

## Online Window into the Library



«Avvisi» dalla Vaticana



### *Pope Leo XIV at the helm of the Church*

The sadness at the passing of Pope Francis on the morning of April 21 was followed by joy at the election of Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost to the Chair of Peter.

“In Him who is One, we are one” (St. Augustine, *Exposition on Psalm 127*) is the pope’s motto. Unity and communion, according to the Augustinian charism, emphasizes that “although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one.” Elected on May 8 after four scrutinies, Pope Prevost chose a name that particularly resonates in the context of the Church’s social doctrine, that of Pope Pecci, Leo XIII, with his commitment to the dignity of human work.

One hundred years after the promulgation of the historic encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, in 1991 the Vatican Library promoted an exhibition at the Braccio di Carlo Magno, *Il lavoro dell’uomo* (The Work of Man), in memory of a pontificate that was active in all areas, including the Curia and the cultural institutions of the Holy See. Pope Leo XIII was elected in 1878, in the aftermath of the unification of the Italian states into the Kingdom of Italy in 1861, which Rome had joined in 1870. In 1881 Leo XIII willed to open the Archives of the Holy See to study and to the world, inviting historians to study the documents to learn the historical truth. He thus undertook a process of profound renewal that would also lead to the modernization of the Apostolic Library.

All those who work at the Holy See and their families were able to meet Pope Leo XIV on May 24, in Aula Paul VI in the Vatican. The pontiff thanked the employees for the work that each one carries out, encouraged them to be attentive always to the institutions to which they belong, and gave his blessing.

Particularly touching was his invitation to preserve and keep alive the historical memory of the Apostolic See. “Memory is an essential element in a living organism; it is not only directed toward the past, but nourishes the present and guides the future. Without memory, the journey is lost, it loses its sense of direction.”

All those present, grateful and confident, responded with joyful applause.



## Meeting with the new authorities of the Library



On Thursday, April 10, a small ceremony was held in the Leonine Hall of the Library in the presence of all the staff to bid farewell to H.E. Mons. Angelo Vincenzo Zani and Timothy Janz, who have left their positions as Librarian and Vice-Prefect. We also welcomed their successors, H.E. Mons. Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi (appointed on March 28) and Don Giacomo Cardinali (appointed on April 2).

In welcoming the new authorities, aware that their tasks are particularly demanding in our great institution, the entire Library wishes them every success in their work.

As we did during the meeting, we would also like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to Timothy Janz, who has remained in the Library to carry out his former task. The role of *scriptor graecus* is one that is particularly congenial and pleasing to him and that for which he was called to the Papal Library in 2002 by the then Prefect, Don Raffaele Farina. During his five years as Vice-Prefect of the Library, Dr. Janz was known for his distinctive traits of humanity, discretion, and impartiality.

Heartfelt thanks go to His Excellency Monsignor Zani who got to know and understand the Library with great energy, quickly becoming an integral part of it, despite coming from a working environment very different from that of our institution.

During his short term of office, which lasted approximately two and a half years, he promoted various initiatives. For example, a partnership with the National Library of Bahrain; the participation in the Islamic Art Biennial in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia); the organization of a major international conference of librarians, and two highly acclaimed concerts. He obtained accreditation from the State of Italy for both of the Vatican Library and Archive Schools as institutions of great scholarly value,

and realized the signing of an agreement for a cooperation project between the Vatican Apostolic Library and the National Library of Shanghai. Thanks to his direct intervention, the Library was able to obtain new space at the headquarters of the Roman Major Seminary, where the large Durbeck collection of 60,000 LPs of mainly vocal music, the largest private collection of its kind in the world, arrived from California during His Excellency's term of office.

A sincere willingness to listen and understand guided the work of Monsignor Zani, who said farewell to everyone, with the following words: "I am very grateful, first of all, to the Holy Father who in 2022 asked me to take on the responsibility of the two institutions—the Archives and the Library—which I knew only from the outside. I accepted the task in the spirit of obedience and within a few days found myself immersed in my new role, without having had the time or opportunity to gain familiarity with the problems, expectations, and complexities in a calm way. And here my gratitude goes to all of you [...] and to each one personally for your example of commitment and dedication, professionalism and attachment to your work. Together with you, I have discovered the richness of the extraordinary historical, cultural, and ecclesial heritage of this institution, which the Church draws upon for its service to humanity. Times are changing and these institutions are called to remain faithful to their established task on the one hand, but on the other, to be able to respond to new needs that require courage and strategic vision in order to respond with qualified professionalism, bearing in mind that the Library is a special instrument for the Church to promote cultural diplomacy."



*"Codex": in the Vatican Library, manuscripts dialogue with works of art to support a major project*



On the occasion of the launch of a philanthropic initiative in favor of the Vatican Library opened on May 23, in the historic spaces of the papal library, *Codex*, the exhibition that presented a series of works of art by great masters in dialogue with documents from the Vatican Library's collections related to those works.

The aim of *Codex* was to raise awareness of the collaboration between the Vatican institution and the newly formed Patrons of the Vatican Apostolic Library, based in London and promoted by Colnaghi, one of the world's oldest art galleries.

Colnaghi and the Patrons will support projects aimed at renovating some of the Vatican Library's rooms and enhancing the collections preserved by the institution.

The first project, which will last five years, involves the renovation and reorganization of the Library's Archives Section, which will completely change the appearance of the spaces that house it. The studio of architect David Chipperfield in Milan is completing the design for

the new layout of the rooms built in the 1970s, considered 'temporary', which house 100,000 archive sections and the offices of the Section's staff.

The exhibition, open for one week, featured works of art selected by Colnaghi and manuscripts preserved in the Vatican Library related to those works, the artists, the figures portrayed, or the patrons who commissioned the works, creating a visual and semantic connection between the Library and the world of art.

On the occasion of the event Don Mauro Mantovani, Prefect of the Apostolic Library, stated: "Placing works of extraordinary artistic value in our historic surroundings, together with documents from our collections, represents a privileged opportunity to promote a profound dialogue between works, spaces, and meanings. The initiative enhances and connects cultural objects from different contexts, in a setting that highlights their uniqueness and, at the same time, their complementarity."



A. Van Dyck,  
"Penitent Saint Peter"





Among the works on display are: *Study for a figure in adoration of the bronze serpent* (c. 1512) and a *Wall fragment - Triton or Satyr* - (c. 1503-1504) by Michelangelo; *Pope Clement VII* by Sebastiano del Piombo; *Portrait of Pope Paul III*, by Titian; *Portrait of Giovanni Grimani* and *Portrait of Cardinal Marcantonio da Mula*, by Tintoretto; *Portrait of Francesco Barberini* (c. 1603-1604), by Caravaggio; *Penitent Saint Peter* (c. 1616-1618), by Anthony van Dyck; *Portrait of Cardinal Camillo Borghese* (Paul V), by Guido Reni; *Bust of Pope Urban VIII* (bronze, 1656-1658), by Gian Lorenzo Bernini; *Portrait of Pius IV*, by Sofonisba Anguissola; *Triumph of Flora* (c. 1660), by Mario Nuzzi (Mario de' Fiori).



Michelangelo, "Study for a figure in adoration of the bronze serpent" and "Wall fragment"



Caravaggio, "Francesco Barberini" Tintoretto, "Giovanni Grimani"



Mario de' Fiori, "Triumph of Flora"

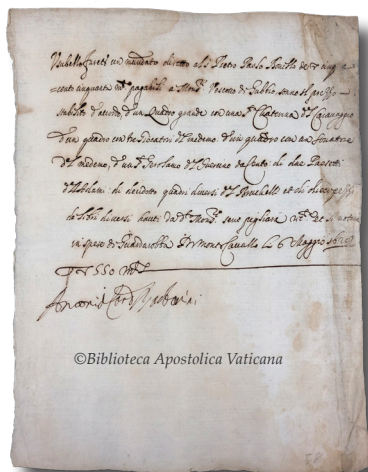
Documents from the Vatican collections were also exhibited, including: *Notes and drawings by Michelangelo* (Vat. lat. 3211); the contract signed with Sebastiano del Piombo for a panel of the *Nativity of the Virgin* in the church of Santa Maria del Popolo, 12 March 1526 (Arch. Chig. 11450, ff. 229v-230r); a mandate from Clement VII to Girolamo Aleandro, Librarian of the Vatican Library, to lend a manuscript of Ptolemy's *Geographia* to a scholar (Vat. lat. 3951, f. 315). Finally, a letter signed by Cardinal Marcantonio da Mula, Librarian of the Vatican Library, dated February 22, 1567, to Cardinal Guglielmo Sirleto (who would be his successor): he asks him to send a scholar a copy of Cyril of Jerusalem's catechism to compare it with a manuscript preserved in a church (Vat. lat. 6181, ff. 157r-158r).

Among the portraits of the cardinal librarians in the Vestibule of the Library are those of Marcantonio da Mula and Francesco Barberini. Still in dialogue with the works of art on display: the appointment of two students to the Collegio Mancini in Siena by Cardinal Barberini by virtue of the power conferred on him by Deifebo Mancini in his will, 1637 (Arch. Barb. *Giustificazioni I*, 239, ff. 6r-15v); the list of books donated to the Vatican Library by Pope Paul V -Camillo Borghese- (Vat. lat. 5480); the payment to the bishop of Gubbio for three paintings by Caravaggio, including *The Cardsharps*, May 6, 1628 (Arch. Barb. *Giustificazioni I*, 235, fasc. 2, f. 58r); a document concerning the gilding of certain metals with the approval and autograph signature of Bernini, February 4, 1647 (Arch. Barb. *Giustificazioni I*, 97, f. 196r); Bernini's *Self-portrait with the Cross of the Order of Christ*, c. 1630 (Arch. Chig. 24905); a caricature of a prelate, probably Francesco Barberini, also by Bernini; the *Ideal View of the Barberini Library*, by Jean de Saillant (painted on parchment), 1639 (Barb. lat. 4357, ff. 14v-15r); and the *Carmen della virtù*, by Urban VIII Barberini, dedicated to his nephew Francesco - hand of Leone Allacci - (Barb. gr. 279, f. 23r).



G.L. Bernini, "Pope Urban VIII"

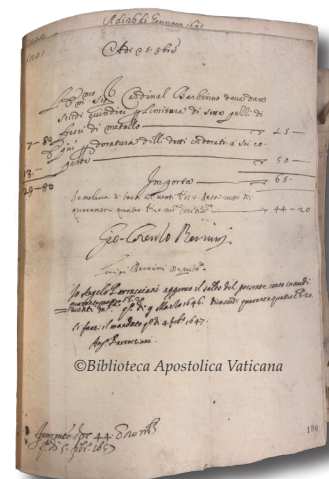




Arch. Barberini, Giustificazioni I,  
235, fasc. 2, f. 58r



Arch. Chig. 24905



Arch. Barberini, Giustificazioni I,  
97, f. 196r



Arch. Chig. 11450, ff. 229v-230r



During the inauguration of the exhibition, it was possible to view the works up close, worthily introduced by the experts present. At the end of the visit, the guests attended a dinner organized in the Sistine Hall, a special opportunity to enjoy and share a rare experience, get to know each other, and explore new possibilities for collaboration.

We would like to thank Colnaghi, the Patrons of the Vatican Library, architect David Chipperfield, and all those involved in this noble initiative, which comes at a historic moment in the life of our institution. Your commitment is greatly appreciated.









## April 15, World Art Day



Established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2019, on the occasion of the 40th session of the Institution's General Conference, World Art Day is celebrated on the day commemorating the birth of Leonardo da Vinci (April 15, 1452). The idea was conceived a few years earlier within the International Association of Art (IAA) "with the aim of promoting art as a universal language capable of transcending cultural boundaries and stimulating shared reflection," and was presented at UNESCO in 2011.

On this day, the world comes together despite of its distances and works together toward the goal of promoting art. It discusses the role that art plays and can play in people's lives, "in the way we communicate, design, and observe the world. From painting to photography, from design to street art, visual creativity is a fundamental tool for constructing meaning and connections. Art today is not just a matter of aesthetics: it is a form of thought."

World Art Day, born out of the need to spread knowledge about art, aims to promote awareness of how important it is in everyone's life. With its universal language, art becomes an instrument and symbol of peace: it expresses itself freely and without boundaries and can be shared on every side.



Urb. lat. 1270, ff. 175r, 219r

Through the documents of great historical, cultural, and artistic value that it preserves, the Vatican Library appropriates and shares the message and goals that the initiative seeks to promote. Here we present two pages from the codex containing the *Libro di pittura* di M. Lionardo da Vinci, pittore et scultore fiorentino (the *Book of painting* by Leonardo da Vinci).

We invite our readers to "browse" through the manuscript [Urb.lat.1270](#) in the digital library.



## *The Spanish Ambassador to the United Kingdom*



H.E. Mr. José Pascual Marco Martínez, Spanish Ambassador to the United Kingdom, visited the Vatican Library on May 30, accompanied by his courteous wife, Mrs. Géraldine Dufort, who holds a position of considerable responsibility within the European Commission.

It was a very cordial and friendly moment with our gracious guests, who were able to visit the historic rooms of the Library and enjoy the exhibition of *Codex*. They thus admired the Renaissance masterpieces on display in the Sistine Hall and the Vestibule of the Library, together with documents from the Library and related documents.

We thank our guests for their interest in our institution and look forward to meeting them again in the future.



## *The VASA group*

VASA (*Vatican Ambassadorial Spouses' Association*) is the association of the wives of ambassadors representing all countries accredited to the Holy See.

Founded in 2017 with the aim of creating opportunities for contact and acquaintance for the wives of diplomatic representatives, and in particular to provide them with a network of opportunities to get to know each other and share the common experience of living far from their own countries, it facilitates their integration into the reality of the city that welcomes them.

The wives and diplomats of 95 embassies resident in Rome are represented in the association with their cultural diversity in an atmosphere of mutual support and fraternal friendship.

The association supports the diplomatic community accredited to the Holy See through conferences, meetings, and various initiatives. A large part of the association's activity is dedicated to supporting social initiatives, charitable projects, and volunteer work in institutions that collaborate with the Holy See.



A group of representatives from the association visited the Apostolic Library on the morning of June 3 to learn more about the institution that preserves the cultural roots of nations from every continent, and whose diplomatic action in the service of culture effectively represents the desire to welcome all those who carry out research in various disciplines. We extend our warmest greetings to them.



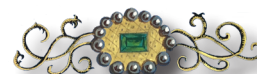
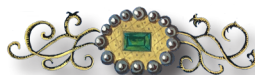
## Representatives of Uniapac meet in the Vatican Library

The Jubilee of Entrepreneurs was celebrated in Rome on May 4 and 5. Uniapac, an ecumenical organization of Christian business leaders present in 38 countries through their respective national associations, took part in the jubilee journey to the Holy Door with over 300 members from Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

On May 5, the Apostolic Library hosted a meeting between the president of Uniapac, Ms. Sigrid Marz, and a large delegation from the association, with Sister Helen Alford, O.P., bursar and dean of Social Sciences at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.



Uniapac was founded in 1931, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, which inspired it, on the initiative of Catholic entrepreneurs from several European countries, and later included other countries in Europe, United States and Latin America. In 1962, it became an ecumenical association and took the name International Christian Union of Business Executives, while retaining its original initials (Union Internationale des Associations Patronales Catholiques). It promotes entrepreneurial activity based on respect for the dignity of the person and the sense of the common good.



### "An innovator in tradition"



The proceedings of the study day dedicated to Father Leonard Eugene Boyle, O.P., Prefect of the Vatican Library from 1984 to 1997, have recently been published.

The volume contains ten contributions, nine of which were presented during the study day on November 13, 2023, by *confrères*, colleagues, students, and employees of the Vatican Library who knew him well.

"The common thread linking the speakers' presentations was the humanity of Father Boyle, reminiscent of the Benedictine motto: *omnis ei exhibeatur humanitas* (RB 53, 9), which dedicates all attention inspired by a sense of fraternal humanity to the guest."

On this occasion, some aspects of the life and character of a man who proved to be unique were explored and shared. He "left a deep mark on many of those he met during his life, and on those with whom he collaborated during his thirteen years at the Library, from the most brilliant scholars to the most humble people, who approached him for the most diverse reasons, and whom he always welcomed and encouraged in equal measure."

In dutiful homage, with deep affection.

## On the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea



The first ecumenical council in Nicaea, in Asia Minor, in present-day Turkey, was convened by Emperor Constantine in 325. Thanks to the bureaucratic administration of the empire, 318 bishops were able to attend and were guests of the emperor. Most of the prelates came from the eastern regions of the empire. The sessions were probably presided over by Osio, bishop of Cordoba. Pope Sylvester I was unable to attend and was hence represented by the two Roman presbyters Victor and Vincent.

The initiative was taken to resolve the controversial theological issue that in the early centuries of Christianity involved the identity of Jesus of Nazareth; the question was whether he, as the Son of God, was God like the Father, or whether he was inferior to the Father and therefore a creature like any other, albeit an excellent one. Arius, a priest from Alexandria in the 4th century, systematically denied the divinity of Christ in order to safeguard the uniqueness of God. This doctrine was called Arianism, after its propagator.

The Council condemned Arius' doctrine as heretical, declaring that for the Christian faith, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and equal to the Father in divinity. In addition, the Fathers of Nicaea fixed the date of Easter, the most important of the Christian feasts, setting it on the first Sunday after the full moon following the spring equinox. The Council thus ended the calendar differences between the Christian Churches.

This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Council that established the fundamental doctrine of the Christian Churches, the mystery concerning the intimate constitution of God.

Here we show a representation of the Council in one of the frescoes on the north side of the Sistine Chapel, painted, like seven other Eastern Councils (the last being the Fourth Council of Constantinople), in 1588-1589, to evoke the faith and doctrine of the Church. On the opposite side of the Hall, overlooking the Belvedere Courtyard, several libraries of the ancient world are depicted as symbolic places for the preservation of human cultures.

In the fresco of the Council of Nicaea, the representatives of the Church are depicted beginning with the pope, whose presence is symbolic since he was unable to attend. Emperor Constantine has been represented in the foreground to emphasize the role he played in organizing the Council.

On the right is Arius in a white tunic while he listens to the deacon pronouncing his sentence. His books will be burned *ex decreto concilii*. The presence of God and Jesus above in glory suggests the dogma of the consubstantiality of the two persons of the Trinity. In the centre a book on a throne, the Bible, the reference source on every question regarding faith and doctrine.

The figure in Eastern dress depicted in the foreground on the right is Spyridon, bishop of Trimitunte, Cyprus, who is especially venerated in the countries of the Byzantine empire. According to tradition, he participated in the Council and supported the thesis of Christ's equality with God. Hagiographic texts recount that he performed a miracle there. Holding a brick in his hand, he broke it into three elements, fire, water, and earth, thus demonstrating the authenticity of the teaching on the unity of substance despite the distinction between the three persons.



## *The poetry corner*

### *The Arrow and the Song*

*I shot an arrow in the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight  
Could not follow in its flight.*

*I breathed a song into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For who has the sight so keen and strong,  
That it can follow the flight of song?*

*Long, long afterward, in an oak  
I found the arrow, still unbroke;  
And the song, from beginning to end.  
I found again in the heart of a friend.*

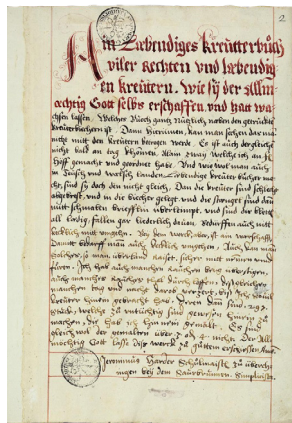
*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1807-1882*



*Have the courage to say no. Have the courage to face the truth.  
Do the right thing because it is right. These are the magic keys  
to living your life with integrity.*

*William Clement Stone, 1902-2002*

## The Palatine "herbarium vivum" manuscript



Pal. lat. 1276, ff. 2r, 4r, 14v, 81v, 101v, 127v

The collections of the Vatican Library represent all kinds of human knowledge in its variety and complexity, include herbariums. Medicinal plants have been studied since ancient times, while their characteristics have been described in collections that depicted the plants and listed their properties.

The herbariums that have come down to us contain painted images of plants, their names in Latin and in the language of the countries where they were made, and their pharmacological properties. From the 11th century onwards, they have also featured human figures to illustrate the virtues of plants. Botany became an autonomous science in the 17th century and was no longer solely at the service of medicine.

Among the ancient herbariums preserved, there are several "living" ones (*herbaria viva*); that is to say, with real plants, pressed and glued onto the pages. This was done in an effort to achieve greater scientific authenticity over that given by reproductions. The parts of the plants that could not be included in a book, such as fruits or roots, were drawn or painted. The best-known *herbarium vivum* preserved in the Vatican Library is that created by Hieronymus Harder, *Ein lebendiges Kreuterbuch.*, that he completed in 1574. The codex is part of the Palatine Collection in Heidelberg, the library of the Prince-Elector of the Palatinate, which was donated to Gregory XV by Prince Maximilian of Bavaria after the conquest of the region. Arriving to the Library in 1623, the volume bears the signature [Pal. lat. 1276](#). It was perhaps prepared on commission for the Elector of the Palatinate, who at the time of the work's completion was Frederick III.

Born in southern Germany, in Meersburg, in 1523, Harder was a Latin teacher and a passionate botanist. He called himself a "simplicist" (medical herbalist), an expert in the use of herbs and medicinal drugs. Thanks to his long and painstaking research, he was able to produce several living herbariums. His work is characterized by a meticulous arrangement and description of the individual plants for the highest scientific accuracy. The names and indices of the plants are provided in Latin and German. His aim was to create useful tools for the community. In the introduction to the work, he expressed his hope that "God may allow this work to help do good things. Amen."





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*and*



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- Gabriele Veneri



*In this, my last issue of OWL, I would like to thank and say goodbye to  
all our readers. It has been wonderful to share with you so many little stories,  
pieces of information, curiosities, and images from our Apostolic Library.  
With kind regards,  
Luigina Orlandi*