from Domenico Fontana.







In the immediate vicinity of the restored lunette, other signs are also visible, which at first glance appear to be cracks, but in fact constitute the hatch that outlines the perimeter of the collapse of the roof which took place on 22 December 1931.



Emilia Rizza, Francesca Cencia e Chiara Notarstefano

The three bays involved in the collapse, which also fell on the hall for Printed Books on the floor underneath were immediately rebuilt, and in a few years they were frescoed once again, but the signs of the collapse were left in the perimeter. This evidence survives the fall, which caused the death of six people, five of whom were employees of the Library, such that the memory of it is not lost, but rather remains a support in the effort to preserve what we have received from the past.



Detail of the fresco before and after the restoration







The fresco after the restoration



Stamp.Ross.997, 56v

On July 23, 1373 Bridget Birgersdotter died in Rome, the great "mystic of the North", proclaimed saint in St. Peter's on October 7, 1391, (the first canonization ceremony celebrated in the Basilica), patroness of Sweden since 1891 and co-patron of Europe since 1999.

She was born in an aristocratic family in Finsta Castle, near Uppsala, in June 1303. When she was still very young, she married Ulf Gudmarsson, with whom she had eight children, only four of whom survived. Returning from a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, undertaken when Bridget was about forty, her husband fell ill and died in the Cistercian monastery of Alvastra, in southern Sweden, founded by monks from Clairvaux. Brigida lived not far from the convent from 1344 until 1349, and her piety thus came into contact with the teachings of St. Bernard. In that period she received the first revelations which bound her indissolubly to Christ in a definitive sacramental relationship. Upon divine inspiration she founded the Order of the Most Holy Savior, still characterized today by the gray and white dress and by the veil that has a crown of white fabric decorated with five small pieces of red fabric, symbols of Christ's wounds.



Urb.lat.104, 18v

In 1349 she set out for Rome, where she arrived in 1350 and lived for the rest of her life, with the exception of a few pilgrimages, in a house in the current Piazza Farnese. The house later became the property of the convent of Vadstena and then a kind of hotel, *hospitium* or *hospitale* for Swedes visiting Rome, then a guesthouse for pilgrims and students, and after the Reformation, a place for exiles, including Johannes and Olaus Magnus, the last Swedish Catholic archbishops. A printing shop was founded inside the *hospitale*.

Bridget's constant frame of reference was the Virgin Mary, who always remained at the center of her piety. In the revelations, Mary describes the suffering she experienced in the face of her son's suffering, with graphic descriptions of pain. "By virtue of her absolute love and her identification with the suffering of her son, Mary is at the same time an earthly and heavenly example beyond all the rest". This reflection entered into the monastic rule of Bridget in an effective way: Marian veneration and a life lived as much as possible in the *Imitatio Christi*.



Urb.lat.104, 1r

In 1991, on the occasion of the sixth centenary of the canonization of the Swedish saint, the Library organized a small but important exhibition of "Brigidini" documents preserved in the Vaticana and in other institutions. From May 4 to November 4, in the Vestibule of the Sistine Hall, many visitors, including the Swedish Royal Family, were able to admire the exhibition "Rosa rorans bonitatem", the title of which comes from an antiphon written in honor of the saint by Nils Hermansson, bishop of Linköping, who had been tutor to Bridget's children (Rosa rorans bonitatem, stella stillans claritatem: "Rose exhaling goodness, star emanating slendor"). Mother Tekla Famiglietti, then Abbess General of the Brigidine order, who passed away on last March 3, also took part in the realization of the exhibition. The affectionate and grateful memory of the Vatican Library goes out to Mother Tekla ever still.

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Racc.I.2124(int.3), 1r

Among the documents then exhibited was one of the three surviving copies (originally there were sixteen) of the acts of the process of canonization of Bridget (Ottob.lat.90); an anthology from Revelationes (Liber revelationum caelestium sanctae Birgittae), dated around 1400 (Vat.lat.3826); a missal from the hospitale, in which the prose parts were written by Bridget herself and the parts in meter by Olavi of Skänninge, first confessor general of the convent of Vadstena (Vat.lat.5742). The Swedish collection of hymns was called Jungfru Marie Örtagård (the Virgin Mary's Herb Garden). A text of the fifteenth century was also exhibited, which contains the first four books of the Revelationes, preserved in the collection belonging to Federico di Montefeltro (Urb.lat. 104). Some old printed works preserved in the Library were also presented to visitors: the volume of the Orationes, the prayers, fifteen short compositions, recited by Bridget in front of the crucifix of St. Paul outside the Walls who spoke to the saint (1495, Inc.Ross.997 (2)); the Vatican copy features a hymn to Mary that was added by hand. Also exhibited was the edition of the Revelationes by Olaus Magnus, printed in 1556 "in aedibus S. Brigitte", in the hospitale, as well as a Vita Birgittae, also published by Magnus in the Casa di Santa Brigida in 1553 (R.I.IV.2124 (int. 3)).

We celebrate Saint Bridget, guardian of hope and daily occupations.



Vat.lat.5742, 46v



Vat.lat.3826, 23r

The Librarian meets illustrious compatriots

On 15 September 15, H.E. Card. José Tolentino de Mendonça, Librarian of the Holy Roman Church, met with Dr. José Manuel Durão Barroso, former President of the European Commission, and Mrs. Joana Gonçalves, accompanied by H.E. Pedro Nuno Bártolo, ambassador of Portugal to Italy with his wife, H.E. Inga Ernstsone, permanent Ambassador of Latvia to the United Nations.







It was a very friendly courtesy visit and particularly welcome to our Librarian, who, insofar as such a short meeting permits, wanted to show the guests the history and tradition that the Papal Institution represents, underlining the cultural and human value of its mission in world.

New scholarly staff

An Exhibition Hall in the Library

he scholarly staff of the Vatican Library has two new members who were recently hired to particular posts: doctors Pierre Chambert-Protat and Stephen Metzger, both authors of numerous scientific contributions in their respective fields of interest.



Dr. Chambert-Protat, from France, was nominated on March 1. He received a PhD from the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris and is a specialist in medieval Latin literature and philology, especially in the Carolingian era. He is a member of the École Française de Rome and collaborator in various international research projects.



Dr. Metzger, from the United States, was appointed on 1 July. He received his PhD from the University of Notre Dame (Indiana, USA) and is a specialist in medieval theology and philosophy. He collaborates with the Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes in Paris and also participates in several international research projects.

To both of them a warm welcome from everyone and best wishes for their work!



n the period from August 17 to September 15, the Library underwent construction in order to create a new exhibition room in the Library. The new room is located in the place that previously housed the periodicals office, the Art Index files, and the Ancient Books Section. The Exhibition Office and a small room that over time has had various uses, had also occupied these spaces.

The planning for the room has been facilitated by the Studies and Projects Office of the SCV Governorate.

The construction entailed interventions on the structural part of the new spaces, which are located on the first floor of the Sistine building, adjacent to the Barberini Room and the Periodicals Room.



The new hall, along with the furniture and whatever else is necessary, will be completed by this coming November.

For some time, it has been a consideration to create a space dedicated to hosting small, temporary exhibitions for scholars and guests of the Library. Thanks to the substantial contribution of the Sanctuary of Culture foundation, which for years has supported important initiatives of the Library with great commitment, it was also possible to put this project into motion. This room will be dedicated to our benefactors, to whom we are most grateful.



Chig.C.IV.111, 200v (part.)

The corner of poetry







Talking to God

Immense clamoring of souls in the sea. Silvery highlight of the sun on the frothy white cloak. I feel you in the wind that envelopes my face ...

I see you in what you gave me,

I live I breath

I sigh,

sometimes I forget you,

I suffer, I give up hope,

only you are in the colors of the people close to me with your heart you warm me

in this tired mind.

I thank you, good God,

for your patience with a mad soul.

I love life, now with you I accept the gray part as well, which allows my soul to love color.

Support me on this path, let me live with mistakes, regrets, remorse, pain, pleasure, sincere loves.

The righteous lies in the appointed time.

Of poverty I am not afraid,

I would like to be able to enrich myself with the love of knowing how

to understand, to comprehend within the limits of being.

You will say, why so many requests?

To be able to progress, help man to love,

to be in tune with man.

Understanding man in the loneliness of melancholy, participate in his cheerfulness.

Give me the opportunity to live to reach the goal

to become a woman, good, strong

capable of doing her work that is most useful to society. Give me (with love I tell you) your help to fulfill my duty,

my need to be concrete ...

I'm not afraid of death,

it's your choice,

I hope to find a small place

with other souls

and continue the work that is written in front of the sea of conscience.

Give me a voice again, I can feel the beat,

support me as you can,

in tiredness to find my lost balance...

(Marta Gierut, 1977-2005)



Recognition of Ambrogio Piazzoni

n Tuesday September 22 in the Lapidary Gallery, the authorities of the Library and the staff, family and some friends of Ambrogio Piazzoni, gathered to greet him and wish him well on the occasion of his recent retirement. As the first lay Vice Prefect of the Library, he held his position from March 1, 1999 to March 31, 2020. At the time of Dr. Piazzoni's retirement, we were in full lockdown, so the encounter had to be postponed.



Maria Giovanna and Ambrogio Piazzoni

During his long career, Dr. Piazzoni has held numerous positions: he was secretary of the "Latinitas" foundation and editorial secretary of the periodical Latinitas; Professor of The Ancient Manuscript and Cataloging at the Vatican School of Library Science; co-director of the series L'anima del mondo by Edizioni Piemme; member of international study groups concerning the problems of cataloging manuscripts in electronic form (EAMMS-Electronic Access for Medieval Manuscripts; the European consortium MASTER); Professor of the Methodology of Scientific Research and Heuristics and Study of Sources for the European Postgraduate Diploma in Medieval Studies organized by Fidem (Fédération internationale des instituts d'études médiévales); and lecturer at the University of Tuscia (Viterbo), where he held courses in the History of the manuscript tradition and in The theory and techniques of cataloging manuscripts.

In 1998 he became co-chair of the international study group of procedures for cataloging manuscripts in electronic format within the TEI - Text Encoding Initiative (Latin manuscripts Description Working Group).

Since 2000 Piazzoni has been a lecturer and member of the scientific committee of the Specialization Course in *Medieval Latin Philology and Literature* of SISMEL, the International Society for the Study of the Latin Middle Ages, in collaboration with the Ezio Franceschini foundation and since 2001 he has been a member of the editorial committee of Edizioni del Galluzzo – SISMEL. Since 2004 he has also taught Latin paleography at the "Augustinianum" Patristic Institute.

Among his publications we may mention *Guglielmo* di Saint-Thierry. Il declino dell'ideale monastico nel secolo XII, Rome 1998; Manoscritti Vaticani latini 14666-15203 [with Paolo Vian], Vatican City 1989; Storia delle elezioni pontificie, Casale Monferrato, 2003.

For this occasion the new Vice Prefect Timothy Janz chaired the event, while the Librarian of S.R.C., Card. José Tolentino de Mendonça and the Prefect, Msgr. Cesare Pasini, expressed gratitude for Dr. Piazzoni's long service to the Library. The Vice Prefect of the Apostolic Archives and former colleague Paolo Vian underlined that Dr. Piazzoni, in whom there was a complete lack of "worry over potential problems", fulfilled his mission "with practical good sense, with a certain ease, without excessive theoretical complications, with a spirit of concreteness and often resorting to the instrument he likes to define as an "eye gauge"».

His friend and fellow student, H.E. Msgr. Franco Giulio Brambilla, bishop of Novara, among other things emphasized the pleasure of books to people like Ambrogio Piazzoni who study them with passion. "The most precious books, the most fascinating books await the readers. Only when the eyes rest on a text does it acquire an active life: it awaits the reader." He then praised the emotion of intellectual work, which tires, which doesn't abide by schedules, which torments, but which awards us with our very selves, with the understanding of what we are.

"My working life - and much more -", said Piazzoni, as he thanked the Library, the Holy See and the good Lord, "evolved with the strong awareness that working for the Apostolic See means working for the whole Church, and in this way, at least a little, within the modest limits of my person, to make a small contribution to building the Kingdom of God. A work that I have therefore also carried out as a vocation and mission because it gives the frame of meaning to the values of life". Congratulations Ambrogio!



2021 Agenda dedicated to women

The agenda of the Vatican Library has now become a tradition, a publication in two formats, one that is beautiful and demanding for those who prepare it. From year to year, different topics are proposed to be featured, of which some are linked to an anniversary or a current theme. The agenda always presents a selection of images from the material from the Library, along with appropriate citations. The 2021 agenda is dedicated to the theme of women and books, the woman who shapes and who safeguards libraries and who has a living presence in the literary and iconographic documents of the Apostolic Library. We shall find the figure of Mary holding a book in her hands. The first iconographic representation of Maria *cum libro* dates back to the 9th, and was continued in later periods as well.



Membr. V.10, 16r

As our Librarian, Card. José Tolentino De Mendonça states in his introduction, "the important thing is not knowing which book Mary was reading in the critical moment of the Annunciation. The important thing is to grasp how the book, in this scene, already functions as a facilitator of a spiritual experience: an experience of listening and knowledge that reconfigures the world. Starting with the inner world, of each reader. It is not possible to write the history of the Library of the Popes without reflecting on the path of women: women writers, women artists, women theologians, women protagonists of the life of the Church, women patrons, women creators, women of science and culture. And it is still like this today. Suffice it to say that well over half of the working community that runs the Vatican Library is made up of women."

The agenda will accompany us throughout the year and will certainly inspire us every day with its beauty and its pearls of wisdom chosen from the Bible.



Cappon.237, pt. A, 12r (2)



Security of digital data

ince for many years the Vatican Library has been committed to the preservation of its patrimony, including through the digitization of manuscripts, it has had to address the problem of digital data security on the web by turning to a specialized company that could guarantee it.

The Italian company ADORA ICT s.r.l., with its experience in Cybersecurity, has created a strong data control tool for the Library. Thanks to the Darktrace platform, ADORA analysts help us to guarantee the security of the digital data of the Apostolic Library on a daily basis and to prevent exposure to any cyber threats and risks, while ensuring compliance with the increasingly stringent rules and regulations of the industry.





Part of the Data Center of the Library

ADORA ICT is a consulting and services company specializing in Information Technology. Founded in 2005, it offers services for the most current and critical issues of IT Security, resolving them with the help of its solid and longstanding experience. Starting with Information Security and Privacy Law Compliance, ADORA has decided to deal in particular with Cyber, Forensics, and Data Protection.

We are particularly grateful to the company for the fruitful collaboration undertaken with the Vatican Library and its technical staff, as well as for the generosity that it has offered towards our institution. We especially thank Dr. Massimo Santangelo and his staff of specialists, hoping also to be able to receive them soon in the historic locales of the venerable papal institution.







wishes to thank The Canctuary of Culture Foundation

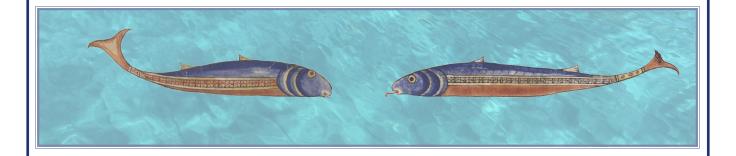
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If you would like to make a contribution to the projects of the Library, please contact: Luigina Orlandi Office of Institutional Advancement (orlandi@vatlib.it)

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