

Bruges Madonna and Child

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On December 7, 2009, the American unveiling of the first cast bronze replica of the *Bruges Madonna and Child* by Michelangelo was held in Memorial Hall. The world debut of this bronze copy was held at the Casa Buonarroti Museum in Florence, Italy, in October, 2009.

This first authentic bronze replica is cast from the only existing plaster mold made in 1932 by the Fonderia Artistica Ferdinando Marinelli in Florence, the world-renowned bronze foundry and the only foundry permitted to take a mold of this masterpiece. The mold survived World War II hidden in a tunnel in Florence.

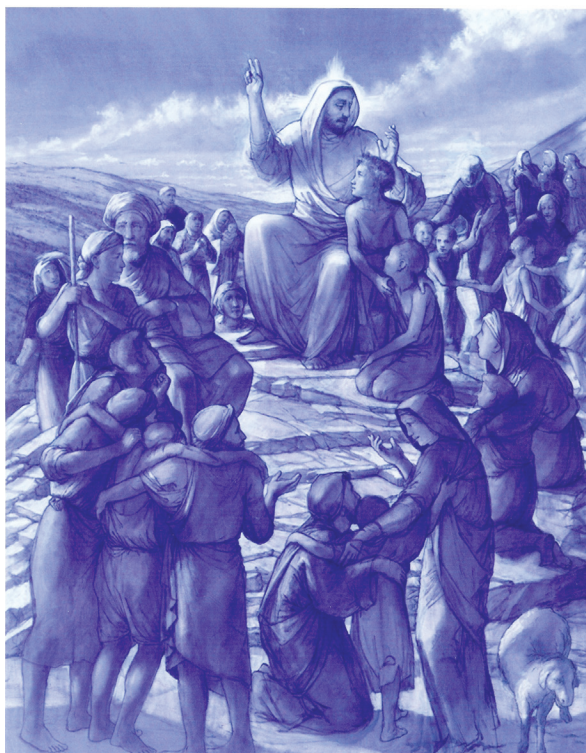
The only sculpture by Michelangelo to leave Italy during the Renaissance, the history of the original marble masterpiece includes the intrigue of international politics. Purchased by a wealthy Flemish merchant in 1504, the statue was transported from Florence to Bruges, Belgium, in 1506. Seized by French Revolutionaries in 1794 and brought to Paris, it was returned to Bruges



The first cast bronze replica of the *Bruges Madonna and Child* by Michelangelo on display in Memorial Hall through April 7, 2010.

upon the defeat of Napoleon. In 1944, the statue was taken by the Nazis during World War II. Having been recovered it was returned to Bruges and now resides at the Church of Our Lady.

This first cast bronze replica will be on display in Memorial Hall at the Basilica of the National Shrine through April 7, 2010. ☛



From the *Picturing the Rosary* Exhibit: *The Proclamation of the Kingdom* by Anthony Visco.

Picturing the Rosary

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During the month of October 2009, the Basilica of the National Shrine hosted an exhibit sponsored by The Foundation for Sacred Art titled *Picturing the Rosary*. The twenty oil paintings by Anthony Visco of Philadelphia depicted the twenty mysteries of the rosary in the *azulejo* or the blue and white style of Lisbon, Portugal, reflecting the Marian message. These oil paintings were the cartoons for the porcelain tiles of the “Rosary Walk” at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, Wisconsin. ☛