

Money Museum

Special exhibit

Vatican City

Covering an area of 44 hectares (109 acres) and with about 500 inhabitants, the "Vatican City State" (*Stato della Città del Vaticano*) is the smallest state in the world. Its territory is enclosed by the urban area of Rome. Vatican City is home not only to the Pope's residence, but also to one of the world's finest art collections and the famous Vatican archives.

The Vatican's form of government is an elective monarchy with the Pope as head of state. His official title is "Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of Saint Peter, Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, Sovereign of Vatican City State, Servant of the Servants of God".

The inauguration day of the reigning pope is celebrated as national holiday. In the case of Benedict XVI, this is 24 April.



The name Vatican is derived from the Latin "mons vaticanus", a hill on the right bank of the Tiber. This is where the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle has been venerated since the second century. Shortly after AD 320, Emperor Constantine ordered the construction of a basilica at the supposed location of the tomb. Following various structural alterations, the cornerstone of a completely new building was laid 500 years ago on 18 April 1506 under Pope Julius II (1503-1513). After over 100 years of construction, Pope Urban VIII (1623-1644) dedicated the church building in a special ceremony in 1626. St. Peter's Basilica, which is shown on the 1924 medallion, is the largest ecclesiastical building in Christendom and the centre of the Roman Catholic Church.

Papal minting of coins started in the eighth century under Hadrian I and was then repeatedly interrupted or only carried out in cooperation with the Emperor. Continuous minting up to the present day began in 1929 with the conclusion of the

Lateran treaties, which define the secular sovereign territory of the Holy See under constitutional law.



Sixtus IV,
1471-1484
Grosso



Benedict XVI, 2005-
2 euro

Throughout its history, the Vatican has never issued any banknotes as an independent state. Like San Marino and Monaco, the Vatican does not print any euro banknotes either.

The designs of the coins often include biblical themes, as can be seen on the two coins of Pope Innocence XI and Pope Innocence XII from the 17th century.



Piastra
1678/1679

"And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"
(Matthew 8:23-27)



"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world ..."
(Revelation 12:7-9)

Literature

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