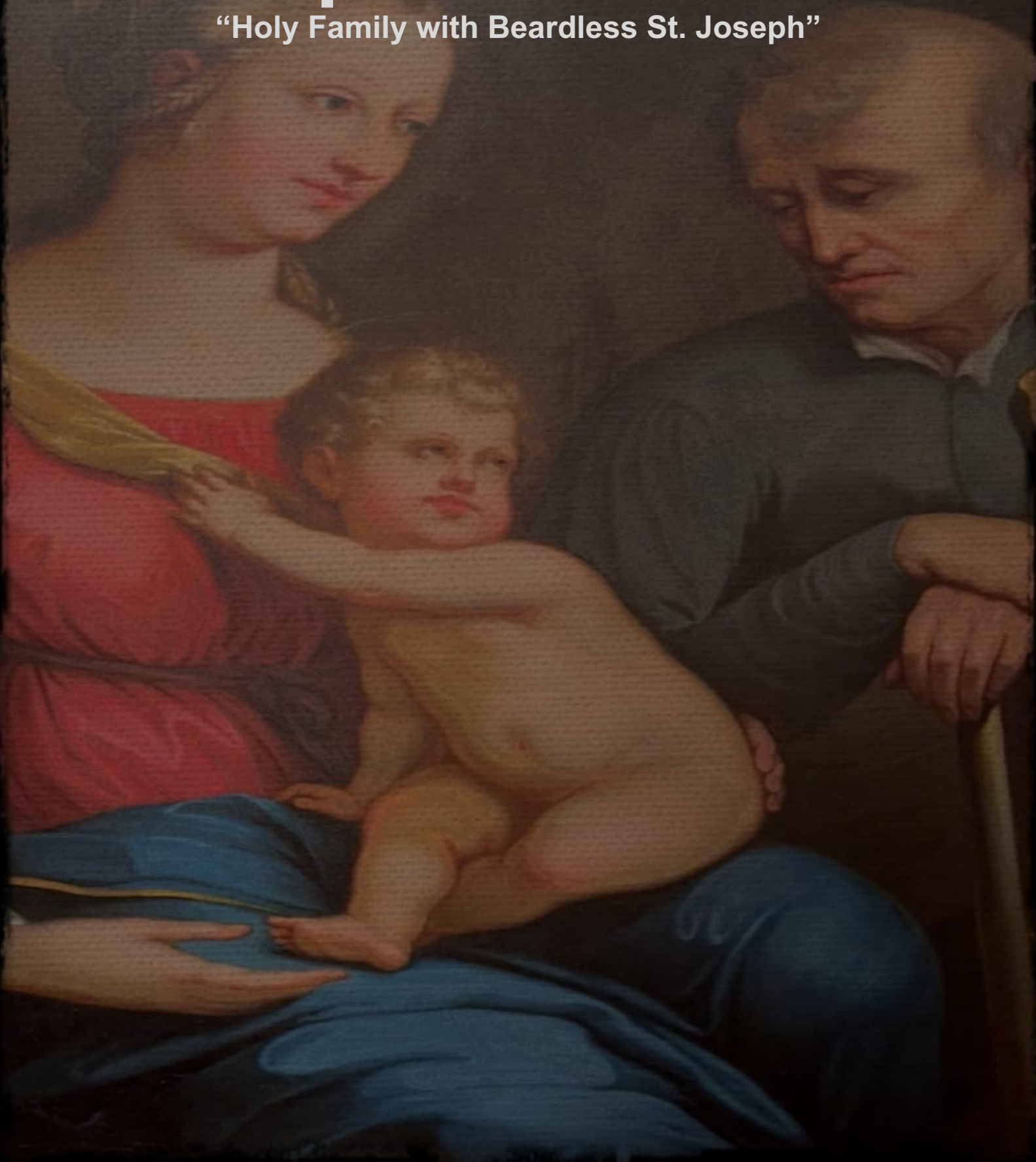
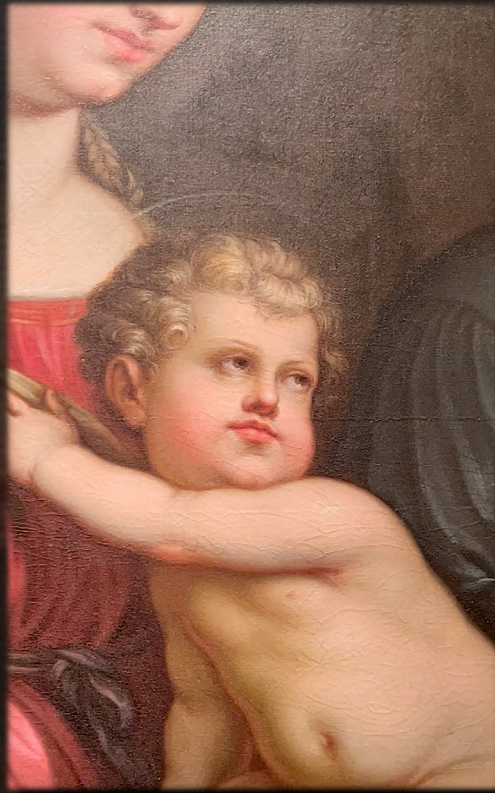


Raphaël Sanzio

“Holy Family with Beardless St. Joseph”





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DESCRIPTION:

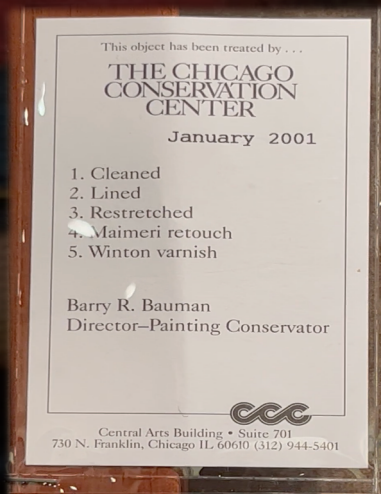
Holy Family with Beardless St. Joseph...by Raphaël

Oil on Canvas: Size: 116cm x 89cm

Circa: 1509 - 1512

The painting had been relined and cleaned for the first time in 1920.

The painting had to be restored professionally and relined again by Mr. Barry Bauman, Director of The Chicago Conservation Center in 2001.





In existence:

There are two existing paintings of “The Holy Family with Beardless St. Joseph” by Raphaël.

1: Currently within the Hermitage Museum in St-Petersburg – Russia.

2: The subject of this file – Private Collection

FORENSICS:

Dr. Walter McCrone of the McCrone Institute conducted scientific analysis on (2) two Boka paintings by Raphaël. Both deemed authentic, and true to the period.

#1 “Madonna of Loreto” c. 1504 as that study was completed 1995.

#2 “Holy Family with Beardless St. Joseph” starting in January 2002.

The first leg of his studies had determined authentic, the paint was of the time period early 1500’s.

However, Dr. Walter McCrone passed away several months later, before he was able to complete his final analysis report of the artwork that would enable Dr. James R. Proctor (certified AAA appraiser) to make his official written valuation.

One valid note that was brought forth by Dr. Walter McCrone during the early stages of his forensic analysis he recognized and stated that the “blue dress [paint] was of a later date, coming from a previous restoration attempt.” <https://www.mccroneinstitute.org/>

HISTORY and PROVENANCE

Mr. Rudolphe Messmer – architect – received the painting by Raphaël in 1905 from Monsignor Abot, Bishop of Sion. Sitten Capital of the Country of Wallis, Switzerland. Monsignor Abot had ordered a new Altar for the Chapel of his residence. Rudolphe Messmer saw the painting and offered to take it as a down payment. Monsignor Abot spat on the near completely black painting and rubbed it. It stayed black and he agreed to the sale or exchange. The painting image could hardly be seen. About two years later a restorer who was working on some church objects in the workshop of the Messmer saw the painting and curious, cleaned the thick layers of varnish off the painting. After two days of cleaning, “Holy Family with Beardless St. Joseph” appeared. The thick coats of varnish had protected the painting which was still in good condition, only the blue robe of the Virgin was lacking its color, it was decided to restore, and repaint this part of the painting. After the first restoration attempt, we understand that the Prussian Blue that was used to repaint the blue robe, does not pertain to the original work of Raphaël’s own period of life. Rudolphe Messmer did some research to find out how this beautiful painting could have been in Sion.

The result as follow;

During the 15th and 16th centuries, Sion was an aristocratic state, seats of the Counts of Stockalper and the Counts of Riedmatten. In the archives of Sion, the Counts of Riedmatten are registered as early as 1450 on to 1700+

They gave the country statesmen, governors and soldiers and their castles with their towers surrounded by land still existed around 1920.

The Counts of Riedmatten often fought and distinguished themselves with their soldiers and mercenaries for the Dukes of Genoa, for the Dorias and the Medici’s in nearby Italy and brought the Raphaël painting back to Switzerland. After the death of Adrian III von Riedmatten in 1646 the painting was placed in the Parish Church. When the church was demolished, the structure being dangerous, the painting and other objects were transferred to the jurisdiction of Monsignor Abot, the Bishop who sold the painting to Mr. Rudolphe Messmer (or Messmer and Sons).

According to Mr. Messmer’s research, Raphaël painted 2 different paintings that featured “Holy Family with Beardless St. Joseph.”

(Art Historian Georges Boka says it’s a strong probability.)

When the Messmer Family moved to Canada in 1928, most of their belongings, tools, works of Art and even household goods came over the ocean in fifty seagoing cases. This was certified by the British consulate in Basel. Switzerland.

Among the paintings was “Holy Family with Beardless St. Joseph” – Raphaël.

Monsieur Rudolphe Messmer wrote that he remarked that the original canvas is sown together in a few narrow pieces. There is a protective rough canvas in the back sown in two pieces when it was relined for first time.



Pictured Left.
A painting by Raphaël

“Madonna with Beardless St. Joseph.”
c. 1505

Originally painted on wood, but transferred to
canvas around 1860.

Currently within the Hermitage Museum,
St Petersburg.

It was painted by Raphaël for the Counts of
Genoa probably of the Dorias family.



Pictured Left.
A painting by Raphaël

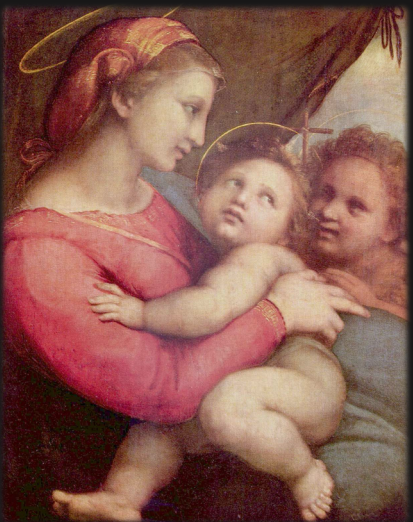
“Holy Family with Beardless Saint Joseph”
c.1509-1512

1646 - Parish Church
(date unknown) ownership passed over to
Monsignor Abot, Bishop of Sion.
Sitten Capital - Country of Wallis, Switzerland.

1905 Rudolphe Messmer and Family.

1997 Georges Boka

Related works by Raphaël Sanzio.







Dennis Shinn

Sarasota Vault
Depository

April 28, 2023