President's Message

IS COMING TO PITTSBURGH



hanks to support from Bishop David Zubik, Father Ron Lengwin, and the Diocese of Pittsburgh who made the initial request to the Vatican—the History Center is one of only three venues in North America to host this extraordinary exhibition.

Presented by Federated Investors, Inc. and UPMC, Vatican Splendors provides visitors with a rare opportunity to see nearly 200 pieces of artwork and historical objects from the Vatican Museums, one of the world's greatest collections.

The assemblage of Vatican artifacts is simply astonishing.

Original works by Michelangelo, as well as a first-generation cast of the Pietà from St. Peter's Basilica—the original is behind bulletproof glass in Rome-will be shown alongside signed documents and personal objects he used in work on the Sistine Chapel.

Visitors will flock to the 17th century works by Bernini, including carved, gilded angels and a baroque urn depicting the Last Supper from the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

Historical objects from the modern and ancient basilicas of Saint Peter's in Rome are featured along with four of the surviving Papal portraits created at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside-the-Walls in the 13th century, and archeological objects discovered at the tombs of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

Some items in the Vatican Splendors exhibition have never been seen by the public, such as Guercino's c. 1650 Portrait of Christ with Crown of Thorns, a painting whose realistic, powerful image of Christ inspired many other works. Others, such as a reliquary containing the remains of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, have never traveled outside the Vatican walls.

Visitors will also be able to touch a bronze cast of the hand of Pope John Paul II, which will be exhibited alongside a sheet of his handwritten poetry.

Portrait of a Cherub. Giacomo Zoboli. 1742 - 1748. oil on canvas.

The Reverenda Fabbrica of Saint Peter Vatican City State

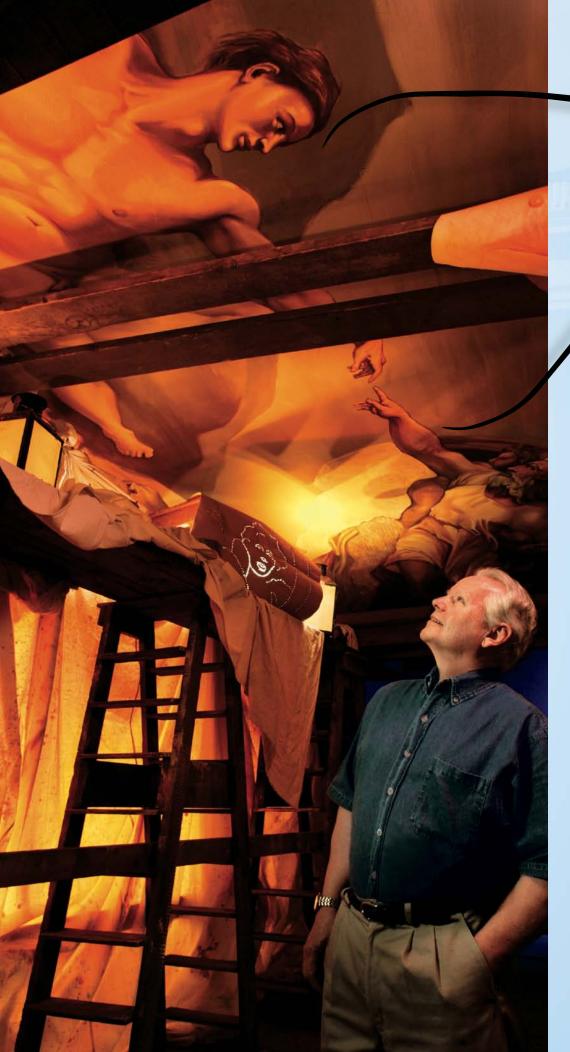


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Caliper of Michelangelo Buonarroti. 16th century, iron.

The Reverenda Fabbrica of Saint Peter, Vatican City State.

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This recreated environment takes visitors onto the scaffolding near the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel to explore how Michelangelo painted his famous frescoes.

Photo © 2010 Vatican Splendors.

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