

# Vatican Art Collections Subject of TV Program

**By Henry Herx**  
**New York (NC)** — After exhibitions in New York and Chicago, the art treasures from the Vatican museums are now on view in San Francisco, the last stop in their year-long tour of the United States before returning to Rome.

For the millions of Americans who did not have the opportunity to visit the exhibit, a 30-minute documentary on it, "Lift Up Your Heart," is currently being syndicated to television stations around the country.

The program introduces the exhibit with a short history telling how the Vatican art collections began and developed over the centuries.

It also provides the 1982 announcement of this unprecedented tour of 237 works selected from "the patrimony of art preserved in the Vatican." In that statement, Pope John Paul II extols the importance of art, particularly in its ability "to uplift the human spirit to the uncreated source of all beauty."

The documentary was filmed in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art where the Vatican collections were displayed in five sections, beginning with early Christian art and ending with the collection of modern religious art initiated in 1973.

Guiding viewers through the many splendors of this exhibit is Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan Museum.

It's a short tour but a full one during which Montebello singles out various artworks for detailed appreciation, but always within the context of the exhibit and how they relate to what he calls "the dialogue between the papacy and art." What is most impressive is that he is as much at ease in explaining Chris-

tian iconography as he is in discussing the masterpieces of art history represented in the exhibit.

For instance, the Apollo Belvedere of classical antiquity is seen as an example of the Vatican's vital role in preserving the art of the past. Other aspects of papal patronage include the commissioning of religious art, one of many examples being Raphael's magnificent wall tapestry, "The Miraculous Draft of Fishes," and its importance as a major collector of such religious works as Leonardo's unfinished portrait of St. Jerome.

The exhibit is a very rich visual experience, a cultural event that is also deeply spiritual. Part of the reason this television tour proves so successful is Montebello's commentary, which is as enthusiastic as it is knowledgeable. In communicating his own pleasure in these works of art, he helps us to share in their joy, in their ability "to uplift the human

spirit." The program's title is indeed an apt one.

Montebello mentions the fact that the U.S. tour of the Vatican exhibit was sponsored by Philip Morris Inc. through a \$3 million grant — "the largest corporate donation ever for an art exhibit." Part of those funds were used to renovate and restore some of the works which went on tour so that Americans could see them in their best possible condition.

It should also be pointed out that Philip Morris produced this film record of the Vatican exhibition, thereby making it possible to be shared by the public living in other areas of the country. There is also a 10-minute version of the film that has been released for showing as a short subject in movie theaters. The commitment of Philip Morris to the Vatican tour is a landmark in corporate support for the arts. It deserves public recognition and appreciation.



## Holy Year Pilgrims

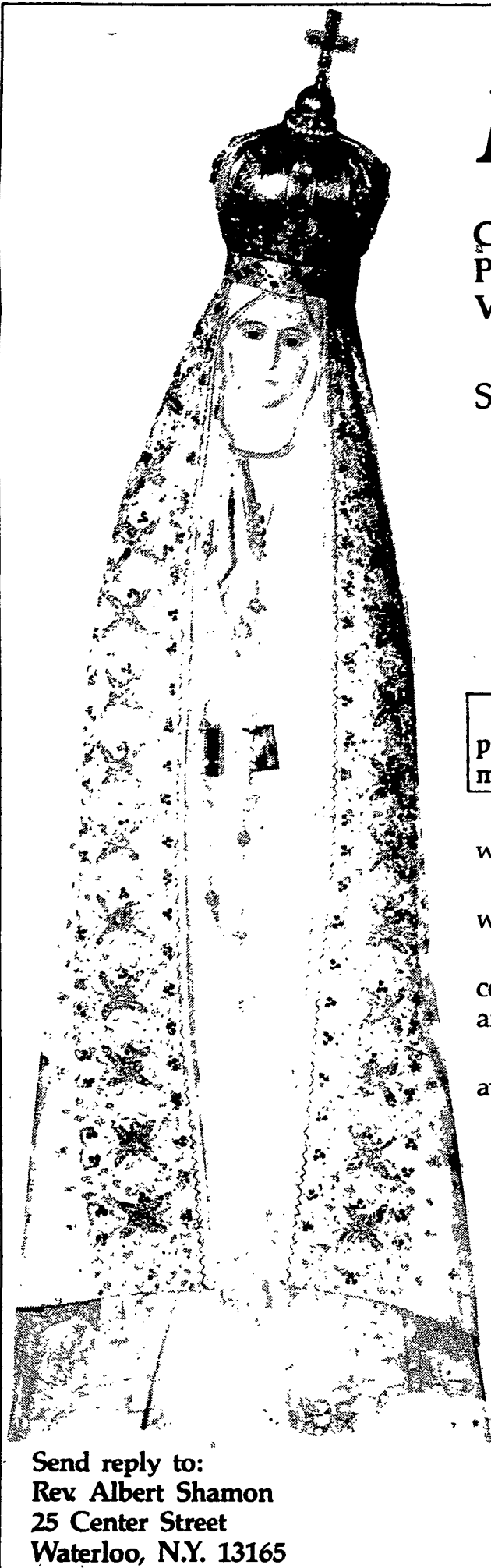
Members of the St. Thomas the Apostle Holy Year pilgrimage group stand outside the Basilica of St. Mary Major after Mass on Oct. 8. Celebrants of the Mass, vested in foreground, were Father Jay F. Walsh, CSB, associate pastor of Christ the King Church, and Msgr. Richard K. Burns, pastor emeritus of St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

### Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

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# U.S. National Pilgrim Virgin Statue

It is with great joy that we announce that Bishop Clark has graciously authorized that the U.S. National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady, blessed by Pope Paul VI, visit our diocese in April of 1984.

This will be the second visit of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue to our diocese.

The purpose of the visitation is 3 fold:

1. CONVERSION OF RUSSIA
2. WORLD PEACE
2. CONSECRATION OF EACH PARISH TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY THROUGH THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS.

In order to work out a schedule, we need to know which parishes are interested in having the statue for veneration. We will make out a schedule as soon as we hear from you.

The schedule will be based on a selection of about 15 parishes which are most centrally located.

Mr. Alfred Williams, the custodian of the statue, and Fr. Shamon will accompany the statue to each parish.

No financial obligation is attached to this visitation. However, one collection is generally taken up, one half of which goes to the parish and other half to the custodian for expenses

Religious articles, such as rosaries, scapulars, and leaflets, will be available at no charge, although donations will be accepted.

*God's Blessing,*  
 Fr. Albert Shamon

Please schedule our parish for the U.S. NATIONAL PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE.

PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PASTOR'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  One Evening  Overnight Vigil

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