



# Utica Rotary Hub

Utica, NY, USA

May 4, 2026

## Pam Baxter is this Thursday's speaker

Our program meeting this Thursday, May 7, features CNY Rotary DEIB Chair Pam Baxter. The meeting starts at noon at Mid-York Library headquarters, 1600 Lincoln Ave., Utica..

A Rotarian for more than 20 years, Pam is passionate about fostering belonging within Rotary and is committed to the organization's global impact and ability to connect people across cultures.



**EDITOR'S TRAVELOG**  
see page 3

### MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

by Tina Pavlot

Happy May Anniversaries to the following:

First Name	Last Name	Years of Service
David	Bagley	17
Irene	D'Onofrio	3
Linda	Iannone	12
Kathy	Migliaccio-Johnson	3
Tracy	Page	3
William	Waszkiewicz	27
Laura	Williams	5

Submit news and photos to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org)

Editor Robert Stronach

## Save date for golf outing

The Annual Utica Rotary Golf Outing to benefit a charitable cause takes place Sunday, Aug 23 at Hidden Valley in Whitesboro, Golf Chair Jerry Kraus announced. The event starts at noon.

The beneficiary is to be determined. More details to follow.

## Volunteer for Autism

The Kelberman Center will hold its *Walk for Autism* on Saturday, May 16, from 9 to noon at SUNY Poly, PP Travis Rabbers reports, noting: "They're asking for volunteers to help with some of the games outside." Contact Selma Lupardo at [Selma.Lupardo@Kelbermancenter.org](mailto:Selma.Lupardo@Kelbermancenter.org).

## Get your tickets to dine and dance on the Stanley stage



For tickets and sponsorships, go to: <https://uticarotary.org/page/service-above-self-gala-1>

## Calendar of Events

5/7 Meeting | Pam Baxter  
CNY Rotary DEI chair  
noon | Mid-York Library HQ

5/20 Board Meeting | Board of Directors  
noon | Greater Utica Chamber

5/16 Service | Volunteer for Autism Walk  
9 am | at SUNY Poly  
Contact: [Selma.Lupardo@Kelbermancenter.org](mailto:Selma.Lupardo@Kelbermancenter.org)

8/23 Service | Annual Charity Golf Outing  
noon | Hidden Valley in Whitesboro

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

### Wear Something Cool, Promote Rotary, Too.

Check out our Utica Rotary merchandise at the online store:

[https://maxsprintshopstores.com/rotary\\_club/shop/home](https://maxsprintshopstores.com/rotary_club/shop/home)

## EDITOR'S TRAVELOG

# A sleek statue reaches up to the heavens among ancient ruins

By **BOB STRONACH**

The mid-day sun shines brightly on the Roman Forum, an archaeological district of ancient ruins in the center of Rome near the Colosseum. A wide swath of cotton clouds slowly floats in, muting Sol's intensity but allowing the rich azure of the sky to stand out.

In the shadow of the sun stands a bronze sculpture – in a sense a speck amid ancient giants. Unlike its ancient surroundings, the sculpture is

sleek and modern and portrays St. Francis of Assisi in slim graceful angles, reaching up to the heavens.

The statue welcomes visitors to the front door of the the ancient Basilica of Saints Cosmas and Damian. Dedicated in 527, the basilica itself is sandwiched architecturally into two ancient ruins -- the Temple of Romulus and the Temple of Peace (or Forum of Peace Library).

***Continued on next page.***



***The sleek bronze statue of St. Francis outside the Temple of Romulus and the scaffolded Basilica of Saints Cosmas and Damian. "Reaching up to the heavens," the sculpture is in the Roman Forum archaeological district of ancient ruins in the center of Rome.***

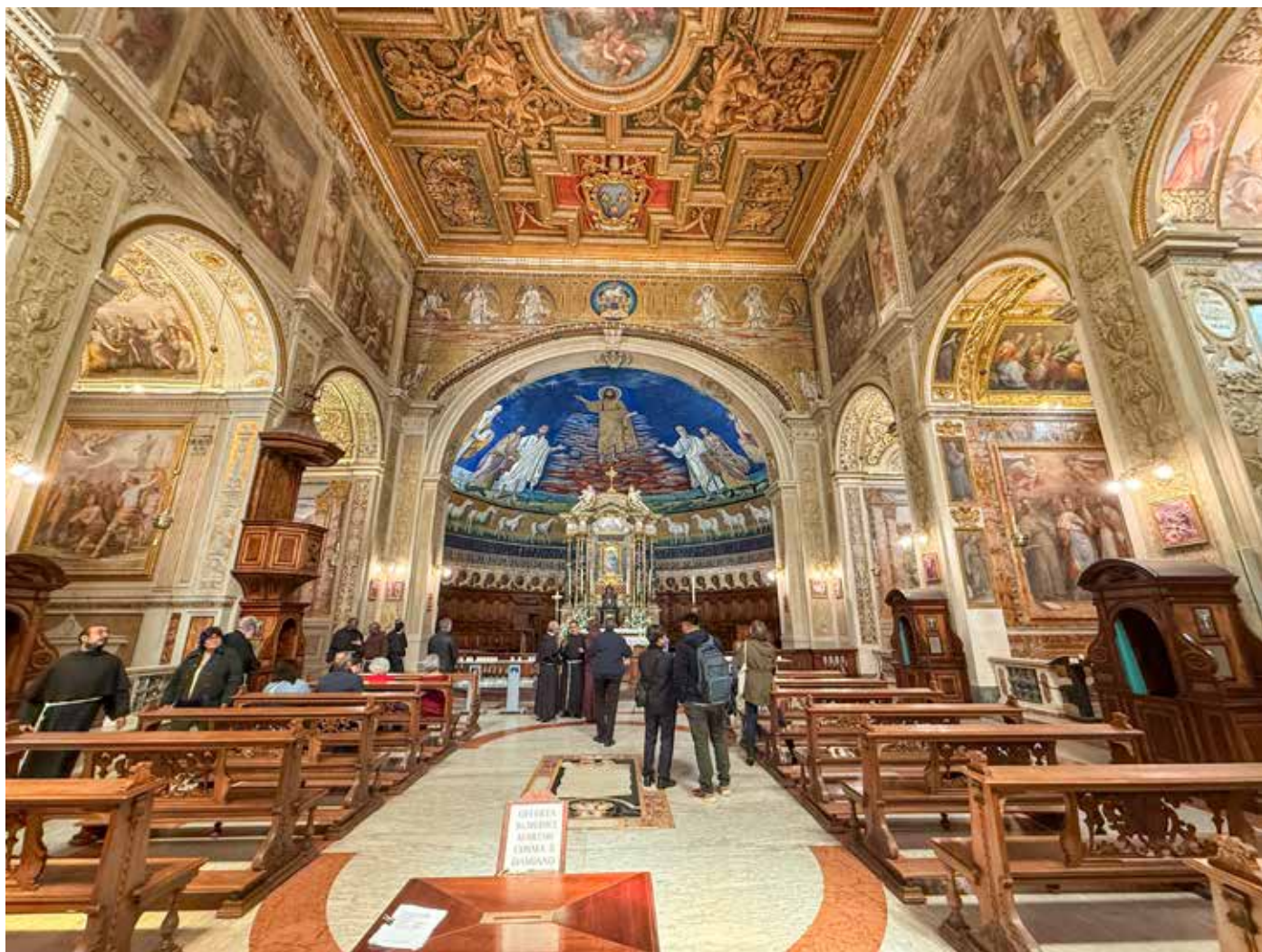
But why the sculpture of St. Francis, especially since he had not come onto the scene until the 13th century?

Well, in the early days of the founding of the Franciscan orders, friars were known to have frequently visited the basilica. Then, the Franciscan friars of the Third Order Regular (TOR) were given custody of the basilica in 1503 and formally given permanent custody in 1512. Even though the state took ownership of the basilica in the 19th century, the Franciscans were permitted to retain permanent custody, continuing their pastoral work and routine care for the structure and its renowned 6th-century Byzantine mosaics. It also serves as the General Curia, or worldwide

headquarters, for the TOR priests and brothers.

Because of its archaeological and cultural significance, today the Italian Ministry of Culture has undertaken a massive maintenance and restoration project, with scaffolding covering the entire façade of the basilica. Part of the Temple of Romulus, a circular 4th-century structure, serves as the historic entrance to the basilica.

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis. That sculpture of the saint was commissioned in 1926 to mark the 7th centenary of Francis' passing. Italian sculptor Giuseppe Tonnini completed the bronze statue in time for its formal dedication in 1927.



***Interior of the Basilica of Saints Cosmas and Damian, named after twin Arabian physicians. The basilica was built between and into two Roman temples in the year 527. PHOTO on page 1 shows the columned hallway leading into the basilica.***



***Mary and I pose with Franciscan friars and our international friends at the basilica's altar, under the 6th century mosaics showing Christ surrounded by apostles and patron saints. The mosaics are described as masterpieces of "Late Antique and early Christian art" that blends Roman and Byzantine traditions.***

**Tickets to the Gala** are \$150 and include a delicious dinner from Portofino, one-hour open bar, live music by the band, *Last Left*, and a live auction. For more info, visit <https://uticarotary.org/page/service-above-self-gala-1>



# FIFTH ANNUAL SERVICE ABOVE SELF GALA

Friday, June 5 • 6 to 10 p.m.  
The Stanley Theatre

## AVAILABLE SPONSORSHIPS

**PRESENTING SPONSOR: \$5,000**

- Presenting Name
- 8 Tickets/Table Included
- Promotional Video Business
- Logo on Stage Outside
- Marquee at Front of Gala
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Social Media Thank You

**SILVER SPONSOR: \$1,000**

- 2 Tickets Included
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

**CORPORATE TABLE: \$1,200**

- Seats 8

**GOLD SPONSOR: \$2,500**  
*(Only 4 Available)*

- 4 Tickets Included
- Naming Sponsor *(Dinner, Cocktail, Awards or Music)*
- Name on All Advertising & Promotion
- Information Table in Lobby at Event
- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

**BRONZE SPONSOR: \$500**

- Logo & Name Recognition At Event
- Social Media Thank You

**CONTACT:**  
Travis Rabbers, [Rabbe1ta@gmail.com](mailto:Rabbe1ta@gmail.com), or  
Stephen Turnbull, [stephen@t5insurance.com](mailto:stephen@t5insurance.com)

Presented By:



Friday, June 5th 2026  
Stanley Theatre  
6:00-10:00PM

Gala Beneficiary:

