



**Dr. Francesco Buranelli**  
**Director of the Vatican Museums**

Dr. Francesco Buranelli is the General Director of the Vatican Museums, a position to which he was appointed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Dr. Buranelli is a native of Rome and holds a degree with honors in Etruscology and Italic Antiquities and a doctoral degree in Archeology, both from the University of Rome La Sapienza. His doctoral research was published in Rome in 1992 and is entitled *The Excavations at Vulci by the Society Vincenzo Campanari – Pontifical Government (1835-1837)*.

Dr. Buranelli began his working career as a research assistant at the Center of Etruscology and Italic Antiquities at the National Center for Research. Shortly thereafter he became a scientific collaborator at the Department of Etruscan Italic Antiquities of the Vatican Museums, and in 1983 he was hired as an assistant at the department. He spent a short time in 1989 as a visiting professor at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, where he taught a course in Etruscology. Later that year he was promoted to Inspector of the Department of Etruscan Italic Antiquities and then in 1993 was again promoted, this time to serve as the department's director. Several years later, in 1996, the Holy Father appointed Dr.

Buranelli to serve as Acting General Director of the Monuments, Museums, and Pontifical Galleries and then in 2002 appointed him as General Director.

Dr. Buranelli's career with the Vatican Museums has been marked by a number of significant accomplishments. During his time with the Department of Etruscan Italic Antiquities, he organized the exhibition "La Tomba Francois di Vulci" at the Etruscan Museum to help mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding by Pope Gregory XVI and also oversaw acquisition of the archeological collection "Giacinto Guglielmi," comprised of around 400 works of Etruscan, Greek, and Roman art. He organized and inaugurated the restructuring of the First, Second, and Third Sections of the Etruscan Museum (1992, 1994, and 1996, respectively), and in 1992 he developed the traveling exhibition "The Etruscans – Legacy of a Lost Civilization from the Vatican Museums," which was featured in the United States cities of Memphis, Dallas, Provo, and Morristown. On February 7, 2000, he presented His Holiness Pope John Paul II with the new entrance to the Vatican Museums and later that year was awarded the Premio Rotondi for the Saviors of Art for Europe, which recognized his pursuit of restorations in the Sistine Chapel.

Dr. Buranelli holds a numerous memberships with Etruscan and archeological institutes, and he has represented the Vatican on a number of scientific exhibition committees. He was an appointed member of the Artistic-Cultural Commission for the Great Jubilee in the Year 2000 and held a five-year appointment as a member of the Permanent Commission for the Care of Historical and Artistic Monuments of the Holy See. He represented the Holy See at the Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA) and at the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). He is a member of the Scientific Committee for the Bulletin of the Archeological Commission of the City of Rome and an appointed member of the Pontifical Roman Academy of Archeology. In 2003 he also became the coordinator of the Holy See for the UNESCO Convention.