

Renaissance Art in Rome

Giorgio Vasari: *rinascita*

- **Early Renaissance:** 1420-1500c
 - --1420: return of **papacy** (Martin V) to Rome from Avignon
- **High Renaissance:** 1500-1520/1527
 - -- 1503: Ascension of **Julius II** as Pope; arrival of **Bramante**, **Raphael** and **Michelangelo**; 1513: **Leo X** (Medici pope)
 - --1520: Death of Raphael; 1527 **Sack of Rome**
- **Late Renaissance** (Mannerism): 1520/27-1600
 - --1563: Last session of **Council of Trent** on sacred images

Renaissance in Rome--Political

- **Reunited Papacy in Rome**

- 1309-1377: Papacy moves to **Avignon**

- 1378-1417: **Great Schism** – two popes (Roman and French) and then three; efforts to solve Schism lead to

- 1409-1438: **Conciliar Movement** – alternative theory of Church government: highest authority is council of bishops not pope

- 1417: **Martin V** (Roman from Colonna family) is elected by Council of Constance

- 1420: Arrives in Rome—papal court re-established

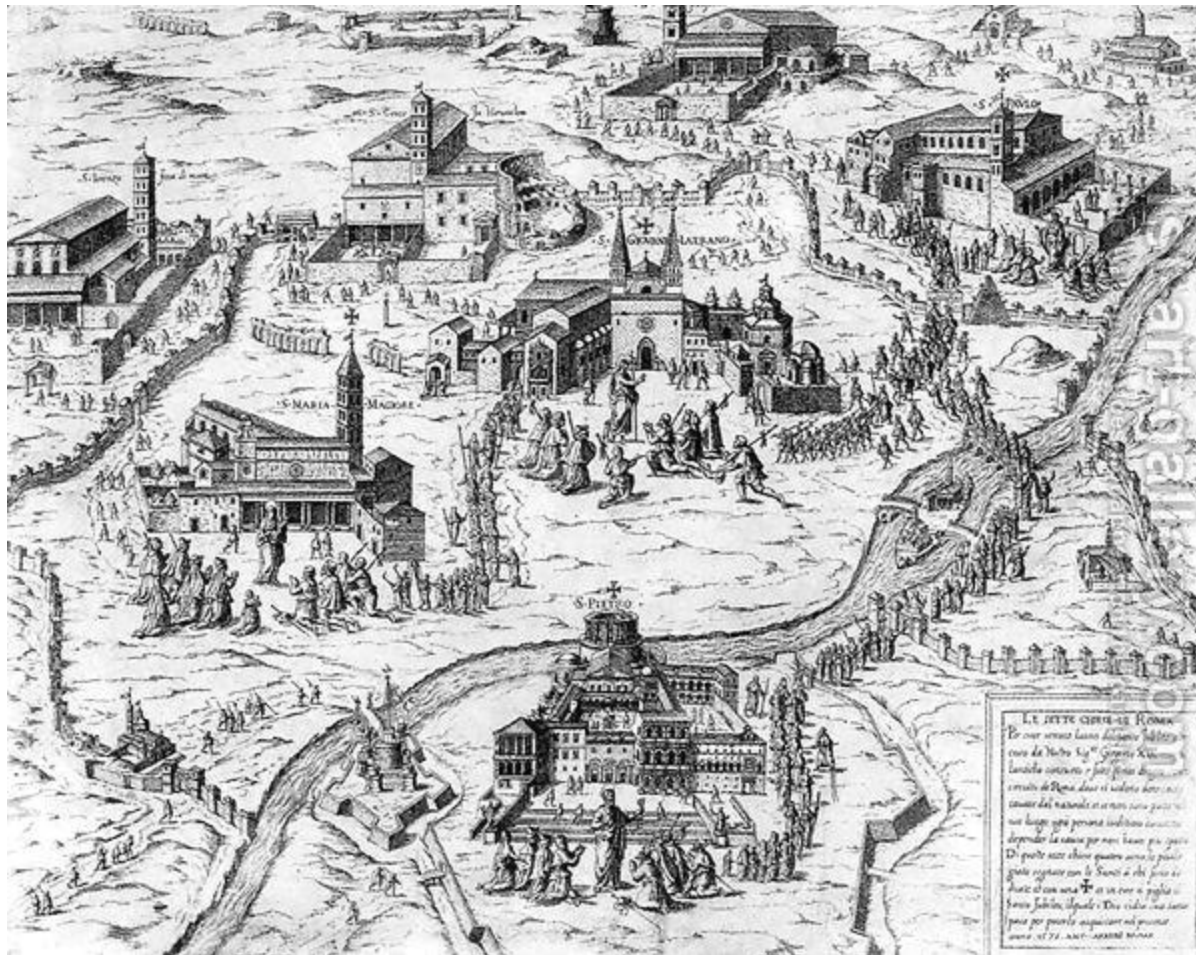
- Papalism vs. Conciliarism and emphasis by Popes of papal primacy / ***primatus Petri***

Rome in the Renaissance



Jubilee: Seven pilgrimage churches of Rome (Jubilee of 1575)

St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, Santa Maria Maggiore, St. Paul Outside the Walls, Santa Croce, St. Lawrence Outside the Wall, Santuario della Madonna del Divino Amore



Renaissance Palaces:

Palazzo Venezia, begun 1455



Palazzo della Cancelleria,
begun 1489



Palazzo della Cancelleria, interior courtyard



Palazzo Farnese, 1517-1589

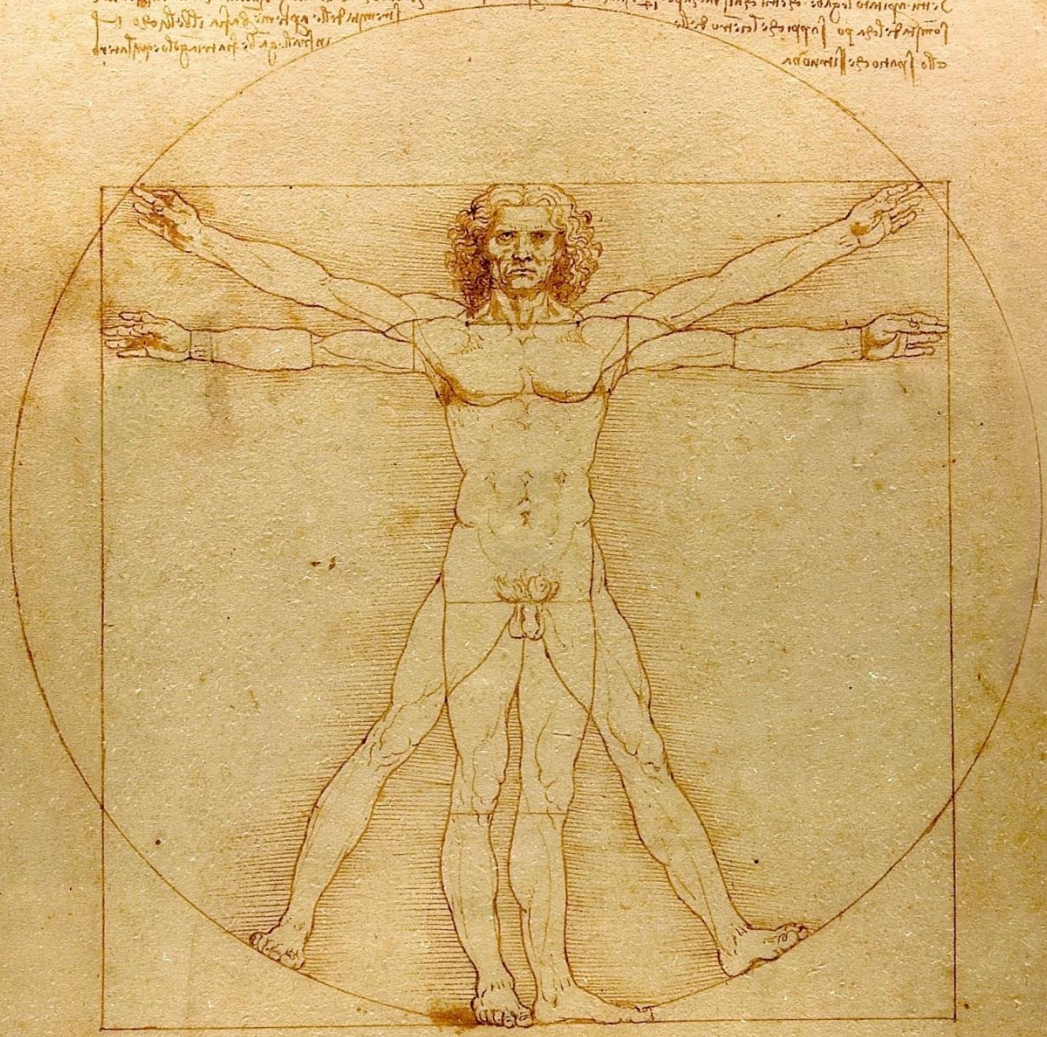


Renaissance Art in Rome--characteristics

- **Patronage** of popes and cardinals of humanists and **artists** from **Florence** and central/northern Italy
- **Religious art**: focus shifts from a **divine symbolism** to a **humanistic realism** —human centrality, measure and beauty
- **Recuperation of classical art** (going “ad fontes”)
 - Study of classical architecture, statuary and painting
 - recovery of **Vitruvius' *De architectura*** (1414—Poggio Bracciolini)
- Application of **mathematics** to art/architecture: elaboration of **single point perspective**
 - Filippo Brunelleschi 1414 (rules of mathematical perspective)
 - L. B. Alberti-- *Della pittura* (1432): “vision makes a triangle, and from this it is clear that a very distant quality seems no larger than a point.”
- **Status of artist** changes from artisan (mechanical arts) to intellectual (liberal arts: math, theory, design); rise of **individual genius**

A

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Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a mix of Italian and Leonardo's mirror-image script, located below the drawing.

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B

Leonardo Da Vinci,
Vitruvian Man
(1485 c)

man as the measure

mathematical ordering
of our observations of
the physical world

San Clemente, Rome: from divine symbolism to human realism



San Clemente, Rome, **mosaic**, c. 1120
divine symbolism



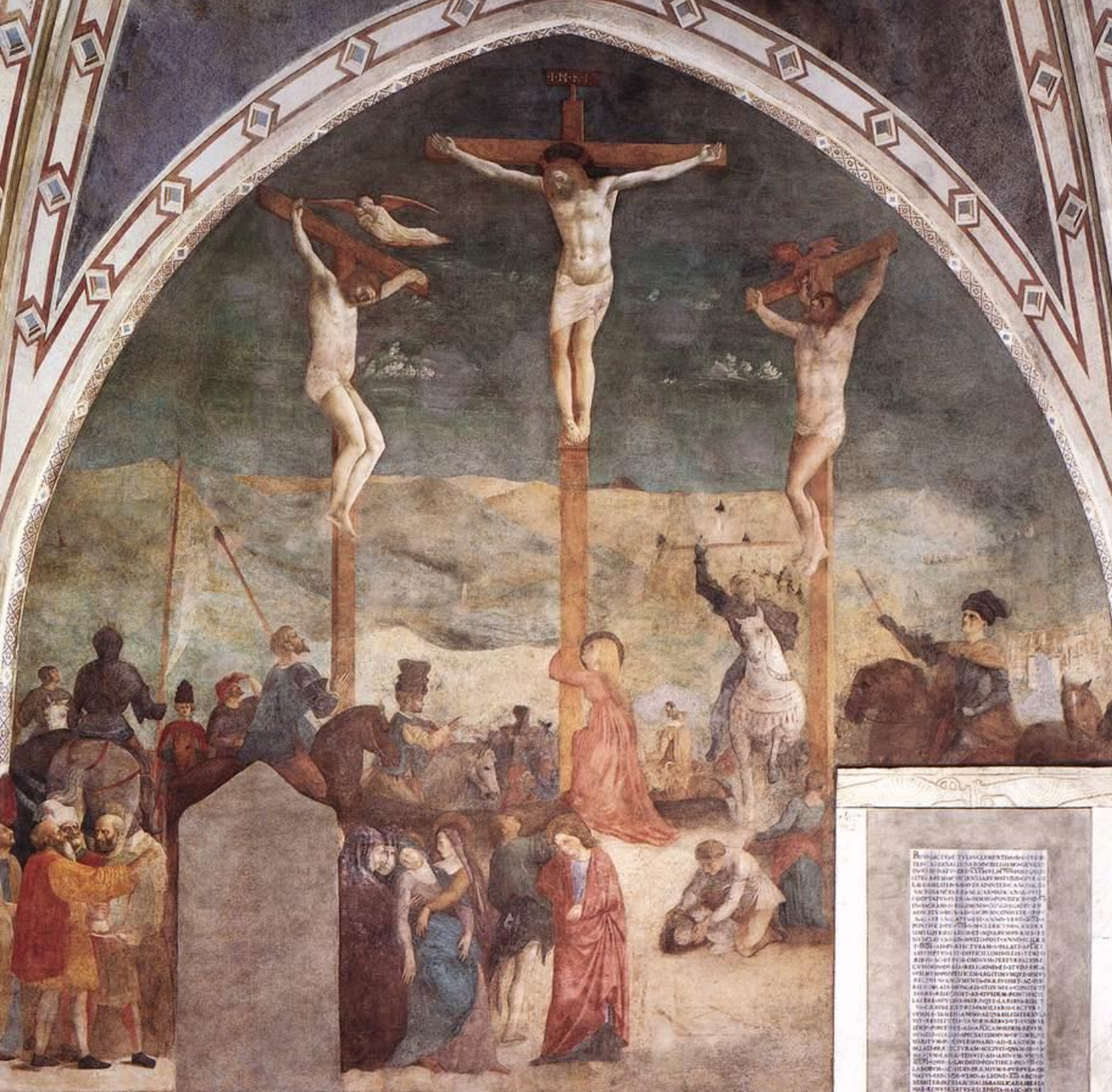




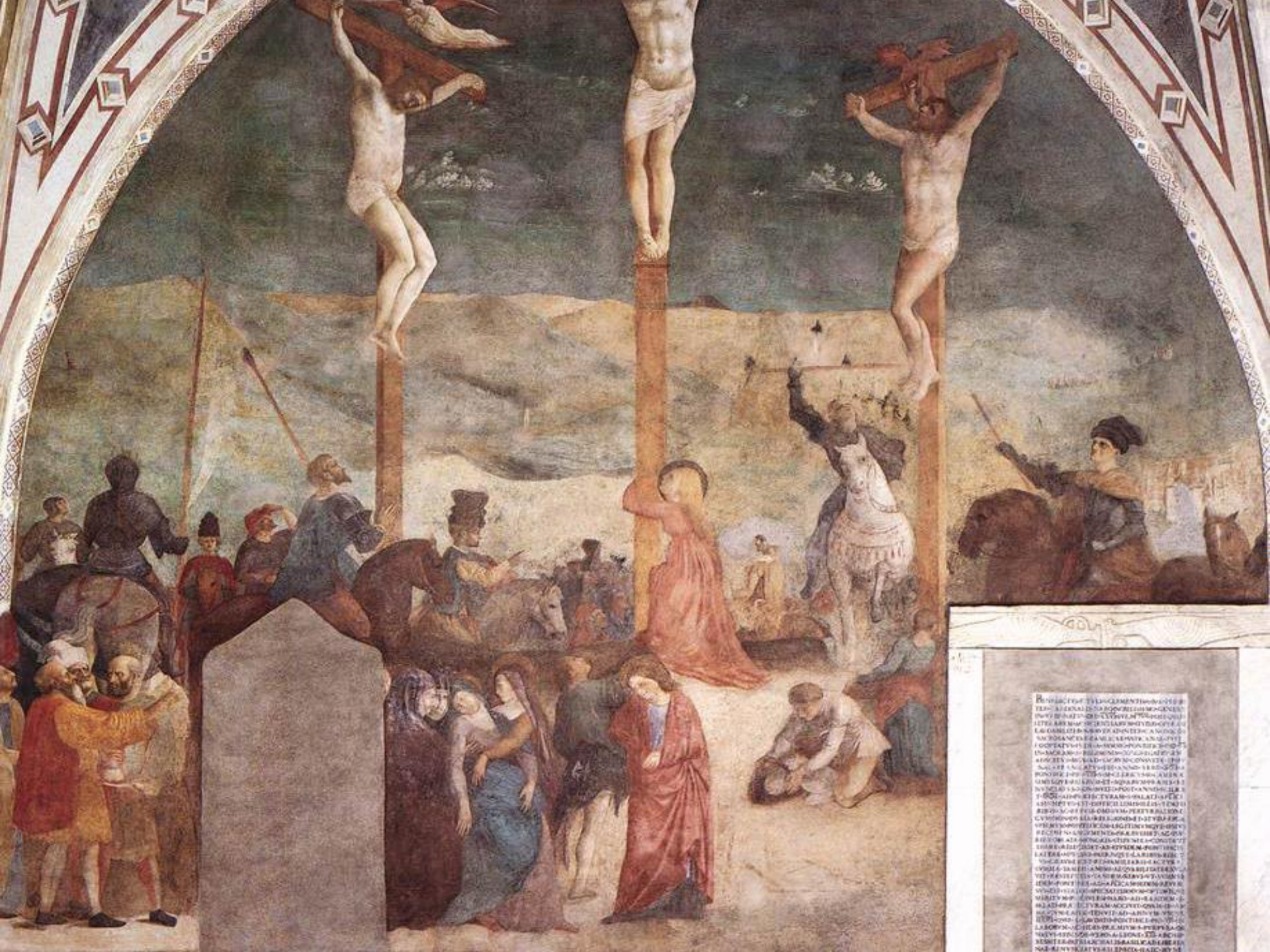
Branda Chapel,
fresco

San Clemente,
Masolino da Panicale
(1425-1431)

Humanist realism



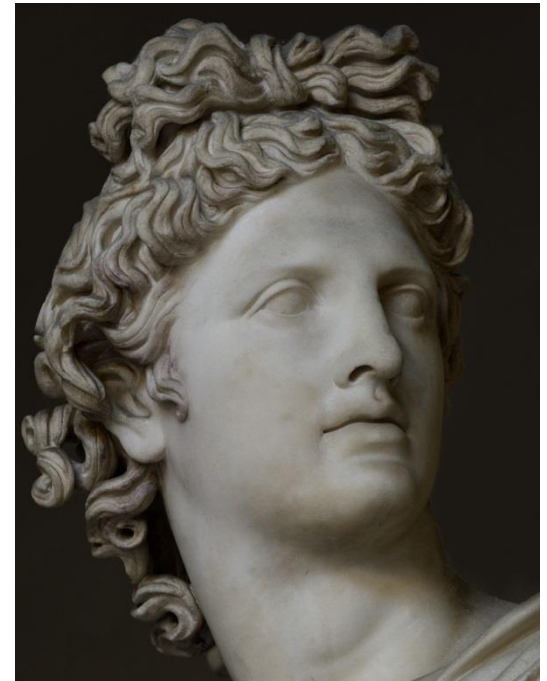
Crucifixion,
Masolino da
Panicale,
1428-32



Renaissance rediscovery of classical art

Belvedere Apollo,
discovered c. 1489

Roman copy 4th-century BC
Greek original
contrapposto stance



Laocoon, found 1506





**Belvedere Torso, discovered
early 1400s**

Michelangelo—Rebellious slave

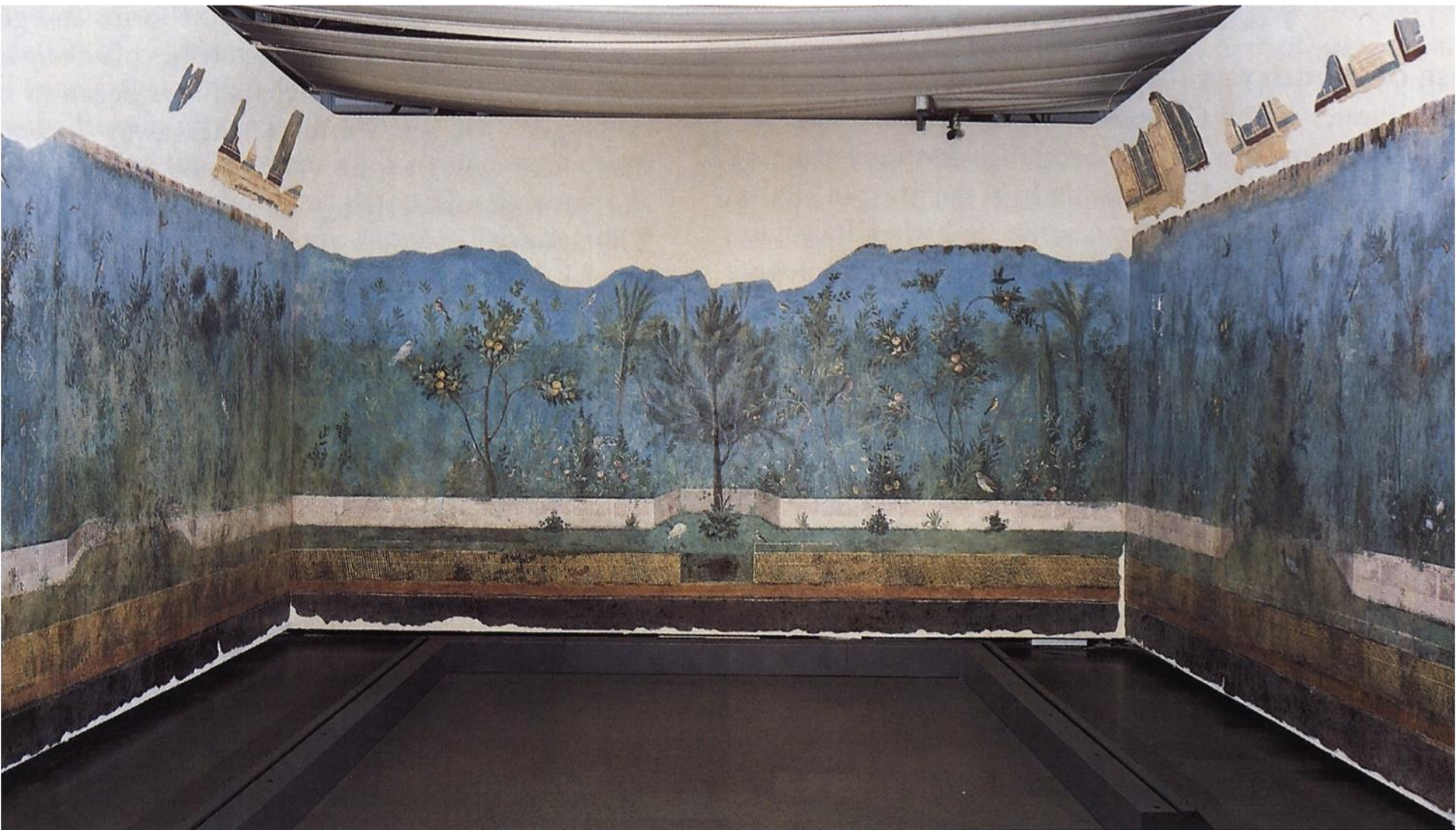


Perspective in ancient Roman painting
Villa of Publius Fannius Synistor, 50-40 BCE

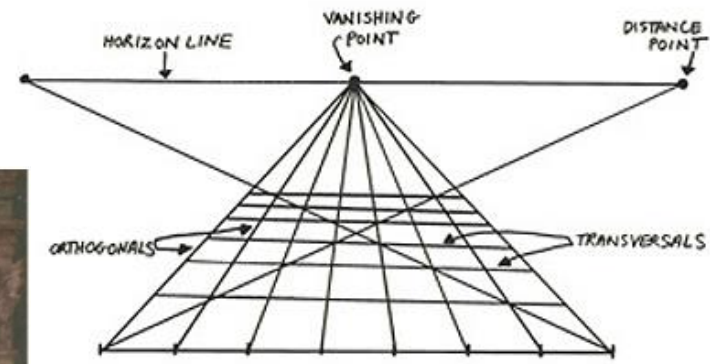




Villa of Livia (Rome)
atmospheric perspective

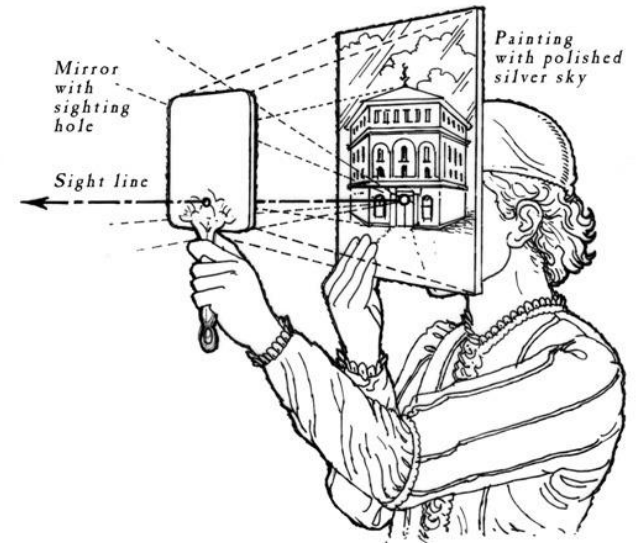


Linear / single / vanishing point perspective

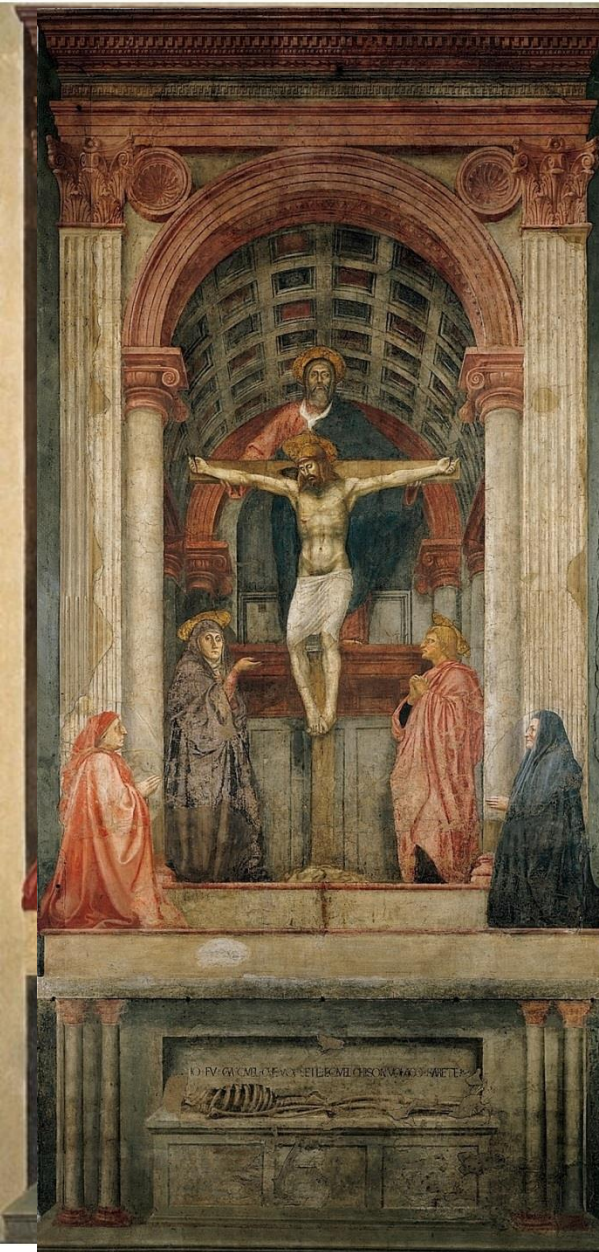


Alberti's grid system

Brunelleschi's experiment



Masaccio, *Trinita'* (1427)



Roman Humanism

cultural politics shapes artistic agenda

- **Archeological** rediscovery of ancient and early Christian Rome
 - identification and classification of the city's **ancient buildings** and **sites of Christian martyrdom, relics**

Sacredness of Rome as pilgrimage site

Popes as Christian Caesars and **restorers of Rome** (empire vs. republic)
- Affirmation of **Papal primacy** and **petrine succession** vs. conciliarism
 - **Matthew 16**: “You are **Peter** (petrus) and on this rock (petram) I will build my Church and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it. I will give to you the **keys** to the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- **Biblical exegesis**: Old Testament **prefiguration** of New Testament and of Papacy
 - **Moses** the law-giver prefigures Christ and the pope
 - **Jerusalem** as a sacred capital and **Solomon's Temple** prefigure Rome and St. Peter's

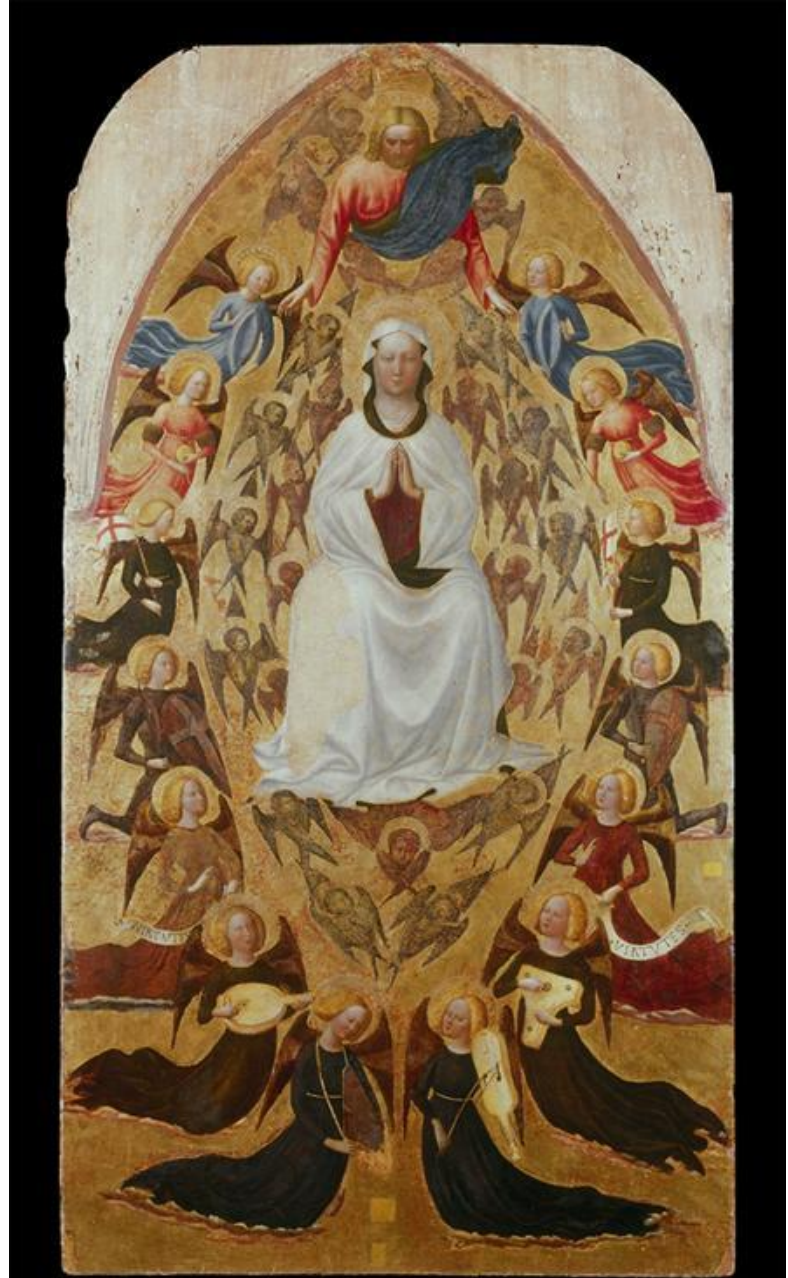
Martin V 1417-1431

- Oddone Colonna, Roman (returns to Rome in 1420)
- Commissioned first catalogue of city's monuments
- Restoration work on four major basilicas [St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, Santa Maria Maggiore, St. Paul's outside the walls]
- and on Palazzo Senatorio (Capitoline Hill), Pantheon, Milvian Bridge, city walls
- Revived *magistri viarum* ("magistrates of the streets")



Masolino da Panicale (1425)

Founding of S Maria Maggiore (**Church Militant**) / Assumption of the Virgin (**Church Triumphant**)





Masolino da Panicale,

Miracle of the Snow,
Founding of Santa
Maria Maggiore (c.
1425)

Sixtus IV [Francesco della Rovere] 1471-1484

- Placed collection of antique sculpture on Capitoline Hill in Palazzo dei Conservatori
 - (including the wolf and heads of Constantine)
- Declared a Jubilee for 1475
- Rebuilt Ospedale degli Spiriti and Santa Maria del Popolo, built Ponte Sisto
- Formally established Vatican Library
- Redesigned and decorated **Sistine Chapel**



Melozzo da Forlì, 1480

Sixtus IV nominates Barolomeo Platina as Vatican Librarian



Rome, once full of squalor, owes to you, Sixtus, its temples, founding hospital, street squares, walks, bridges, the restoration of the Trevi fountain, the port for sailors, the fortifications on the Vatican Hill, and now this celebrated library.

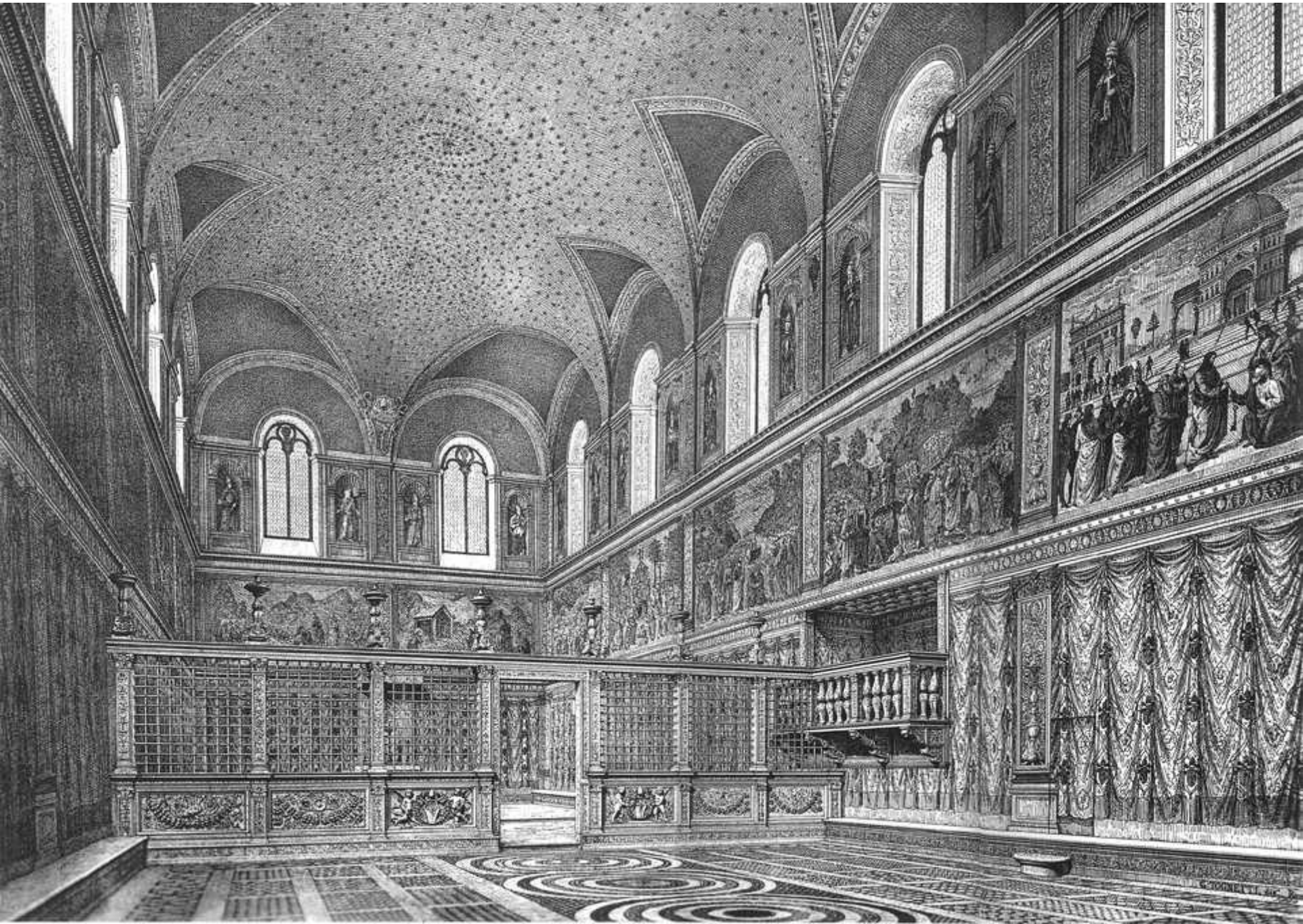
Sistine Chapel: restored 1475-1482
same proportions as the **Temple of Solomon** in Jerusalem
where popes are elected



Sistine Chapel, post-Michelangelo



Sistine Chapel, pre-Michelangelo: Popes / **lives of Moses and Christ** 1480-83





IS • SCRIPTAE • AMOISE • CONTVRBATIO • MOISI • LEGIS • SCRIPTAE • LATORIS • PROMVLGATIO • LEGIS



Sandro Botticelli, Punishment of the Rebels, 1481-82

Conturbatio Moisi Legis Scriptae Latoris

[Challenge to Moses Bearer of the Written Law]





Nemo sibi assummat
honorem nisi vocatus a deo
tanquam Aron

Let no man take this honor
[of priesthood] upon
himself unless called by
God as Aaron

Perugino, Christ Giving the Keys to Saint Peter, 1481-82



Perugino, Christ Giving the Keys to Saint Peter, 1481-82







*Immensu Salamo Templum tu
hoc quarte sacraſti Sixte opibus
diſpar religione prior*

You, Sixtus, unequal in riches
but ſuperior in religion to
Solomon, have conſecrated this
vaſt temple.



Matthew 16: “You are Peter (petrus) and on this rock (petram) I will build my Church and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it. I will give to you the **keys** to the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

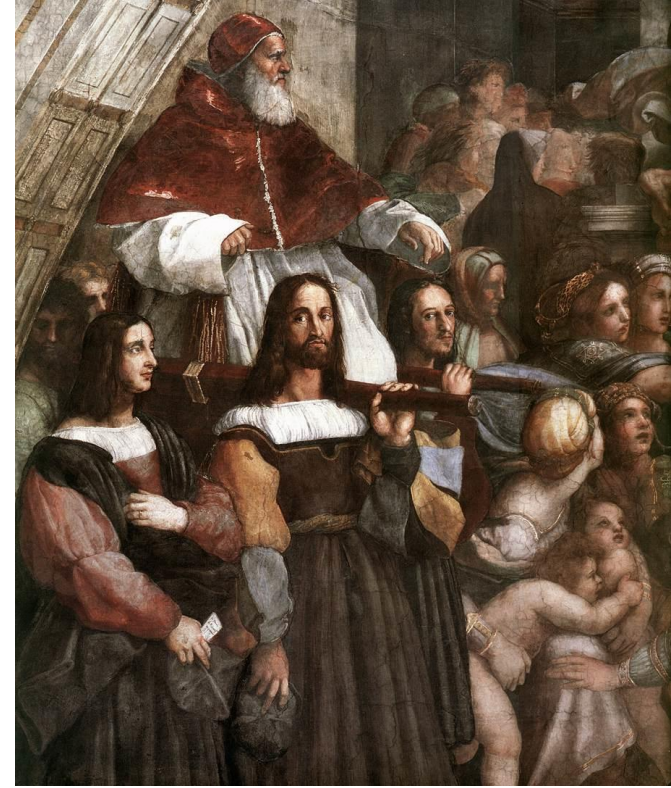




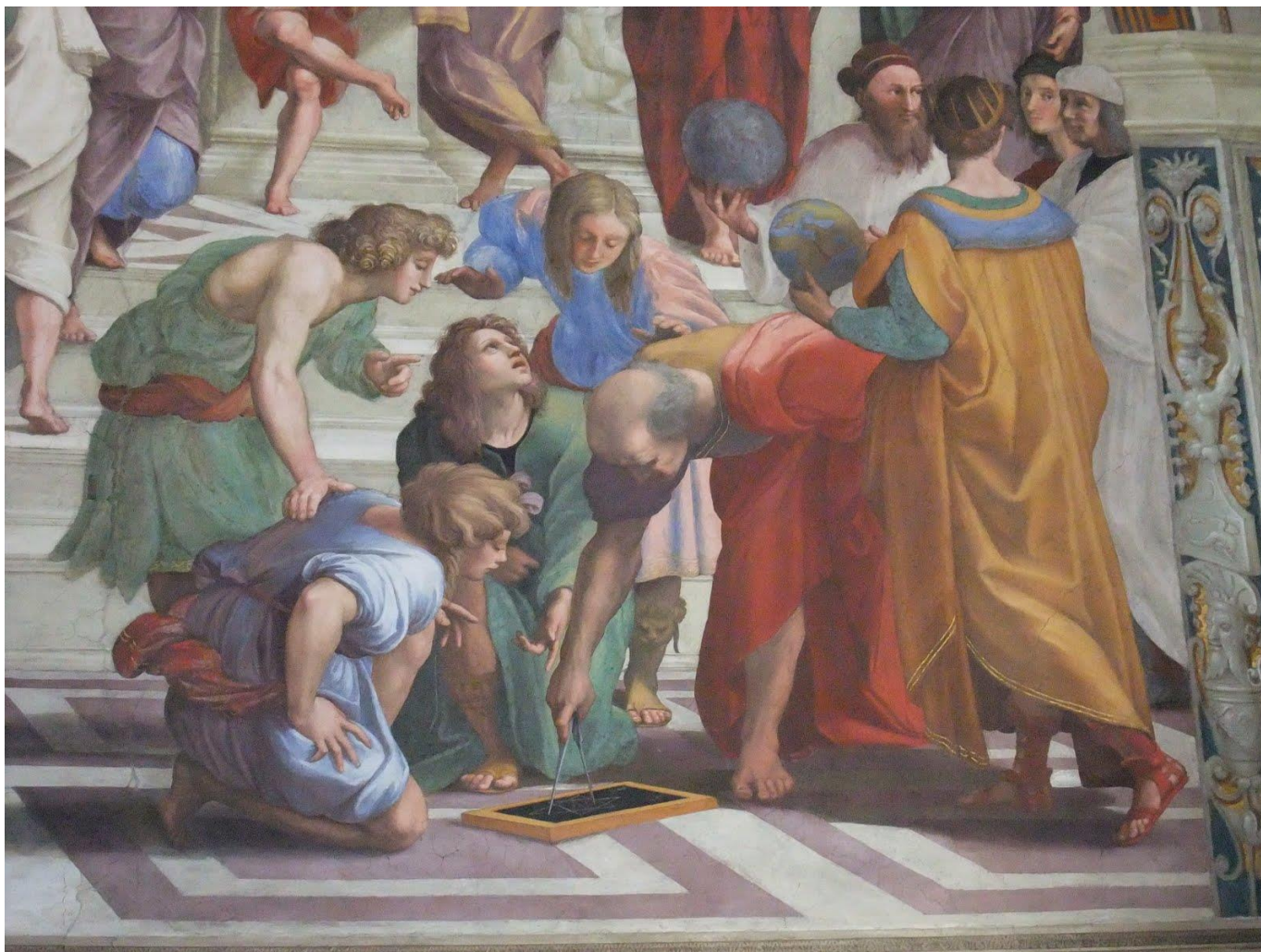
Julius II 1503-1513

Giuliano della Rovere, nephew of Sixtus IV
the warrior pope, il papa **terribile**
expands central Italian boundaries of Papal States

--in Rome builds new straight streets (via Giulia),
amasses large public art collection in Vatican



- Donato **Bramante** (1444-1514): **architect**: destruction and rebuilding of St. Peter's basilica (1506: first stone) (*Bramante il ruinante*)
- Raffaello Sanzio (**Raphael**, 1483-1520): **painter**: papal apartments in Vatican, *Stanze di Raffaello*
- **Michelangelo** Buonarroti (1475-1564): **sculptor**: Tomb of Julius II and decoration of Sistine Ceiling



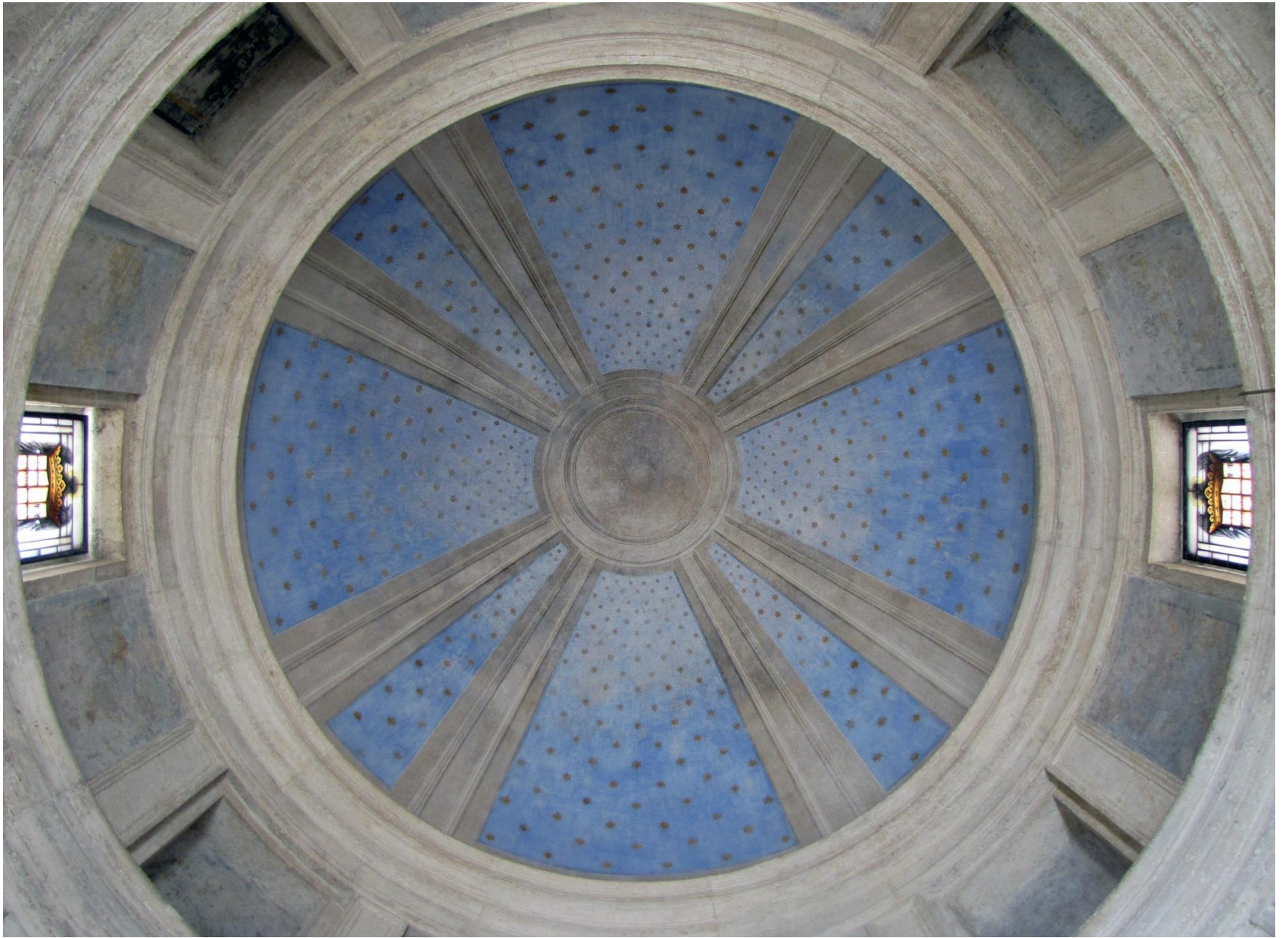
Donato **Bramante**
from Urbino
(1444-1514)

geometry to
capture divine
perfection

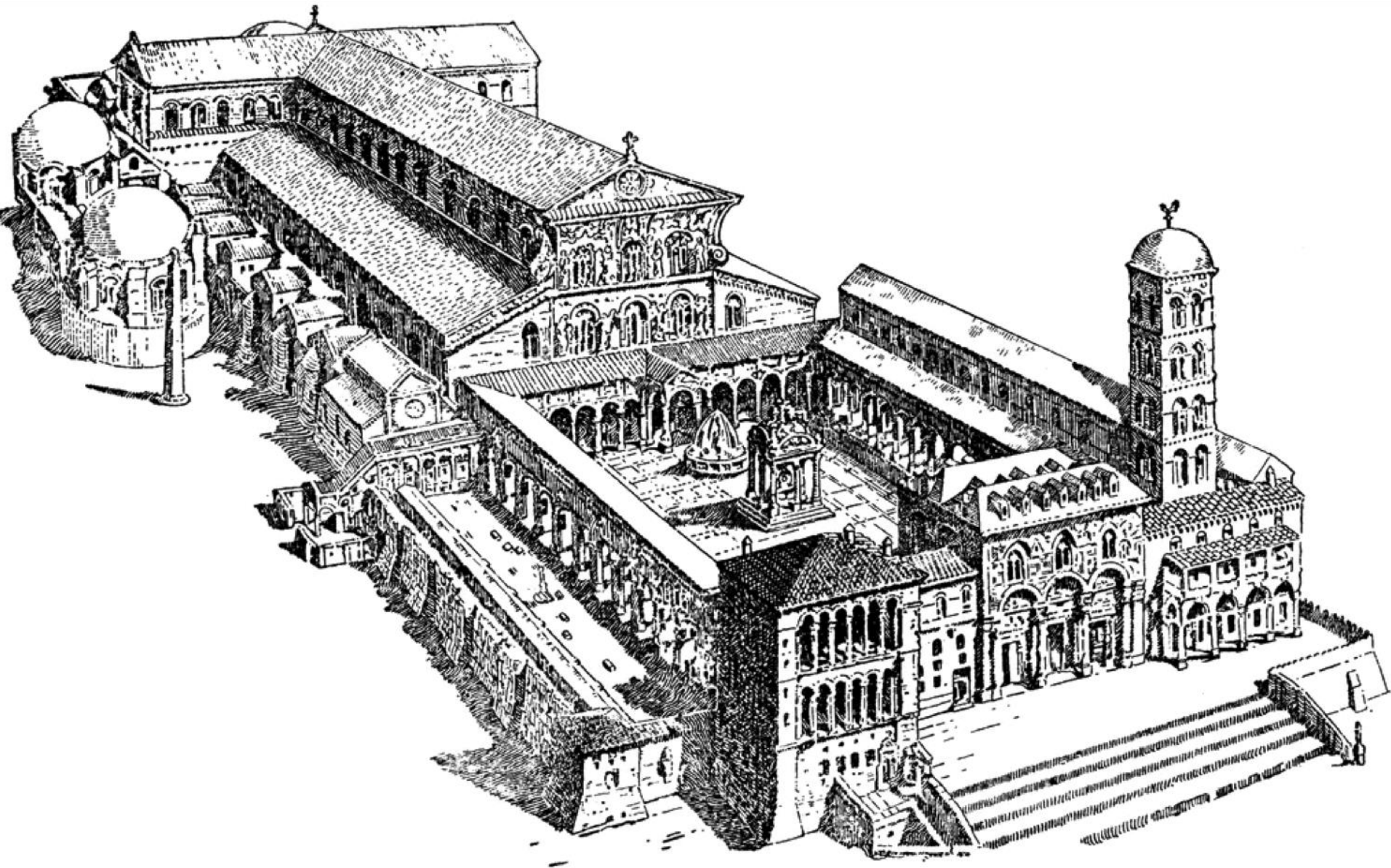
Bramante,
"Il tempietto,"
San Pietro in Montorio,
1502-1510 c.
site of Peter's crucifixion



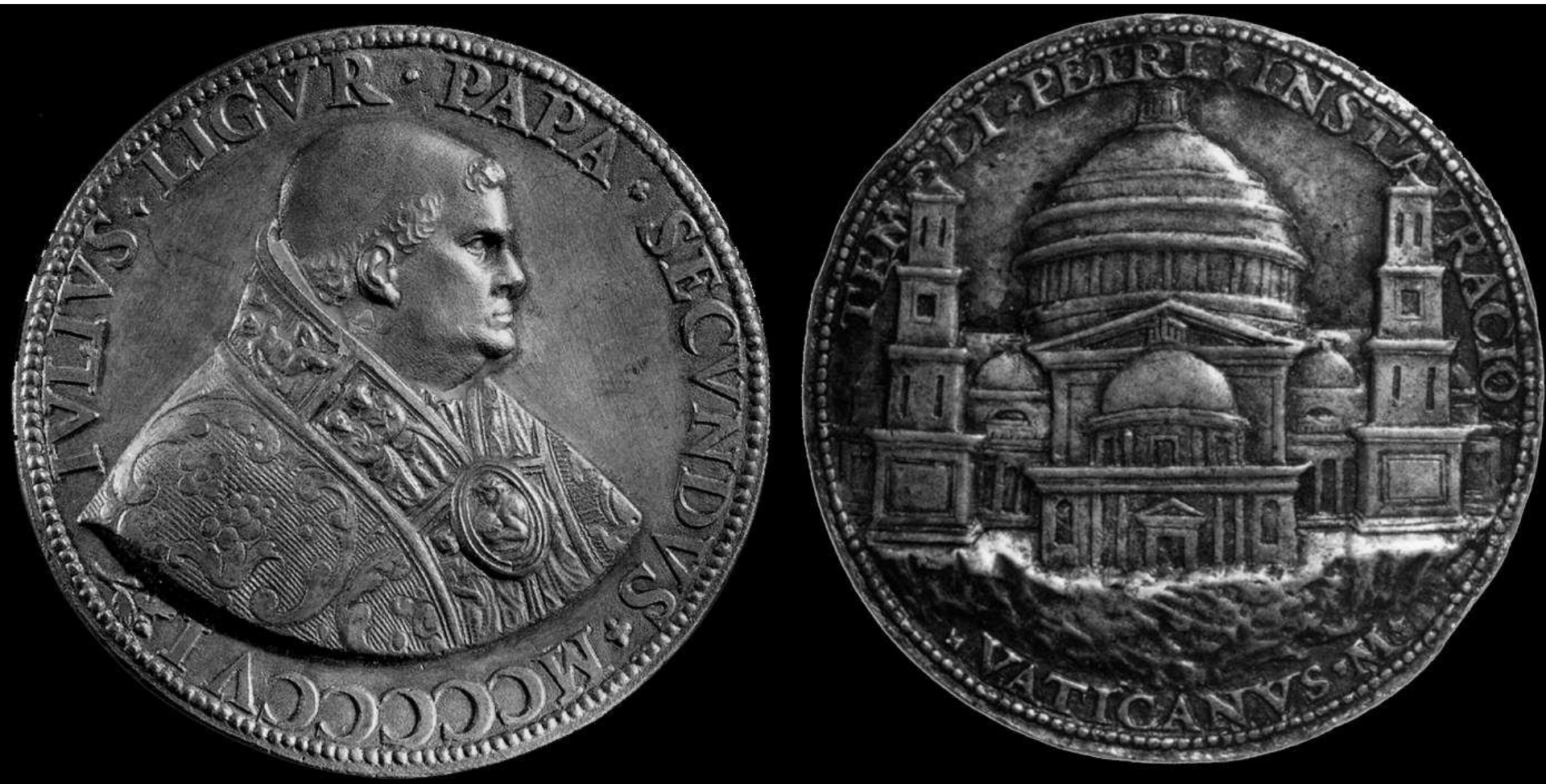




Old St. Peter's (built by Constantine c. 318-322)
site of Peter's burial

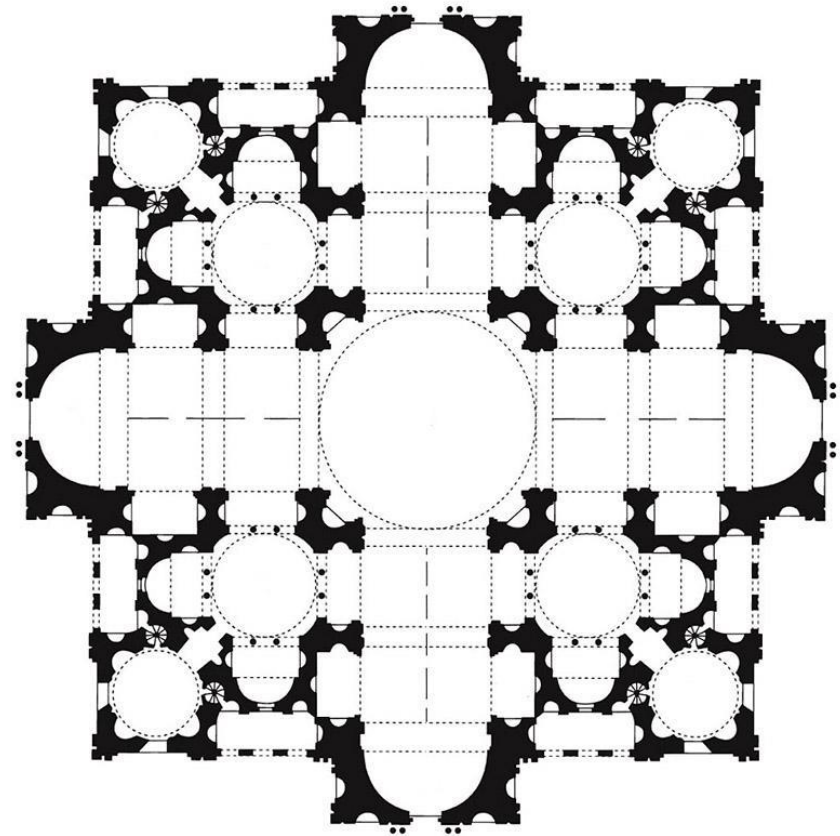


Julius Ligur Papa Secundus (1506)----Templi Petri Instauration



“It will embody the greatness of the present and the future and surpass all other churches in the universe.”

Dome of Pantheon onto of vaults of Basilica of Constantine



0 50 100 feet
0 15 30 meters





