Saint Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes
Map of the Vatican City
Important Dates Regarding the Exhibit

- **64-67** Execution of Saints Peter and Paul
- **160 (ca.)** First tomb-shrine of Saint Peter (Trophy of Gaius)
- **313** Edict of Milan (legalizing Christianity)
- **312-318** Construction of lateran basilica (Our Savior)
- **319-350** Construction of Constantinian basilica of Saint Peter
  Consecration - 326
- **1123** New altar over Saint Peter’s tomb
- **1300** First Jubilee (Boniface VIII)
- **1474** Erection of new ciborium over the papal altar of St. Peter
- **1475** Opening of the Vatican Library
- **1483** Dedication of the Sistine Chapel
  1508-1512  Michelangelo (ceiling)
  1524-1541  Michelangelo (Last Judgment)
- **1503** Bramante to build new Saint Peter’s basilica
- **1508** Raphael Frescoes (apartments Julius II, Leo X)
- **1547** Michelangelo appointed chief architect of St. Peter’s basilica
- 1590  Completion of dome
- 1607  Façade of Saint Peter (Maderno, 1614)
- 1624  Bronze baldachino (papal altar, Bernini, 1633)
- 1626  Consecration of new basilica
- 1656  Saint Peter’s square and basilica apse (Bernini, 1633)
- 1771  Construction of Pio-Clementine Museum (1792)
  - Chiaramonti Museum (1805-22)
  - Gregorian Etruscan Museum (1837)
  - Transfer of Lateran Profane and Christian museum to Vatican (1963-70)
  - Opening of Vatican Collection of Modern Religious Art (1973)
  - Foundation of Vatican Historical Museum (1973)
- 1940  Excavation of the tomb of Saint Peter
The Exhibit

- Historical and documentary value (legacy of the Popes)
- Extensive (353 items)
- Varied
  - Religious artifacts (drawing, paintings, icons, sculptures)
  - Jewelry (rings, cameos, pectoral crosses)
  - Portraits of popes (paintings, sculptures, frescoes, mosaics)
  - Documents (letters, decrees, maps, seals)
Two Symbols

1) Tomb of Peter
   - Proximity of Nero’s Circus, open-air pagan recropolis
   - Rich mausolea
   - Grave of apostle:
     - simple
     - Small funary monument
   - Trophy of Gaius (200)
   - Constantine marble edifice (~380)
   - Pope Callixtus built altar (1123)
   - Pope Clement VIII cibarium (1594)
   - Baldachino Of Bernini (1624)
   - Excavation of Tomb of Saint Peter (1940)

2) Obelisk
   - Center of square
   - 25.31 meters, base 8.25 m
   - Single block of red granite
   - 330 tons
   - Known since 40 AD (Egypt, Caligula)
   - 1586 (April 30-September 26), Sixtus V (Domenica Fontana)
   - 907 men, 75 horses, 40 winches
   - Sphere replaced with cross (relics)
Three Characteristics

1. Through the Ages
   From Saint Peter’s Tomb to Michelangelo’s dome
2. Heaven and Earth

F. Podesti, Proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1870)
3. From Now to Eternity

C. Bonanotte. Waiting in Hope
Bronze, 2000
Pope

* **Pope** = Pappas (Greek) – Papa (Latin) = Father

* **Titles** = Vicar of Christ
  
  Bishop of Rome

  Pontifex Maximus

  Servant of Servants of God

* **Names** (list) = 302 (including anti-popes)
  
  John Paul II 263 pope

* **Peter** martyr between 64-67
  
  Mt. 16.16-19

* **1800-2004**: 15 popes
  
  Pius VII → John Paul II
Papal Insignia

Tiara (4th): Phrygian origin (miter also)
  - Triregnum - Father of emperors/kings
  - Rector Mundi
  - Vicar of Jesus Christ

Three Forms of Church (militant, suffering, triumphant)

Pallium: Philosopher’s mantle
  “pallia discoloria”: insignia of imperial officials (382)
Insignia of archbishops (9th)
Woolen stole, circular, 6 crosses

Cathedra: see of bishop, situated in apse
  Symbol of pastor and teacher
  “Chair of Moses” (Mt. 23:2)
Signifies office of bishop (2nd c.)
**Anulus Piscatoris** (14th): Name of Pope
- Image of Peter (as fisherman)
- Papal Seal (until 1843)
- “datum sub anulo piscatoris”

**Staff (ferula)** Vertical end (not crosier)
- Ends in crucifix
- Identifies Vicar of Christ
- Highlights missionary and pastoral activities

**Keys** – Double Keys (crossed)
- Mt. 16:19: “I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven”
- Two keys signifying “binding and loosing” in heaven and on earth
- Interpreted also as spiritual and secular authority
How to Visit the Vatican Exhibit

1. General Impressions
   - Long tradition
   - Wide-spanned relations
   - Rich heritage
   - Sacred and secular

2. Following the “red thread” (1-353)
   - 11 sections
   - Historical development from Saint Peter to the 3rd millennium
   - Spirit in “earthen vessels”

3. Concentration on a special theme
   - Liturgical vestments (through the ages)
   - The Vatican and Religious Dialogue (special section)

4. Detailed “study” of specific artifacts
   - Bernini Apostles (attributes)
   - Early witnesses (sarcophagus, frescoes)
   - Representations of Jesus Christ
1. Saint Peter, the Popes, and the Vatican
Vatican

- A hill (mons Vaticanus; near right bank of Tiber)
- Residential area (Roman nobles)
- Circus of Caligula, Nero
- Pre-Christian necropolis (Mausolea)
- Tomb of Saint Peter
- Constantinian Basilica (318-350)
- New Renaissance Basilica (1503-1626)
- Vatican City State (since 1929) (0.44 km²)
Twelve Apostles

(17th c. Bernini)
Christ Bearing the Cross
2. The Tomb of Peter
Peter and Paul executed in Rome (64-67)

- Paul beheaded
- Peter crucified, upside down (Origen, Jerome)

Tradition dating to 160

- graffiti, coins, relics
- Excavation 1940 (Pius XII)
Reproduction of the Tomb of Saint Peter (20th c.)
Glass Medallion of St. Peter & St. Paul (2nd half of the 4th c.)
Plan of the Vatican (1694)
Frontal of Sarcophagus
(early 4th c.)

Good Shepherd and four seasons
(partia)
Oil Lamp with Bust of Saint Peter (~450)
3. The Basilica of Constantine
The Basilica of Constantine

- Constantine (315) put Christian doctrine, discipline at the foundation of the union of the Roman empire.

- Constantine initials basilica, Pope Sylvester completes the construction

- Decoration of Peter’s tomb with lamps of gold and silver, and a gold cross (Helena)

- Bishop of Rome responsible for the custody of the universal church (Siricius, ~390)
Saint Peter (fresco of the 6th c.)
Pope Saint Siricius (6th c. Fresco)
North-South Section of the Old Basilica (1684)
Crucifixion of Saint Peter from the Ciborium of Sixtus (15th; cast 20th)
The Mandylion of Edessa
(3rd to 5th c.)
Six Statues of Angels (17th c.) with instruments of the Passion (Bernini)
Mosaic Fragment of St. Paul (c. 799)
Gregory the Great Reliquary (1883)
Christ Pantocrator, Peter, Paul (end 14th century)
Model of the Old Basilica (2002, Wood)
4. **The Renaissance Basilica**
Julius II, March 1505, initiates construction of new basilica (Bramante)

- “To surpass all the other churches in magnificence and splendor” (1513)

- Built on demolished Constantine basilica

- Form of Latin Cross (2.4.1614)

- 160 years passed since initial idea (26 popes) Largest church in the world (186.68 meters)
Facade of the New Basilica of Saint Peter (1620)
Sectional View of the New Basilica (17\textsuperscript{th} c.)
Charity with Four Putti (1627/28) terracotta
Elevation and Plan for Wall Tombs

Michelangelo

1526
Erection of the Vatican Obelisk (1694)
5. **Sistine Chapel and the Election of the Pope**
- Pontificate begins in Sistine Chapel (voting)

- Four votes a day (2 in the morning; 2 in the afternoon)

- Smoke signal after each ballot (black smoke; white smoke)

- After election, new pope receives obedience of cardinal electors.

- White cassock

- Proceeds to central balcony for benediction: urbi et orbi
Twelve Portrait s of Popes (21st c.)

New door for Vatican Museums
Ceremonial Hammer (20th c.)
Chalice, Paten for Election of Pope
Cylinders for the Stove Used in a Papal Conclave
Sic Transit Gloria Mundi (20th c.)
Papal Tiara of Pope Leo XIII
Pallium and Fibulae of Pope John Paul II
Ivory Crosier of Pius IX
Mantle of Pope Saint Pius X
6. Papal Liturgical Celebrations
- Central importance of divine worship

- Liturgy is summit of christian life

- Sacred objects conserved in Pontifical sacristy

- Belong to the last two centuries

- Some no longer used (tiara, sedia gestatoria)
Sedia
Gestatoria
(early 19th c.)
Stole of Pope Leo XIII (end of 19\textsuperscript{th} c.)
Cope of Pius IX
Papal Tiara of Pope Pius VII (1820)
Chasuble, Alb (stole) of Pope Pius XI (20th c.)
Miter of Pope Pius XI (1929)
Papal Shoes of Blessed John XXIII
Pax of Pope Leo XIII (19th c.)
7. Teaching Activities of the Popes
- Church entrusted to Peter; pope successor of apostles

- Symbol of teaching activity: Cathedra (see) in apse of basilica (Bernini, 1658-1666). Bronze Cathedra contains rests of Peter’s bench (legend)

- Teaching by Apostolic Constitutions (general, permanent) and Encyclical letters (on specific matters, general)
The Cathedra of St. Peter (replica, 20th c.)
Processional Cross of Pope Pius IX (1863)
Lead Seal of Sixtus V (1585-90)
Chirograph of Pope Saint Pius X (1911)
8. The Papacy and the Missionary Activity of the Church
“Go out to the whole world” (Mt. 16:16): proclamation of the gospel to the whole world.

- From Jerusalem to the farthest corners (Pentecost; activities of the apostles)
  - Eastern Mediterranean (Paul)
  - Roman Empire (Constantine)
  - North-Western Europe (Gregory I)
  - New Territories (Columbus, Alexander VI)
  - 19th c. missionary activities
  - 20th c. religious dialogue

- Rare documents from the archives of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith (Gregory XV, 1662)
Reliquary of St. Francis Xavier (20th c.)
Letter in Greek Requesting the Pope’s Help Against the Turks (1672)
Saint Joseph
(Paraguay, end 17th c.)
- Pope John Paul II: “Journeys of dialogue”

- Dialogue with Christian and non-Christian religions

- Day of Forgiveness (12 March, 2000) for sins of past and present.
Document Granting Freedom of Belief by Bezarar Great Lama of Tibet (1741)
Christianized Tablet Honoring Deceased Forebears (1718)
Inuk Man (Canada, 20th c.)
10. Popes of the Modern Era
- Fifteen popes from 1800 to 2004
  - Pius IX (1846-78)
  - John Paul I (September, 1978)

- From monarchic to pastoral papacy

- Openness to the world (Rerum Novarum to Gaudium et spes)

Pius VII
(1814)
Pastoral Staff with Scepter of Pope Pius IX (1877)
Pope Pius XII (1962)
Portrait of Pope John XXIII (1962)
Pope Paul VI (1965)
11. Into the Third Millennium
Pastoral Staff of Pope Paul VI and John Paul II
Hammer and Trowel for the Holy Year of 1975
Holy Door Coffer (1983)