



PAVM

Patrons of the Arts in the  
Vatican Museums



Fr. Michael Collins is a priest of the Archdiocese of Dublin, Ireland and has taught history and culture in a number of universities in Rome. A best selling author, Fr. Michael has written and edited 15 award-winning books which have

been translated into 12 languages. He has been featured on various international TV channels, including Fox News, CNN, NBCSN, SKY, as well as appearing on 60 Minutes. Fr. Michael is a regular guest at literary events, including the Oxford Literary Festival, the Spencer Althorp Festival and the Blenheim Palace Festival.

Fr. Michael Collins' latest beautifully illustrated book, *Raphael's World*, published to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the artist's death, explains the fascinating events which took place during Raphael's lifetime.

[www.fathermichaelcollins.com](http://www.fathermichaelcollins.com)

Join the Patrons with their families and friends in a four-part lecture series tracing the development of Christian Art in Rome: Two Thousand Years of Beauty and Devotion for the series as a whole offered by the popes to some of the greatest artists of the Renaissance. During these virtual tours, we descend to the underground chambers of the Roman catacombs, visit the archaeological sites underneath St. Peter's Basilica and enter the Apostolic Palace.

### Lecture 1.

#### The Art of the Catacombs—Light from the Shadows

Where did Christian art begin? There is no start date, but Christians slowly adapted the techniques and materials used for centuries by the Greeks and Romans. From hesitant beginnings, Christian art developed over centuries to dominate Western Civilization. We descend into the Roman catacombs to see where the early Christians were buried and admire their sarcophagi and frescoed chapels decorated with scenes from the Bible. The early Christians lived in a time of imperial persecution and uncertainty and their arts can inspire us and provide us with hope today.

### Lecture 2.

#### The Tomb of Peter—The Search for Peter in Rome

For close on two millennia, people have honored the presumed burial place of the Apostle Peter at the Vatican. But did Peter ever visit Rome and did he die during the persecution of the Emperor Nero? Our visit begins under the present-day basilica where we see the aedicule where tradition claims Peter was buried beside the Circus of Caligula and Nero. We see the remains of the first basilica built by the emperor Constantine in the first half of the 4th century. We also visit the underground excavations of Santa Rosa underneath the Vatican.

### Lecture 3.

#### St. Peter's Basilica—From the Elegance of the Renaissance to the Explosion of the Baroque

When the 4th century Basilica of St. Peter was demolished in the early 16th century, seven architects worked on the new building, which took 120 years to complete. Fr. Michael brings us on a fascinating visit to the upper basilica, pausing at the tomb of St. Peter, Altar of the Chair, Michaelangelo's *Pieta*, the cupola as well as other hidden gems. We visit the Treasury of the Basilica and the piazza designed by Bernini "to embrace the world."

### Lecture 4.

#### The Banker's Son and the Most Unfortunate Pope—Raphael's Great Patrons

In this centenary year of Raphael's death we acknowledge the contribution of Pope Leo X and Clement VII. Both were cousins, members of the Medici family.

Leo, son of Lorenzo the Magnificent, was an important patron of the arts at the Vatican, while Clement VII was a generous patron of Raphael.

The lecture introduces the patrons and their friends to these extraordinary and contrasting churchmen whose reigns moved from luxurious excess to the dramatic challenge of the Reformation and the destruction of much artistic heritage.

[Click here to register in advance for this webinar](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

- Jun 6, 2020 - 1:00 PM, PST
- Jun 13, 2020 - 1:00 PM, PST
- Jun 20, 2020 - 1:00 PM, PST
- Jun 27, 2020 - 1:00 PM, PST

*This lecture series is co-sponsored by the California and New York Chapters.*