TOUR ITINERARY







Pontifical Academy for Life VATICAN MUSEUMS



Art and the Beauty of Human Relationships

October 6, 2017 - January 5, 2018

Accompanying Life

Vatican Museums, V - 00120 Vatican City State

We were fooling ourselves when we thought that the question of life could be answered simply by increasing our reliance on ever more efficient and pervasively present technology. In fact our humanity unfolds fully only in relationships that form us, accompany us, care for us and save us. Life is not something abstract: it is the concreteness of generations, the gratuity of giving and receiving, the good news of doing things together. The myth of a technology that is able to answer every question produces only individuals who accept no obligations, who are only apparently free but in reality hopelessly alone.

This exhibit, sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life and organized by the Vatican Museums, offers visitors the opportunity to contemplate the beauty of human relationships, especially those in which the different generations support each other in their day-to-day life and labors. It is a parade of faces and stories that come out meet us, filled with compassion, wisdom, and humanity, enriched by artistic presentations curated by the Vatican Museums and by commentaries written by several Members of the Academy for Life from around the world: great scientists and eminent scholars who present from their qualified perspective the beauty of taking care of each other. I wish all of you an enjoyable visit!

> + Vincenzo Paglia President of the Pontifical Academy for Life

Contemplation of a work of art creates an immediate relationship between what is seen and the emotions. Beauty moves us and arouses in us many different feelings. For this reason, I believe that art is truly the natural expression of what is human, and of our dialogue with all that surrounds us. It can never leave us indifferent.

That is why the Vatican Museums welcomed enthusiastically the unique proposal made by the Pontifical Academy for Life, and have cooperated in the creation of a specific new tour within the Museums. We have chosen a core group of works that reflect the temporal flow of our collections, giving special consideration to the several papal contributions, from Greek and Roman statuary, through Raphael, Guido Reni and Domenichino, to the artists of today. These works of art will lead the visitor to realize that art knows how to be a true and, perhaps, matchless interpreter of that desire of every heart: to feel, not alone, but rather part of an unbroken web of human relationships. These are relationships that preserve the lives of every individual, making them feel loved, and reminding us of our duty to care for one another in our common destiny, care that is the mark of a life that is truly worth living.

> Barbara Jatta Director of the Vatican Museums



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